

# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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**SCHOOL STARTS SEPT. 3**

Successful Key Pen entrepreneur, page 11

*The voice of the Key Peninsula*

www.keypennews.com

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## INSIDE

September 2008

Blessings for the hospital, page 16



## Home teen recovering after accident

By Jeanette Brown  
Special to the KP News

Family and friends of Megan Blunk have been busy planning the "Megan's Day" fundraiser that will take place on Sept. 14 to help raise money to offset medical expenses Blunk incurred as the result of a recent motorcycle accident.

Blunk, a Home resident, graduated from Peninsula High School this past June.

On July 20, Blunk (18) was the motorcycle passenger of Cody James Venglar, (19) of Belfair; they were traveling eastbound on North Shore Road in the Belfair area at about 1:30 p.m. when the 1999 Yamaha YZ motorcycle left the roadway, striking a fence line and crashing into a concrete post.

Both Venglar and Blunk were ejected

(See MEGAN, Page 27)



Megan Blunk at her graduation in June.

Photo courtesy Scott Turner

## Commercial shellfishing reopens on Vaughn Bay

By PJ Callahan, KP News

The Key Peninsula community has the Vaughn Bay residents, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and the Washington State Department of Health to thank for a large portion of Vaughn Bay reopening to commercial shellfishing after decades of closure. The state Department of

Health recently gave about 104 acres on the west and north sides of Vaughn Bay the green light based on marine water sampling, pollution investigations and surface water sampling by Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Pierce County Public Works and Utilities.

In a press release issued by the state Department of Health, Maryanne Guichard, director of the Shellfish and

Water Protection office, said, "This has been a long time coming. It's the result of hard work by Pierce County and local residents. I'm optimistic we can build on this success if we continue the good field work and have the community's support on these issues."

Bill Cleland, public health adviser with

(See BAY, Page 29)



Photo by Danna Webster

The sheep of Kaukiki Farm in Longbranch are looking forward to greeting visitors on the 2008 HarvestFEST Farm Tour.

## HarvestFEST Farm Tour returns for second year

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The HarvestFEST Farm Tour scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 4, is "bigger and better" this year, according to organizers, with more farms available to visit, and some new additions to the schedule.

"We're pretty excited," says Claude Gahard, "and our estimation is at least twice as big as last year."

Gahard, chairman of both the Key Peninsula Farm Tour Board and the Pierce County Farm Board, Carrie Sikorski from Pierce County WSU Extension farmbudsman office, and coordinator Holly Hendrick are spearheading this extensive undertaking. Danna Webster, KP Farm Board member, is a planning facilitator for the event.

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# Home Park improvements questioned

By PJ Callahan, KP News

A new picnic shelter, donated by the KP Lions, sits proudly at Home Park, beckoning area residents for a late summer picnic. New playground equipment has been installed, and a concrete restroom is underway. So why now, this late in the game, are some neighbors balking at park improvements that have been in the works since 2005?

According to a letter to KP News, Michael Kelley said “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.” He also asserted in a phone interview, “Nobody is going to use it, and we’re all going to have to pay to maintain it.”

Susan Reed, a member of the Home Park Committee that has been working on the playground project, disagrees. “Volunteer Park is not somewhere you can take your child,” Reed said. “In two seconds, they’re going to be done with that stuff. It is not a true playground. A structured playground that is contained within an area attracts other kids and offers social interaction. That park is mainly for specific sports-related things my child is not old enough to participate in. Everywhere I go, all the moms lament that if they want to go to a playground and get interaction for their child, they have to go to Gig Harbor.”

While other neighbors are not fundamentally opposed to the park, some have doubts about the extent to which it is being developed. Shonda Allen, who lives northwest of the park, said, “I don’t think that the neighbors are complaining necessarily about the park itself. The biggest complaint is that there is so much of it. We are concerned about graffiti, the spillover and that it is going to be so overcrowded. There’s too much in a small area. I do think it will look nice, but my main concern is traffic on the road and there is no crosswalk at all. If they scaled it back and made it more of a neighborhood park, I would back it 100 percent and I would be helping.”

According to Scott Gallacher, Key Pen Parks executive director, the neighbors asked the district to help get the speed limit reduced on 8th Street and have crosswalks installed. However, his reach only goes as far as petitioning the Pierce County Public Works and Utilities Department for the improvements. “We have taken steps to move this forward,



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Dustin Harrison, KP Metro Park Board president Elmer Anderson and Tyler Bottiger are laying the first sections of the steel roof over the new Home Park picnic shelter, a joint project of the KP Lions Club and the park District.

but the county would like time evaluate the traffic impacts once the park is in,” Gallacher said.

Questions about how the well was decommissioned have also been raised. However, according to a staff report by Gallacher, originally the Tacoma-Pierce Health Department said to “pump out the water, fill in the well with rocks and natural material from Home Park and replace the concrete lid.” Later, the district was informed the well needed to be decommissioned per Revised Code of Washington. At that point, the district contracted with Nicholson Drilling to decommission the well according to the code. Questions regarding the removal of the septic system were also raised, but the system had been removed prior to the

current park district taking ownership.

While the vocal few have seemed to have grabbed the media’s attention, the silent majority seem unconcerned about the improvements. Marianne McColley, whose property lies east of the park, said, “It doesn’t seem to be terribly over used at this point. I’m just wondering if perhaps it will be better used with the children’s play area there. I’m a fairly neutral neighbor. They just need to remember what it used to be — a place where refrigerators went to die.”

Melvin Miles, also a nearby neighbor, concurred with McColley. “It hasn’t gotten much use in the past,” Miles said. “Now it might get more use with the picnic pavilion and whatnot. I’m not opposed to it. As far as I’m concerned,

## Opening celebration

Key Pen Parks will officially open Home Park Playground and Picnic Shelter on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at the park. Time to be announced. Home Park is the first neighborhood park developed by Key Pen Parks. For more information visit [www.keypeninsulaparks.com](http://www.keypeninsulaparks.com) or contact Key Peninsula Metro Park District 884-9240.

“Some just pitched right in and helped. Others just said, ‘We can’t wait for this thing to go up.’

– Elmer Anderson

parks are always a good thing.”

Elmer Anderson, president of the park district Board of Commissioners, said many of the neighbors are enthusiastic about the playground installation. “We had a lot of spontaneous help that came over and said, ‘What can we do?’” Anderson said. “Some just pitched right in and helped. Others just said, ‘We can’t wait for this thing to go up.’”

Now that the picnic pavilion and play structures have been installed, the next steps include curbing, wood chips and fencing. A grand opening is scheduled for mid-September.

In the meantime, the Home Parks Committee is continuing to seek sponsorships and donations for benches, picnic tables, barbecue pits and other components.

## KEY PENINSULA NEWS

[www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

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2. The objective of Key Peninsula News is to support and create community by reporting news and features and providing a forum for local information. News and editorial coverage focuses on the Key Peninsula and immediately adjacent areas within Fire District 16.

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

# Missing Man ceremony honors soldiers

By Patsy Tieg  
Special to the KP News

On Sept. 19, the National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be remembered across America in military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, school and local veteran groups. Key Peninsula Veterans Institute members will present the "Missing Man Ceremony at the Key Peninsula Community Service Center on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 11:45 a.m.

One table will represent the following: round table, everlasting concern for our missing men and women; white table cloth, symbol of purity when answering the call to duty; single red rose, the life of each of the missing while family and friends wait in faith for answers; vase with red ribbon, determination to account for our missing; slice of lemon, bitter fate of those captured and missing; pinch of salt, tears of families of the missing who seek answers; Bible, strength gained in faith to sustain the lost, founded as "One nation under God"; inverted glass, POW/MIA is unable to share in this toast; empty

chairs, for those missing.

Come and share in this observance to Americans who have sacrificed so much for this country.

One local veteran, U.S. Army Lt. Col. (retired) Rhys Wood, went missing in action after a mission to Luzon on July 4, 1943. He and a small group of American/Filipino men worked at fighting the Japanese for the next two-plus years. Wood was taken as a prisoner of war for 23 days. As a POW, he repaired U.S. Army trucks being used by the Japanese. Wood was able to escape as the "12th Spanish priest." Rhys said in an article in 1988: "Thank God I'd had four years of Latin. We mumbled our way right out of town. I was reading that Breviary (prayer book)... Boy, I was putting my whole heart into that Breviary... I just prayed my way right out through those guys — and I mean, I was praying! I wasn't just mumbling. I was praying, 'cause I was scared to death!" Wood returned to his guerrilla battalion and was rescued in late 1945 when the U.S. military invaded and captured Luzon.

He returned home to the United



Photo courtesy KPVI

The late Rhys Wood and the late Harmon Van Slyke in an old photo wearing their military uniforms.

States and retired from a long military career. He was married, had a wonderful family, worked as a teacher and eventually became a resident and active volunteer on the Key Peninsula. Did you hear the roar of chainsaws on Aug. 16, at Old Timers Day? Then you know a warm and gentle man with a huge heart was missing again: Rhys and his lovely wife, Ruth, died in 2006.

## BRIEFS

news

### Webster named interim KP News editor

Danna Webster was named interim KP News executive editor while the publishing board continues the search for a replacement for outgoing editor Rodika Tollefson.



WEBSTER

Tollefson announced in June she would be stepping down as executive editor after more than five years in the job. She will continue to be involved with the KP News as volunteer, currently overseeing the completion of the KP News book "Celebrating the Key Peninsula," to be released later this fall. Tollefson's last day as editor was Aug. 31.

Webster joined the Key Peninsula News in 2004 as a volunteer and is a longtime assistant editor.

She may be reached via email to news@keypennews.com or by calling 884-4699.

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## Gig Harbor Farmer's Market

- Perennials, Trees & Shrubs
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- Rasperry, Blueberry & Strawberry Plants
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**The Bounty of the Peninsula**

**The Farmer's Market**

www.gigharborfarmersmarket.com

Kids Tent is open, free balloon art, crafts, face painting

**6th** Rick Gonzalez - Rick's musical and lyrical influences range from Classical, Big Band, Sinatra and Ella James, to the Beatles, Eagles, Paul Simon, James Taylor and Steely Dan

**13th** Martin Hyberg - Martin Hyberg is a guitarist and vocalist with a focus on Celtic roots.

**20th** There She Goes - There She Goes is a recently formed duo of two beautiful voices. "Soft rockin' folk, with talk-rockin' soul"

**27th** Dan Calhoun - Dave has been playing Tropical Rock music in the style of Jimmy Buffett for over 20 years. His style is a combination of artists that play the "sunburn circuit" all over the U.S. with tropical sounds and lyrics that paint a rich landscape of people, experiences and places.

**Open Saturdays**  
8:30am-2pm • April-Sept.

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Map showing location: N 4th, Kimball Drive, 6808 Kimball Drive, Farmers Market, New Location at Kimball Park N Ride.

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# New guest columnists selected

A panel of staff, volunteers and community members has selected the Key Peninsula News' next round of guest columnists. We're pleased to introduce Angelique Knapp as one of the two guest columnists who will alternate every other month over the next year. Rick Sorrels, from our first class of guest columnists, will also return.

## Angelique Knapp

Angelique Knapp is a Key Peninsula resident since 2000. She is married and has four children, who attend Vaughn Elementary School. Knapp and her husband own and operate a production

business on the Key Pen. Having a large family has provided her with a first-hand experience of how important personal money management is in today's world. She is employed by a Seattle based nonprofit credit counseling agency. Some of her credentials include Certified Credit Counselor, First Time Home Buyer Instructor, Notary Public and Certified ISO 9001:2000 Auditor. Knapp also volunteers to teach financial literacy and personal money management. She believes her column, "Writing for Change," will strengthen the community through writings that will help transform people's inner conversation and relationship with money and provide a stronger sense and understanding of personal financial management.

## Rick Sorrels

Rick Sorrels is a longtime local resident whose great-grandfather was the first settler in the region of Puget Sound just north of Gig Harbor. His background includes education, engineering, military, technology, ecology, architecture, safety, and the law. He holds teaching credentials for secondary and college. He constructed prototype electric vehicles in the 1970s, has written war plans for the Pentagon, carried a diplomatic passport through the Middle East, and investigated homicides in the Midwest. Now, for fun, he makes jousting equipment.

Sorrel's column, "The pragmatic sophist," will continue to provide insights into events and happenings that affect citizens of the KP.

## Submissions policy

The Key Peninsula News welcomes letters to the editor and guest editorials. The topics must pertain to local readers. Letters should generally be no longer than 100 words, but longer letters may be published at the editor's discretion as space allows. Editorials should be no longer than 500 words. The Key Peninsula News reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, grammar and style.

To submit for consideration, email your letter or opinion piece to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com). Submissions are considered on first-come, first-served basis.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Mustard Seed receives generous support

The Mustard Seed Project wishes to thank the wonderful Key Peninsula donors who have generously donated \$5,000 to pay for the first phase of work by two national-level senior housing consultants. Nearly 70 people responded to a recent letter we mailed, requesting a donation of \$20. What an incredible response we've received!

We are very grateful for this tangible demonstration of support for the dream of bringing a small, innovative, state of the art, affordable assisted living residence to the Key Peninsula. When we join together, great things can happen.

And be sure to save the date of Oct. 4 for the Cornucopia Dinner and Dance, a collaborative fundraiser for The Mustard Seed Project, the Civic Center, and the Key Peninsula Farm Tour Board (more about that in this newspaper). It's sure to be great fun!

*Edie Morgan  
Executive Director  
The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula*

## Time for change

**M**y Auntie Cheryl was my hero and greatest influence in my life. She taught me that the most important key to transition and change is to realize we can and must set the goals for our life ourselves instead of letting others decide. From this I understood that every problem is nothing more than opportunity presenting itself. If we can lift ourselves from ignorance, we can find ourselves as creatures of excellence and intelligence and skill. First we must uncover our lack of knowledge and understand the need for change.

Since the Great Depression, there have not been so many debt markets in turmoil at the same time. The credit crisis has spread from mortgages to bonds and exotic securities, student and corporate lending, credit cards and home equity loans, and residential and commercial real estate.

Stimulus checks are now a distant memory. Food and energy costs continue to rise. Inflation has weakened the dollar and wages have not kept up. The unemployment rate in Washington was at 5.5 percent in June and continues to grow.

Pierce County takes the top spot in foreclosure filings in Washington, with 1

### ANGELIQUE KNAPP WRITING FOR CHANGE



out of every 483 households moving into foreclosure proceedings. For the first time in history, people around the nation owe more on their homes than they are worth.

Beginning October 2008, families earning up to 200 percent below the poverty line, which equates to an annual income of \$42,000 for a family of four, will qualify for food stamps. The current cutoff is 130 percent or \$27,000 for a family of four. The average median household income in Key Peninsula is approximately \$49,000. As you can clearly see, a great number of families in our community are not far from poverty if not already there.

Some people will make it through the toughest economy in decades — and find tremendous opportunity. Others may simply lose hope.

If you are completely satisfied with your life as it is right now, great! Keep on doing what you are doing. There is no way you can change until you move out

of your "familiarity" zone. (I usually say, comfort zone, but the truth is, most people are not all that comfortable; they are stressed to the max, burned out and living out of habit rather than creation.)

If you are ready to make some material changes in your life, taking control is your best single shot. Begin by connecting the dots between your personal mission and direction in life, set crystal-clear goals, and make rock-solid plans to live a life of passion and purpose. Move on to create a basic financial plan aligned with your purpose. A financial plan will include a monthly budget, monthly spending plan, written saving goals and, if your plan can afford it, a plan for giving locally. Your financial plan can be as simple as writing it out on notebook paper. Some free sources for financial planning include the local library, your bank, Internet, or a local nonprofit credit-counseling agency.

One last thing to leave you with was best said by Fred Rogers, "We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

# Not really a good-bye

It seems like only yesterday I huddled at a Gig Harbor coffee shop with Key Pen resident and former newspaper publisher Bill Trandum, making great big plans for relaunching a little paper called the Key Peninsula News. The nonprofit monthly had been shut down due to continuous loss of operating funds, and a reorganization was in order.

The fall season of 2002 was in full color, and Bill was excited to talk about what would be the newspaper's first-ever paid editor job. He volunteered to restart the paper into a more profitable venture (meaning nonprofit but self-sustaining), and my name landed in his hands. It sounded simple, really: provide enough good content for readers to appreciate and for advertisers to throw their money behind. My bonus: I could create whatever new editorial vision I wanted (albeit limited to a certain box at the time).

In our wise ways, we decided the paper would have to have themes due to lack of enough actual news. Good thing I didn't make a bet on that one. The news hasn't stopped coming, not even at deadline or at press time, not even when the sun was too bright to think about serious stuff and the rain was too dull to motivate news-making. It's amazing how a community comes alive when it gets an avenue for telling its story!

"It wouldn't be a big pay, but it would be worth your time," Bill said that day. I am still chuckling at that recollection, as

**RODIKA  
TOLLEFSON**



the "worth my time" pay turned out to be something like \$5 an hour on a good day for many months. It wouldn't be my first editorial gig, but first editorial job at a "real paper" (more "real" than a college paper, that is). With less than three years of journalism experience under my belt at the time, this was the challenge I craved.

Six fall seasons later, I look back and still marvel at my good fortune. Working for the Key Peninsula News has been "worth my time" and then some — even as one stressful cycle came on top of another, as budgets, sales quotas, recruitment, news gathering, production flows, and a whole lot more than I bargained for during that "worth my time" meeting came my way. I have had the honor to watch the newspaper grow, become as "real" a paper as any other commercial gun out there, but much more worth its every pica and ounce of ink.

This journey introduced me to every other nook and cranny the Key Pen has to offer (or hide), to some very amazing people, and to a community that seems to hold a bottomless generosity to neighbor and stranger alike. My own family was touched by this generosity a few years ago, and I can never repay it. And that is

what has been the most incredible part: working in the community where I live.

I must admit it got confusing at times, as some would expect interviews and camera flashes at events where I showed up simply as "Mom"; and at times it got well... strange when a principal or teacher I had met professionally would call to discuss what I shall call "challenges" (and leave it at that) with a certain son of mine or his brother. You gotta love small town living! (Where else would I land at a celebration party with people I know as "sources" and find myself listening to them discuss spousal problems and very, very bad hair days?)

The journey was far from a solo trip. It was more like a little fishing boat, with a sometimes grouchy captain and an always dedicated crew. We laughed, we cried, we survived some storms. And we kept our eyes on the horizon to stay on course. We supported each other, and we gave endlessly. That is the short version of the KP News for the last five and a half years, and I hope you enjoyed watching the story unfold.

But for this captain, it is the end of the chapter. As I've told my crewmates when I announced (on my 35th birthday) that my personal ship has reached its port, change is inevitable. The wise Hellen Keller said, "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." For me, nothing is not an option, and so I must say, "See you later." Not good-bye, really, since without the restraints of neutrality required by my job, I can now be more be

civically involved without jeopardizing the newspaper's ethics.

At the risk of being sacked, as the English would say, I am now going to reveal the secret of the KP News. It is not in a fancy newsroom (or any kind of newsroom for that matter), not in an army of trained and well-paid reporters, and not in generous resources. The secret is a group of about two dozen people, most of them unpaid, who bought into the idea that this community deserves a voice, and this voice will be the KP News. Without any cajoling, bribing, or (much) tap dancing on my part, this eclectic bunch threw themselves behind me, and off we all went to grow the KP News.

Some of them, there from day one (which counts as the first community meeting we had before launching the February 2003 issue), are adding their hours in the thousands; and they don't even get peanuts — they do it because they want to serve their community, they have a great time doing it, and yes, they get the occasional glory (if one counts seeing one's name in print as "glory"). And perhaps for that annual free lunch at the staff retreat. I am confident this bunch will line up behind their next captain, eager to keep the voice strong, ready to keep on course. It may be a little ship, but it has momentum!

My captain's hat off to you, all the people who made my journey successful.

Keep the hat.

# Falls rights of passage

By Jud Morris  
Special to KP News

Fall will be here sooner than we think, and with it comes fall's right of passage: education.

Education is a right of all residents of the Key Peninsula. Being able to access an education is the No. 1 factor in determining financial success. The income difference between high school graduates and those students who do not graduate is staggering. Opportunities to go to college, trade school, or the armed services are many times based upon a high school

graduation. It is the foundation for opportunity.

School is also one of the main places where children learn, learn to play, learn to work, and (hopefully) learn to get along with others. Yes, I know there are many community organizations where these activities can be learned. The reality is whether a child is home-schooled or attends school, education is critical. I have never parents tell me they think their child shouldn't go to school, or shouldn't learn. Parents do want school to be a place where their children want to be (and learn). Many children might not want to go to school,

but I never heard children say they didn't want to learn. When I used to "cut" school, I went to the museum across the street from my elementary school. Curiosity is an instinct of all children.

There are many reasons why education might be a struggle for some students. Some students drop out of high school, and return as "alternative school" students, or return as adults and earn their General Education Diploma (GED). If education weren't so important, why are family members so proud when someone graduates and why are they so proud when they return

to school, graduate, and have that diploma in their hand (with many pictures taken)? Data reflects the greatest determinate of financial success is education, and how much education people have. A high school diploma is the minimum needed, and everyone learns that (some sooner than others). We still must be sure all students learn and receive a quality education, that is our responsibility and their right.

*Jud Morris is the director of KP Family Resources Center and former guest columnist for KP News.*

# Playground built for community

By Elmer Anderson  
KP Metro Parks board president

The Key Pen Parks board of commissioners held numerous public meetings and conducted surveys requesting citizen input as to what they would like the parks district to do for the community. Through these meetings and surveys, Key Pen Parks was able to complete the Key Pen Parks comprehensive plan. One of the very

highest priority items was the development of public access playgrounds.

As Home Park was at the time the only property owned by the park district, other than Volunteer Park, commissioners chose to construct a playground on that property in accordance with the new comprehensive plan. A committee of local citizens was formed. This group of volunteers planned and designed all aspects of the playground, including size and types of equipment to be installed.

Home Park was also chosen by the Lions Club to donate a covered picnic shelter, which, after more than two years of a very difficult permit process, has been completed.

During the actual construction of the picnic shelter numerous local citizens volunteered to help, several spontaneously. Most of these volunteers were parents who were very pleased and anxious they would soon have a playground for their children to play on. The response I have received from citizens of Key Peninsula to develop this playground, up until now, has been

extremely favorable.

Home Park will be a work in progress. The old well site was fully decommissioned by a licensed well driller, and traffic concerns are being discussed with Pierce County. There will be additional landscaping done, and appropriate security fencing will be installed to prevent children from running into the street. Safety, security and the enjoyment of all are the primary concerns of Key Pen Parks.

Home Park is not a large regional park, rather a small, local pocket park meant to serve the southern area of Key Peninsula. Together, with both the new playground and picnic shelter, Home Park will be an excellent destination recreational and gathering place for many people to enjoy.

Key Pen Parks always invites and encourages citizen participation in all our projects. Please watch for announcements on meeting about Taylor Bay, Volunteer Park, and other projects that will be coming in the near future. If you have any concerns or wish to have your ideas included please attend these meetings.

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



Daily Lunch & Dinner Specials  
Breakfast Every Day  
8 am-1 pm

### Live Music

Every Friday & Saturday Night! 8 pm-12:30 am

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# Community Council holds annual elections

The Key Peninsula Community Council will be holding elections for its Board of Directors on Saturday, Sept. 27. The council is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to address, respond to and meet the needs of community residents by developing partnerships, sponsorships and programs to maintain and improve the quality of life on the Key Peninsula.

A number of positions are open due to term expirations and previous vacancies. Ballots will be mailed out to all registered voting members of the council in early September, and there will be manned voting stations at the Lake Kathryn shopping plaza, Peninsula Market in Key Center, and the Home Store. Registered voting members can mail their ballots or drop them off at a polling station. If not already a voting member, interested citizens who are at least 18 years of age and currently either live or own property on the Key Peninsula may register as voting members and vote on the day of the election.

Biographies and statements of interest for currently nominated candidates are provided below.

## Area 1

**Jonathan Bill** (incumbent) has been a teacher in the Peninsula School District for 16 years, first at Key Peninsula Middle School and now at Peninsula High School. He is a veteran of numerous political and school levy campaigns, a frequent volunteer as MC/moderator for community events, labor negotiator for 12 years and past president of the Peninsula Education Association. He has degrees in mass communication and teaching from The Evergreen State College and University of Puget Sound, respectively. Bill was first appointed to the council as an Area 1 director in November 2006.

Area 1 has two other director positions open, and interested parties are being sought.

## Area 2

**Christina Cuenat** is a new Washington resident and Key Peninsula homeowner. She lived in California until she was 19. Then, hearing travel's siren call, she enlisted in the U.S. Army. After a couple of tours, she left the service to go first to college, then to law school. Still not ready to stay in one place, she rejoined the Army as a JAG officer; then spent about 10 years in the Gulf Coast region. The hurricanes finally chased her back to the West Coast last year. She has two grown children and two grandsons on the East Coast and her mother and siblings here in Washington. She has served on school boards, planning committees, and community councils, in a variety of locales.

**Kevin Flower** wants to be more involved in the community and the surrounding area. He has a strong community service and customer service background and feels he can help the progress of our community. His other activities and organizations include: member of the Board of Trustees for the Elgin Properties Association; member and vice president of the Peoria, Ariz., Sports Complex Authority; and member of the Gilbert Chamber of Commerce in Gilbert, Ariz.

**Donna Gates-Smeall** is a seven-year Vaughn resident. She says, "I believe that we should sustain the quality of life and seek to improve our environment continually so that others may enjoy the same wonderful quality of life in the future." Professionally, she's an accomplished writer with an active association with the Key Peninsula Writers' Group and a volunteer staff writer for Key Peninsula News. She has been associated with Safe Streets, Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound and AmeriCorps.

**Barbara Trotter** (incumbent) would like to be re-elected to so she can continue the community work I began four years ago when first elected. She is currently co-chair the Community Involvement Committee, which is organizing a candidates forum to be held later this fall, and she has created and continue to act as adviser for the Key Peninsula Youth Council. She has been an active member

of the community for 27 years, including service as a member of the Peninsula School District board of directors, and president of several parent-teacher groups. Trotter hopes to be able to continue to work on the projects to see them grow and be successful.

## Area 3

**Cinda Baldwin** is a realtor with Windermere Key Realty who has lived on the Key Peninsula for six years. As a realtor, she's had the opportunity to meet some of the people who live on the Key Peninsula and hear their needs and concerns as property owners and as residents. Last year she began working with the local farms on HarvestFEST and has been invited to be on the board, where once again she is able to help meet the needs of the people of the community. Baldwin is looking forward to the privilege of serving our community and continuing to be involved in keeping the Key Peninsula a place we all love to call home.

**Liz Gefre** has been a resident of the Key Peninsula for four years. She is currently a realtor for Windermere. She is active with the Farm Tour and currently serves as a board member. Her goal is to become more involved with this community in order to meet the needs of the residents and the community as a whole. Gefre has a bachelor's degree in human services and 15 years of experience working with low-income populations. She was a founding member of The Washington State Task Force to End Human Trafficking and worked with them for over two years.

**Lance McMillan** (incumbent) is seeking reelection because he feels the work done by the council is important to help guide the community through a period of unprecedented growth and change. He wants to help ensure that change occurs in such a way that the natural beauty and unique character of "our little corner of paradise" are preserved. He has served as the council's media liaison for the past two years and believes his organizational skills have been an asset to the council.

## Area 4

**Robert Sprague** feels it would be interesting to know more about the community and to possibly give back to an area where he has lived for 35 years. He is a volunteer with the Mustard Seed Project.

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# Losh family become foreclosure victims

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Last month, while volunteering his talents to the Key Peninsula Metro Parks District constructing a KP Lions-sponsored picnic shelter at Home Park, Andrew Losh shared the disturbing news he and his family had lost their home to that property foreclosure that day.

His wife, Suzan, said, "My husband was working full time, commuting 12 hours a week, volunteering for our local fire department and doing its maintenance 20 hours a week. I was working two jobs and raising two young kids. Essentially we were married to our house and at the same time losing focus on what was important."

In November, Andrew was injured and lost his job.

"At a time our family could have been falling apart we stood strong and took care of business in the best way we knew," said Suzan. "We immediately contacted our mortgage company, applied for a loan modification and qualified. The modification included our payments being lowered and the possibility our interest rate could be changed and maybe even lowered a half point. ..." The Loshes were told not to make any further payments until the modifications took place and at that point the balance would be wrapped back into the modified loan and new payment would be due 30 days after the modification.

"We were assigned a negotiator who would be working on our loan and contacting us the next month," Suzan said. "After six weeks we became nervous because we had not received any information from the bank. Over the next three months I talked to my negotiator one time and again was advised to make no payments. I tried to contact my negotiator again and again and was told she was not available. Finally, I asked (the bank) to file a missing persons report because I was concerned about the whereabouts of my missing negotiator.

"In January Andrew and I contacted an attorney and were advised, 'Unless the terms of the loan were changed in the modification to make no further payments, in less than one year the loan would reset and the interest could increase to over 13 percent.' Therefore we would be putting good money on top of bad money."



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Andrew Losh and family: his wife, Suzan, son, Calvin, and daughter, Abi, at the driveway to the home they lost.

In February the Loshes received documentation from their bank (an embattled nationwide mortgage company) about the loan modification. They say the terms of the loan were not changed and essentially the loan was placed in forbearance and the payment increased. They contacted their bank and informed them the house was going on the market with Keller Williams, and that the asking price would cover the loan amount and expenses.

There was little buyer interest and only a few showings of the property, they said. In the seven months the house was listed, they had a total of two offers made. One was a so-called short sale, which means an offer to buy the property for less than the mortgage owned. The couple said at one point the bank said they would accept the second offer if they would come up with \$40,000 within a day. Instead, the home ended in foreclosure.

"With houses not selling at auctions and the market continuing to decline, it would seem that accepting offers would be in the best interest of the banks," Suzan Losh said.

"Our family has been blessed and able to move forward. We now realize that things are just things and in the end the focus has to be 'family first.' I feel sad for families unable to move forward and in addition to losing their homes also lose their families. What the banks have done to so many Americans is beyond criminal. There has to be some justification to hard working deserving families."

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# Dogs, owners show off at agility trials

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

A delightfully sun-swept three days in early August at Key Peninsula's Volunteer Park found the Gig Harbor Kennel Club sponsoring its Agility Trials, an event boasting 320 entrants, some of whom ran two or more dogs in different classes for a total of over 600 runs each day.

GHKC is an American Kennel Club member club and "agility" is a relatively new dog sport rapidly gaining in popularity "because it is great fun for both the dog and the handler," explained GHKC's Sue Henly.

Dog and handler follow a set course laid out by the event's judge; each day is different and includes jumps, tunnels, closed tunnels, dog walks, an A-frame, teeter totters, and a variety of other obstacles. Dogs and handlers run against the clock trying to finish within the standard course time.

In three levels of competition, Novice, Open, and Excellent, points are deducted from a perfect score of 100 for missed jumps, wrong courses, knocked down hurdle bars, and minutes over the course

time. A score of 80 is required for qualifying and three qualifying scores are needed to complete a title.

Henly said, "The club has held its annual trials at the Key Peninsula facility for the last three years, and finds the grounds excellent for agility trials, with plenty of parking for cars and RVs and lots of space for tent camping... (KP Parks Director) Scott Gallacher, the site supervisor, has been most helpful to the club. He's gone out of his way to make putting on this trial very easy."

Leslie Cole of Issaquah was proud of her Papillion, Archie, for receiving two qualifying runs, "second place in Open Standard Course and first place in Open Jumpers with Weaves," she said. "This was my first double 'Q.'" To translate: A "double 'Q'" is two successful qualifying runs. And "Open Jumpers with Weaves" is course action in which the dog, encouraged by the handler running alongside, clears open hurdles and wiggles at top speed through what, on flat ground, is similar to downhill slalom racing in skiing.

Cole, here for the second time, said,



Photos by Hugh McMillan

Leslie Cole's Archie, a Papillion, jumps through the "Tire" during the Open Standard Course run competition.

"(Volunteer Park) is great. It's nice to have bathrooms and a concession stand with great food. The GHKC members and volunteers were wonderful. I especially enjoyed judge Mark Upshaw, who came up here from Riverside, Calif., and added much levity and fun to the competition and made us feel at ease on the course."

Mary Franden of Sequim said, "The folks at GHKC put on a really nice agility trial. It is the most amazing feeling to run an agility course with your canine best friend. Agility trainers and handlers

young and old — with all sorts of breeds of dogs from the tiniest to the tallest — had a wonderful time, with perfect weather, enthusiastic dogs, and fast, fast run times. It is a wonderful sport to try with your dog, as well as an entertaining event for spectators."

Gerri Boyd declared herself "a 71-year-old great-grandma from Lakewood." She and her 7-year-old West Highland White Terrier, Annie, took two first-place ribbons. "We don't do that very often," said Boyd, "so we are very proud."

Boyd explained, "Annie and I have been doing dog agility for six years. It's a blast and just about any age and body type can do it."

GHKC meetings and membership are open to anyone interested in the sport of purebred dogs. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, usually at the Peninsula Branch of the Pierce County Library in Gig Harbor. Two all breed dog shows and obedience and rally trials will be held on Sept. 20 and 21 at the Mason County Fairgrounds in Shelton. There are about 1,500 dogs each day.

For info, visit [gigharborkennelclub.org](http://gigharborkennelclub.org).

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## School Directory Information

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1820 Key Peninsula Hwy. KPS  
Lakebay, WA 98349  
Crisman, Jacque – Principal  
**e-mail:** [crismanj@psd401.net](mailto:crismanj@psd401.net)

**MINTER CREEK ELEMENTARY**  
530-4300  
12617 – 118th Avenue NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98329  
Leitz, Steve – Principal  
**e-mail:** [leitzs@psd401.net](mailto:leitzs@psd401.net)

**VAUGHN ELEMENTARY**  
530-4700  
17521 Hall Road, KPN  
Vaughn, WA 98394  
Benoit, Mike – Principal  
**e-mail:** [benoitm@psd401.net](mailto:benoitm@psd401.net)

**KEY PENINSULA MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
530-4200  
5510 Key Peninsula Hwy. KPN  
Lakebay, WA 98349  
Goebel, Jeri – Principal  
**e-mail:** [Goebelj@psd401.net](mailto:Goebelj@psd401.net)  
McDaniel, Scott – Asst. Principal  
**e-mail:** [mcdanielsr@psd401.net](mailto:mcdanielsr@psd401.net)

**HENDERSON BAY HIGH SCHOOL**  
530-1700  
8402 Skansie Avenue  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332  
Gregory, Dan – Principal  
**e-mail:** [gregoryd@psd401.net](mailto:gregoryd@psd401.net)

**PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL**  
530-4400  
14105 Purdy Drive NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332  
Winter, Tim – Principal  
**e-mail:** [wintert@psd401.net](mailto:wintert@psd401.net)  
Goodwin, David – Asst. Principal  
**e-mail:** [goodwind@psd401.net](mailto:goodwind@psd401.net)  
McNeish, Melissa – Asst. Principal  
**e-mail:** [mcneishm@psd401.net](mailto:mcneishm@psd401.net)

## From the Superintendent's Office

September 2008

Dear Parents and Families:

**W**elcome to the Peninsula School District for the 2008-09 school year. As I begin my third year as superintendent with the Peninsula School District, I anticipate an exciting and successful year for all students.

This new school year will be guided by our revised Mission Statement, Goals, and Beliefs which were created during the 2007-08 school year and approved by the Board of Directors. I encourage you to view them on the District's website.

Additionally, we will be working on the following three major initiatives during the upcoming school year: A thorough review and assessment of our current high school math program, implementation of action plans developed during the strategic planning process, and a thoughtful review of our K-12 visual and performing arts programs.

Since June of 2007, every school in the Peninsula School District has been involved in the School Improvement Planning (SIP) process. The purpose was to improve student achievement. In order to implement these building designed plans, "collaboration time" was embraced as the best way to accomplish this goal. Collaboration time shall be focused around existing SIP work such as: consistency and alignment of curriculum, use of data to design instruction, examining student work, review of assessment strategies and grading practices, and staff development related to specific SIP goals. Nearly every Wednesday starting September 10, the school day will start one-hour late. The YMCA has partnered with our District to provide before school supervision with an emphasis on health and wellness. Their program will include physical activity as well as other activities to develop and nurture the whole child. This is at no cost to parents on Wednesday mornings during collaboration time at the elementary schools and middle schools.

Our schools belong to our community members, and I want every single person to be informed about and welcomed at our schools and district office. I encourage you to contact staff, ask about programs and visit schools. Everything we do is for kids, and we want you to know exactly what is going on every day in every way. Together we will take every student over the top!

*Sincerely,*

**Terry Nelsen Bouck**  
Superintendent



## September Events

- 3** First day of school
- 10** Collaboration Wednesday/  
Late Start Begins
- 11** School Board Regular Meeting  
6 p.m. at District Office

## October Events

- 8** School Board Regular Meeting  
6 p.m. at Evergreen Elementary
- 10** No School
- 23** School Board Study Session  
6 p.m. at District Office



## Collaboration Time/Late Start for 2008-09 School Year

In June, the Peninsula School Board approved the contract between the district and the teachers' association. One very important feature of this contract provides staff a one-hour late start most Wednesday mornings for the purpose of school improvement planning and collaboration. The YMCA will provide before-school supervision at each of the elementary and middle schools for late start on Wednesdays at no charge. The one-hour program will emphasize health and wellness.

Peninsula School District

## Open House Schedule

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Evergreen Elementary</b> | Sept. 25, 6-7 p.m.       |
| <b>Minter Elementary</b>    | Sept. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. |
| <b>Vaughn Elementary</b>    | Sept. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. |
| <b>Key Peninsula Middle</b> | Sept. 18, 7-9 p.m.       |
| <b>Henderson Bay High</b>   | Oct. 14, 7-8:30 p.m.     |
| <b>Peninsula High</b>       | Sept. 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m. |

# In like old, out like new

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

Judy Nilsen of Judy's Upholstery is not new to the business of making old furniture look like new again. She is very adept at helping the customer pick the right fabric for the right pieces of furniture for the setting, including boats.

Nilsen lives near Glencove and has her business on Burnham Drive in Gig Harbor in a 1,000-square-foot building with three rooms. Two of the rooms are for specialties such as cutting foam. She employs one full-timer, Rhonda Ferguson, and hires specialized helper, as needed, for weaving wicker, an art in itself.

Nilsen grew up in Tacoma, worked as a waitress, and moved to Japan, where she met her husband. Upon returning to the United States, she attended Bates Community College in 1981 to learn the



Owner Judy Nilsen (front) with her staff, Nancy Wilson, Laura Cole and Rhonda Ferguson inside the shop.

Photo by  
Mindi LaRose

trade of upholstery. She met Ferguson there, and they have worked together for the past six years. The business started in her Tacoma basement then expanded into the garage. As business picked up, by word of mouth and referrals, she and her husband moved to Glencove in 2002 and found a little shop in Gig Harbor where she could expand and be away from distractions. Nilsen has two children and when not engaged in upholstery and

family tasks, she likes to do gardening.

Much of Nilsen's work comes from contract referrals to schools, hospitals and large businesses. She has worked for schools as far away as Idaho, Arizona, and Alaska. Some of her work has been for Seattle Children's Hospital and Puyallup City Hall. "The largest project was the Children's Hospital," Nilsen says. "Tacoma Digestive Health has been the most challenging, as it entailed all curves

“ It's fun to see something come in old or beat up and have it go out like new.

— Judy Nilsen

”

as the radius required a lot of adjustment.” An upcoming job will be at a 12-story Microsoft building that requires 16 different fabrics.

For personal jobs, Nilsen will go to a client's home for an overview of the work then give an estimate. If the client accepts, he or she will pick out the fabric from hundreds of samples. The project is delivered to the shop, the frame is repaired, if necessary, and the fabric is cut using scissors versus the commercial automatic cutters. Nilsen allows about two weeks for a job to be completed.

The hours she spends “are rewarding as I see a lot of pretty fabric and like helping people with questions about doing their own upholstery” she says. “It's fun to see something come in old or beat up and have it go out like new.”

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## PenLight Initiates New Reliability Strategy.

Since 1998 Peninsula Light Company has been actively working to improve system reliability.

Today we have a renewed focus. By thoroughly examining our entire system Peninsula Light has identified the most vulnerable areas for experiencing a power outage. We are now in the process of undergrounding those areas to improve our service.

“Peninsula Light has set a goal of being in the top 25 percent of all utilities in the nation that have the best reliability performance. This plan puts us on track to achieve our goal,” states Jafar Taghavi, Peninsula Light CEO.

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 Astendale, 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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underground serves many purposes that reduce response and outage time as well as the number of outages.

**Reliability:** Multiple studies have concluded that underground power lines experience fewer outages — sometimes with as few as one-third the number as are experienced with overhead lines on poles. An overhead system is more vulnerable to storm related outages, having poles downed by vehicles, and lines downed by trees. Overhead lines are also subject to outages caused by animals, such as squirrels and birds.

### Reliable power.

### Reliable people.

Our goal is to become one of the best member owned utilities in the nation. To that end, Peninsula Light Company employees are working harder and smarter to deliver reliable power that is essential for the quality of life we all enjoy in our community.



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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## Work starts on Olalla-Burley

The Washington State Department of Transportation broke ground on a project that will replace the Burley Olalla Road off State Route 16 with an on and off-ramp. WSDOT officials said the \$24.3 million project will dramatically improve safety on the highway. The project is expected to be completed in August 2010 and is funded by the "nickel tax" imposed on gasoline sales. The Burley Olalla Road closed on Aug. 4 and will remain closed for two years. The highway is open. For more information visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR16/BurleyOlalla/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR16/BurleyOlalla/).

## Candidate forums planned

The Key Peninsula Community Council, Key Peninsula Business Association and Key Peninsula Civic Center Association will host political candidate forums as follows: Oct. 7, 7 p.m., at the KP Civic Center, in Vaughn: candidates for legislative offices, state attorney general and commissioner of public lands; Oct. 14, 7 p.m. at the Civic Center: candidates for Pierce County assessor-treasurer, county executive and county sheriff.

# KC Auto Repair recognized

By Irene Torres, KPNews

When "Puget Sound Consumers' Checkbook" rated more than 474 auto repair shops last month, Key Center Auto Repair received a "superior" rating from 94 percent of the survey respondents. The rating agency is an independent, nonprofit, no-advertising consumer ratings authority and the survey rated the elements of fairness, honesty, and pricing.

The owner, Jay Allen, said he wasn't aware of the survey until people started calling with congratulations. Allen, who bought his former partner's financial interest in the business in January 2008, said, "We rely on our team to make it happen."

That team consists of skilled auto technicians, former partner Troy Hicks, along with Shaun Rose, Tim Staser, and Les Larson. Allen's wife, Shona, works at

home, raising their two sons.

Allen said the shop already had a huge clientele, but he has noticed an increase in the number of phone calls since the press release from "Consumers' Checkbook."

Key Center Auto Repair is hiring, though finding qualified technicians is difficult, according to Allen. The shop has a total of six bays (with two outside). The business is largely based on referrals. Allen said Key Center Auto Repair is "where friends bring friends," "where you're treated like you want to be treated," and "where the team works on one car at a time."

*Photo by Karina Whitmarsh*

Jay Allen (second from right), and the crew of Key Center Auto Repair, which recently received superior rating from customers.



## Wanted

# Executive Editor

The Key Peninsula News is recruiting for the position of executive editor. This is a part-time position (aprx. 30 hours per week). The executive editor oversees daily operations of the newspaper including editorial, sales and production; supervises paid and volunteer staff and performs general editorial and administrative duties. Reports to a five-member publishing board.

A bachelor's degree required, as well as at least four years of experience including two as editor. Budget/sales management experience strongly preferred. For a complete job description see [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com).

Open until filled, with interviews to start as early as Sept. 15. To be considered, send a cover letter, resume, and 2-4 writing and editing samples to Publishing Board, PO Box 3 Vaughn WA 98394 or email the same to [publisher@keypennews.com](mailto:publisher@keypennews.com).

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**NEWS**



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# FD-16 STATS

## Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

### June 10

A teenager fell from his skateboard on Lackey Road. His head injury was stabilized at the scene and he was transported to a hospital for treatment.

### June 11

Firefighters responded to a mutual aid house fire in Kitsap County, north of the county line on 82nd Avenue NW. The fire was contained to the second floor and no injuries were reported.

### June 14

Firefighters were called for power lines down in the area of Horseshoe Lake. Crews found an SUV on its side, a telephone line down, and a broken utility pole. The driver said his dog was preparing to jump out of the back of his truck, causing him to veer off the road and strike the pole. Neither driver nor dog was injured.

### June 15

An adult male was riding a wheelie on a dirt bike at about 40 mph when he went over backward, sustaining injuries to his neck and back. Friends took him to the Home fire station, where medics placed him on a backboard and transported him to a Tacoma hospital for treatment of his injuries.

### June 21

Firefighters responded to a dog stuck at the bottom of a steep embankment. The dog had been missing for several days before being found at the bottom of the 300-foot slope. Rope team members secured the dog and lowered him to the beach to reunite him with his master.

### June 27

Firefighters and paramedics responded to two separate motor vehicle collisions at 118th Ave. NW and SR 302. One patient who crashed his motorcycle refused transport against medical advice and another patient involved in a rollover was transported to a Tacoma Trauma Center.

### June 30

Medics and the water rescue team were called to Jackson Lake after children discovered a car submerged near the boat launch. After responders found no occupants in the vehicle, the Pierce County Sheriff's Dive team responded to recover it.

### July 4

Firefighters from the Wauna station responded to the Purdy Spit early the

morning of July 5 to extinguish several driftwood and grass fires that were left by citizens following fireworks celebrations.

### July 16

Medics and firefighters were called to a four-car collision on the Purdy Sand Spit. Arriving units were unable to locate the parties involved.

### July 19

Firefighters and paramedics responded to a motorcycle crash in the Wauna curves on SR-302.

Arriving units found an adult female suffering from leg injuries after she failed to negotiate the curves. The woman was treated and transported to a Tacoma hospital for further evaluation.

### July 20

Lakebay residents discovered a wildland fire had started behind their property and called 911. Firefighters responded to find a 10-foot by 10-foot grass fire that had been extinguished by the residents with a garden hose. Fireworks are suspected to have started the fire.

### Aug. 1

Medics and firefighters responded to a vehicle that crashed at high speed on Key Peninsula Hwy at McEwan Road. Despite visible injuries, both occupants refused medical care. Sheriff's deputies were investigating.

### Aug. 2

Firefighters were called for a cat stuck in a tree. The cat was too high for ladders to reach and the pet owner was given a tree service phone number that specializes in animal rescue.

### Aug. 9

A Lakebay resident drove her husband to the Wauna Fire Station after he had passed out at home. The man was transported to a Tacoma hospital after being evaluated by medics.

### Aug. 10

A driver on SR-302 called 911 for an intoxicated man who was walking into traffic. Sheriff's deputies were not available and requested a fire department response. He was found to be a danger to himself, requiring transport to a facility for evaluation.

### Aug. 12

Medics were called to the home of a Lakebay man who needed assistance after falling from a motorized chair. He was found to be uninjured and assisted back into the chair.

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# BRIEFS

news

## Deputies looking for sign thieves

On Aug. 8, a report was filed with the Peninsula Detachment of Pierce County Sheriff's Office regarding the theft of signs and traffic cones from a construction zone on SR-302.

The warnings on the signs included Road Work Ahead, Right Lane Closed, Left Lane Closed and Flagger Ahead. The theft occurred between 4 p.m. on Aug. 7 and 6 a.m. on Aug. 8.

The signs were removed from a construction zone on that begins at Wright Bliss Road KPN and continues westbound for approximately two miles. They were placed throughout the two mile stretch of road.

There were no suspects as of mid-August.

Anyone with information should call Peninsula Detachment at 798-4940.

# School starts in Germany for student

By Irene Torres, KP News

For Key Peninsula student Tyler Hylton, the new school year will be spent in Germany. At press time, he was scheduled to depart in late August to spend a school year abroad, studying in Pritzwalk (near Berlin). He will attend Johann-Wolfgang-Von-Goethe-Gymnasium (high school) while living with a host family.

The host family owns an eight-bedroom flat, with a music room and a swimming pool. The host parents have eight children between them. All but three are grown and living on their own. They have been a host family a number of times, and are looking forward to helping Tyler become more fluent in German while he helps them with English.

Tyler is a straight-A student who attended Insight School of Washington, an online high school, last year. He was awarded "student of the month" in April 2008, nominated by his German teacher. In her nomination letter, she expressed her excitement about his upcoming opportunity to live in Germany and wrote,

"Tyler is one of my most capable and competent communicators in German, largely due to his own determination to master it and his natural talent."

Tyler, 16, is considering enrolling in the Running Start program when he comes back from Germany.

The trip is part of the Aspect Foundation student exchange program and there are no group sponsors. Planning ahead, Tyler spent a couple of years working odd jobs for family and friends to save money for the trip. He saved over half the amount, and also saved for a laptop and MP3 player for the trip. His parents paid the other half of the expense.

His future goal is to attend college. Although he is unsure what he wants to study, he has an interest in creative writing and psychology. His goal for his time in Germany is to "become more fluent in the German language and culture and to enjoy this opportunity that I have been given."

Tyler says he wants to "go to Germany with an open mind, free of preconceived notions of what to expect from the people and culture."



Photo courtesy of Hylton family

Tyler Hylton shortly before leaving for his adventure, seen here at the Purdy Spit.

Stay Active & Independent for Life

## Exercise Class\* for Seniors Aged 60+

A HUGE Thank You to Old Timer's Day Festival Chair Vicky Lilyblade along with Dale Baquist and all the volunteers who made this year's fund raising event a huge success!

Classes are held on Wednesdays & Fridays 10 am to 11 am

\* Participants must meet with Class Instructor prior to beginning class. For more information call Key Peninsula Community Services @ 884.4440

A special thank you to Ashlynn Golden for being our July volunteer of the month.

## Jessica Smith

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Photo by Danna Webster

Clergy from around the nearby region inscribe inspirational messages for the future chapel.

## Local clergy write on the walls of St. Anthony's Chapel

By Danna Webster, KP News

Inspirational messages were written on the unfinished interior walls of the St. Anthony Hospital Chapel on Aug. 14. Members of the clergy from throughout Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula, South Kitsap and North Mason were invited to inscribe prayers, messages of hope, and healing wishes on the walls.

Baptists, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian, and Catholic clergy joined several Sisters of St. Francis with pen in hand to write their salutations.

Franciscan Sister Dolores Herbeck's message was spontaneous. "May the Lord bless and protect all who enter here," she wrote while the community historian at St. Anne's, Sr. Emily Herbes, copied from her notes. "Do ask St. Anthony to help us in our spiritual and bodily needs." When a Knights of Columbus representative from Gig Harbor, John Oldman, expressed concern about his penmanship, Herbes assured him, "If you grew up in Catholic schools, it should be good Palmer," she said referring to a cursive penmanship program taught in elementary schools.

Most messages were written in English but there were some in Vietnamese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Korean. Dennis

Sevilla, chaplain of the Catholic Health Initiative, is a Visayan from the Philippines. Part of his message was written in Tagalog. "Our Father who art in heaven, thank you for your gift, your son Jesus, our savior and redeemer," he wrote.

The messages will not be painted over, hospital officials told the crowd of clergy and reporters. After the prayers are recorded, they will be encased behind the finished walls of the chapel. "The messages will forever be a part of the community hospital and will surround those seeking solace inside the sacred place," was noted in the hospital's press release about the event.

All guests were invited to tour the building after the ceremony. The tour walked through the unfinished emergency entry areas, past trauma rooms and to the main entry where two-story windows will soon overlook a healing garden. "When the landscaping is done and the windows are clean, it's going to be spectacular," said Bruce Elkington, hospital vice president of information technology. "Looking out will be healing."

Herbeck paused before leaving the chapel, admiring the prayer messages on the wall. "I'm wondering if I can write a second one," she said. "This is fun!"

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**BRIEFS**

religion

**Churches hold Key to  
 Worship event**

The Key to Worship, a celebration of music and faith, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, 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. It will run from noon to 4 p.m.

Monty Reed, founder and executive director of They Shall Walk, will be the keynote speaker.

Reed, injured in a parachute accident and told he would never walk again, invented and continues to develop a "life suit," a robotic powered brace that helps paralyzed people to walk. Inspired by the science fiction story "Starship Troopers" by Robert Heinlein, he created an exoskeletal device he demonstrates at various events and in video on his Website, [www.theyshallwalk.org](http://www.theyshallwalk.org).

They Shall Walk is a 501(c)3 National Heritage Foundation organization.

Bring a smile and readiness to hear

Christian music, a dynamic, inspirational speaker, and meet friends and neighbors.

The number of free hot dogs will be limited, and there will be no other food for sale.

Water will be available, but you may bring your own water or soda or fruit drinks.

For more information, call 884-1288 (a message phone) or email [keytoworship@yahoo.com](mailto:keytoworship@yahoo.com).

**Grace Church relocates**

After 12 years of gathering at Miracle Ranch on Horseshoe Lake, Grace Church is moving to a new location. The church will share space in the Turning Point Church building at 9911 Burnham Drive in Gig Harbor.

The move will take place during the first week in September. The first worship service there will be at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7.

Church members will continue to hold daytime and evening Bible studies, evening choir meetings, Sunday meals at the community center and other outreach projects.

The congregation welcomes anyone to come visit on Sunday mornings or call the church at 857-7284.



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## GIG HARBOR \$165,000

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## LAKEBAY \$249,000

Home on 5 acres, 3 bdrm, 2 baths, living room, large kitchen/din rm, 20x30ft cement slab poured for garage. 14x20ft shed. Master bdrm has sitting room/office.

Susan Hoover 253-884-9168 #28125706



## KEY CENTER AREA \$275,000

This cozy home has vaulted ceilings, open floor plan, family room and wood stove inside and fenced yard and an acre of wooded privacy outside. Close commute for GH North and new hospital. Use your tax credit on this one!!!!

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## LONG BRANCH \$282,900

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Susan Hoover 253-884-9168 #28059454



## LONG BRANCH 2+ ACRES \$295,000

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## NEW PALMER LAKE HOME \$224,000

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## FOX ISLAND \$979,000

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## LONG BRANCH VACANT LAND \$300,000

30 acres on the south Key Peninsula. Paved road frontage. Nice, private forest. Creek to Taylor Bay flows along the west boundary. Beautiful wildlife sanctuary. Surrounded by rural countryside. AJ Millon 253-884-9537 #28122324



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# Local volunteers part of Tacoma homeless ministry

By Lori Colbo, KP News

The aroma of stir-fry and sizzling pot stickers permeates the air. Tables loaded with food, drink, clothing and toiletries abound. The sounds of the '60s blare through loudspeakers. Hordes of people waiting in line smile with anticipation, or sing and sway to the music. Workers are ready and waiting to serve.

This is not a festival or farmers market. It is the Tacoma Street Ministry, also known as the Friday Night Feed. Located in downtown Tacoma under the I-705 overpass, it serves some 150 to 300 people every Friday night, mostly consisting of homeless and low-income people. The spirit of the crowd is one of camaraderie and joy. Clearly, they are anticipating a good meal and food to carry for the next few days. There is an attitude of thanksgiving.

Key Peninsula resident Linda Brewer has been involved with the Tacoma Street Ministry for many years. She states that churches from all over Tacoma, Gig Harbor and even the Peninsula, as well as individuals, are involved in providing for the people in difficult financial circumstances.

There will always be the criticism of the needy in other countries vs. the needy in America. Brewer addresses that concern by saying, "Poverty hurts, hunger hurts, homelessness hurts, no matter where you are."

That is the feeling of those who volunteer their time every Friday night. "Our names and the names of our churches are not important," one volunteer says. "What matters are the needs of the people and meeting those needs."

Pastor Ed Wren from Christian Bikers Tabernacle heads up this ministry. It was started some 20 years ago in another location in Tacoma but has moved around. He came along when it was waning and losing volunteers. His compassion for the down and out led him to get involved and reorganize a number of years ago. He bases this ministry on the words of Jesus from Matthew 25:35-36 in the Bible, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came and visited me." Pastor Ed's congregation of bikers provides security, although there are rarely problems. They spend most of their time talking to the people and helping the volunteers.

Brewer, from Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, hands out blankets, sleeping bags, tells people about Jesus, and offers encouragement and her assistance wherever it is needed. Her passion for this ministry shows in her as an individual, and it shows in her church



Photos by Karina Whitmarsh

Above, People attending a recent Tacoma Street Ministry dinner pray before the meal. Left, Linda Brewer is one of several Key Pen residents who volunteer for the ministry, which is geared to help homeless and low-income people.



family. Brewer attends Chapel Hill in Gig Harbor and a large group regularly supports this ministry through giving of their time, talents and treasure.

Brewer and some of the volunteers remember when the Tacoma City Council wanted to shut the ministry

down because councilmen felt it reflected poorly of their city. They were also unduly concerned about crime. The volunteers wouldn't hear of it. They set to praying and calling the media, who turned out en masse. It is interesting to note that the city council made an immediate about face and renewed the permit needed to continue the ministry.

One volunteer, who did not want to give his name, stated he comes to this ministry every Friday because he loves to help people in need. "But more so," he says, "it gets my mind off me and all my petty problems. Being with these people puts life into the proper perspective."

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# COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) • Deadline 17th of the month

## Aug. 30 – Labor Day dance

The annual adults-only Labor Day Dance featuring “The Daily Flash” will be on Saturday from 8-12 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club, 4312 Key Peninsula Highway S. A no-host mini-bar is available. Tickets are \$12 available at Sunnycrest Nursery, Longbranch Marina or at the door. 884-6022

## Sept. 2, 8, 15, 22, & 29 – Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at the Gig Harbor Albertsons, 11330 51st Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, on Tuesday, Sept. 2 and

Wednesdays the rest of September from 12:30-7 p.m.

## Sept. 3, 17, & Oct. 1 – Candidates speak

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. Speakers are: Sept. 3, Representative candidate Kim Abel; Sept. 17, Pierce County Executive candidate Pat McCarthy; Oct. 1, Sheriff Paul Pastor. The public is welcome at each of these meetings. Speakers will have 45 minutes for a presentation and to answer questions. George, 853-2721

## Sept. 4 & 5 – Bloodmobile at Costco

The bloodmobile will be at Costco, 10990 Harbor Hill Drive, Gig Harbor, from 1:30-6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.

## Sept. 6-7-Softball tournaments

On Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 & 7, nine teams from Key Pen Parks Summer Co-ed Softball League will battle for the end of season tournament. Teams in the league are Gig Harbor Eagles, Bayside Animal Lodge, Laddy & then Some, Early On the Spot Handyman/ Harbor Sliders, Pyramid Concrete, Rocky Bay Equine/Will Bat for Beer, Team Key Peninsula, Floation Device-TPS, and Wood Construction.

## Sept. 13 – Historical Society’s picnic

The KP Historical Society has changed the date of their annual picnic to Saturday at the Dale Boquist home. Boquist, long time collector of antique logging equipment, and a third generation logger, will show and talk about some of his tools and machinery. Beverages are provided. Attendees are asked to bring something to share and their own plate service. The meeting/picnic is open to members and others interested in our local history. 884-3702 or 884-3272

## Sept. 13 – Safety at Home presentation

Twenty-five resource booths and speakers will present “Safety at Home” from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. The program is sponsored by Pierce County Sheriffs Peninsula Detachment.

Saturday, Sept. 13, “Safety at Home”, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Lackey Road and Key Peninsula Highway; 789-4940 or [www.pcpenninsula@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:www.pcpenninsula@co.pierce.wa.us)

## Sept. 16, 23, 30 – Yard care workshops

Learn about environmentally friendly

yard and garden maintenance this fall during a series of fun, informative and free natural yard care workshops presented by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce Conservation District and Peninsula Light Company. Workshops will take place from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Peninsula Light Building, 13315 Goodnough Drive NW. Each workshop, including natural lawn care and pest management, soil basics and composting, and garden design and watering. Space is limited; to register, contact Geoff Rinehart at (253) 798-4587 or [grinehart@tpchd.org](mailto:grinehart@tpchd.org)

## Sept. 16 – Bloodmobile at Peninsula Light

The bloodmobile will be at the Peninsula Light Company, 13315 Goodnough Drive NW from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

## Sept. 19 – Softball registration deadline

This recreational league for men and women will play on Sundays starting Sept. 28 through Nov. 2. Teams will play 8 games, all double headers for a cost of \$200 without umpires and \$325 with umpires. Teams will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. A Minimum of four teams and a maximum of 12 teams will be accepted with a registration deadline of Sept. 19. For information or to sign up a team, contact the KP Parks office at 884-9240.

## Sept. 20 – BBQ and seminar

Doctors and staff at Rocky Bay Equine invite all to attend the annual barbecue and seminar at 1 p.m. This year’s guest speaker is Dr. Wendy Mallot, a specialist in equine internal medicine. Her presentation will focus on Cushing’s disease and the challenges it poses to horses and owners. Following the presentation, Bob and Zorina Bleau will put on a tasty barbeque spread. Potluck will round out the savory fixins. Last names beginning with letters A to L, bring a side dish. Last names beginning with letters M to Z, bring a dessert. Billy Farmer and his Blue Grass Band will be performing. Please RSVP to the office by Sept. 10.

## Home Park picnic shelter completed

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Over three and a half years ago, George Robison, member of the Key Peninsula Lions Club, suggested the idea of building a picnic shelter for the Home Park. Other Key Peninsula Lions proposed the idea to the KP Metro Park District Board of Directors that the Lions design and build it at no cost to the district.

It was to be a simple concrete slab with a roof over it. It was designed by licensed and certified civil engineer Ed Robison, who completed the design before his assignment as a U.S. Navy commander to Iraq. The project was intended to be completed with volunteer labor by the Lions and others, with lumber from fallen trees at Volunteer Park.

Then started the permit acquisition process.

Robison said, “The Lions have been looking toward this day almost four years. Completion of the Home Park picnic shelter makes our day!” A Big Toys’ installation was nearly completed by deadline with a dedication ceremony for the picnic shelter and the playground scheduled for September

### Thank-you notes

The KP Lions thank KP Parks’ directors and staff for making the picnic shelter project possible. The Lions thanks also go to Pierce County Council Member Terry Lee for help from Pierce County Parks in paying for some of the materials, and to the residents of Home who over three years ago attended KP Lions and KP Metro Parks-sponsored public meetings and aided in the planning.

The Lions want it known that the picnic shelter would not have been possible without the participation of countless supporters, among whom were Dan Miller of Home; Tyler Bottiger of Lakebay; Mark Conniff; KP Lions; Ed Robison; Kevin Reed; Scott Gallacher, executive director of the KP Metro Parks District, and his son, Caden; Elmer Anderson, president of the Metro Parks Board; Dan Lutz and Aaron Geier of Home Excavating; Ken Sowers of Rocky Creek; Dustin Harrison; and Kathy Bailey, who provided food and soft drinks when needed.

(see related story, page 2).

*Hugh McMillan is a member of the KP Lions Club.*

Saturday, Sept. 20, BBQ & seminar, 1 p.m. Rocky Bay Equine, 12604 - 189th Ave KPN, Gig Harbor; must RSVP by Sept. 10; 858-4529 or 360-876-1544

### Sept. 20 – 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. Marsha, 857-7557

### Sept. 25 – Local authors' night

Friends of the Key Center Library will host six local authors, who will read from their works from 7-8:30 p.m. Refreshments served; authors will have books for sale and will sign previously purchased books. 884-2242

### Sept. 25 – PEPSI Punt, Pass & Kick

This football skills competition sponsored by PEPSI and the NFL gives kids ages 8-15 years an opportunity to demonstrate their punting, passing, and kicking abilities. Competitors are divided into four age groups, both boys and girls. Competition begins at the local level and advances to the sectional that will be held in Lacey. The top 5 scorers from the sectional, in each age division in both boys and girls will advance to the team championship. All participants will receive a certificate from the NFL, signed by Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, and the first, second, and third place winners will receive ribbons. The top 5 from the sectional in each age group will move on to the team championship held at Quest Field Nov. 23 prior to the Seahawks vs the Redskins.

This is a free event held at Volunteer Park. For more information about this event, volunteering, or waivers please contact Key Pen Parks at 884-9240.

### Sept. 27 – KP Elections

Vote for the Key Peninsula Community Council at voting stations at Lake Kathryn Market, Key Center Market and the Home Store from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or mail your ballots.

### Oct. 4 – HarvestFest farm tour

The second annual Key Peninsula

Farm Tour will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eight great farms, double from last year, will host visitors throughout the day, four area restaurants have special menus featuring fresh, locally grown KP food products, and all three of the community services buildings are hosting special events. Please see HarvestFest stories in this issue of the KP News for details. Find the tour map on the back page of paper. (253) 798-7180, or hhendrick@wsu.edu

### Oct. 4 – Community dinner and dance

Come to the Cornucopia Dinner/Dance after the farm tour and enjoy a delicious dinner, a complimentary glass of wine, dinner music by Little Bill and the Blue Notes and dancing from 8-10:30 p.m. The Civic Center doors open at 5 p.m., with a front porch serenade by Dr. Roes' Down Home Band. The Museum will be open for visitors and a cash bar will be available. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and features fresh foods from local farms. Ticket prices are \$35 and one must be 21 or older to attend.

Cornucopia night is a fundraising benefit for the Farm Tour Board, Mustard Seed Project, and the Civic Center. Tickets may be purchased at Sunnycrest Nursery, Trillium Creek Winery, and the offices of the Mustard Seed Project and Civic Center.

Saturday, Oct. 4, Cornucopia Dinner and Dance, 5-10:30 p.m. Civic Center, must be an adult, \$35; 884-1205

### Mondays – TOPS meets

TOPS #1019, Vaughn, meets at Fire station #5 at Wright-Bliss Rd and 302 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone 8 years and up is welcome. All meetings have a program. 884-4102

### Tuesdays – Baby story times

Baby Explorer Story Time begins on Sept. 30 at 11 a.m. for babies ages 0-24 months, accompanied by an adult, at the Key Center Library. Join in with your child and enjoy fun books, action rhymes, knee bouncers, songs and more. 884-2242

### Wednesdays – Family story times

Family Story Time at Key Center Library begins on Oct. 1 at 11 a.m. for preschool-aged children accompanied by an adult. Enjoy fun with picture books, songs, finger-plays and movement games. 884-2242

# OFF THE KEY

### Sept. 3 – GH Welcome Club luncheon

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club will sponsor a luncheon at Canterwood Country Club, 12606 – 54th Avenue, Gig Harbor at 11:30 a.m. Marlene Buffington, a senior Peace Corps volunteer and a long time Gig Harbor resident, will take us to the rural villages in Morocco and South Africa, where any day could be an adventure. She will tell us of the frustrations and triumphs of working with local people to help better their lives. Contact Marcia Nolan, 857-5324 to make your reservation for this entertaining and enlightening program

### Sept. 7 – Outdoor painting class at library

Nationally recognized local artist Kurt Solmssen will present a plein air painting workshop on Sunday at 3 p.m. at Peninsula Pierce County Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive N.W. Gig Harbor. Beginners to experienced artists should bring their art supplies to the library and travel with the class to a

waterfront location for painting in the open air. Participants ages 15 pre-register at the library or 851-3793.

### Oct. 6 – Internet Safety Class

This program, appropriate for law enforcement, educators, parents and individuals in the community that work with youth and teenagers, will be presented at 10 a.m.-noon and again at 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Gig Harbor. This training will consist of a PowerPoint lecture combined with integrated Internet examples. The PowerPoint presentation with the handouts will be provided for one's future workshops to help others understand how to use MYSFACE and search engines and how this technology can compromise a child's safety.

Monday, Oct. 6, 10-12 a.m. or 6:30-8:30 p.m., Gig Harbor Civic Center, 3510 Grandview

St. Gig Harbor, free; contact Gig Harbor Police Department's Community Service Officer Lynn Mock at 253.853.2426 or MockL@cityofgigharbor.net

### Thursdays – KP Senior Society meets

The Key Peninsula Senior Society, aka Yesterday's Teenagers, meet at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck, fellowship and games at the Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981

### Saturdays – Writers meet

The Writers' Guild meets from 9-11 a.m. at Key Center Library; 884-6455

### Sundays – Farmers' market in Key Center

The farmers' market is held from 12-4 p.m. in O'Callahan's parking lot. Holly; 884-3649

### Now – Artists wanted

Artists and crafters of all kinds are encouraged to participate in the KPCCA Craft Fair planned for Saturday, November 15. Artists who make their own product — no second-hand products or

re-sales, and live in the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area may sell their wares at the craft fair. Holly at kpcca.holidaycraftfair@gmail.com or KPCCA office 884-3456.

## SEPTEMBER PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Pierce County Council District 6, Sept. 2, 5:30 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main Street NW
- Fire District 16, Sept. 9 & 23, 3 p.m. at Lakebay Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, Sept. 17, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library
- KP Metro Parks, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex (some meetings preceded by a 6:30 p.m. study session)
- Peninsula School District Board, Sept. 11, 5:30 p.m. (regular meeting) at the District Office, 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor

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*"More powerful than the will to win, is the courage to begin." unknown*

# Bon Voyage, Ms. Cobean

By Donna Smeall, KP News

After 50 years of public service to her community, Barbara Cobean is retiring at the end of September.

Cobean began her public service career at the public school library systems of Pierce County and continued it with a transfer to the Key Center Library just over 21 years ago. Prior to becoming the senior branch assistant at Key Center Library, she was a page in the days of the "ink well" and it was her job to clean them out. At the time of her hire by the Seattle Library, Cobean, age 15, told her father proudly, "I am a page now," to which her father replied, "That is great, then I guess you will be a chapter pretty soon?"

Her love affair with books began when she was a child. Her father, an employee of a textbook company, often invited authors to come over for a meal at their home. It was there that Cobean discovered her affection for reading. "Working with books came naturally for me," she said about her choice of career. "I truly enjoyed answering



A familiar figure behind the library desk in Key Center, Barbara Cobean retires this fall.

Photo by Donna Smeall

patrons' questions and helping them locate the books and movies that they would enjoy the most." The love for reading and books seems to be a family tradition, as she also had a great-aunt who worked for the Library of Congress. In the world of books, Cobean discovered Edmund Crispin's wonderful usage of the English language. She says, "My favorite read is Mr. Crispin's 'Glimpses of the Moon.'" Her knowledge of the

world of books impresses her colleagues at the Key Center Library.

"Barbara has been a great asset to the Key Peninsula," says Rosina Vertz, branch supervisor. "She put her vast knowledge of books at the service of her patrons and her co-workers. I have no doubt she will leave a vacuum, but I am equally sure that, in emulating her, the remaining and new staff at the library will continue to provide the excellent service that the

## Bon Voyage

A retirement party has been planned to celebrate Barbara Cobean's long career. A modest celebration is being planned with date and time yet to be decided. Those who want to wish her well may stop by to sign the guest book in her honor between now and the end of September.

Pierce County Library System strives to give."

When asked what she plans to do following her retirement, Cobean says, "I am going to travel a bit, go to the Knitting Holiday workshops around the world. So far, I have been to England, Alaska, and Oregon." The workshops allow Cobean to practice and learn new knitting techniques, make new friends and visit new places.

Outside of traveling, she can be found volunteering for an organization called Caring For Kids of Tacoma, which provides students with warm coats they would otherwise not be able to afford.

"To all the wonderful people on the Key Peninsula that I have met, my thanks for welcoming me here and I will miss you all," Cobean says.

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Clinical Audiologist and Doctor of Music

# FROM PIONEER STOCK

## DALE BOQUIST - FOURTH GENERATION ON THE LAND

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Dale Boquist, who lives on property once owned by his great-grandfather, was born and raised in Glencove.

"We lived in the bay down here," he says. Activities included fishing, swimming, and boating.

His great-grandfather, Hans Nicholas Petersen, arrived in Glencove in 1882 from Nebraska. Born in Germany, Petersen was orphaned when young and raised by an aunt who suggested he go to America. He studied English before he immigrated at age 24 to Nebraska. He worked in, and later owned, flour mills until the mill dust created difficulty in his lungs. His doctor said, "Go West," so he headed for Tacoma.

He met Harry Winchester, an early logger in Glencove, and they formed a partnership.

Petersen provided the money for the operation, and Winchester located timberland.

Petersen started in the logging business from the ground up, learning how to grease skids as his first job.

They constructed a floating camp, with a two-story barn, cookhouse, bunkhouse, and other structures on large cedar log rafts. Petersen added a small house before Agnes arrived a year later. She became camp cook, managed the company store, and did laundry and mending for the crew as well.

Petersen crossed to Steilacoom once a week for groceries and mail, sailing if wind allowed, and otherwise rowing. A day's trip, over and back, but longer if the weather became stormy.

### How did the Whitmore Room get its name?

Oliver (Ollie) Whitmore married Agnes (Aggie) Boquist, sister of Nick Boquist, Sr. They lived in Glencove with daughters Diann and Nikki.

Whitmore became one of the main advocates to buy the grade school, formerly Vaughn Union High School, to use as a community center. He chaired the committee that formed to study options and plan fundraising.

Although eager volunteers contributed to various fundraising efforts, they were short about \$9,200 when the due date loomed.

Whitmore convinced his banker to loan him the money to pay the balance, confident the community would pay him back. They did, with more events, and as a special thank-you for his generous spirit, they named the main room, formerly part of two classrooms, in the newly christened Key Peninsula Civic Center, in his honor.

Winchester started a brickyard that Petersen took over, and many Tacoma streets were paved with those bricks.

In 1893, a depression shut down the logging and brick businesses. Winchester gave Petersen half of his land, about 16 acres, for what was owed. When the Petersens decided to build a hotel, Winchester deeded the rest of the property to them in exchange for always having a room in the hotel.

An orchard, garden, and growing of their own beef, pork, and chickens, plus



Dale Boquist and his steam donkey.

Photo courtesy KP Historical Society

seafood provided the Petersens with a good living with their hotel, originally called a boarding house.

Louise Petersen married Oscar Boquist, a logger, and they operated the hotel after her parents died.

Son Nicholas (Nick) chose logging as his career of choice, then became a fire warden for the Department of Natural Resources, a position previously held by his dad. Nick's son, Dale, says one of his favorite activities, as soon as he was big enough, was to watch his father work in the woods. Sure enough, Dale became a logger, too, but eventually turned to construction, retiring after 30 years as a teamster.

"Grandpa had a 1940 Ford," says Dale, who recalls riding in it as a kid. "When he bought a new 1955 Dodge, he gave the Ford to my brother, Nick. It ran for a long

time."

Their grandfather used to take the boys to get their hair cut, and Dale's mom was terrified until they returned because of Grandpa's driving habits.

"He'd just back up until he hit something," Boquist says.

Boquist moved to his present home more than a dozen years ago. His steam donkeys, pioneer tools, and other items are his pride and joy. He demonstrates a working donkey at Old Timers Day, and chairs the logging show there.

Dale Boquist enjoyed his growing up years in the area. "We walked the old railroad tracks until we were big enough to have horses, and then motorcycles," he says. He then adds, "And 'guess I'm still at it, with my four-wheelers. I have two of 'em!"

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# Local filmmakers dream of bigger projects

By Kristen Pierce, KP News

Wonderdog Media, founded by Scott and Olga Gribble, is a family-run film and production company. The Gribbles and their five children have resided on the Key Peninsula since 2004. Their production company is located in Wauna with additional studio space in Tacoma.

Scott Gribble has always loved the filming and media industry. He started playing with his friend's 8-mm movie camera when he was 12 years old and attending junior high school. Throughout the years, his boyhood passion has evolved into many feature films and local commercials.

Other endeavors include launching a closed-circuit network specifically for medical news and updates in doctors' offices, a short film titled "Mothers Day" released this past July and shot locally on the Peninsula. He also won the Best Film Award in a 72-hour competition between 30 filmmaking teams in Tacoma.

The five-minute short film, "An Army of Two," was about two brothers who set out on a journey, only to stumble onto trouble along the way. The film starred Scott and Olga's sons, Nathan (almost 8) and Noah (6), both Minter Creek Elementary students. Brandon Sawaya, a

Peninsula High School graduate, also starred in the short film. "An Army of Two" was shot with a crew of one and set in Point Defiance. Scott Gribble wrote, directed, shot, and edited the film in an 18-hour period over two days.

Gribble was recently appointed director of photography for the feature film "Don't Quit Your Day Job!" produced by the Seattle film production company called No Slack Productions. The film is about an aspiring female singer with a boring job and dreams of stardom. She spends a day in the midst of comedic chaos, racing back and forth between her day job and her secret audition for the "National Superstar" television singing competition, resulting in an unexpectedly hellish day at work.

When Gribble is not busy as director and cinematographer for Wonderdog Media (which also specializes in corporate and industrial productions), he works as an E.M.S. (medic) and volunteer firefighter for the Key Peninsula Fire Department. Olga is vice chair of the board for Community Health Care. She is an advocate for the underinsured and strives to create low-cost health insurance in the Tacoma area. The couple's other children, 17-year-old Charlotte, 15-year-old Brooks, and 1-year-



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Scott Gribble, local volunteer firefighter and filmmaker whose company is based in Wauna.

old Nelson, hang out on the set and are more than happy to fill in as extras. Scott especially likes the way he can spend time with his family while pursuing his filmmaking dream.

"We are real fortunate to have what we have and build upon it," Gribble says. "We're thankful to our clients to allow us to do what we do."

Scott and Olga are very content with their lives but still aim for future goals. They want to start their own film company, expand their client base for short films and special projects, and expand their projects toward Port Orchard, Bremerton, and Silverdale. "We have tools and talent so we might as well make use of them," Olga says.

# Key Pen vaulting team offers unique fun

Sharon Hicks, KP News

Horse vaulting has been around for several thousand years, and has since evolved into a sport. In Pierce County, the only vaulting club in existence is located on the Key Peninsula. The club is officially recognized and member of the American Vaulting Association. In all of Western Washington, there are only about a dozen recognized clubs.

Today, vaulting is an equestrian art of gymnastics and dance on a horse. It predates modern gymnastics and was devised by the military as a means of moving and having the hands free. It is good for balance, self-confidence and fun, and can be competitive.

Lori Robison, the trainer of Harbor View Vaulters, has had her team for a year and a half and loves every minute. Kathy Seelye is the coach, assisting the

team with all the difficult moves.

Robison's daughter, Julie, started at age 7 and is now 16, the oldest member. The youngest is 5. Draft horses are used for this delicate work, as the broad back gives good support for standing maneuvers. Three horses comprise the team: a Percheron, an American Bashki and an 18.2-hands-tall Belgian, Joey, who has the most training. There are eight vaulters and they perform in an outdoor arena, so caution is used during inclement weather. Plans are under way for a covered arena.

Vaulting is like ice skating, Robison says, in that there is a compulsory and freestyle component. In compulsory, each vaulter must complete a round of seven strategic moves whereas in freestyle the vaulters can devise their own routine to music. In both components, the horse moves in a circle

and the vaulter leaps on, performs, and leaps gracefully off.

Last May, the Harbor View Vaulters attended a registered vaulting show in Chilliwack, Canada, where three horses and five riders performed. In August, Joey and a vaulter traveled to Watsonville, Calif., for competition. Robison said vaulting is a tight community, with vaulters relying on helping each other even when they are not on the same team.

In addition to training her team, Robison is a registered psychotherapist in Tacoma and did recreational riding for 10 years before her love of horses incited her to start the club. She used to run marathons and triathlons.

This fall, Robison plans to open equine assisted therapy sessions, which will encompass the use of both of her skills.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Julie Robison, 16, lifts 5-year-old Dominique Reichl while they practice pairs' freestyle as part of the Harbor View Vaulters Team.



# KEY PENINSULA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## Open House at the Key Center Fire Station

We invite you to join us at the Key Center Fire Station on September 27 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Public Forum / Open House is also planned to allow the public an opportunity to meet the staff and commissioners, get a tour of the headquarters station, to see the fire engines, medic units and get your questions answered.

Snacks will be provided and of course tours for the young and young at heart. Safety information

and statistics from our department will be handed out along with our recently updated future plan. We want your input as to how we're doing and any suggestions you may have to improve our service delivery.

We will be offering snacks, blood pressure checks and Sparky will make an appearance. So bring the family and stop in for a visit. I look forward to meeting you.



## Back to school means kids on the roadway

Plan a little extra time in the morning to allow for the safety of our youth as they make their way back to school. The kids will be waiting at intersections and various locations along our roadways for the buses. They deserve your consideration as pedestrians.

## Contact information

**Firefighter Association** - Molly: 884-6368

**Fire Chief** - Tom Lique: [tlque@piercerefire.org](mailto:tlque@piercerefire.org)  
884-2222

**Fire Commissioners** - Chairman Jim Bosch:  
884-3320

**Personnel Manager** - Christina Bosch:  
[cbosch@piercerefire.org](mailto:cbosch@piercerefire.org)

**Technical Services and Public Education** -  
Chuck West: [cwest@piercerefire.org](mailto:cwest@piercerefire.org)

**Volunteer Membership** - Chuck West:  
[cwest@piercerefire.org](mailto:cwest@piercerefire.org)

**Training and Medical Services Division Chief** -  
Paul Bosch: [pbosch@piercerefire.org](mailto:pbosch@piercerefire.org)

**District Operations** - Guy Allen, Division Chief:  
[gallen@piercerefire.org](mailto:gallen@piercerefire.org)

**Use of Facilities** - Vanessa Wells:  
[vwells@piercerefire.org](mailto:vwells@piercerefire.org)

**Phone contact for all others:**

**253-884-2222**

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Mark Adams

Mark has been a volunteer firefighter/EMT since 2004. When he's not teaching full time he is the lead instructor for most of our CPR/first aid classes. He just completed this year's second safe sitter class and is preparing to teach another on September 13 & 14. Mark lives in the Wauna area with his wife and two boys. Another great contributor to our organization.



## Calendar of Events

- ▶ CPR / First Aid - Sept. 6th
- ▶ Safe Sitter - Sept. 13 & 14; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- ▶ Open House - Sept. 27 @ Key Center; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Fire Commissioners

The Board of Fire Commissioners is our legislative body, elected by you. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Home Fire Station. The meeting is held in the public meeting room at 3 p.m. Next meetings are September 9th and 23rd.

**SPARKY SAYS:**

"Don't pass on the right when someone is making a left hand turn, that's where the kids are."



(From MEGAN, Page 1)

from the bike. They were flown to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle after being ejected from the bike. Venglar, who was in the hospital for about four days, is recovering from his injuries at his home in Belfair, according to family members; the accident remains under investigation.

Blunk spent three weeks at Harborview before being transferred to Manorcare Nursing Home in Gig Harbor on Aug. 12. Her father, David Blunk, said she was initially paralyzed from the waist down but is now only paralyzed from the knees down.

Both of Blunk's parents take turns giving her massages every day, which helps to cut down on the pain in her feet and legs and decreases the amount of pain medication she requires. They credit part of her remarkable recovery to that of the "healing touch" and positive energy of massage therapy.

David Blunk said, "Megan is such a strong-willed girl, who is loved by so many people, and at this time she is anticipating a full recovery." Megan has a reputation as someone who never gives up, he said.

David Blunk is a Licensed Massage Practitioner (LMP) and the owner of the Massage Studio located at the Inn at Gig Harbor. According to those who know him, he is well respected in the community for providing massage therapy to those suffering from cancer, sometimes for no charge, and has been in business since 1993. Blunk opened up his current business at the Inn at Gig Harbor in 1997, and the facility is donating the inside and outside space for the event.

Xochi Madera, the event's coordinator, said, "We pray that Megan will be able to attend (the event) and knowing her fighting spirit, she will. The band will play a special song for Megan and cheer for her. I know how touched she will be when



Photos by Karina Whitmarsh

Initially paralyzed from waist down, Megan has kept in good spirits.

she sees and feels the outpouring of love and support from her community."

Madera and her husband, Frank, are co-hosting the event, which will include live music by Roger Enders & The Road to Ruin and by the band Ken Rosholt & The Acoustics. Event activities include a raffle, chair massages, a prize wheel and a classic car and motorcycle/bicycle show.

Food will be available for purchase at The Inn at Gig Harbor and a portion of the proceeds from food sales will go toward the fundraiser.

Madera is a longtime friend who herself recovered from a life-threatening motorcycle accident in 1995 before being diagnosed with cancer four years later. She said, "For many years David has worked on cancer patients for free, including me... since 1999. He also makes house calls to people that are too ill to come in and see him. As for Megan, she's a warm,

caring and compassionate young lady...who doesn't disrespect people. She's just an awesome person to know."

Blunk is renowned for her athletic prowess and was involved in soccer, baseball, basketball, track, volleyball, and also participated in powder puff football. Her father said, "The family joke is that whenever we talked about Megan and sports, it was better to mention the sports that she didn't do in order to explain the ones she was involved in."

Prior to the accident, Blunk ran every morning to get in shape for soccer with her dog, Keelia. This past school year she attended Tacoma Community College as a Running Start student and was working toward her associate degree while completing the credits necessary to get her high school diploma. Her goal after receiving her degree was to enter a school of nursing.

## Fundraiser event

**Date:** Sept. 14

**Location:** The Inn at Gig Harbor, 3211 56th St. NW, Gig Harbor  
\$5 suggested donation at the door; all proceeds go to cover medical expenses

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Silent auction bids:** 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; live auction at 3 p.m.

**Some auction items:** Seahawks tickets with 12th man flag, two-night stay in Hawaii, rare rock 'n roll memorabilia, artwork, big new gas BBQ

More information & to donate auction items, Contact Xochi Madera at (253) 377-1642 or email [xochi@centurytel.net](mailto:xochi@centurytel.net).

Money donations can be made at any branch of Columbia Bank or Key Bank.

"That is still my goal," said a spunky and upbeat Blunk during a telephone interview.

"It is crazy how many people have been showing up, calling up and how they have been so supportive," she said, adding that her boyfriend, Garrett Boone, has been especially encouraging. "He pushed me (in the wheelchair) to the Jamba Juice the other day, and I got a Strawberry Wild and he added protein to it."

On the day of the accident, she and six other friends were on their way to Mason Lake to go wakeboarding. Megan's friends were all behind the motorcycle and witnessed the crash as it took place. She credits her friends with saving her life by putting her on her back, as she could not breathe.

She remembers asking them to do it. She said, "Chelsie (Chulich) and Jake (Wizz) saved my life. It took them a while to find me, as I was thrown 30 feet through the air and landed down the hill without my helmet."

Blunk suffered a broken lower right arm and hand. Surgeons had to place rods in her arm. She also broke four ribs, and one of her lungs collapsed. In addition, she broke her back and left shoulder. Surgeons placed rods in her arm and one in her back.

She said about her paralysis, "The doctors don't predict anything... but I definitely know I'm going to walk again and I think I am going to recover twice as fast as they think I am. I can feel my shins again and name each toe now as it is touched."

Blunk confirmed her plans to attend the Sept. 14 event. "I am looking forward to attending the fundraising and seeing all my family and friends," she said.

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Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

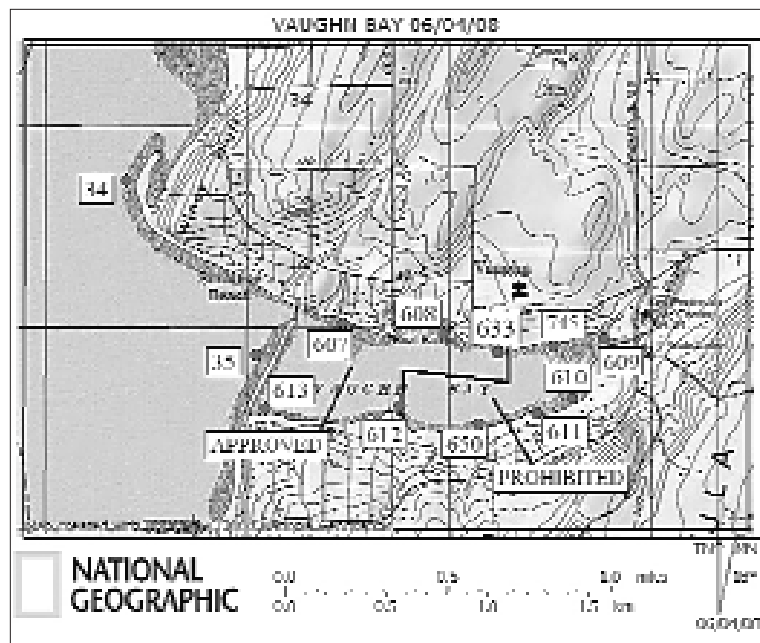
A view of Vaughn Bay, which has been reopened to commercial shellfishing.

(From **BAY**, Page 1)

the Shellfish and Protection Office, said the Puyallup Tribe requested the evaluation of Vaughn Bay for commercial production of shellfish. "Previously, it was classified as prohibited, so we didn't even monitor it," he said. Based on the Puyallup Tribe's request, the state Department of Health began taking water samples and conducting a sanitary survey.

According to Cleland, one key to the success of the effort to reopen the bay to shellfishing was the willingness of the

residents surrounding the bay to have their septic systems tested with a more extensive dye. "In some areas, people won't let the health department near their septic systems, much less let them put in a dye tablet," Cleland said. "We had a very high percentage [around 75 percent] of folks who cooperated, thanks to public meetings that were held to inform the public what was up. It was those kinds of efforts that lead to improved water quality there." Cleland also explained that failing septic systems that previously impacted the bay have



This map shows the portions of the bay that were reopened.

Courtesy WSHD

been repaired or replaced over time, which is primarily what has helped clean up the bay.

Cleland stressed the importance of ongoing field work to ensure water quality. "In all of our shellfish growing areas, we continually monitor water quality," he said. "Our crews are continuously trying to identify potential new sources not originally recognized. We keep an eye on shorelines that might

indicate future problems, such as forested hillsides being prepared for development."

The eastern portion of Vaughn Bay will remain closed to shellfish harvesting until contamination sources can be identified and corrected. According to Cleland, that portion is impacted by a couple of creeks that come into the bay and have higher counts due to wildlife in the watershed.

## The shortage of affordable housing is a growing problem in our community . . .

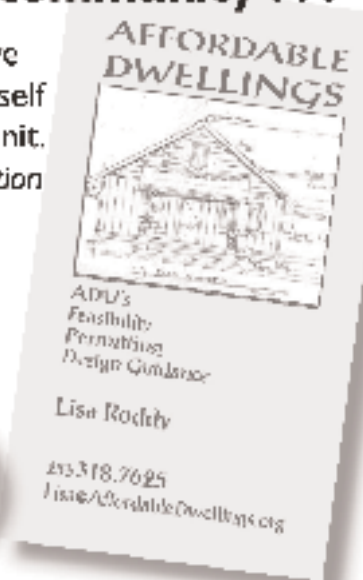
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# Key Pen couple's foundation gives travelers opportunities to make a difference

Belize, a small Central American country on the Caribbean coast just below the Yucatan Peninsula, is a popular destination for scuba diving and fishing. Dennis Taylor and Marilyn Perks, Key Peninsula residents, went to enjoy the beach, view manatees and other wildlife, but also to make a difference.

When the husband and wife decided to visit Belize, they wanted it to be more than a trip to the beach. Inspired by two books, Greg Mortenson's "Three Cups of Tea" and John Wood's "Leaving Microsoft to Change the World," they were looking for ways to connect with local communities. With the help of friends and family, they collected eye glasses and delivered them to a local Lions Club.

Seeking a more "local" experience, they stayed at the Mayan Center in the Stann Creek (Dangringa) area for three days.

During that time they learned the political representative who made it possible for the children to attend school was now out of power and some families would not be able to afford the \$200 a year fee. On a visit to the school, they discovered there were no computers, Internet connections, or a working telephone. The desks and supplies were inadequate.

A visit to the Maya Center Women's Group also found many ideas, but they lacked the basic supplies — sewing machines, fabrics for projects and school uniforms, patterns and notions. A need for adult education and sewing lessons was identified.

One day, Taylor decided to take a walk

## If you'd like to help

Those interested in helping may send donations to Compassionate Travel Foundation, 3808 103rd St Ct KPN Gig Harbor, WA 98329. Contact information: info@compassionatetravelfoundation.org, 884-5241 or visit the group's website, www.compassionatetravelfoundation.org.

on a long dock that went far into the Caribbean Sea at Gales Point. He noticed a man following on a bicycle but he turned his back and continued walking. A bit later he paused and looked back, and saw the rider continuing toward him. Taylor continued on to the end of the dock. When he reached the end, he noticed the man, now on foot, was walking toward him. The young man waved at the vast blue setting and stated, "Isn't this beautiful?" Taylor agreed and soon they were joined by Perks.

The stranger, Rodwell, who is one of seven children, dreamed of becoming an engineer. He was unable to attend vocational school because he did not have the money for tuition, books and uniforms. Taylor and Perks understood his dream.

The conditions at the village school, the potential at the Maya Women's Group and Rodwell's dream were seen by Perks and Taylor as potential projects. The decision to start the Compassionate Travel Foundation, as a way to achieve success, was made by the time they returned home.

The mission of the Compassionate



Courtesy Dennis Taylor

Marilyn Perks, left with a local family during a trip to Belize.

Travel Foundation is to improve the lives of women and children around the world by inspiring travelers to be of service wherever they visit. Perks and Taylor believe "in the wisdom of ordinary people to identify the resources they need to meet their own definitions of success." One or more of the necessary resources may be out of reach. From casual or preplanned encounters, the compassionate traveler can build relationships, ask questions respectfully, listen openly and return home to network and connect the formerly unreachable resources to the person or group in need, they believe.

The Compassionate Travel Foundation looks to identify needs and help by connecting individuals or groups to help meet those needs. At this time the first delivery of books by the Suitcase Brigade is on the way to Belize.

Current projects in Belize include bringing the school on line. South Kitsap High School is refurbishing computers

and will deliver them in March '09. The class will also provide support on use and maintenance. A satellite dish is needed to provide Internet connection. Computer desks, chairs, reading books, learning games, math and science tools are also needed for the Maya Centre Village Primary School. Other CTF partners are the Dangriga Rotary and New World Villages.

The women at Maya Centre Women's Group have many ideas for group making projects. They need working sewing machines, fabrics and related supplies. CTF is looking for two reconditioned all-metal sewing machines, donations for fabrics, patterns and notions, and used summer clothing.

The third project is the Rodwell Vocational School Scholarship Fund. Three years' tuition school supplies and school clothes will cost \$2,100 and to date \$500 has been donated.



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# Key Pen writer publishes first book

By Colleen Slater

Donna Smeall, a Key Pen writer, has just received the first copies of her new book, "Com PEN di um: A simple collection of many thoughts."

Smeall likens this poetry collection that highlights key events and rites of passage in her life to a brief autobiography. Descriptions in free verse share some of her moods, losses, disappointments, and successes.

She recalls humorous family incidents, such as when her grandfather ate cat food instead of his usual cereal, and Smeall fed several baby lambs before heading to school.

Born in Connecticut, she lived in Maryland, Montana, Florida, and Alabama before making Washington her home in 2001. The Key Peninsula is her real home, she says.

Smeall, born with birth defects, was an only child, and spent much of her life trying to be "normal." She accomplished much during the process.

Her mother, grandmother, some relatives and several friends have helped her achieve her goals.

Words were important to her, from before the time she could speak, she says.

"My mother and grandmother read to me," says Smeall, who is a staff writer for KP News. "Books were my people."

She began pre-school at 4 and loved it. Learning has been a lifelong passion for her.

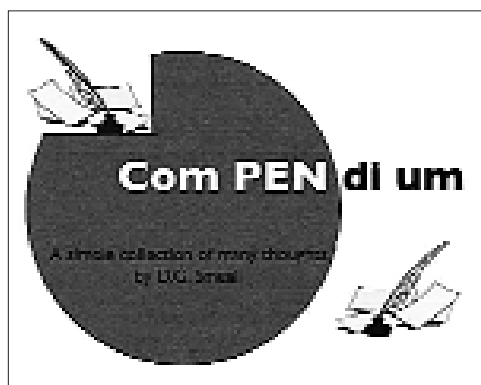
Smeall's heroines include Helen Keller, "role model for overcoming adversity," and Louisa May Alcott "for reaching for the stars as a writer."

"The power of the word is what makes anything possible," Smeall says. "Simply know how to express your idea or concept in words and you create something new and wonderful."

Smeall's had to cope with macular degeneration, depression, fibromyalgia, and deafness. She experienced being ignored and shunned, but has gained great insight into children and adults with disabilities, and developed new friendships.

She says she is "fortunate to be partially blind, totally deaf," and a productive citizen of the community she lives in.

Smeall became a class leader in high



school in Hagerstown, Maryland, where she says she singlehandedly brought the class paper back into existence.

She earned two associate of arts degrees in communications; and later added a bachelor of arts degree in English, with emphasis on writing, from Pacific Lutheran University.

Smeall edited a friend's fantasy book, and asked herself, after putting in all that time and effort, "Why not my own?" She is co-author of a children's book she plans to have published next year.

Smeall's book includes sketches and photographs, including her own drawings, and some by her son and mother-in-law.

She embraces life with humor and determination. One of her favorite quotes by William Arthur Ward, represents what Smeall has done with her own life: "If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it."

"Com PEN di um" is published by PublishAmerica.com and is available online as well as Barnes & Noble bookstores.



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# Out & About

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



*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

Key Pen resident Vic Renz shows off his hot '32 Ford at the Cruz classic car show in Port Orchard in August.



*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Palmer Lake residents and members of the Palmer Lake Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Team Miriam Goad, Rick Lingle, Dee Starr and Betty Corey with Debbie Bailey, PCNET program educator, in the middle, are pleased with the large attendance at the community's "Night Out" against crime.



Above, Legislative District 26 candidates answer questions at the Key Peninsula Business Association lunch meeting, Aug. 15. Left to right, Larry Seaquist (D-Gig Harbor), Kim Abel (D-Port Orchard), Jan Angel (R-Port Orchard) and Marlyn Jensen (R-Gig Harbor). *Photo by Danna Webster*



Left, At a joyous reception at the Gig Harbor Yacht Club, Peninsula High School teacher and drama coach Jonathan Bill, who is a member of the Key Peninsula Community Council, shares a toast with his new bride, photographer Leona Lisa. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Below, The Longbranch Community Church's annual salmon bake at the Longbranch Improvement Club the last Saturday in July drew large crowds. This year for the first time the LIC grounds held an eclectic gathering of booths offering services, advice, and encouragement. Inside, a parade of talented musicians and performers kept the crowd foot-tappin' and hummin' along. Here, Longbranch resident Edie Morgan shares a bit of humor with a hungry customer. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*





# Beyond the Borders is fun, musical, rhythmic, entertaining

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Thanks largely to the persistence of those who attended last year's outstanding performance of Beyond the Borders, its organizer, Mark Runions, again put together a splendid assembly of top musical groups for last month's audiences, many of whom were repeats from last year. All ages and persuasions were there and had a ball.

As with last year, it was a joint endeavor of the Longbranch Improvement Club and the Two Waters Arts Alliance. Performances by the Mooncoyne provided traditional Irish music. Leif Totusek and Lora Chiora's Zimbabwean rhythms, song, and dance lured scores of attendees to dance on the grass led by Chiora.

Ancient Sounds' exquisite renditions of tunes from Native American to Brazilian to African kept an audience swaying.



Leif Totusek and Lora Chiora mesmerize their sun-bathed audience with songs and dances from Zimbabwe and induce a large number of them to participate in Zimbabwean dance led by Chiora.

Photo by  
Hugh McMillan

Returned by popular demand from its 2007 performance at Beyond the Borders, the group Abrace, which means "Embrace" in Portuguese and Spanish, lured its large audience into swaying with its rhythms for an hour of inspiring vocal and instrumental performances.

At breaks between these outdoor presentations, inside the Longbranch

Improvement Club, the Percussion Intermission group led by Dale Loy poured out a smooth demanding beat that had the floor bouncing with appreciative rhythm lovers.

Two Waters Arts Alliance sponsored displays of judged art from water colors and acrylics to oils, charcoal and pencil portraiture, and photography. All entries were open to "People's Choice"

voting and, as with last year's competition, Key Peninsula's Beverly Pedersen walked off with the honor.

A fenced-off beer garden made it possible for adults to enjoy a cool one to accompany whatever food they gathered from the repeat delicious offerings of Ali'I and Sumo's Hawaiian Grill.

Many said, "We can't wait until next year."

# Old Timers' Day another success story

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The annual Key Peninsula Old Timers' Day and Old Time Logging Show competitions sponsored by the KP Community Services/Food Bank played out to an overflow crowd under a blazing hot sun. Some folk sheltered themselves in the Longbranch Improvement Club's cavernous coolness, listening to the choral productions of the Key Singers, the melodies of the Down Home Band led by Dr. William Roes, or wandering among the several vendors of a plethora of offerings.

At their outdoor covered booth, a crew of KPCS chefs offered onion-smothered hamburgers and other tasty foods and soft drinks. A blow-up bouncing cage delighted an in-and-out pouring of squealing kids and a petting



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Samuel Swinger, 8, teams up with "Chip" Chandler in a two-man buck saw race. See more photos at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com).

zoo brought forth all sorts of coos and ooh's and ah's as kids stroked kitties, bunnies, goats and other cuddly, furry beasts.

But the real biggie, as always, was the

logging show where good natured, easy-on-the outside, tough as nails on the inside professional loggers happily but seriously vied with one another slicing "cookies" off logs held in place by a crew of their fellow competitors with two man and/or woman or boy cross cut saws against the clock. And as the "cookies" fell, ear drums were all but emasculated by the shriek of a steam powered donkey engine's piercing whistle.

Several tall "trees" (telephone-pole-like logs stuck in holes in the ground) were severed from their bases by chain saw wielding, dead-eye loggers aiming them at distant stakes in the ground with the object of slamming the stakes into the sod.

"Choker-setting," where loggers, one at a time with a steel cable, tight-rope walk the length of a skinny cantilevered

bobbing pole to wrap it around and lock it on the swaying wood without falling off to the delight and guffaws of their detractors.

The "vertical block chop" trial consists of two 12- to 14-inch diameter, roughly 30-inch long, bark free log sections mounted upright with heavy duty bolts to two separate stands. At the start signal, two muscular loggers swinging razor-sharp, broad-blade axes at their individual blocks send dinner plate chunks of wood whistling into space as they race to be first.

All this and more ended with drawings for raffle prizes of substantial value like, among other things, yards and yards of crushed rock delivered to your driveway, and firewood that should keep a winter warm.

As always, the one bad thing about the celebration is ... it ends.

# LIC hosts a fiber arts show for the Farm Tour

By Carolyn Wiley  
Special to KPNews

A new event has been added to the Key Peninsula HarvestFest Farm Tour this year. The Longbranch Improvement Club is hosting a free fiber arts show, Fiber Arts — Every Fiber of Our Being. Exhibits include selected items from Key Peninsula Historical Society fiber collection, an outdoor display of antique farm equipment provided by Fred Leenstra, a presentation of fiber arts resources from the Key Center Library collection, children's activities that include several elementary school knitters, demonstration of latch hook technique by Emily Ehrhardt, age 7, knot tying, and fabric stamping.

Through the ages, the human drive to embellish even the most utilitarian items has resulted in a myriad of skills involved in the creation of fibers and fabrics. The goal of the day is to show the gamut of fiber arts — fine arts to utilitarian, traditional to modern, self-expression to commercial. Participants will be on hand to demonstrate and explain processes. Some will have equipment, materials, and/or original items for sale. There will be demonstrations of hand- and machine-embroidery, quilting, weaving, knitting, appliqué, and cross-stitch. Individual fiber artists will share their knowledge. Some of the participating artists are Jan Buday (Kumihimo), Arlene Eagan (knitted silver jewelry), Lynn Hollowell (costumes from concept to tutu) Sarah Hoenig (needle tatting / 4-H), Dale Loy (basketry),

For information or to participate in the fiber arts show contact Carolyn Wiley, LIC events chair, 884-9157 or 884-6022.

Margo Macdonald (tapestry weaving), Reni Moriarity (crewel and crochet) and Peg Robertson (weaving and natural dyes).

The main attraction will be Earl Sorrels' collection of antique spinning wheels. The spinning wheels are documented, restored and in working order. Since Sorrels wants them to be used, invitations have been extended to area guilds to locate spinners. Individual spinners wishing to participate in the "spin-in" are welcome.

Fiber-related businesses are represented by Lois Henderson (Allyn Knit Shop & Spinning Supply); Peggy Viney of Krazy Kat Fiberhaus (needle work and lace-making supplies); Donna Daily, totes; Robin Gould, specialized boat and canvas work; Jo Hamilton, pattern to product yacht fittings; Elsa Leyden, Longbranch Fiber Farm, wet and needle felting; Maureen Pfaff, Minter Creek Quilt Studio; and Janice Bryant, Coopworth fleeces and rovings.

Have you ever wondered about the process from sheep to shawl? How felting is done, a tutu is made, a loom is warped or quilt quilted? You can find the answers at the Every Fiber of Our Being fiber arts show a special event of the Key Peninsula Farm Tour, Oct. 4.

*Carolyn Wiley is the LIC events chair.*

# Civic Center hosts tennis court open house

By Colleen Slater, KP News

An open house to say thank you to all supporters and contributors to the refurbishing of the tennis courts at the Key Peninsula Civic Center will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Rick Johnson, tennis pro, instructor and coach, will offer a variety of activities for youth and adults, including a fast-serve contest, hit against the ball machine, and mini matches for adults and youth. Prizes will be awarded for the competitions.

Hot dogs and beverages will be provided.

"Please come and help us celebrate and thank all of our generous donors,"

says Phil Bauer, member of the tennis court committee.

"I don't even play tennis," he says, and that's also true of committee members Loyd Miller and Ben Thompson. Chair Rufus Clark and member Herb Marra, both of whom put in many hours on this project, are the real tennis players, Bauer says.

Donors include the Key Peninsula Metro Parks, United States Tennis Association, and many individuals who donated money, time, and effort.

One bench has been donated, and the civic center would like to add three more, so donations toward the purchase of those are encouraged.

Call 884-3456 for more information.

## BRIEFS

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### Mushroom Identification Workshop

Three dates offered for September mushroom identification workshop at Penrose Point State Park: Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21, and Saturday Sept. 27. All workshops are from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The workshops will teach

characteristics of mushrooms helpful for identification. Some local mushrooms will be displayed and participants are welcome to bring mushrooms.

The workshop may include a short walk if conditions are good for mushrooms.

The first 15 people who call to register will be taken (group size limited to 15 people). There is no charge. The group will meet at the bulletin board in the big parking lot. To register call 884-2514 and ask for Dan Christian.

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# Minter Creek Basketry creates works of art

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

A Key Peninsula basket artist's work can be seen on display far beyond the area. Her baskets are works of art.

It all started in 1990 when Elaine Lefler, then in her 29th year with Pierce County government, "in a job (she) really enjoyed," was making plans to retire the next year. She and a friend became partners in what she described as "a very small business which we promptly named 'Minter Creek Basketry.'" This came about because they lived next door to each other on "a lovely body of water on Puget Sound named Minter Creek." Lefler's background was in photography, graphics, and printing. She said she loved working with colors, textures, and design. "Of course," she said, "I'd always had a love of baskets; but wondered, could I make them?"

She was not sure her baskets would appeal to others. She rented a small space in a local artists' cooperative and found that people did, indeed, like her



Elaine Lefler of Minter Creek Basketry using her hot glue gun on a basket in the making.

work. She proceeded to art gallery representation and juried shows and now shows her work in galleries in several states and a number of art festivals each year.

Her work includes selection of fabrics, working closely with potters who produce unusual pieces she uses as focal

points in baskets, and the selection of yarns, shells, deer horn, and driftwood polished with wax. Each piece is an original and she wants the world to know that "each step of the process, from selection of the fabric to the final touches of adornment, is done with careful thought and much enjoyment.

During a visit to her studio, Lefler explained how, first of all, she purchases approximately 25 to 30 yards of upholstery fabric per month. "I find this fabric to have the most interesting colors, textures and to be the most durable for long time wear with ease of use," she says. She demonstrated how the fabric is cut into 1½-inch upholstery strips, approximately 1-2 yards long and wound by hand around a fiber cording. A large basket can have as many as 250-300 strips of coiled fabric. Bud Lefler, her husband, does most of the winding and coiling for her, ending up with a large pile like a garden hose.



Photos by Hugh McMillan

Elaine Lefler of Minter Creek Basketry shows off coils of fabric formed by her husband, Bud, to be used in the creation of her artistic baskets.

Having already decided on the best shape for the fabric, she starts forming a basket in the center of the bottom, "as most basket makers do," she says. She builds the base and then the sides, one row at a time. The baskets are put together with high-temperature glue to make them strong and hold their shape. Some baskets are beaded, others have tassels and loop handles. "It just depends on the particular style of that basket," she explains.

When the basket is complete, with lid, polished wood, and perhaps shells, depending on color, design, and other considerations, she blends multiple strands of yarn and decorates the basket," she says, "It can take 10-12 hours from start to finish to build and complete a large basket."

Lefler's work is shown locally at Preuit Estate Furnishings in downtown Gig Harbor. She also shows at Raven Blues in Poulsbo, The Scott Collection in LaConner, and Marjuli's at Ocean Shores. She ships to galleries along the Oregon coast, and some in New Mexico. She will participate in "Artists in Action" for the sixth year at the Puyallup Fair in September and, locally, will show her work at Winterfest at Peninsula High School in November.

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(From TOUR, Page 1)

“HarvestFEST on the Key Peninsula would not be possible without Claude, Danna, and the rest of the board,” Hendrick says. Their tireless efforts to get things organized on the KP puts them far ahead of the rest of the county, she says. Hendrick, KP Farmers Market manager, is the coordinator for this year’s Pierce County HarvestFEST.

The tour begins at 10 a.m., and the sites are open until 4 p.m., when the action moves to the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.

Farms on the tour include Boll Heritage Farm, Fairview Farm, Morgan Creek Farm, Gentle Giant Meadows Ranch, Kaukiki Farm, Ludwig Family Farm, Trillium Creek Winery, and Creviston Valley Farm. At this latter farm, many activities are scheduled, such as live music, many KP farmers’ market vendors, the Sherman Family petting zoo, and various demonstrations. Squashes, pumpkins, and corn will be available, plus a snack stand.

Businesses participating include the following restaurants serving local foods for hungry tour-goers: Homeport offers a country breakfast; O’Callahan’s Pub and Grill serves three choices of oysters or a



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Brianna Palmer and “Arrow” at Wong Farms during last year’s HarvestFEST farm tour.

combo plate; The Beach Hut’s burgers include oyster, cod, and salmon; On The Way Deli dishes up pumpkin soup, pumpkin ice cream, and pumpkin spice bars.

Realtors Liz Gefre and Cinda Baldwin are making up gift baskets and raffle tickets will be available at any of the tour

## Tour details

- **Boll Heritage Farm:** Lori and Rob Boll raise chickens, flowers and vegetables.
- **Fairview Farm:** Ron and Coni Chaney grow lavender, and have a gift shop full of lavender products, such as lotions, jellies, and colorful homespun yarns. They also raise some livestock.
- **Gentle Giant Meadows Ranch:** Gregory and Maureen Sikora raise Black Angus, sheep, goats, and turkeys, and will take orders for beef and lamb. They sell fresh eggs, and may have winter apples and the last of their pears available. A bagpiper and a bluegrass band will provide music, a ferrier will do demos, and local artists creating masterpieces.
- **Kaukiki Farm:** Warwick and Janice Bryant raise purebred Oxford Down sheep.
- **Ludwig Family Farm:** Chanetta, “The Bee Lady,” and Peter Ludwig have honey and assorted products made with beeswax and honey. They will demonstrate the irrigation system used in their greenhouse.
- **Trillium Creek Winery:** Claude and Claudia Gahard, offer wine and cheese tasting, and tours of their vineyard and wine cellar.
- **Creviston Valley Farm:** LaLaine and Greg Wong host the Farm Event Center, where many activities take place.
- **Morgan Creek Farm:** Donna and Steve White offer flowers and vegetables from their gardens.

More information is available online at [www.HarvestFEST2008.org](http://www.HarvestFEST2008.org) or by email: [hhendrick@wsu.edu](mailto:hhendrick@wsu.edu).

stops.

New events this year include an Open Studio at Beverly Petersen’s Art Barn, with various artisans showcased; plus tours of the food bank at the Key Peninsula Community Services; a farm life exhibit at the Key Peninsula

Historical Society museum (open until 6 p.m.); and a Fiber Arts Show at the Longbranch Improvement Club (see related story page 34).

To top off the day, doors open to the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 5 p.m., with Dr. Roes’ Down Home Band serenading on the front porch. The Cornucopia Dinner and Dance begins at 6 p.m., with tickets available at the door, \$35 per person (must be 21). Dinner is served from 6 to 8 p.m. The dinner menu, featuring fresh farm foods from the Key Peninsula and created by chefs Oliver Coldeen and Ty Shaver, includes a kabob entrée, pasta with pesto, a fall salad, a complimentary glass of Trillium Creek wine, and a dessert auction. Coffee, tea and water will be served, with a cash bar for wine, beer, spirits, and soda.

Little Bill and the Blue Notes take the stage for world class blues and dance tunes, playing from 7:30 to 8 for dinner, and 8 to 10:30 for dancing.

“A raffle of wondrous prizes will be part of the festivities,” says Edie Morgan, director of the Mustard Seed Project who is helping organize the event.

Tickets can be purchased in advance from any of the participating organizations, at Sunnycrest Nursery, or by calling 884-1205.

The KP Civic Center, the farm tour board and the Mustard Seed Project will have displays on exhibit in the Whitmore room. Proceeds from the dinner/dance will benefit all three organizations.

“This is a casual dress dance,” says Morgan. “We want the community to come and ‘Have a Ball!’ after the KP Farm Tour.”

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# OBITUARIES

## Elizabeth Lucille (Smith) Gilbertson

Elizabeth (Betty) Gilbertson died on Sunday, July 20. She lived at Lake Holiday for over 36 years, in Pierce County for over 45 years, and was 88 years of age.



GILBERTSON

She was born Sept. 20, 1919 in Shelton to William H. Smith and Mary Ann (Olson) Smith, attended Lincoln Elementary and Junior High School in Shelton, and graduated from high school from Providence Academy in Vancouver in 1937. After attending Acme Beauty School in Longview, she opened Betty's Beauty Parlor in Shelton.

In 1941, she married Sylvan James Gilbertson. Elizabeth was a devoted mother of six children. She always worked hard taking care of her family, whom she always put first. She loved to have family visit and welcomed everyone. She loved her grandchildren and great grandchildren and recently became a great-great grandmother. Other activities she enjoyed included bingo, card games and visits to the casino. The details of her life don't begin to describe the impact she had on the lives she touched. She will be greatly missed, but always remembered.

Surviving children are: Susan C. Morris (Joe) of Mukilteo; Penny E. Hunt (fiancé Fred Decker) of Tacoma; James P. Gilbertson of Shelton; Robert L. Gilbertson of Federal Way; and Celiene A. Isackson of Gig Harbor. Also

eight grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, one great-great grandson, and numerous nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were her first child, Valerie, and her husband, James.

Graveside services were held at Vaughn Bay Cemetery on July 25. Please make a memorial donation in her name to Franciscan Foundation Franciscan Hospice, P.O. Box 1502, Tacoma, WA 98401.

## Harry William Nimrick, Jr.

Harry William Nimrick Jr., beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, died on July 21. He was born in Tacoma on July 26, 1936. He attended Tacoma schools and graduated from Lincoln High, class of 1955. He worked for the Coca Cola Co. for a number of years before venturing into the bulldozing business with his son, Randy, and finished his career working with his wife in their small furnishings store in Key Center.

Nimrick will be greatly missed by Barbara, his wife of 52 years; his children, Randy (Geraldine) and Julie (Nick); seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many friends.

A memorial service to celebrate his life was held at Haven of Rest in Gig Harbor on July 29.

## Stanley Scott Paul

Stanley Scott Paul was born on McNeil Island on Jan. 27, 1916, to John W. and Hazel K. Paul. He died on July 27.

He was inducted into the Army Feb. 19, 1942, trained for the Medical Corp at Fort Lewis, and in May headed for Australia. He was a member of the 105th General Hospital. In November of 1942, he was put with the 5th Portable Hospital and flew over the

Owen-Stanley Range into New Guinea, where they set up right at the front lines to take care of the casualties. They left New Guinea in March 1943. While in New Guinea, he was attached to the 32nd Division. Paul had contracted Malaria in New Guinea and was put on rotation to come back to the States in August 1943. While on furlough, he met Audrey J. Whitfield, who survives him, and on Jan. 16, 1945, they were married at the Vaughn Congregational Church. He was honorably discharged from the Army Oct. 10, 1945. He was a charter member of the V.F.W. 4990.

Paul was a lifetime church member. He started his church membership at the Vaughn Congregational Church. He later transferred his membership to the Rosedale Union Church, where he was a member for 14 years and served 12 years as an elder and a Sunday School teacher. In the summer of 1975, he joined the Burley Bible Church, which he attended for 23 years. He was a deacon for 18 years, and worked in the Awana Club program for 12 years. He has a surviving sister, Dixie Bell of Port Orchard.

Paul was buried in the Vaughn Bay Cemetery in a private service. His memorial service was conducted at Burley Bible Church, Aug. 1.

## Riley Peter Arnold

Riley Peter Arnold was born June 4, 1993, and died Aug. 16, 2008. He was killed by an SUV while crossing a street in Tampa, Fla.

He is the son of Weldon Erik Arnold and Ericka Arnold-Ehrhardt, and brother of Lauren Michelle. He is survived by many family and friends who loved him.



ARNOLD

Riley Peter was a friend to all who needed one. There was always a hug, a smile and teasing to follow. Even though he had his struggles in life, he knew that he was God's child and that everyone is imperfect. Riley Peter reflected on that before he left for his last walk on the evening of his death.

A memorial service was held on Aug. 28 at the Longbranch Improvement Club. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Riley Peter Arnold Memorial Fund at any Key Bank, or to the Red Barn Youth fund at any Sound Credit Union.



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★ Represent additional event locations. See event detail below left.

### EVENTS ~ For dinner & dance ticket information, call 253-884-3456

- ★ **"Every Fiber of Our Being."** Fiber Art Show at the Longbranch Improvement Club: spinners, weavers, quilters, knitters and many other needle talents, demonstrations, and exhibits of sewing craft.
- ★ **"Farmallia History on the Key Peninsula"** at the Key Peninsula Museum: presenting farm implements and kitchen appliances.
- ★ **Artisan Showcases and Simple Savory Soup** at the Key Peninsula Community Service and Food Bank: savory soup and bread lunch prepared in the Food Bank kitchen and the crafts of local artisans on display.
- ★ **Open Artists' Studio** at The Art Farm in Key Center: art show display featuring Key Peninsula fine artists. How to draw a chicken lesson.
- ★ **Concepts Dinner and Dance** at the Key Peninsula Civic Center: Social hour opens at 5 p.m. with a front porch serenade by Dr. Ross' Down Home Band and open house at the Key Peninsula Museum. Dinner featuring local fresh Key Peninsula farm foods start at 6 p.m. with the music of Little Bill and the Blue Notes beginning at 7:30 p.m. and continuing for dancing until 10:30 p.m. This is a fundraising benefit for the Civic Center, Farm Tour Board and the Mustard Seed Project.



### In appreciation to our HARVEST FEST Sponsors

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