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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula

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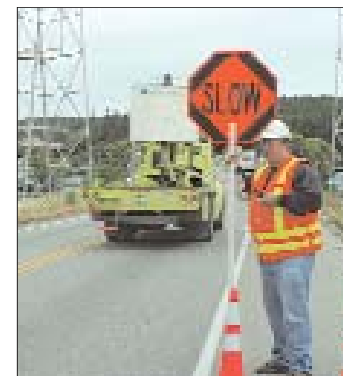
By PJ Callahan, KP News

While recent roadwork on the Purdy Bridge only restricted traffic for one six-hour period, the future of the historic bridge is unknown. Drivers on State Route 302 experienced short delays as traffic was limited to one way on June 22 from 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. The work, originally scheduled until 3 p.m., was completed in half the time, which avoided more serious delays.

“Traffic was starting to build right around 9 a.m., but the crews were able to open it back up and traffic dissipated,” said Emily Pace with Washington State Department of Transportation Communications.

The work allowed for guardrail replacement after an oversized truck struck the guardrail earlier in the year. The WSDOT also took advantage of the

(See **BRIDGE**, Page 28)



A worker directs traffic during the June 22 bridge inspection work.

Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Resident eating disorder program comes to Vaughn

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Civic Center will be gaining some new neighbors next year. The beautiful lodge across the street has been sold to the CRC Health Group and will house a residential treatment program for clients suffering from eating disorders such as bulimia and anorexia. According to a

CRC publication, the health group “operates 139 facilities in 29 states serving over 25,000 people daily.” The lodge on Vaughn Bay will be the fifth resident house under management by this group. The others are located in Arizona, California, Nevada and North Carolina.

On the afternoon of July 9, Julie Holland, the vice president of business

development for CRC, held an open house at the Civic Center to introduce the group and meet some of the neighbors. One part of Holland’s job is to approve new properties. The group was considering this area because the National Association for Eating Disorders

(See **CRC**, Page 29)



In the foreground, with a crew of volunteers lifting the first of the walls of the new home into place, are KC Carter and his wife, Jennifer Speidel. Photo by Hugh McMillan

Two new Habitat homes are under way

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

In July, 103 volunteers swarmed over two Habitat for Humanity building sites in the Carney Lake area on the Key Peninsula. Some spent all day each day, some gave however many hours they could manage. All were enthusiastically hauling lumber, installing insulation, nailing framework, and moving toward

(See **HABITAT**, Page 23)

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Photo by Sharon Hicks

The car moments after the July 9 crash, after the alleged car thieves fled on foot. They were later apprehended.

Teens accused of car theft

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

Four teenagers suspected of stealing a car from a Lakebay home crashed it hours later at high speeds, but were later arrested, according to police.

The car was reported stolen on the early morning of July 9 from a Lakebay home. The owner had left his car unlocked with keys in it, and the teens reportedly took advantage of the situation.

At 2:10 p.m. a sheriff's deputy from Kitsap County headed north on Wright Bliss Road on his way to work when he encountered a car traveling south at a high speed. The deputy clocked the car at 111 mph and turned around, but by the time he caught up with it, the car had already crashed at the intersection of Wright Bliss and S. Vaughn Road, plowing into a guard rail. It had reportedly passed another car and two boys on bicycles at a high rate of speed before coming to a halt. The bicyclists and the car occupants told the KP News they felt lucky they didn't get hurt, as they watched the car flying by at high speed.

The four suspects, ages 15, 16, and two 17-year-olds, fled the scene but were apprehended and detained by deputies a short distance from where they crashed — ironically back on Wright Bliss Road. The only injury was sustained by the driver, who was treated by medics for his knee.

A spokesman with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department said alcohol did not appear to be a factor, and emphasized the importance of not leaving keys in an unlocked car. At press time, charges were still pending in juvenile court against the alleged thieves, who are all local residents.

Trandum appointed to park board

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

At their July meeting the Key Peninsula Metro Parks commissioners appointed Bill Trandum to serve the unexpired term of the late Ross Bischoff. Trandum was one of four candidates (a total of six applied but two did not appear at the interviews).

"The Key Peninsula will experience unprecedented growth during the next 20 years. Now is the time to assemble the land and facilities that will serve the population of the future," Trandum wrote in his statement of interest while applying for the vacancy. "Every aspect of recreational facility: trails, passive parks, active parks, waterfront and uplands must be acquired and managed as fiscal responsibility dictates. Every source of funding must be explored and secured if possible. At this point in the evolution of the community, securing facilities is more important than creating programs. Volunteer groups (little league, soccer leagues, equestrian groups etc.) can and will create programs if the park district



TRANDUM

provides facilities, maintenance, security and scheduling."

Trandum told the KP News he was compelled to consider the position because he wants to make sure all local parks have supervised use. He recently learned the park district may obtain a parcel in Dutcher's Cove, and he didn't want the potential park to meet the fate of the state-operated Haley Park. He said the Haley property has no supervision or maintenance by the state, and as a result it's been trashed and is often visited by squatters.

After his appointment, Trandum resigned from his position on the board of the Case Inlet Shoreline Association, a local environmental group with which he has been involved since inception about a year ago.

Trandum had unsuccessfully run for a commissioner spot for the old park district, KP Parks and Recreation District, about a decade ago. At that time, he wanted to see a trail for nonmotorized use along Key Peninsula Highway from Volunteer Park to Lackey Road, or maybe even to Home. He said that still remains a dream, along with turning the Purdy Sand Spit into a "fabulous park" with a boardwalk, improved boat launch and other amenities. Pierce County has

expressed an interest in turning the ownership of the park to KPMPD. Trandum noted the property is involved in some legal disputes and other issues, so the park district "will not touch it" until those are resolved.

Trandum is a financial consultant with RBC Wealth Management in Gig Harbor and has a master's of business administration degree from Harvard University. He has worked as the chief financial officer for companies such as the Tacoma News Tribune, and was instrumental with the relaunch and reorganization of the Key Peninsula News in 2003. He said property acquisition should be the park district's priority, but it must be done in a fiscally responsible way.

This term will expire after the 2009 November election is certified, according to KPMPD Executive Director Scott Gallacher, who said a newly elected commissioner will then be sworn in at the next commissioners meeting. Trandum said this next year will give him an indication whether he'd want to run for the elected position. "This is a way to get involved and not have a long commitment, and find out whether I want to run for the spot, and in the meantime do some good in the community," he said.

BRIEFS

news

Arrests made after crime spree

Between July 3 and July 17, eight burglary reports were filed with the Peninsula Detachment of the Pierce

County Sheriff's Department. Burgled properties included businesses, homes and outbuildings. The HomePort Restaurant was broken into twice. An attempted burglary was reported at the laundromat in Home. The Beach Hut was also hit. Several items were taken from a farm.

Items taken in the burglaries ranged from money to a lawnmower and in one instance, it was undetermined if anything

was taken. One of the victims, a Home resident, reportedly saw his stolen boat in a pickup truck, followed it and reported it to authorities.

On July 16, an arrest was made in connection with the business burglaries. That arrest occurred when the suspect attempted to flee the scene of an attempted break-in at On The Way Deli in Key Center. The suspect in that case was transported to Pierce County Jail.

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St. Anthony's on track for February opening

By Danna Webster, KP News

Early in 2009, Key Peninsula residents will no longer have to cross the Tacoma Narrows Bridge to reach hospital care. When St. Anthony's Hospital opens in February, it will be a state-of-the-art medical facility.

Anticipation of St. Anthony's opening was fueled by recent preview tours conducted for local emergency preparedness personnel and the announcement of the selection of the hospital's chief operating officer, Carole Peet. She comes to Franciscan from Sutter Coast Hospital, a 59-bed community hospital in Crescent City, Calif. Peet served there as chief operating officer and assistant administrator for patient care services.

"It's exciting to see St. Anthony 70 percent complete," Peet told KP News in an email. "We are delighted that work from local artists will find a home at St. Anthony Hospital. It will make it a better place to work and to heal." (See related story, p. 24)

St. Anthony's is the fifth hospital in the



Franciscan Health System, a 6,300-employee organization with hospitals and medical clinics in Pierce, King and Kitsap counties. The Franciscan Health System is a recipient of the Washington State Quality Award for performance excellence and is affiliated with Catholic Health Initiatives, one of the nation's largest nonprofit health care systems.

The new facility will include a state-of-the-art outpatient cancer treatment



Left, a view of the ER under construction. Pierce County Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment Lt. Larry Bauer, left, is among those led on the tour of the emergency room by Dr. Paul Hildebrand.

Photos by Karina Whitmarsh

center, named in honor of a Key Pen resident, the late Jane Russell. It will also include a stroke-intervention center, a highly specialized facility, only the fourth such hospital in the state to offer it.

Dr. Paul Hildebrand, a Gig Harbor resident who is the regional medical director for emergency services and the medical director for St. Anthony, said during the tour of the emergency room the facility has a flexible design to

accommodate future growth as well as to maximize the use of existing space.

"We look forward to serving Key Peninsula residents for emergency and other healthcare services," Peet wrote. "The hospital will fill a critical need."

For more information about the hospital, visit www.GigHarborhospital.org.

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EDITORIAL

A big dilemma for a little bridge

The recent inspection of the Purdy Bridge brought some interesting results — no changes in the bridge condition since the last inspection two years ago. Sounds like good news for those depending on the bridge for their daily commute. However, that is only part of the picture. The inspection was a reminder that the “little bridge,” now 72 years old, has long outlived its design.

Seven decades ago, the bridge was somewhat of an engineering landmark, the longest of its kind and lauded for efficient and low-cost design. Of course, back in the 1930s, or 1950s or 1980s for that matter, the bridge didn't serve the 12,000 cars a day it serves now. In the words of modern transportation engineers, the bridge is “functionally obsolete” and “structurally deficient.” Those don't sound like comforting words — particularly for drivers who already dread the bridge thanks to its narrow design that requires very careful navigation, not to mention the mile long queues.

But wait, it gets worse. The state department of transportation has a list of necessary repairs for the concrete piers, which have suffered damage from salt water over the years. Some of the reinforcing bars are rusty and the concrete is broken off in some parts. Sounds like a good time for a visit from work crews! Not so fast, according to the DOT. There are no

funds allocated for this little project, and there are many others like it competing for resources.

Then, there is the long-term question of what would happen to the bridge when a new State Route 302 is built. If the highway is rerouted, based on some current options, that may solve the Purdy Bridge dilemma, limiting the bridge to the occasional tourist looking for a picturesque drive. (Save for the interesting placement of a porta-potty next to the “Welcome to the Key Peninsula” sign).

But it doesn't sound like the new 302 will be built any time soon — certainly not in the next decade, and likely not even in the next two or three, at least if the current trend of funding for 302 continues. So, far, it's worked like this: Money was tossed at 302 for a corridor study; study became outdated by the next round of funding a decade later; more money was tossed at 302 for a renewed study; funding was cut back, scope of study scaled down; timeline for next round of funding unknown.

To get more funding for transportation projects, more taxation is needed, according to local elected representatives. We all know how popular that idea is, and for a good reason: Washington already has one of the highest tax rates in the nation.

The highway 302 project doesn't have a very good track record as far as legislative priorities are concerned. Which brings us back to the Purdy Bridge: Some day, the bridge may not be the vital link to the Key Peninsula it is today, but in the meantime we still have to drive it. Transportation officials didn't go as far as to say the bridge is unsafe, but it does beg the question: How much longer before it is?

Some unlikely common bonds

A couple of months ago I happened to be minding my own business (yeah, imagine that) when a light bulb lit up over my head. I had been reading news articles about politicians nobody wants, and the upcoming KP fair. I then noticed an unused set of medieval stocks sitting in the carport.

Stocks, you know, everybody has them sitting around, right? Those wooden things where you sit on the ground, lock your ankles in place, and await public humiliation and assault by cabbage and cobblestone.

I approached the fair association about a booth involving stocks, pillories (medieval execution devices involving heads and wrists), photos of politicians (Bush, McCain, Obama, Clinton, Gregoire, Rossi, and of course Yanity and Bosch), water balloons, and vote tallies. Responsive laughter was so severe that verbal responses were impossible. I had to be satisfied with a nod to proceed.

My booth resulted in much finger pointing and quizzical looks. Explanation uniformly produced plaudits, smiles, and eagerness to participate.

I learned many things and confirmed others:

Few people have a favorite politician this year.

Everybody has lots of politicians they don't like.

Everybody loved the idea of assaulting politicians.

The economy has tanked. Most people needed to save their dollar for the food vendor.

Kids can still squeeze a dollar out of parents, but want to splash each other instead of politicians.



RICK SORRELS
THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST

A lot of 8-year-olds with no political knowledge whatsoever wanted to splash Bush for some unknown reason.

Candidates for president and governor were disliked more than our own fire commissioners.

Gregoire and Bush were disliked the most, followed by Clinton and Obama.

The only vote cast against McCain was made for the sole reason that nobody had voted against him.

It looks like McCain and Rossi will win by a landslide.

The near unanimous consensus of the best term describing politics this year is: “It sucks.”

Everybody is still capable of having fun.

Incumbent and wannabe politicians were thick as flies at the fair (it's an election year, remember). They were each offered a free “super delegate” vote (a 3-gallon water balloon). Imagine the grace exhibited trying to handle and accurately cast such a limp “vote.” They were plagued with frequent premature burstings and “hanging chads.”

A commonality was found to exist with the politician, the political activist, and the apolitical. They all had politicians they did not like, and they all felt great joy at the momentary relief of their frustrations when they cast their opposition vote.

Perhaps we do have a common ground upon which we can build.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Home playground opposed by neighbors

In response to the recent ad posted in the KPNews asking for sponsorship of new facilities at the Home Park I submit the following. Please do not sponsor this park! The work thus far to install a play facility picnic area and toilet facilities have been handled in a most

underhanded and illogical manner. When workers were sent to fill the old well on the property, an attempt was made to go about this illegally, without following the laws set forth by the county for such an enterprise. ..No information has been released regarding the removal of the septic system once used on the property; however, the methods chosen for the well lead me to wonder if any county codes were followed at all when the septic was removed.

There is no pressing need for areas for children to play in the area as there is a fully developed play and recreation area

2 miles from the site. The first line of the mission statement as cited on www.keypeninsulaparks.com is as follows: “Develop a high quality, diversified park and open space system that preserves and enhances significant environmental resources and features.”

Loading this beautiful open area with a kids play area, a second kids play area, a covered picnic area as well as toilet facilities, and fencing this all in while also including parking for the use of the area seems to me to directly defy the stated mission of the KPMPD.

Please do not support this half baked,

self interested counter intuitive parks project. The money could have been better spent maintaining and improving existing play and recreation areas more suited to these sorts of activities.

*Michael Kelley
Home*

Thanks to Yanitys for donations

We would like to say thank you so very much to Al & Jean and all of the hard

(See **LETTERS**, Page 5)

Wildlife on the Key — it's really something

I'm always flabbergasted by the magnificent wildlife we coexist with here on the Key Pen, some peacefully, others with some tension. Coyotes, bears, eagles, foxes, birds, seals, fish, deer, spiders, hornets — heck, you name it, with the pleasant exception of poisonous snakes.

And while it's like that around much of the country, it seems a little different here since we're nearly surrounded by water. For example, I know we have bears "around," but typically I just think they're "out there" someplace and that I won't see them. But in the last few months I've come in contact with three of them. One day I took a left on 60th Street, KP S, and saw, up on the rise of that road, two large black bears hanging around. They seemed exactly the same size, big and very round, like a couple big ol' milk duds, looking all friendly and happy like bears do. As I approached, they calmly disappeared into the woods in seconds.

And last week, a 350-pound bear, smaller than the ones I saw on the road, waltzed

KEVIN REED
HERE'S SOMETHING



confidently onto our driveway while our trusty 38-pound Australian Shepherd, Scout, barked perhaps eight feet away, keeping it moving (good dog!). The sad part of that is that bear territory shrinks with every new house that goes up on the Key, including ours. Our house is a classic example of "drive 'till you qualify" urban sprawl, but I'm also using that as a challenge to live as sustainably as possible and coexist with native plant and animal life here, including bears. This is why we have a giant hornet nest just 9 feet from the front door — since they don't bother us, they are welcome to summer there and hopefully find a better place next year. Maybe one day the bears and hornets will attack me simultaneously while I cut my brown grass, teaching me a lesson about

coexistence.

Another thing we see a lot is bald eagles. I was walking with Scout at Penrose Point SP, along the water where the point juts out, when we heard a commotion up ahead. A big bald eagle came around, and landed in one of the trees. A few seconds later, another large eagle landed next to the first. After a moment, I watched one eagle take off from the tree, coasting out very low over the rocks on the beach exposed by low tide, where it landed about 4 feet away from a red fox I hadn't even noticed. Not sure if the fox was near one of their kills or what, but they gave that fox a hard time until it got back to the forest. Those eagles are sure a sight to see. Words can't do justice the feeling when you see them up close.

But I think the coolest thing happens here in September and October. Last year, I was once again walking with Scout at Penrose, along Mayo Cove, when out over the water we saw a mass of yapping sea gulls, yelling and diving and creating a louder-than-normal disturbance. When I

saw a couple of bald eagles as well, I thought there was a dead whale or something. As we got closer, a seal popped up out of the water vertically, checking us out, then sank back in. I noticed a few more seals, and then more, and then realized what was happening. Between 20 and 30 seals were hunting a large school of fish. Man, it was cool! They worked the school, surrounding the fish, and they jumped clear out of the water in pairs, perfectly coordinated. They blew their air simultaneously as they hit the water again, sometimes swimming full speed, other times mashing it up with other seals, water splashing everywhere, piling up and eating all they can before the school runs again. A few seals along the edges were checking out the shore, perhaps resting or maybe they were full. I watched them for about 45 minutes until it got dark. I'd like to see the whole process on an underwater documentary narrated by David Attenborough. I'll work on that, but until then, keep on the lookout, because it's really something.

(From **LETTERS**, Page 4)

working Yanity family for their very generous donation to M&M Ministry. Your hard work and love for others showed through your Country Ho Down this year. The games, food and just plain country welcome was felt by many. It was nice seeing friends we haven't seen since last year and it was great meeting new people. We are looking forward to what you have in store for next year.

Thanks again Al & Jean and family for your hard work and generous donation.

*Howard & Diane Johnson
Lakebay*

Neighbors must be more considerate

July 4th was a horrible day. Throughout the day a neighbor of mine decided he would "celebrate" the holiday by setting off dynamite. Each time it happened, my children screamed and cried, my dogs were terrorized, my house shook (who knows what kind of structural damage was done) and my elderly mother could have easily had a heart attack. Why

someone feels the need to share their method of celebrating with everyone within a 5-mile radius is beyond me. Had anyone been hurt due to their inconsiderate and rude behavior, I would be owning their house and all of the dynamite in it.

*Leslie Potter
Minterwood*

Community supports veterans programs

The Key Peninsula Veterans members would like to thank our Key Peninsula community for their generous support of the KPVI Fireworks stand at Lake Kathryn and our flag pin drive. The donations received will continue to fund needs of our local military veterans and families, along with a vision to help recently disabled veterans rehabilitating at American Lake Veterans Hospital. To learn more about the KPVI organization, come visit KPVI member Dale and his mobile military museum at "Old Timer's Day" on Aug. 16 in Longbranch.

Thanks again for all the community support!

*Richard Tiegs
KPVI Vice-President*

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Terri Hunziker remembered

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Terri Radcliffe Hunziker's brave, dedicated struggle with stage IV lung cancer for nearly five years has ended. She never smoked nor did she live with smokers, yet died from nonsmokers' cancer.

She never gave up. She started three businesses, which she worked on at home, and raised her two boys. She never whined or wondered, "Why me?" She set about researching the disease through her capabilities with computer science and, from time to time, discovered new and hopeful possible remedies for the debilitating affliction. She shared these with the world through her Website, www.mybumpintheroad.com.

In May, friends and family held a successful dinner/donation fundraiser at the Lighthouse Christian School designed to honor her and to raise money to help the family with the staggering costs of her treatments. Close to \$25,000 was raised. Touched with the sincere demonstration of love for her by so many, she said, "Your compassion and generosity has deeply touched us and there are no words to



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Mike Hunziker speaks at his wife's memorial service in July.

convey our appreciation. ... What an incredible event it was."

But it was far more than that. It was an outpouring of love and respect from some 300 of her friends and admirers. The aura at the event was all but palpable. And she knew how much she meant to so many people of all walks of life. Those who knew her can all take some consolation in that.

BRIEFS

news

Transportation survey results revealed

In spring 2008, the Mustard Seed Project circulated several thousand surveys throughout the Key Peninsula to learn more about local transportation needs and usage. The results are being analyzed, but the organization has released the raw data.

A total of 328 surveys were returned, with most of the respondents over age 60, 76 over age 75 and two-thirds of the respondents female.

About 10 percent have used public transportation. For most respondents, the nearest bus stop is over 2.5 miles from home. Ninety percent said they are able to drive their own car. This dropped to 70 percent for residents over age 75. Despite this, one-third said they often need a ride, and usually depend upon friends and relatives. Almost half feel a special transport vehicle would be beneficial.

The majority of respondents, about 70 percent, have annual incomes less than

\$50,000; 14 percent are disabled and about 10 percent are on Medicaid.

After the data is evaluated, it will be sent to local representatives and Pierce Transit. As a result of some of the needs mentioned in the survey, the Key Peninsula Senior Ride Program, jointly sponsored by the Mustard Seed Project and Catholic Community Services, is now in place. To be part of the transportation discussion process, call Edie Morgan at 884-1205. For more information, call the Key Senior Information Center at 884-9814. Those interested to see the complete set of data may stop at the Information Center next door to the Key Center Library.

Park volunteer honored

There is a new batting cage this year at Volunteer Park. Little League realized the need for lighting for the facility, so the organization asked Birch Electric for help. The owner of Birch Electric, Kevin Canavan, had worked a few years ago with his friend, Lee Spunaugle, to set up the field lighting for Little League games at the park. In addition, the project manager at Birch Electric, Lakebay resident Pat Stephens, is a Little League supporter and added his endorsement to the \$2,500 wiring proposal.

When Little League wanted to put a plaque up at the park to show their gratitude to Birch Electric, Canavan said he wanted the plaque to honor the memory of Spunaugle. "Lee Spunaugle lost his battle with hepatitis recently. He did a lot of work at the park and gave a lot of time," Canavan said.

According to Canavan, Spunaugle worked for Peninsula Light Co. for 30 years and he headed up the job of putting in the park's ball field lighting system. The new plaque reads, "In memory of Lee Spunaugle" and has the Birch Electric logo at the bottom.

Ren Faire cancelled

The Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire scheduled for August in North Mason County, near Belfair, has been cancelled this year with an expectation of returning in August 2009. Permit problems with the 206-acre site forced organizers to cancel the event, which has been advertised for several months.

For the prior 10 years, the Ren Faire had been held along State Route 302 near Harvest Time Store. It had grown too big for the old site, with a number of local residents complaining about traffic problems.

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Safe neighborhoods go beyond badge carriers

By PJ Callahan, KP News

Crime is down on the Key Peninsula, according to recent statistics released at the June 26 Key Peninsula Crime Prevention Group meeting at the fire station in Longbranch. Law enforcement representatives, residents and business owners got together to discuss crime trends on the Key Pen and upcoming safety-related events.

Lt. Larry Bauer, supervisor of the Pierce County Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment, talked about Peninsula crime statistics, which have been posted online monthly for several years. "In general, crime is tending to trend down, most likely due to being in the post-meth era," Bauer said. "There are no glaring problems here, but we do monitor it closely."

Bauer pointed out that while drug-related crimes have gone down locally, the problem nationwide has impacted other types of crimes. "I think the spike in fraud-related (identity) crimes is related to meth. Not in our part of the country, but across the U.S.," he said. "They are not dealing with it as well as we are. People are stealing information across the Internet."

Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor also talked about the nationwide meth epidemic. "We (Pierce County) are being looked at nationally as a model for how other jurisdictions should do it," Pastor said. "You should look at the person next to you and pat them on the back. It's taken shoe leather and dedication. The trick for us, and any law enforcement, is to figure out the next wave—not be behind things. We got ahead of the wave, but it didn't keep the wave from coming. Other jurisdictions have had the problem longer than we have. Our people worked



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor speaks during the June 26 KP Crime Prevention Group meeting. Lt. Larry Bauer is seen on the right.

with the prosecutor's office, Child Protective Services, Safe Streets and others to help educate and engage community members. It was not just badge carriers that made it a success, it was everybody linking arms."

Pastor also talked at length about the community's role in ensuring safe neighborhoods. "There is an attitude of obligation that we have to begin to rediscover," he said. "We have problems with two types of responsibility. One type is personal responsibility, which we do or don't accept. The other type is responsibility for the people around us — what you owe your community. We have to do both of those things. If we just pay our taxes, it's not good enough."

In line with the sheriff's views on community involvement, the meeting also provided an opportunity for organizations to promote local safety events. Andrea Jerabek, Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula

community mobilization specialist for Safe Streets, provided information on upcoming safety events, including the 25th Annual National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 5. Safe Streets is the official NNO organizer for Pierce County. By registering a neighborhood crime-prevention workshop, safety fair or barbecue with Safe Streets, groups will receive a helpful information packet and be designated an official NNO event. "The benefit of organizing a neighborhood event with Safe Streets in Pierce County is you get some really neat things," Jerabek said.

Safe Streets is a nonprofit organization that brings people together, primarily through forming neighborhood block organizations, to take back the streets. The group also assists with local safety events and programs, including meth forums, Paint Tacoma Pierce Beautiful and the Key Peninsula Business Crime Watch. For details, call Jerabek at 884-

1616, or visit www.safest.org.

Another upcoming event, presented by the Key Peninsula Crime Prevention Group, will be "Safety at Home" on Saturday, Sept. 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. The event will include 25 resource booths and speakers on sex offenders in society, child abuse, neighborhood safety nets through Blockwatch, how to prepare for an emergency and "The Drug Dealer in Your Bathroom." For details, contact the Pierce County Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment at 798-4940, or email pccpeninsula@co.pierce.wa.us.

The Key Peninsula Crime Prevention Group was created in 2004 to allow citizens to voice their community concerns to local law enforcement groups. Residents and business owners on the KP meet the fourth Thursday of every month with representatives from the sheriff's department and the Washington State Department of Corrections to help detect crime trends and create action plans for those trends.

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KP Fair described as best ever



Above, Ethan Hoschouer, 5, rides a tractor, which was a popular ride.

Photo by Karina Whitmarsh



Right, Janice Bryant, owner of Kaukiki Farm in Longbranch, assisted by Laurne Creighton of Belfair, shears Candy, an Oxford Down sheep. The blistering hot day deterred neither humans or the sheep in the quest for the latter's wool.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Key Peninsula Fire Department Division Chief Chuck West, a good sport, splashes into the dunk tank in his full uniform to the delight of fellow firefighters and malevolent youngsters who brought on the shockingly refreshing respite from the day's blistering temperatures.

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The 2008 Key Peninsula Community Fair was the best fair ever, according to organizers. The vendors and the carnival were popular. Children and adults enjoyed dunking their favorite fire department men and women. The young crowd got a big thrill out of climbing through the mouth of a giant salmon statue, racing pedal tractors, and fishing for the biggest fish. When the temperatures turned hot, the petting zoo was a favorite hangout because it was cool under the animals' misting system. Many people stopped to marvel at the sheep shearing demonstration where mounds of wool piled up, some in Kool-aid colors. Crowds gathered under the shade of a big tent top to watch the entertainment shows. Each night, as the carnival rides twirled and glittered, music was enjoyed under perfectly clear skies with a bright moon and just the right temperatures for a summer evening.



Zachary Sies from Tucson, Ariz., shows his hula-hooping skills at the Children's Home Society Booth. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Longbranch's 4-year-old Jackson Bryant and Haley McCurry, 8, scuffle through a "hay pile" of shredded paper in search of a treasure of scattered, concealed pennies. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Hayden Simard, 19 months, plays while dad Jason tends to one of his six gaming booths at the Key Peninsula Fair. Jason and Hayden come from Texas, but travel all over the country. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*

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Local developer plans resort at Devil's Head

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

Local resident Tim Jopp plans to open his Inspiration Inn at Devil's Head in 2013, which would include a lodge and destination-style viewing gardens. He recently considered, and rejected, an offer to sell the property to a conservation group.

Jopp was born into the fourth generation of Jopps living in Longbranch. They've been there since 1896. Their original homestead still exists, and the various family members own considerable acreage in the Longbranch area.

Between 1997 and 2002, Jopp developed a successful composting business employing 12 people on his 60-acre farm on Vancouver Island in Canada.

A review of court decisions reveals that province officials processed complaints against Jopp alleging the composting was an "industrial" activity and had to be relocated to an industrially zoned location instead of his farm. Jopp won one lawsuit in the trial court and another on appeal. The appeals court ultimately agreed composting was an agricultural, not industrial, activity, but the decision was too late for Jopp. He was driven to bankruptcy due to the legal cost, and the income lost during the years of restrained activities.

In 2003, while visiting his folks in Longbranch, he stumbled onto a property that appealed to him. He purchased, developed, and sold it, which started his local real estate business. Jopp has purchased, developed, and sold over 100 properties on the KP, which enabled him to

purchase Devil's Head in 2004.

The pristine property, located at the southern tip of the Key Peninsula, has 4,000 feet of waterfront, and views of Mount Rainier and the Olympics.

"I plan to leave most of Devil's Head in its natural state, and make it a world-class phenomenon," said Jopp. "I plan on beautiful gardens like Bucharth in Victoria, a concert bowl in an existing depression, and a lodge (Inspiration Inn) located at the top of the hill..."

He said he wants the project to remain family owned with no shareholders or investors.

Jopp discovered large gravel deposits at Devil's Head, which led him to investigating BoMac, a struggling concrete company. He purchased BoMac in 2006, added six new cement trucks, and increased sales 70 percent his first year in operation. "BoMac's profits are helping keep the Inspiration Inn dream alive," he said. "Taxes alone are over \$20,000 per year."

Jopp obtained a logging permit from Department of Natural Resources to selectively log up to 7 acres. A six-year moratorium on development, which ends in 2011, accompanies the DNR logging permit. Pierce County is currently reviewing Jopp's request to lift the moratorium, which would allow earlier development of Devil's Head.

"As it stands now, construction would start in 2011, with opening in 2013," Jopp said.

Adonis Clark, a senior planner for Pierce County, said, "Jopp does have a valid DNR logging permit that he can exercise if he so chooses. We are currently considering his application to lift the moratorium. The only other problems that we know about are being handled by the developmental

engineers."

Dave Acree in Developmental Engineering, who has been investigating the complaints against Jopp, stated, "I issued a Cease and Desist Order in late 2007 or early 2008 against Jopp because Jopp had moved more than 50 cubic yards of material without a permit. Another problem exists in that Jopp had illegally been using an unopened county right of way without permission. Both issues can be cured when he applies for and obtains a building permit."

"I did use some of the gravel to improve an access road," Jopp said. "The DNR representative said that it would be OK. I guess that I didn't check with everybody that I needed to."

Jopp said he did not have any definite plans for Devil's Head when he purchased it, but did not want it to fall into the hands of developers who would spoil it. He submitted Devil's Head for consideration by the Pierce County Council for acquisition under its Conservation Futures Program in both 2007 and 2008. For both years, the

council set the priority for Devil's Head too low for any hope for a purchase by the county for preservation in its natural state or use as a park.

The property has long been eyed by local parks supporters for conservation and parks use. Shortly after Jopp purchased Devil's Head, the Great Peninsula Conservancy secured a grant commitment to assist a Conservation Futures acquisition by Pierce County. Despite the added financial boost, Pierce County has not been able to conclude a purchase at that time.

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee was recently working with Cascade Land Conservancy to make a purchase using grant money. An offer was just submitted to Jopp. "I had to reject the offer, as it was far less than the value of Devil's Head, and also far below what I have already invested," he said.

Jopp said his lifetime of personal experiences and turmoils has led him to Inspiration Inn. He expects to open the resort on Mother's Day 2013.

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Franciscan program named after Key Pen resident

By Marilyn Newton
Special to KP News

Franciscan Health Systems Palliative Care Outreach recently honored Mary Hill, a Key Peninsula woman who died in 2006, for her work as a volunteer and paid staff member by naming the award for Volunteer of the Year after her. This April, Vickie Haberman of Enumclaw received the 2008 Mary Hill Volunteer of the Year Award at a ceremony in Tacoma.

Hill and her husband, Leon, moved from Seattle to Key Peninsula in 1996. She met Georganne Trandum, another Key Pen resident who works as the director of the program, based in Gig Harbor, while taking a tour of English gardens.

Prior to moving to the Peninsula, Mary and Leon, a Boeing engineer, raised five



Photo courtesy Hill family

Mary and Leon Hill.

children in the Rainier Beach Neighborhood in Seattle. When their youngest daughter, Monica, was in the eighth grade, Mary completed a degree

in social sciences from Seattle University. She established a business editing medical manuscripts. In 1996, the Hills decided to join their son, who has a home on Herron Island, and purchased a home on Case Inlet.

Hill started her volunteer work in Gig Harbor, where she worked with clients on the Key Peninsula. She then moved to the Northwest Medical Specialties Oncology Clinic in Tacoma, where she later joined the paid staff. She worked with a chaplain and nurse Sharon Anderson to lead a group of volunteers who assisted cancer patients. "With Mary, you would laugh, cry and listen," Anderson said.

Hill, an affectionate, empathetic person, used her special talent for bringing people together. "She truly was Mary full of grace," Trandum said.

Hill loved to write, and in addition to her work with palliative care, she found time to volunteer at the Key Peninsula News several years ago, according to her husband. She also studied water color painting, an activity she enjoyed sharing with her grandchildren.

Hill died on Aug. 22, 2006, working for as long as she could before her death. As her fast-acting type of Alzheimer's worsened, she received the type of care she championed for others from her family, friends, church and hospice.

Franciscan's palliative outreach serves clients who are approaching the end of life. Pain and symptom management are combined with education, dependable support, and access to a broad range of resources. For more information, call 858-4380.

KP citizen rescues drowning bald eagle

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Becky and Greg Anglemeyer were sitting on their back deck when they saw an immature bald eagle land in the water in the middle of Von Geldern Cove recently. It attempted to swim to shore but wasn't making it. Greg launched a canoe and went out to the bird and "escorted" it to shore, using the canoe paddle to help keep it afloat. It was so exhausted, it couldn't move up the beach. As the tide was coming in and would have overwhelmed the eagle, he carried it up to a neighbor's lawn very carefully as it had its talons buried in his arm. "Just a warning gesture and for balance," assured Anglemeyer. "It lay in a heap for an hour and seemed close to death," he

said.

His wife, Becky, "talked" quietly to the bird for several hours while it slowly dried out.

"Finally, it flew a short distance down to a bulkhead, where it spent the night," Anglemeyer said.

The next day he found it back on the shore calling pitifully to the two mature eagles who stayed in the vicinity, "but never seemed to feed it."

"By the following day we knew it was in trouble of starving. With 4th of July fireworks in the offing, we finally got connected with Washington State Fish and Wildlife, which sent a ranger to assist," said Anglemeyer, a KP parks commissioner.

"Our son and his wife, Steve and

Annette Hamstreet, kept watch on the bird and reported that it was growing weaker. When the ranger arrived, the eagle flew about 15 feet up into a tree. Steve and the ranger took an extension ladder and went up after it," he said." It flew again, this time landing on a stair rail. While Becky talked to it and encouraged it, the ranger tried again. This time the poor bird was so tired, it simply fell off the railing into the brush, where the ranger finally caught it. It was amazingly calm at that point, probably just tuckered out."

The bird was sent to West Sound Wildlife Shelter for recovery. Channel 5 heard about the story from the shelter, and sent a crew to share the good news on the 4th of July.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

On Independence Day, at his home in Lakebay, Greg Anglemeyer points out for KING TV 5's reporter Gary Chittim where he saw the young bald eagle floundering in the waters of Von Geldern Cove some days previously.

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Old Timers Day returns

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Some popular repeats and some new additions are planned for this year's Old Timers Day on Saturday, Aug. 16 at the Longbranch Improvement Club. This is the longest-running "festival" on the Key Peninsula, celebrating 22 years of continuous operation. Vicky Lilyblade, co-chair with husband Ted, says the old favorites will be in place, with some exciting new events.

Admission and parking are free. The event runs until 4 p.m. Stage performers include Key Singers, Rhythm-n-Shoes Cloggers, and the Down Home Band.

A dunk tank is new this year, with Lakebay postmaster Steve Jorgenson and toll booth operator Linda LeBlanc as volunteers to be dunked. People should enjoy venting "about increases in stamps and bridge tolls," says Lilyblade.

Kris Sherman returns with her popular petting zoo, the "Bounce House" will be set up, and a hay scramble and carnival games will entertain the younger set.

Vendor booths inside and out will offer information, food, and various other items for sale. A silent auction will be set up inside, and a live auction of items such as gravel and wood will be held outside by the logging show.

More information

Vendor space is still available. Call 884-3771 to reserve an indoor table or 884-5066 for an outdoor space. Cost is \$20.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the event can call 884-4440 for information.

Dale Boquist, chair of the logging department, says it's harder these days to find donors of logs to use for the show and other items for the auction, but they'll work with what they have available.

Boquist's working steam donkey will be in evidence, and logging pros and novices will try their hand at assorted feats of skill. Don Fifer says he'll have his antique engines on display, and some of his like-minded friends will join him. Antique tractor owners plan to show up, too.

The KP Veterans Institute members raise the flag at 10 a.m., with Key Singers leading the national anthem.

Proceeds from the event go to Key Peninsula Community Services, which operates the local food bank, offers senior lunches and other meals, and has a meeting room available that various organizations' use. About \$7,000 was given to KPCS last year.

Rouse family reunion

The Rouse family, descendants of Joseph Webster and Amelia (Millie) Rouse, have reserved some tables and chairs at the Old Timers Day to have their family reunion there. The Rouses lived in Longbranch from about 1908 until the early 1940s. Rouse put in the road that now bears his name.



Rouse was police chief of Sturgis, SD, during the uprising of the Sioux Indian nation, in the Black Hills, says granddaughter Donna Rouse. "Grandfather had many notorious visitors in his jail such as Calamity Jane and many famous male gun fighters. They resided there until about 1905."

Descendants attending the reunion arranged by granddaughter Judy Steele include several grandchildren, the current oldest generation, down to the great-great-grandchildren of Joseph and Millie Rouse.

Photo courtesy Linda (Rouse) Thomson

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3 Clouds Bakery a rising business

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Joe Rudolph recalls an early love of bakeries. On his way to Sunday School back in Wisconsin, he stopped by the local bakery to pick up fresh bagels. If he arrived early enough, he was allowed to help the baker take the trays of bagels out of the oven.

Rudolph recently opened 3 Clouds Bakery at Ravensara coffee shop off State Route 302, where he operates in a miniscule space to create baked specialties for the espresso crowd.

He's a popular vendor at the new Key Peninsula Farmers Market, where regular customers already know to arrive early or order their favorites ahead.

Rudolph spent summers with his grandmother in Maryland, where steamed crabs were a favorite food. He's also lived and baked in Montana and California. He moved here 10 years ago after marrying his wife, Jody.

Upon his arrival in the West, he was told Dungeness crabs were better than the eastern ones. He argued against that until he actually tasted some.



Joe Rudolph at the farmers market, where he is a regular vendor.

"Dungeness are better," he says now.

In a baking career of 30 years, his most recent business was operating a deli lunch in California. He made pizza once a month in a rented bakery ordered in advance.

The location of Ravensara, run by

Jody's daughter, Tara, seemed the perfect spot to start fresh.

3 Clouds Bakery, where heavenly baked delights for morning, noon, and night are made daily, offers a multitude of delicious edibles, from "morning buns" to homemade soups.

The brochure notes, "We bake what we like," with the hope customers will like the choices, too. Rudolph uses organic products as available, and is willing to try something other than what's on the menu if a customer requests it.


A few items that take more preparation time are not on the daily menu. Rugelach, a sweet, flaky, rolled cookie with cinnamon and nuts, is only served on Wednesday. Handmade Oreos come out once a month.

He calls the chocolate cream cheese muffin his "diet muffin," as he ate two to three per day, plus a regular dinner, to take off 20 pounds in a few weeks.

Scones, muffins, cookies, specialty breads such as baguettes, focaccia, and bialy, a traditional Polish bagel with sweet onions in the center, go quickly at the market.

The Rudolphs offer a subscription service for people who'd like to have bread on a regular basis, or a large quantity of a specific item. Sign up at the Key Center farmers market Sundays between noon and 4 p.m., call 853-3349, or email 3cloudsbakery@hotmail.com.

Photo by Colleen Slater



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Protecting your home from Wildland Fires

In a community like ours it's not unusual to find homes hidden in the woods. And that's the way we like it, most of the time. Although, when wildland fires strike we need to have a defensible space to protect our most valuable assets. Take the time now to prepare your home for that 'just in case' event. This year is sizing up to be a very dry season.

My home is no different, it's tucked into the woods also, but I have maintained 30 feet of defensible space all the way around and you should too. This surrounding area is lawn on three sides; on the fourth side it's landscaped. The landscaping near the house is less flammable plants like Clematis, Roses and a large Passion Flower; these come back new each year. Check with the nursery for other ideas.

I've been working to clean up the roof. Even with

Key points

- ▶ Build a 30' wide defensible space around your home
- ▶ Use flame resistant plants near your home
- ▶ Build or remodel your home with flame resistant products
- ▶ Clean leaves and needles from the roof
- ▶ Prune back the growth each year

the fir trees a safe distance away I get a lot of needles on the roof and in the gutters. These are very flammable. I have already moved the last winter's firewood away from the house and cut back the new growth on my driveway that would prohibit the fire engine's access.

Join me in making this a safe year and help us to help you. It's a partnership.

Contact information

- Firefighter Association** - Molly: 884-6368
- Fire Chief** - Tom Lique: tlique@piercerefire.org
884-2222
- Fire Commissioners** - Chairman Jim Bosch:
884-3320
- Personnel Manager** - Christina Bosch:
cbosch@piercerefire.org
- Technical Services and Public Education** -
Chuck West: cwest@piercerefire.org
- Volunteer Membership** - Chuck West:
cwest@piercerefire.org
- Training and Medical Services Division Chief** -
Paul Bosch: pbosch@piercerefire.org
- District Operations** - Guy Allen, Division Chief:
gallen@piercerefire.org
- Use of Facilities** - Vanessa Wells:
vwells@piercerefire.org
- Phone contact for all others:**
253-884-2222



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Chris Hagen

Chris joined us in 2005 after serving as an Army Ranger during the initial expedition into Afghanistan. He is already a well seasoned medic with great skills. We really enjoy working with his calming demeanor. And he is a new daddy to a little boy.



Open Forum Information

Do you have questions for us? Come tour the Key Center Headquarters station, fire engines and ambulances, meet Sparky and get the answers to your questions. Come meet your fire commissioners and fire department personnel. On September 27 we will open the station to the public from 9am to 3pm. Come by and say hi. Also, you can contact us with your questions at keypeninsulafire@hotmail.com

Calendar of Events

- ▶ Public Forum - Sept. 27th @ Key Center
- ▶ Safe Sitter - Aug. 14th & 15th
- ▶ CPR - Aug 9th

SPARKY SAYS:

Smokey was right, "Only you can prevent wildland fires."



KP business partners succeed in Gig Harbor

By Irene Torres, KP News

Key Peninsula resident Sharon West has been with The Countertop Company in Gig Harbor for almost 12 years. Starting as a 23-year-old receptionist making \$7 an hour, she said she “worked my booty off, was a good employee, and got promoted.” For more than nine years, she has co-owned the fabricating company with Pat Klock. Her duties have now expanded to include “bookkeeping, sales, human resources, watering plants, scrubbing toilets...whatever needs to be done.”

She and Klock, the former general manager, had been friends at work. Klock said, “I started with the previous owner while living in the Rosedale area and the company was located in the Wauna area. As the company grew, we moved to our present location in Gig Harbor. I had five years working in sales and management before Sharon and I bought the company in 1998.”

When the previous owners decided to sell, West said she and Klock “bought it together after several months, lots of tequila, and an SBA loan.” They borrowed \$900,000 total, with the previous owners financing the balance. They have been able to pay the loans down to about half that amount, by making large principal payments.

Klock said, “There is a major learning curve when you go from being an employee to being the owner. Now we



Lead fabricator Dave Johnson is routing a built-in sink. Below, Co-owner Sharon West holds samples of Richlite added to their offerings to answer growing demand for environmentally friendly products. Her company is an installer for the product, made by a Tacoma company.

Photos by Karina Whitmarsh



have to deal with the banks and government agencies as well as doing our part in running the business that we did prior to purchasing the company.”

In June, Klock and his wife, Kim, relocated to the Key Pen from the Artondale area after their last daughter left home. “We love the area and our new home,” he said.

The wholesale company fabricates and installs solid surface Corian-like products as a subcontractor to major retailers like Great Floors, Dreyer’s Floors, CS Floors, Sears Home Improvement, Lowe’s, and

Home Depot. A few years ago, their major business was installing countertops in airplanes. When that business declined, they were able to diversify and keep their 11 employees busy. West said, “We’ve learned that putting our eggs in one basket, as my mother used to say, is not a good idea. Rather than relying on one type of clientele, we now have lots of different customers. We recovered.”

In 2007, gross sales were \$1.3 million. So far in 2008, they are on the same target.

The factory (shop) is 5,500 square feet and the 2,000-square-foot office is located on the same property.

When asked what she likes most about the company, West’s enthusiasm is obvious: “What we do makes a high impact on the purchaser. They can have this thing, the end product, they’ve waited for their whole lives. It’s ethical, good quality and well-done... I love the homes, big and small, that I get to visit. They are glorious. I love the flexibility of being my own boss. And I love my guys.”

Their company logo and business cards are tasteful in hunter green and silver, and

seem to carry a theme of environmentalism. “What we sell is not a risky product. The guys don’t work with anything that is hazardous. It is all completely benign — not toxic.” West said. “Our employees are craftsmen. They are used to keeping their equipment in good condition.”

The thing West would wish for is “a steady flow of work.” She said, “There are lots of companies that do what we do, but we remain one of the best as far as customer service. The guys are well-presented and good communicators. We have a lot of repeat business. That comes down to the employees; everybody cares about the homeowners.”

With her positive attitude, West may get her wish.

Mike McClure, production manager of Sears Home Improvement in Tukwila, told the KP News, “I probably do more Corian installations than anybody in the state and could use any contractor. We use The Countertop Company for a reason: They are the best in Seattle. They do accurate installations. They are timely. They do the job and take care of any issues right away. That’s rare these days.”

Klock said, “All our employees live in the Gig Harbor area with the majority of them living in the Key Peninsula area.” West added, “I realize the value of wage-earning jobs (\$15-\$22 an hour) in Gig Harbor. People should not have to cross the bridge to go to work. They can feel good about earning money to pay their mortgage, to feed their families. There should never be a sellout of customer satisfaction for money. (Being local) helps in so many ways: the economy, the ecology, and socially, preserving the family unit. The profit we make is money spent and respent many times.”

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COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to news@keypennews.com • Deadline 17th of the month

Aug. 1, 2, 7, & 23 – Explore a beach

Gig Harbor WildWatch is offering summer programs, including touch tanks, at Penrose and Joemma State Parks and at Purdy Spit. www.harborwildwatch.com

Aug. 1, 8, 15, & 22 – Friday outdoor movies

Key Peninsula Parks and Children's Home Society of Washington will host movies at dusk on the big screen at Volunteer Park or if the weather is bad at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Grab your blanket or lawn chair and your favorite movie munchies and enjoy an outdoor movie. Suggested donation is \$1/person and one can of food for the Key Peninsula Community Services.

Aug. 1, "Ratatouille"; Aug. 8, "Bee Movie"; Aug. 15, "High School Musical" and Aug. 22, "Shrek 3"

Aug. 2 – Drug prevention forum

Safe Streets presents a Community Substance Abuse Prevention Forum. It is an opportunity for the community to find out about resources for the prevention, enforcement, treatment and legislative support with regard to local drug related problems. Guests will have an opportunity for a question and answer session with the forum's panel. The panel includes: Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor, Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, Gig Harbor Police Chief Mike Davis, Olalla Treatment Center program director Randy Viers, and Robert Grimes, who will be a representative voice for resources available to recovering addicts. Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck and Community Service Officer Lynn Mock have also been invited. The master of ceremonies for the evening will be Ohad Lowy, assistant to the attorney general. Refreshments and beverages will be available.

Saturday, Aug. 2, 6-8 p.m. at Peninsula High School Commons

Aug. 2 – Beyond Borders

Free international festival will include music, international food and desserts,

an art show and a beer and wine garden. The four main acts are: Mooncoyne (Irish/Celtic), Leif Tutusek and Lora Chiora (Zimbabwe-Shona song and dance), Ancient Music (multicultural instrumental) and Abráce (multilingual vocal and percussion), as well as "Rhythm Intermission" between those acts.

Saturday, Aug. 2, noon to 6 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club

Aug. 2-4 – Dog agility trials

The Gig Harbor Kennel Club will host American Kennel Club Agility Trials at Volunteer Park. In an agility trial, a dog demonstrates its agile nature and versatility by following cues from the handler through a timed obstacle course of jumps, tunnels, weave poles and other objects. It's an activity that strengthens the bond between dog and handler and provides fun and exercise for both, which might explain why it's so enjoyable to watch and has become the fastest growing dog sport in the country.

Saturday through Monday, Aug. 2-4, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Volunteer Park, free

Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – Farmers' market

The Key Peninsula Farmers' Market is open every Sunday from 12-4 p.m. in O'Callahan's parking lot in Key Center.

Aug. 4-8 & 11-15 – Sports camps

Key Peninsula Parks is offering the following sports camps. Each participant will receive a T-shirt, and camp specific ball or pompoms. Scott, 884-9240

Soccer, ages 7-14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon-Fri, Aug. 4-8, Minter Creek Elementary, \$133

Mini-Hawks, ages 4-7, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Mon-Fri, Aug. 4-8, Discovery Elementary, \$99

Basketball, ages 6-12, 9-11 a.m. Mon-Fri, Aug. 11-15, Civic Center, \$45

Aug. 6 & 20 – Candidates' presentations

The Key Peninsula Lions Club invites

the public to hear and question candidates for public office at 7 p.m. in the Veterans Room of the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The speaker on Aug. 6 will be Pierce County Assessor/Treasurer Ken Madsen, and on Aug. 20 state representative candidate Marlyn Jensen will speak. The public is welcome. Speakers will have 45 minutes for a presentation and to answer questions. George, 853-2721

Aug. 7 – Fuchsia club meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will hold its next meeting on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. The program will be sharpening, cleaning, and caring for garden tools. All are welcome. Myvanwy, 884-2283

Aug. 10-16 – Band camp

Capella Band and Choir Camp will be held at Delano Bay Camp in Lakebay for kids in grades 3-12. Kids will enjoy rehearsals, theory training and music history, crafts, games, friends, and finish the week with a family concert. Capella Choirs; 360-895-3200

Aug. 14-15 – Safe sitter class

The KPFFA is presenting a class teaching CPR, first aid and how to be a safe sitter. The KPFFA provides scholarships for many of the safety classes.

Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 14-15, Safe sitter class, Key Center Fire Station, 8911 Key Peninsula Highway, \$15-\$25, bring a packed lunch. 884-2222

Aug. 16 – S.A.V.E. flea market

S.A.V.E. Thrift Store, Purdy, is hosting an outdoor collectible flea market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No early sales. No animals allowed. If it rains, the sale will be the following weekend. Vendors call 857-2800.

Aug. 17 – Worship and picnic

Lakebay Covenant Community Church

invites everyone to enjoy the grounds at Penrose State Park on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for an outdoor worship service and family picnic. 884-3899 or www.lakebaycovenant.net

Aug. 30 – KPLC garage sale

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church holds its annual garage sale to raise funds for community outreach projects. Donations of good, gently used items (no clothing) may be dropped off at the church on Friday, Aug. 29, between 9 a.m. and noon. Sale items include dishes, furniture, toys, tools and household goods.

Aug. 30, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. KPLC, corner of Key Peninsula Highway and Lackey Road; 884-4449 or 884-3312

Sept. 13 – Key to Worship event

The Key to Worship, a celebration of music and faith, is on the Key Peninsula at the Longbranch Improvement Club. This is a free event sponsored by many churches on the peninsula to reach out to those in need of salvation and will run from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call a message phone-884-1288.

Tuesdays – TOPS

TOPS Chapter #1325 meets at 9 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, corner of Key Peninsula Hwy and Lackey Rd. Free childcare, fun and support are available. Gloria, 884-2554

Thursdays – Senior society meets

"Yesterday's Teenagers" have weekly potlucks, card playing and general fun every Thursday at noon at the Vaughn Civic Center. All seniors are welcome. 884-4981 or 884-5052

Saturdays-Writers' guild meets

The Key Peninsula Writers' Guild meets every Saturday from 9-11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-6455

Multiple Sclerosis self-help group forms in Gig Harbor

Two longtime Gig Harbor residents are starting a self-help group for people living with MS, as well as their friends and families. Spruce Cox and Judy Olsen have both been active with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Washington Chapter, as well as other nonprofit organizations that provide services and support to the MS community. They want to help bring some of that support directly to people in the local area.

Spruce's involvement has earned him the honor of being the National MS Society's 2008 Bike MS honoree. The Bike MS event is a two-day bike ride and fundraiser that happens in September. An accomplished aerospace engineer and rocket scientist, Cox was diagnosed with MS in 1994 at the prime of his life. At the time, he was running about 15 miles per week, and had been noticing over a period of months that he seemed to be losing stamina and tripping more often. One day during a run, he tripped and hit the ground really hard. He finally agreed to see a neurologist, and was diagnosed the next week. As he learned more about MS, Cox realized that he had been experiencing other symptoms for years including numbness, leg pains, and leg jerks while sleeping.

"I have participated in many MS-related events and am always learning something new that helps and inspires me to keep on living the most fulfilling life with MS that I can. I wanted to help create an environment where I could continue to meet and talk with others with MS, and provide the same opportunity for others, but on this side

of the bridge," he said.

Olsen was diagnosed in 2003 during her second quarter of graduate school. Obvious neurological symptoms, such as loss of speech and balance, led to her diagnosis. She also realized that many previous symptoms were probably undiagnosed MS.

The Northwest has a higher incidence of MS than most anywhere else. The cause of MS is unknown. Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information between the brain and the body and stops people from moving. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with more than twice as many women as men being diagnosed with the disease.

The group organizers hope to offer an opportunity for local community members who live with MS to come together and share experiences and information in a confidential and supportive atmosphere.

The group will meet at the new Ken Uddenberg State Farm office (7201 Pioneer Way Suite B101), in the community coffee shop area, on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 5, from 6-7 p.m.

For more information, call Spruce Cox at 851-3165 or Judy Olsen at 225-0857. For more information about MS or the programs and services offered by the National MS Society, call 1-800-344-4867.

OFF THE KEY

**Aug. 1, 2, 3 -
Thunderbirds**

The Thunderbird Sailboats, boats originally designed in Gig Harbor, celebrate their 50th anniversary all day with exhibits, music, and activities held at Skansie Park and Jerisch Dock. www.tbird50years.com

August Concerts and Movies

Concerts are on Tuesdays at Skansie Brothers Park from 6:30-8 p.m. Bring a chair or a blanket and arrive early - Aug. 5, Pearl Django; Aug. 12, Aaron Myer with the Peninsula Youth Orchestra; Aug. 19, Jazz Musette; Aug. 26, Locust Street Taxi.

Friday night Date Night movies at Donkey Creek Park are for adults only and begin at dusk. Bring a chair or blanket and arrive early - Aug. 8, "Sleepless in Seattle," Aug. 22, "Singing in the Rain."

Saturday night Family Night movies are for families at Skansie Brothers Park and begin at dusk - Aug. 9, "The Water Horse," Aug. 23, "Enchanted."

**Aug. 8 - 24-
"Urinetown"**

The Paradise Theatre presents "Urinetown the Musical" on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m. at 9911 Burnham Drive, Gig Harbor. www.paradisetheatre.org or 851-7529

Aug. 14-31- "My Fair Lady"

The Encore! Theater presents "My Fair Lady" at the outdoor theater at Impact Church International, 4819 Hunt St. SW, Gig Harbor, at 7 p.m. The show opens on Thursday and will run on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Bring your own seating, either a blanket for sitting up close to the stage or a low back lawn chair. Picnics welcome. Parking is free and light refreshments are available. Tickets available on site prior to the performance. Call the theater to arrange for special group rates paid for in advance, 858-2282 or www.encoretheater.org

Aug. 16 - Bluegrass Festival

Olalla's annual event with great family fun, activities for kids and old-country tradition will be from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Olalla Balley SKSLL field. www.olallacommunityclub.org

Aug. 20-24-Kitsap County Fair

The Kitsap County Fair and Stampede will be held Thursday through Sunday at the Bremerton Fairgrounds. Fair hours are 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily, except Sunday is 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 360-337-5376 or www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Fair_Stampede.htm

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Palliative Care Outreach seeks volunteers with gentle hearts and good listening skills to telephone patients and families, dealing with serious illnesses, for 4 hours per month, from home. Training and monthly meetings provided. Nicole, 253-534-7014.

The Key Peninsula Community Council is now accepting nominations for candidates to run in the September election for nine of fourteen positions. The application deadline is Aug. 15 at 4 p.m. Call 884-0557 or stop by the booth at the KP Farmers Market in Key Center on Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

AUGUST PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Pierce County Council District 6, Aug. 5, 5:30 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main Street NW
- Fire District 16, Aug. 13 and 27, 3 p.m. at Lakebay Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, Aug. 20, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library
- KP Metro Parks, Aug. 11, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex (some meetings preceded by a 6:30 p.m. study session)
- Peninsula School District Board, Aug. 14, 5:30 p.m. (special meeting) and Aug. 28, 6:30 p.m. (regular meeting) at the District Office, 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor

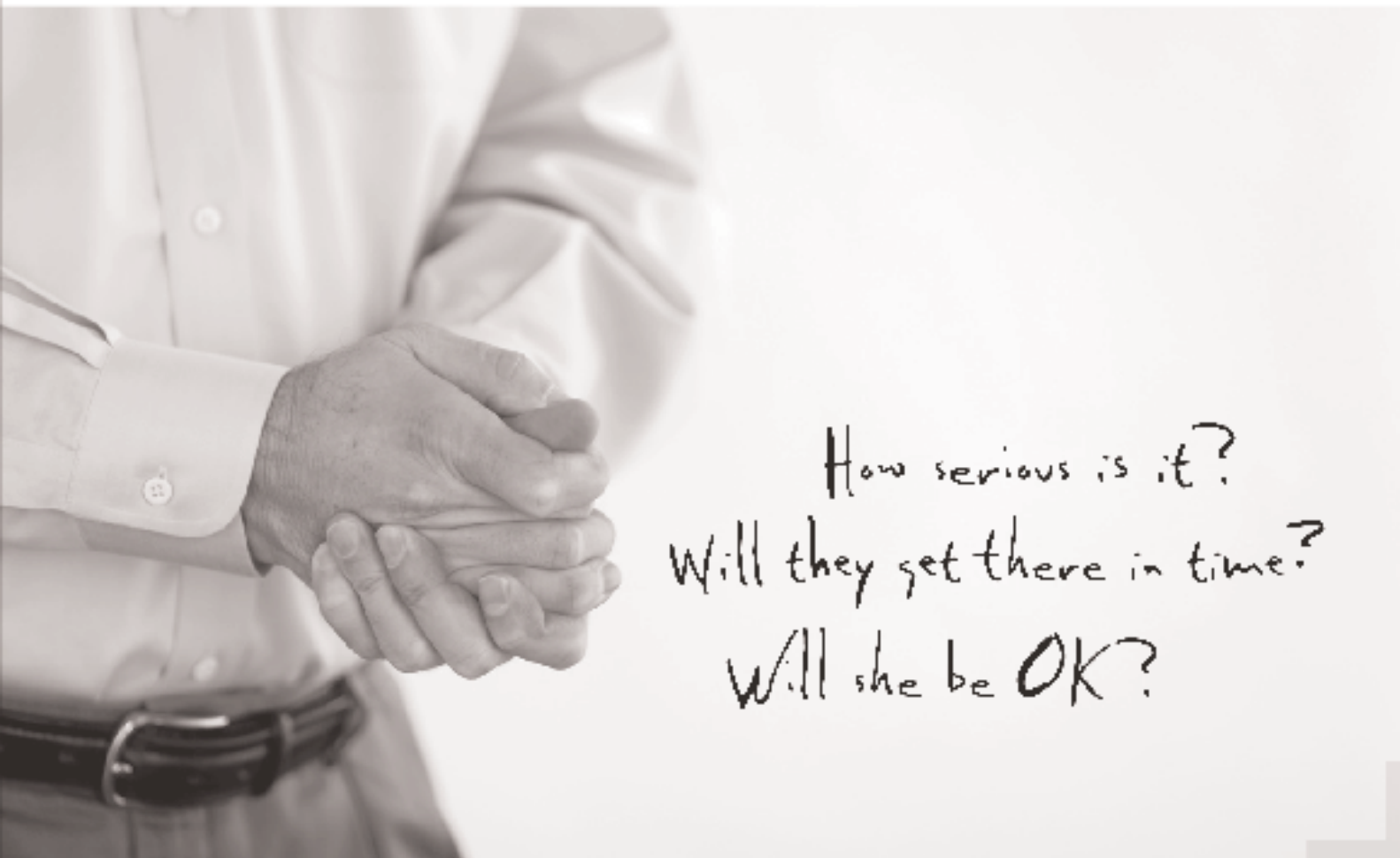

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With St. Anthony's emergency care so close, peace of mind will be only minutes away.

For the first time, life-saving services will be available right here on the Peninsula when St. Anthony's emergency department opens in Gig Harbor in early 2009.

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World-class medicine, hometown care

Our state-of-the-art emergency facility is designed to meet the needs of this growing region, with 19 treatment rooms including a special trauma room. Perhaps most reassuring of all is that we'll be just minutes away in north Gig Harbor, with quick access from Highway 16. When life hangs in the balance, it will be nice to know that emergency services are right around the corner.

Visit www.gigharborhospital.com to see St. Anthony Hospital under construction and to learn more about the vital medical services that will be available in 2009.

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OBITUARIES

Robert Dalton Sr.

Robert Dalton Sr., 87, a longtime resident of Longbranch, passed away July 7 with his children at his side. He was born July 30, 1920, in Seattle.

Dalton was often referred to as "Pop" by his family in later years, and was highly respected for his common sense, intelligence, and strong work ethic.

He served as an aircraft mechanic in the U.S. Coast Guard, owned an Allis Chalmers farm tractor dealership in Moses Lake, retired as an engineer from Boeing in 1979 (after 32 years), helped his son operate Dalton Timber Company logging on the Key Peninsula, and took up farming in his retirement.

After observing the challenges of life in Seattle during the Great Depression and the comparison life of plenty of family living in farming communities in Hillsboro, Ore., Dalton developed a lifelong goal of owning his own land and being a farmer. To realize this dream, he bought 60 acres in Longbranch in 1941, and eventually retired to farm, raising Guernsey & Holstein replacement heifers, hogs, honey bees, chickens and geese. Pop always had a loyal dog at his side.

He was preceded in death in 1994 by his wife, Lucille. Survivors include: daughter Debora Dalton, son Bob Dalton Jr. (wife Kathy), grandson Daniel Dalton (mom Marcy), and stepdaughter Barbara Edwards.

The family wishes to thank Dr. William Roes and the staff at Manor Care for their exceptional kindness, caring, and integrity – they are the very

best there is! They also feel the Key Peninsula is truly blessed to have the staff at Key Medical Center and Key Peninsula Fire District 16 to provide such a high level of care for everyone.

An informal Celebration of Life will be held at the Longbranch home of Jim and Maryanne McDonald on Sunday, Aug. 10, at 2 p.m. RSVP to Bob Dalton at (360) 801-6858. Live plants are preferred in lieu of cut flowers.

Bill Meyer

The powered-parachute man will not be flying over Peninsula homes and waving to the residents this summer. Bill Meyer died June 12, leaving his loving wife of 60 years, Norma, four daughters: Robin Meyer of Friday Harbor, Tweed Meyer of Wauna, Shelley Sass of Gig Harbor, and Shawn McAllister of Quinault; 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

After living 20 years on Vaughn Bay, Meyer built a house in Wauna, where he passed away at the age of 79.

Besides being a pilot, he was a retired Tacoma businessman of two Harold Meyer Drug Stores, a camera shop in Bremerton and the entrepreneur of Tacoma mini-auto racing shops. He was an avid photographer who took photos while he was flying and an outdoor adventurer. He had a contagious enthusiasm for life.

Remembrances may be made to the Key Center Fire Fighters Equipment for Breathing Fund, which is being handled by Christina Bosch. Norma Meyer hopes these remembrances will aid the outstanding firefighters in saving heart attack victims and overshadow the politicians, who should "straighten up and fly right," like Bill Meyer did.

Own a Horse? Let's Talk.



Pierce County Auditor's Animal Services and WSU Pierce County Extension are hosting a joint Horse Summit. It is an opportunity for horse owners to share concerns and comments and work with local officials on the challenges of owning horses.

We are looking for partners and resources to assist us in addressing the problem of a growing population of under-cared for horses.

If you own or board horses in Pierce County, this is one summit you won't want to miss.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 20th to Lee Drury at (253) 798-2118 or edrury@co.pierce.wa.us

For more information and a recap of the April 15th Graham Horse Summit, please contact the Auditor's website: www.piercecountywa.org/auditor

HORSE SUMMIT

Friday, August 22nd, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Key Peninsula Civic Center

17010 So. Vaughn Rd. KPN,

Vaughn, WA 98394



Pat McCarthy
Pierce County Auditor
2401 So. 35th St, Apt 200
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Local soldier picks up his life after Iraq

By Jeanette Brown
Special to the KP News

Many residents on the Key Peninsula know Ed Robison as a local business owner and volunteer for the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District. However, between the dates of Feb. 17 and Aug. 15 of 2007 Robison, as a Navy Reservist, was called to active duty and energetically assumed his role as U.S. Navy Cmdr. Edward C. Robison.

He spent six months in the Western Al Anbar Province of Iraq as the reconstruction officer for the area; and upon his return, Robison was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Achievement by U.S. Navy Cmdr. Jonathan L. Hughes in an awards ceremony at the Navy Operational Support Center in Alameda, Calif., on March 18., 2008.

Robison did not know he was getting the Bronze Star until it was awarded. He said, "I was expecting a Navy Marine Corps commendation or maybe a Defense Meritorious Service Medal. That is what most of the guys that have done similar jobs there have received.

"The Bronze Star was a complete surprise for me... It verified to me that the extra work, effort and danger I exposed myself to by magnifying my role in the reconstruction efforts to make them more efficient and effective were recognized and appreciated. It confirmed to me that the Marine leadership understands the importance of empowering the local Iraqis to become responsible for their well-being rather than trying to force a 'fete accompli' upon them. This change in attitude and methods are resulting in the improvements in Iraq since the Iraqi people are now part of the solution rather than considered the problem.



Photo courtesy Ed Robison

Ed Robison in his uniform last year.

The citation that accompanied the medal stated in part, "Commander Robison displayed exemplary managerial skill, and exceptional professional engineering and project management expertise... Commander Robison's total effectiveness, forceful leadership, and loyal devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Services." It was signed by the U.S. Marine Corps commander, Lt. Gen. Samuel T. Helland.

The award that would eventually become the Bronze Star Medal was conceived by Col. Russell P. "Red" Reeder in 1943 and is a U.S. Armed Forces individual military decoration that may be awarded for bravery, acts of merit, or meritorious service. Robison, who is

native to Washington state, graduated from Liberty High School in Issaquah and attended the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to become a civil engineer. While still in college, he joined the Navy through their collegiate program and upon the completion of his degree, he attended Officers Candidate School in Newport, R.I.

Robison was on active duty in the Navy for six years; in 1992 he joined the Navy Reserves. He and his wife, Lorilie, have two boys and two girls (who range) between the ages of 13 and 21. More than three years ago, the Robisons bought some acreage in Wauna and started to build their dream home; this past October they moved into their new residence. Lorilie is active in the equestrian club Harbor View Vaultors based on Key Pen, and enjoys looking after her two horses and providing boarding services for two others.

Robison said, "I really enjoyed designing the picnic shelter for Home Park and like volunteering with the KPMPD in general." His father, George Robison, is a past district governor of the Lions Club and past president of the Key Peninsula Lions. He has volunteered on different KPMPD projects though that organization as well, sometimes volunteering side by side with his son. In addition, George Robison has a past history of service with both the Coast Guard and Air Force Reserves. It was the elder Robison who encouraged his son to seek the vacant park commissioner's position left empty by the death of Ross Bischoff this past June. "I did submit for the position but wasn't selected," he said, "...but that does not mean that I won't consider running for parks commissioner during the regular election."

Public service, volunteerism, a strong

sense of duty and belief in community appear to be the guiding principles and integral components of Robison's family philosophy. He admits he has a taste for politics and even considered running for state representative of the 26th Legislative District when Rep. Pat Lantz (D-Gig Harbor) announced she would not be seeking a seventh term.

Robison is just recently back from Pearl Harbor, where he spent two weeks on reserve duty. He has owned E&L Civil Engineering for almost 15 years and currently works out of his home. Future plans for his engineering firm include its growth and redevelopment, as the business suffered during his deployment to Iraq. He said, "I plan to retire from the Navy Reserve within the year."

Iraq is a subject upon which Robison is very outspoken and passionate about. Recently, he completed a paper on his experiences in Iraq, which evolved over a period of about six months. He said, "It is just the truth as I saw it there. Mostly I wrote it to help myself work through the many issues, but also to help others understand the issues and confusion that prevails."

Two paragraphs at the conclusion of his 14-page account and description of life in Iraq serve to sum up his personal beliefs about the increasingly controversial occupation of that country. "The situation in Iraq needs to be evaluated with skepticism and critical analysis. The sound bites and allegations cannot be allowed to overwhelm fact and reason. The motivations of the insurgency must be interpreted from their perspective. They have seen their world inverted by foreign invaders with no improvement in their daily lives. They are not motivated by a hatred of freedom or America but rather by survival and Iraqi nationalism. "The continued occupation is not improving life for Iraqis. The occupation has not stabilized oil supply or prices. The U.S. presence is not motivating greater freedoms in the region. It is not discouraging radicals in the region. The ongoing failures discourage democratic reforms because of the chaos in Iraq. Despots use it as an excuse to tighten controls in their countries by claiming that it is necessary to prevent chaos at home or defend the homeland from terrorists."

The candid and upfront Robison said, "I am thinking about putting the paper up on the Internet. There was no upside to going in and there is no upside to staying."

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(From **HABITAT**, Page 1)

completion of the homes for two families in need.

The project began weeks ago with preparation of land sites. Ron Coen, longtime Habitat advocate, president of the Peninsula Lutheran Church, and avid building organizer, said completion of the two structures' roofs and sidings was expected by the first weekend in August. Occupancy is anticipated in October. Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to providing decent, safe and affordable housing for hardworking families who otherwise might not be able to afford a home on their own. Habitat's strength lies in volunteers who donate time, skill, money and energy to make everything happen. Among this project's volunteers are members of the Peninsula Lutheran Church, the Friday Morning Rotarians, Agnus Dei Lutheran and Fox Island Alliance churches, whose volunteers ranged from 16 years old to retired folks. Skills ranged from doctors and nurses to builders, retired detectives, salespeople, pastors, financial representatives and just about everything in between. Soon-to-be owners of the homes, Mellissa Carman and her three children, and KC Carter and wife, Jennifer Speidel, were



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Mellissa Carman and her 15-year-old daughter, Hannah, work on their soon-to-be new home near Carney Lake on the Key Peninsula.

accepted for the program after an application, referral, and examination process. The families will put at least 500 hours of "sweat equity" into working on their homes and on those of other Habitat families and will carry a preferred rate mortgage they must pay off as does any homebuyer.

Coen, with the volunteer group working on the Carman home, said, "Working alongside Mellissa Carman is a special treat. While the Lutheran community has already put in over 300 volunteer hours in just two days, working with her has encouraged us to pledge several hundred more hours. We are looking forward to working with others in the community to help make this American dream come true for this wonderful family."

Carman with her husband and children, Nick, 19, Ryan, 17 and

Hannah, 15, lived for 15 years in Edgewood, on half an acre. "Our lives consisted of me, the typical stay-at-home mom, PTA, running kids to school and sports events. My husband and I both coached baseball; he also coached basketball," she said. "We golfed and my husband was vice president of the Golf Association at Brookdale golf course for a time... He is a journeyman sheet metal worker who worked very hard to get through the apprenticeship program working days, and school at night. He made a very good living and I was blessed to stay home with the children..."

About six years ago her husband struggled with addiction. The family began to deteriorate. The stress, shame, confusion and devastation that comes with addiction took its toll.

"We helped him get into rehab a few times. A few times he went himself. He was a good man with a good heart struggling with this addiction," she said.

In February 2006, the family lost everything in a house fire, driving the couple further apart. They divorced, and Carman took a job as a custodian. Her best friend, who helped the family recover after the fire, died suddenly a year later. Carman became more depressed. Another friend talked her into applying for a Habitat home.

"We now have the privilege of getting to know the wonderful people of Habitat and all the volunteers at the Peninsula Lutheran church and the volunteers from neighboring Lutheran churches who support building our home. Our healing has begun. We are establishing new relationships and have a fresh vision for our future," she said. "Having hope for the future and knowing we will have a place to call home is a huge gift from God."

This project is sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a fraternal organization, which has put \$125 million into expanding the capacity of Habitat over a four-year period. The Thrivent

grant provided 65 percent of the costs, the Habitat chapter provided 25 percent, and local Lutheran churches provided 10 percent. Coen, a Wauna resident, said volunteers from Lutheran congregations will provide at least half of the volunteer hours needed to complete the home. The Carter-Speidel family was accepted into Habitat in 2007. "We couldn't wait to build our home and meet all the different volunteers and participate in building other Habitat families' houses," KC Carter said.

Carter, 25, works as a car lot manager in Purdy. Speidel, 22, is a stay-at-home mom. They have three children. Donavon, 5, is a student at Minter Creek Elementary. Makenzi, 3, will start preschool in the fall. "She can't wait!" said Speidel. Mercedez, the newest member of the family, is 2 months old.

The family currently shares a three bedroom house with 10 people. The house has a black mold problem and only one bathroom. "We are so excited to be able to finally be able to have our own home!" they said.

Coen noted that Peninsula Lutheran is blessed to have licensed professionals who perform services Habitat would otherwise need to hire out. These "in kind" services greatly reduce the cost of the home and lower the owners' payments. Mark Jones, owner of Firmly Grounded Electrical, Ted Bueche of Heartstring Construction Inc., John Virostek, professional phone installer, Steve Hodge, countertop installer, and Ken Mitchell, cabinet maker with Westmark Products, are among those professionals who helped make the home a reality.

"These are examples of how 'bringing work home with you' can be used to great advantage in the community," said Coen. "If you want to give special meaning to your life, while at the same time, doing something significant for others, why not think about working on a Habitat build," asks Coen.

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Artists chosen to display artwork at hospital

By Jerry Libstaff
Special to KP News

Kurt Solmssen of Vaughn and Mardie Rees of Gig Harbor are among a group of artists who have been selected to adorn the new St Anthony's Hospital with their original work.

Solmssen was commissioned to create a painting that portrays the hospital's Northwest maritime theme. He chose to do a large, 60-inch by 60-inch piece. Work was done on the site of the Davis waterfront



The Genuine
ARTICLE

home in Vaughn. Solmssen chose the location for the beauty of the house, built in the early 20th century, and its representation of early Northwest style. A bright yellow boat rests on the shore in the painting's foreground. The wooden boat, hand-built in Tacoma in the 1930s, has been in Solmssen's family since it was new. The painting is an image of tranquility intended to bring comfort to those in need.

Solmssen recently returned from a showing at George Billis Gallery in New York and has spent numerous early mornings on site at the Davis home to capture the light he wants to portray in his painting.

Rees was commissioned to sculpt a life-sized representation of Saint Anthony of Padua, the hospital's namesake. St. Anthony is the patron saint of sailors and fishermen. The work will be cast in bronze and will adorn the hospital lobby. Rees chose to portray St. Anthony with a child to depict his gentle manner.



Vaughn artist Kurt Solmssen is working on a painting he will present to the St. Anthony Hospital arts committee for review.

Photo by Jerry Libstaff

So far six additional artists have been commissioned to create a variety of original art for the hospital. Art can be a great addition to a healing environment. It brings a sense of well-being to the patients and their families, as well as the staff. A committee was chosen and hired an art consultant, Ginny Scalzo, who says, "Art creates beauty that can reduce anxiety and inspire hope."

Along with Solmssen and Rees, Douglas Granum, Steve Jensen, Gerry Newcomb, Will Robinson, Joseph Rossano and Carolyn Watts were chosen to create one-of-a-kind works in bronze, basalt, cast glass, oil-on-canvas and other media. The pieces will be unique to St. Anthony Hospital and were chosen to support the pleasant atmosphere of the hospital.

The new hospital is designed with a Northwest maritime theme inspired by Gig Harbor's heritage. The campus is built on quiet, landscaped acreage in Gig Harbor North and will open in 2009. The exterior design features natural elements

native to the Pacific Northwest. Inside, there will be a chapel for all faiths, a fireplace alcove, an espresso café, a gift shop and views throughout of a healing garden. Cafeteria seating will open to a patio for everyone to enjoy. Patient rooms will be state of the art and emphasize comfort and relaxation. The art, the gardens and even the colors in the rooms were chosen to promote healing of the body, the mind and the spirit.

Donors have funded the commissioned works. Those include the Bamford Foundation; Doug and Faye Clerget, Jon and Shannon Flora, Allan and Sharon Hanson, Mayor Chuck Hunter and his wife, Diane, Margaret Lapin, Gar and Nina Ferrari LaSalle, Dan and Pat Nelson and Mary Ann Walters.

"The original works by all these artists will enhance a very special environment of comfort, peace and healing for St. Anthony's patients and their families," said Rick Larson, co-chair of the Campaign for St. Anthony with Gig Harbor business owner Sharon Snuffin.

BRIEFS

arts&recreation

Young writers' workshop

All young writers ages 13 to 18 are invited to join Watermark Writers for a series of workshops that will enhance their abilities and inspire their creativity. The program takes place Aug. 22-23 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Presenters include: Randall Platt, author of more than a dozen award-winning young adult novels, who will work with teens on fiction; Rodika Tollefson, managing editor and writer for several newspapers and magazines, who will assist students interested in becoming journalists; Paul Nelson, founder of Global Voices Radio and co-founder of the Northwest Spokenword Lab, who will be joined by acclaimed poet David Rizzi to work with young people interested in enhancing their poetry; and Greg Greenway, acclaimed Boston singer songwriter, who will work with young musicians/songwriters.

The program begins Friday evening, Aug. 22, with a "get to know you" including pizza. Saturday, young writers will join the authors to learn their craft. Lunch will be provided.

To register, send your name and age to info@watermarkwriters.com. Tuition is \$25 and scholarships are available. For information see www.watermarkwriters.com or call 253-261-8769.

Intern offers programs

Shannon Watkins, an intern with the Student Conservation Association (SCA), is visiting the area from Pittsburgh, Penn., to serve as a state parks interpretive intern, developing junior ranger programs, guided walks, and evening talks. This summer, Watkins is giving programs at Penrose Point and Joemma Beach.

Some 50,000 young people have volunteered through SCA since 1957.

After studying in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem last summer with the University of Pittsburgh's Honors College, Watkins, 21, wanted to continue her outdoor education. The Student Conservation Association places nearly 3,000 high school, college, and graduate student members each year, in national parks, forests, and other public lands. For more information, visit www.theSCA.org.



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As an example of our commitment to improving reliability, Peninsula Light is in the final stages of undergrounding the main line from the Vaughn substation to the Key Center business district. This project will reduce future potential problems that have been associated with the existing line that travels through a heavily wooded corridor. The new line

will be undergrounded along 92nd Ave, a shorter and more direct route from the substation to Key Center.

"This \$500,000 investment demonstrates our commitment to improve power reliability and to help the business community of Key Center provide essential services," according to Joe Wilson, Peninsula Light Engineering Manager.

What's Next?
You may have also noticed our civil contractor ACI and Peninsula Light crews working in other neighborhoods of your community. Over the next two years we'll be continuing our commitment to power reliability by undergrounding in the Axtendale, Fox Island, Lakeway, Heron Road and Crescent Valley areas.

"We anticipate these undergrounding projects will be completed by year-end 2010," indicated Wilson.

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Joe Wilson, Engineering Manager, discussing the Key Center undergrounding project with ACI contractor along 92nd Ave KPN.

If any member has a question or would like additional information on our construction schedule, please give the Peninsula Light Engineering Department a call. They can be reached directly at 253-857-1547.

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(From **BRIDGE**, Page 1)

closure to perform a biennial inspection of the span. The last inspection was held on July 20, 2006.

According to Chris Keegan, Olympic region operations engineer, "There was no change from the last inspection that was done in 2006."

"The bridge is both functionally obsolete (the roadway is only 20 feet wide from curb to curb) and structurally deficient with a sufficiency rating of 23.45 [out of 100 percent]. It is structurally deficient for design and condition. The bridge was designed to carry lighter loads back in 1936 than we design for today," he said. "The piers out in the water have some condition problems. In the tidal zone, the concrete has been alternately soaked with salt water and then exposed to the air for over 72 years. This has allowed salt water and chlorides to get through the concrete and into the outer layer of steel reinforcing. The concrete over the rusty reinforcing has broken off and some of the reinforcing bars have rusted away. The inspection has a repair listed to clean off these two piers and then encase the damaged concrete with new concrete and epoxy coated reinforcing."

The historic Purdy Bridge spans the strait between Henderson Bay and Burley Lagoon. This stretch of highway averages 12,000 vehicles daily, WSDOT statistics show. According to the WSDOT Website, the bridge is a reinforced concrete box girder-style bridge. At 550 feet long, it was considered the longest bridge of its kind when it was built. This type of bridge was known for its low cost and simple, graceful design. The bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places. Given historic nature, federal requirements must be completed before rehabilitating or removing the bridge.

When asked whether repairs might be made soon, Keegan said, "This work is beyond what our maintenance personnel can do. It is having to compete with other bridge repair work throughout the state and is not currently a funded project. There are more bridges with a greater need for repair in Washington than the Purdy Spit Bridge. The bridge is old, tired and obsolete, but still has a lot of life in it. Even with its current condition, it will give many more years of service."


WSDOT updated a 1993 SR-302 Corridor Study in February 2008. The study was commissioned by the Washington State Legislature as part of the Transportation Partnership Funding Package (9.5 percent gas tax). The report includes corridor alternatives meant to offer "all reasonable options for travel

between SR-16 and SR-3." Several alternatives would affect the current Purdy Bridge, including replacing the existing bridge or building a new one parallel to the existing bridge and widening the roadway across the spit. Other options would move the corridor farther north.

According to the report, "All of the potential bridge crossing locations of the Burley Lagoon would require long span lengths and high columns due to the crossing distance and steep grades on the west side approaches. This would result in high costs for any new bridge. Requirements for bridge piers in the water would also be challenging to permit due to potential impacts to aquatic resources." One of the next steps, according to WSDOT, will be to narrow the alternatives based on fatal flaws, unreasonable costs and unreasonable impacts, such as extremely high impacts to wetlands and marine areas or businesses and homes.

The study will move forward using the National Environmental Policy Act process. As part of this effort, WSDOT will soon convene an advisory committee of local residents representing a broad range of community interests. For more information about this group and the SR-302 Corridor Study, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR302/NewCorridor.

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(From CRC, Page 1)

is based in Seattle.

Holland says when looking at properties, she knows when a location has the right feel and the right look to be a CRC residence. "We want it to be a reflection of the community," Holland said. "This fits aesthetically and environmentally."

The program expects to house 12 patients, who will be served by 10 full-time staff and some additional contract staff. The staff will include an executive director, a clinical director, a director of nursing, a full time LPN, a psychiatrist, a medical doctor, a dietician, a chef and residential patient assistants (RPA).

This facility expects to serve adult women. A patient's stay is usually from 30 to 90 days. Two patients share an attractively furnished bedroom, complete with down comforters. Patients are supervised at all times, and the RPAs are on duty 24 hours a day. "You will not see patients walking down the road," Holland said. "We will do meal outings but we don't identify ourselves. There will be no big sign (at the property)."

The patients meet certain qualifications to participate in the program. They must be medically



Photos by Danna Webster

The future CRC Health Group facility has been a landmark in Vaughn, and offers beautiful water views.

stable, cannot be actively using drugs, and are not suicidal. Insurance typically pays for the patients (for medically necessary programs) because the program is accredited to get an insurance contract. The stay will cost between \$1,000 and \$1,500 per day. Patients receive intensive treatment and counseling services away from the pressures, pace, and temptations of everyday life. Residential treatment

includes counseling programs, education lectures, exercise classes and group therapy.

The health group intends to contribute to the community. Some of the educational programming and counseling may be available to the community at large. Holland said the faculty and the patients will join in community events. "We want something people are proud of," she said.

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Clockwise starting on top right:

Far top right, Division Chief Guy Allen with his wife, Tammy, daughter Sabrina and future son-in-law Tony enjoy the Key Peninsula Fire District's fire family campover and picnic at Penrose Point State Park at the end of June. For the first time in the department's history, a weekend campover was organized.

Photo courtesy KPF



Erik Bjorn stays close to his 5-year-old daughter, Madelyn, while she holds a sparkler for the first time. The Bjorn family celebrated the 4th of July at home with neighbors on the Key Peninsula.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Kimberly Duchene-Carefoot and Creighton Chaney ride away in their "limo" after their wedding recently in the vineyard of Fairview Acres in Lakebay. Chaney is the son of Ron and Coni Chaney of Lakebay.

Photo courtesy Ron Cameron



Von Geldern Cove showing "red tide," which grew to the shown size in about an hour, then dissipated in another hour with the outgoing tide. It is caused by *Noctiluca scintillans*, commonly known as seasparkle, red, thick and nontoxic.

Photo courtesy Ron Cameron



Right, Pierce County Sheriff's deputy Metro Dive Rescue Team member Micah Lundborg moves into Jackson Lake to examine remains of a station wagon discovered by a group of recreational swimmers from the Lakebay Community Church who were skin diving. On returning from his underwater inspection, Lundborg said the vehicle had about a foot of silt in its interior and calculated that it had been there for about two years. It was determined that it was a stolen car.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Dillon Johnson, a new, as he put it, "almost Tenderfoot," member of Boy Scout Troop 220 helps load up on freshly-cut maple the troop will split and sell to campers to use as firewood at nearby Joemma and Penrose Point state parks this summer to raise funds in support of their troop. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

