



Student-athlete chosen to go to Holland, page 15

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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Photo by Rodika Tollefson

The Whitmore Room of the Civic Center is packed for the geoduck aquaculture forum.

Geoduck forum draws large crowd

By Danna Webster, KP News

On the evening of April 5, the Whitmore Room of the Civic Center was filled to standing room only. The sign-in sheet registered over 100 signatures, which did not include all the presenters and volunteer names.

A five-member panel examined and explained the significant factors of the geoduck dilemma, and after presentations the public asked questions and

offered some comments. From the state Department of Health, Greg Combs introduced the process used to classify and monitor tidelands for commercial geoduck cultivation.

“Water quality monitoring is how it all starts,” Combs said and added that the coliform standards from the federal government are stringent and require testing of 10 to 30 samples per station.

(See FORUM, Page 36)

Commissioners conflict escalates into arrest

Fire district considers move to five commissioners; recall threatened

By Rodika Tollefson and Danna Webster, KP News

The April 24 meeting of the Fire District 16 Board of Commissioners came to an abrupt end when, during a break, Commissioners Al Yanity and Jim Bosch got into a physical altercation. Around a dozen witnesses, including

two reporters, a former fire chief, a former fire commissioner, the fire district attorney and firefighters watched the scene unravel, as district personnel tried to break up the two men. At one point, Bosch, apparently pinned into a corner by Yanity, requested for 911 to be called,

(See FIRE, Page 33)

Celebrating a double decade of determination

How one family puts limitation in its place

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Josh Loux was 10 years old last September. Not too many years ago, that decade might have been an entire lifetime: Josh is one of 30,000 young Americans living with Cystic Fibrosis, a life-threatening genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. On April 20, his family held a second celebration of his life to raise awareness for another milestone: the 10-year anniversary of the Gig Harbor “Great Strides”

(See FAMILY, Page 41)



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Ten-year-old Josh Loux plays his guitar at the celebration of life held in his honor in April.

The KP metro park district eyes levy

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Editor's note: This is the first article in a series examining the growing pains of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District. As the parks district starts its comprehensive planning process and discusses a proposed levy, the Key Peninsula News will take a look at various issues the district is trying to solve.

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District commissioners have mentioned the need for more funding over the past year, and now those talks appear to move into high gear. Commissioners are discussing the possibility of a levy starting in 2008, with a decision to be made by this summer on what action to take.

By law, the KPMPD has the capability to levy up to 75 cents per \$1,000 in assessed property values without a vote of the public. However, because of a limit to the total amount that all taxing districts can impose, KPMPD, as a junior taxing district, currently would only be able to collect up to 57 cents per \$1,000. If the commissioners decide to take the question to the public on whether they should levy a tax, the vote would be advisory — they could still impose the levy even if the majority votes against it.

Based on discussions at the last park board meeting, the biggest question for commissioners is not whether they would pursue a levy, but whether they should go to the public first. A motion to approve a 35-cent assessment without a public vote was made at the April 9 KPMPD board meeting but postponed until July after further discussion. Commissioner Kip Clinton was the only one who was vocally against a levy without an election.

"I am adamantly opposed to an imposition," she said at the meeting. "I think

if we do this (without public vote), we'll shoot ourselves in the foot so bad... we'll lose the public trust."

Clinton is the only commissioner who was on the committee that advocated the creation of the metro parks district in 2004. Part of the campaign literature at the time said the creation of the district would not bring new taxes to the community because it would be funded by a portion of sales tax dedicated to zoo/trek funding, a tax that was already being collected locally but funneled into the general Pierce County parks account and used anywhere the county felt necessary.

Although the document filed as part of the creation efforts implied the new district would operate on zoo/trek sales tax in lieu of levies, the actual ballot measure approved by voters said, in part, "If approved, Proposition 1 will create a new metropolitan park district with the statutory power, among others, to levy annually a general tax on all property in the district not to exceed 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation."

To Greg Anglemeyer, the newest board commissioner appointed in February, that ballot measure explained to voters taxes may be a future possibility. "When people voted, they said, 'OK, we're going to trust you guys,'" he said at the board meeting. "The voters already voted to authorize that funding. I don't see any moral responsibility or value in asking the voters for something they already voted."

Anglemeyer feels the current board cannot be bound by the promises made when the district was created, especially since those promises were made by a creation committee and not elected KPMPD commissioners. "This sounds a lot like Congress saying nothing will ever happen, and when it changes from

Democrats to Republicans, things change," he said.

Some of the commissioners feel the recent survey conducted by the parks district showed sufficient public support to impose a levy. Of the 105 local respondents who filled out the survey (which had a total of 119 responses), only 12 percent said they wouldn't support a levy, while 69 percent said they supported minimal tax or a combination of tax and user fees.

The majority of the respondents also stated they didn't want commissioners to make major decisions without asking for public opinion: Only 16 percent marked the statement that read, "The elected commissioners should make all the decisions regarding parks without polling the voters for their opinion. That is why they were elected." Some of the commissioners argue that the public said it's OK to impose the levy because the majority showed support for taxes on this survey.

Clinton, unconvinced, said, "I think you'll totally destroy the park district if you impose it." To which Commissioner Elmer Anderson, also a relative newcomer to the board, replied, "There is no park district if you don't do it."

The park district's 2007 budget shows an estimated revenue of nearly \$160,000, with \$124,600 estimated from zoo/trek funding. The biggest expenses are wages and taxes/benefits, which account for a total of nearly \$85,000, or roughly half the budget. Executive Director Scott Gallacher told the KP News that Volunteer Park alone could use a \$250,000 operating budget for deferred maintenance, improvements and repairs.

Gallacher, who was hired after the creation of the KPMPD, told commissioners at the meeting: "We can put

band-aids on Volunteer Park for a long time... I was hired to help the park district expand... If the park district doesn't expand, next March I'll be looking for a new job because you can use (my salary) to put into Volunteer Park instead."

Starting in May, the commissioners will hold public meetings to start discussing a comprehensive plan for the district, a move they believe will help plan the future as well as show the public why the money is needed. In the meantime, they plan to collect data to see how much tax they should propose.

Ben Thompson, who chaired the metro creation committee and was among the people who promised it would not bring new taxes, said in an interview: "I think it would be the absolutely wrong thing to do it without the vote of the people even if they're entitled to it... You can't have a levy if you can't get out there and convince the public why you need the money."

Next installment: A look at the district's current financial picture and assets.

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Livable Community Fair returns

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Civic Center doors open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, for the Livable Community Fair. According to Safe Streets Community Mobilizer Mike Babauta, who is in charge of bookings and applications, "a lot of the same folks will be back: Pierce County agencies, the herpetological society; nonprofits, clubs, the sheriff and fire departments, and the rescue boat."

Babauta is looking forward to Marty Marcus' reptile exhibit. "He's (Marcus) back again. He's been a big hit," Babauta says.

The herpetological wonders of Reptile Round-Up are familiar to many of the kids on the Key Peninsula. These reptiles and amphibians have traveled to local schools, camps and fairs, thanks to KP residents Marty Marcus and Ann Waldo. Snakes, lizards and a desert tortoise will be at the fair among other attractions.

Both the grounds and the hall of the Civic Center will have exhibits to enjoy. Inside, the hall will be filled with booths that introduce agencies and services available on the KP. Entertainers will



Critters from the Reptile Round-Up were popular with kids at last year's Livable Community Fair.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

perform on stage, and food will be on sale from the Civic Center kitchen. Outside, the Lakebay Fuchsia Society will sponsor its annual flower and garden sale; the Key Peninsula Museum will be open to tour; and, as always, the Civic Center's Puget Sound compatible garden will be open for a stroll.

The fair, organized by the Civic Center and Safe Streets, is on Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Civic Center in Vaughn. For booth applications contact Mike Babauta at Safe Streets at 884-7899. For other information contact the Civic Center at 884-3456.

'Either/or' keeps Lee in public arena

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Terry Lee is in his second and final term as councilman for District 7, which includes Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor, and he "still has a willingness to continue to serve the people." His decision to run for the upcoming county executive election is, as he says, a "free ride, with nothing to lose and everything to gain." If he is successful, he says he intends to be as accessible to the people of the entire county as he has been to his district constituents, making every effort to return calls, emails, and correspondence. Should his bid not result in the executive position, he will remain on the council until the expiration of his term in 2010.



LEE

Lee has heard no rumblings among

his colleagues about who may be interested in the remaining years of his term, should he leave the council in favor of the executive's position. Any successor will be Republican, as is Lee, and would be most likely chosen by the sitting council from among three nominees next January. Then, in November 2008, if that person decides to remain in office, he or she would have to run for the seat in an open election, along with other candidates.

Asked how his possible resignation from the council may impact the Key Peninsula, which has enjoyed the benefit of his attention, Lee said he sees representation of this peninsula region as "a labor of love." Although election would bring him a wider audience, and greater countywide challenges, he said his intention would be to remain "as responsive and engaged with citizens of the KP as I am now."

So far, Lee is facing fellow county Councilman Calvin Goings, a Puyallup Democrat, in the race.



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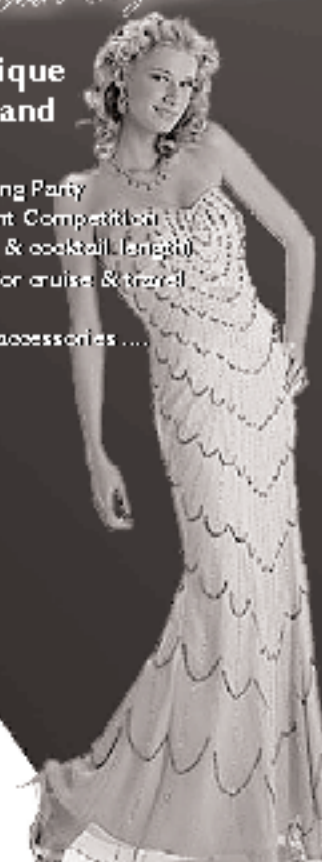
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EDITORIAL

Commissioner fight a black eye for community

On April 24, about a dozen people — including the Key Peninsula News editor, a reporter from the Peninsula Gateway and the Fire District 16 attorney — watched in disbelief a violent fight between Commissioners Al Yanity and Jim Bosch. Observers at the scene commented they were not surprised at all and that sooner or later, it was bound to happen, considering the heated arguments that have accompanied almost every commissioner meeting for the past year.

Yanity claimed he was merely defending his wife, who has been attending all the commissioner meetings — as has Bosch's wife. The arguments have long ago gone beyond the husbands. As recently as the April 24 meeting, Mrs. Yanity yelled at Bosch to "back off" while Bosch demanded she be ruled out of order. At other meetings, the two spouses have been overheard making sharp remarks at each other, or at the opposing husbands, while the board was in session.

Audience members have made equally negative remarks during the public comment period. Interestingly enough, a decision was made not long ago to no longer record the specific comments in the meeting minutes. The minutes themselves have become a show worthy of a soap opera: The board frequently spends a good portion of the meeting with the two commissioners arguing over the minutes, using name calling and various accusations.

Up to this point, the fire department has mostly been the talk of other departments and the local community. But in April, the Key Peninsula became the top story of the evening news. One television reporter deftly commented that local residents are wondering whether the commissioners are better at starting fires than putting them out. The Seattle Times quoted a local resident describing the mess as "a zoo."

What an incredibly embarrassing spectacle for our community. As if we're not stereotyped enough already, this doesn't do much to improve the reputation.

Regardless of which commissioner is guilty and what disagreements have fueled the ongoing feuds, there is no question that the political battle in the fire district has gone far enough. It is time for the Key Peninsula voters to tell the fire commissioners what they really think.

Elder-friendly efforts under way

By Edie Morgan
Special to the KP News

May has been designated Older Americans Month. It's also the month of our Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair, which marks an anniversary for The Mustard Seed Project. A year ago, we initiated our Elder Needs Assessment of community members over the age of 50, eventually collecting 236 surveys. We then identified the top 10 priorities for "aging in place" and presented them at a community forum and in this newspaper. The priorities were consistent with emerging national trends. With that information, advised by a steering committee and our council of elders, we have formalized the work of The Mustard Seed Project and taken measurable steps forward.

Our mission states: "The work of The Mustard Seed Project is to build an elder-friendly Key Peninsula, by assuring that a full continuum of services and programs is available and affordable, which allows community members to 'age in place' with dignity, respect, self-determination and safety."

According to the 2000 census, nearly 1,600 residents age 65 and over make this isolated rural area their home. Some of our elders have lived in this community since birth, born into pioneer families. Some moved their young families here and have remained. Others retired on

the peninsula, drawn by the comfortable pace of life and great natural beauty. I've learned that many do not think of themselves as "elders," even some folks over the age of 80.

In my 25 years on the Key Peninsula, I have cherished the cast of characters who've called this place their home — individuals whose idiosyncrasies set them apart and made them shine in this special setting. During the years I spent as a social worker in long-term care in Tacoma, I also witnessed such wonderful individuals abruptly uprooted because of a broken hip or stroke. We have all known elderly friends and neighbors who moved away because they couldn't keep up their homes as their health and strength declined. Some of our elders have taken a fall in the course of daily life that has placed them in nursing homes in Gig Harbor or Tacoma. Others have declined in their cognitive abilities, no longer able to live alone safely.

For too long, we have witnessed this reluctant migration of our beloved elders to the city when their needs could not be met here. The Mustard Seed Project exists to serve these elders and their families, identifying and supporting services and resources available locally to allow "aging in place." We want to preserve the richness of our multigenerational community, to promote a culture that values older people and their life experiences, and supports their desire to live

out their lives in this unique and beautiful place.

We invite dialogue and involvement in the growth of an elder-friendly Key Peninsula through our four community task groups, which meet monthly: Senior Information and Referral; Transportation and Mobility Services for Elders; Elder Health and Wellness-Related Services, and Housing Options for Aging in Place. These groups work to identify existing services and resources, look for gaps in service and think collaboratively in creating new options for our elders.

Some of our goals that are already bearing fruit include a centralized local site for senior information and referral staffed by trained volunteers, an upcoming free, best-practice falls prevention program, the beginning conversation among local churches of a community volunteer network, preliminary exploration with the state's "Coming Home Project" of the potential for affordable assisted living and adult family homes in this community. Many partners have stepped forward to work toward these and other goals, and we are very grateful for everyone's participation and support.

Please come by our booth at the 2007 Livable Community Fair to learn more about the positive change that is occurring and how you can actively participate. We are building an elder-friendly Key Peninsula, and you are a part of it no matter what your age.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forum was helpful

I appreciate your coverage of local people, history and events. I always enjoy reading about the "pioneers." The article about addiction recovery was moving. This man and his family have gone through so much, and are still at risk. It is a life lesson for everyone.

I attended the geoduck forum. Thank you for reserving good seats for the locals, and for hosting this forum. As a waterfront property owner, I am very nervous about what commercialization of the shoreline will mean to my quality of life. It is helpful to get facts.

*Charlotte Smothers
Lakebay*

NASCAR money not worth it

In response to the NASCAR editorial in April, I have to say, that maybe isolation is what keeps Key Peninsula beautiful.

Without heavy traffic and high volume activities, Key Peninsula is able to stay clean and pristine in a world where litter and graffiti are abundant. Coming from the East Coast where a Six Flags opened just a mile north of my small town, I saw how quickly a once peaceful neighborhood became a traffic ridden, litter infested thruway.

Let us think about the high quality of life we share living in isolation, and ask ourselves, do we want to destroy that for a few NASCAR dollars?

*Amanda Murdock
Gig Harbor*

Senior community not well planned

Since the summer of 2003, Huckleberry Ridge has been a quiet, little, close-knit, cul-de-sac neighborhood on 138th KPN, consisting of 10 single-family homes on 40 total acres, each with acreage between 2.5 and 5 acres. There are 34 residents ranging in age from pre-school to retirees over 60. Most of the properties are 30 percent to 40 percent forest and natural vegetation.

All the residents moved into their homes for the rural setting. The property on the end of our street, closest to the Key Peninsula Highway, has been purchased and the developer, John Holmaas, has plans to build four triplexes that will house 12 families on

(See **LETTERS**, Page 5)



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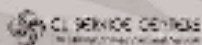
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(From **LETTERS**, Page 4)

five acres, adding from 24 to 48 people to the area. A large population on property of that size certainly does not fit in with the character of the Huckleberry Ridge neighborhood nor with the density of the designated rural setting.

The Huckleberry Ridge homeowners want to maintain the character and density of the neighborhood and the rural setting established by the county regulations — no more than two single-family homes built on 5 acres. We also are concerned about the wildlife buffers, for which we all share responsibility.

We read with great interest the article on page 13 in the April KP News. The idea for building senior housing is commendable, but it should be built so the seniors have the room of a rural area, not be squashed into a tiny circle without space for a garden, activities, or family visitors. It should be built where elders have easy access to public transportation and shopping, doctors, etc. The first senior housing on the peninsula should be a vanguard of success and this property will not allow that.

*Mike and Sweetpea Egge
Key Peninsula*

Forum presenters' facts are challenged

The Henderson Bay Shoreline Association would like to thank you for the geoduck forum you hosted. While it is always interesting to hear opposing views and participate in a healthy debate, the forum brought up some concerning attitudes about the role of state agencies.

The Department of Natural Resources was less than candid about: 1. 23 acres of state intertidal geoduck leases they say have not been signed — we have documents indicating they have been awarded to shellfish companies, planning to lease subtidal waters to the shellfish industry that even Taylor Shellfish confirmed, and impacts of leasing state

aquatic tidelands on recreational users and waterfront landowners.

The state Department of Health painted a picture that described less than an objective relationship with an industry that is to be monitored for the health of all citizens. I found it ironic that on one hand citizens were scolded repeatedly by the SDOH about the irresponsibility of septic owners to keep their systems in good working order, but Taylor Shellfish stated that the Key Peninsula was attractive because of the many places with sandy beaches and clean water. The SDOH allows the commercial shellfish growers to do some of their own water quality monitoring for bacteria. Budget constraints prevent the SDOH from testing for cadmium or parasites in shellfish as recommended by scientists.

State agencies need a reminder that a conflict of interest is against state law when they are spending taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.

*Laura Hendricks
Henderson Bay Shoreline Association*

Volunteers get kudos for cleanup

On the morning of Saturday, April 14, a group of volunteers from the Vaughn Community Church arrived at the Key Peninsula Civic Center with tools and a plan. They weeded, pruned, whacked, washed, raked and swept. Within three hours they had transformed a weedy and overgrown flower garden, tall grass, moss covered concrete, overgrown bushes and trees and grounds covered with litter and debris into a clean and sparkling area.

Before leaving, Dale Harrison, a church member, instructed me to order crushed gravel to cover the rear parking area and charge it to his business, Harrison Homes.

For myself, board members and all the users of the Civic Center, I wish to thank the Vaughn Community Church volunteers for the wonderful job they did!

*Lloyd Miller
KP Civic Center board member*

Call for columnists

The Key Peninsula News is looking for guest columnists to contribute bi-monthly columns a next year.

The columns may be entertaining, informative, humorous or serious and must pertain to topics relevant to Key Peninsula readers. Previous published work is not a requirement for this position, which is unpaid.

To be considered, submit the following: one-paragraph biography or background

summary, one-paragraph proposal outlining your column ideas and potential topics, and at least two proposed columns (500-600 words or less). Young writers are encouraged to apply.

Submissions must be electronic (on disk delivered to our office at the Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road in Vaughn, or emailed to news@keypennews.com). For questions call 884-4699.

The finalists will be selected by a panel. Deadline is May 15; with the first columns to be featured later this summer.

Planning commission to take action on community plan

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

It took a local group of citizens more than two years to put together a 20-year community plan for the Key Peninsula, but it will take the Pierce County Planning Commission only a month to take action on it and forward its recommendation to county council for final approval. With the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board's work concluding in April, the plan is on track to be adopted by this fall.

At the final meeting of the community board, Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee assured board members he will defend the plan on their behalf. "I intend to make sure the vision of this board is implemented," he said. "Key Peninsula is one of the most beautiful places and I'm pleased you rallied... to protect what you have out here."

The meetings over the last two years have run tense at times, with some issues bringing in large crowds. One of the hottest topics was geoduck aquaculture, which is a unique issue among other community plans in the county. But the concluding meeting carried a cordial atmosphere, with compliments going all around.

Several board members told the KP News they lured with the plan even though they "didn't get their way" all the time. "I was pleased because we were a diverse group and didn't come up with the same decisions. We learned to respect each other's decisions," said board member Claude Gahard.

Lori Deacon, another board member, felt some of the direction of the plan was predetermined by the county, especially when it came to environmental protections and property rights. "It was emotional. For the most part people out here are good stewards and to try to



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Planning board member Chuck West with Mike Galizio, county senior transportation planner, at the April KP Community Planning Board open house.

impose more rules and regulations was difficult," she said. "Change is inevitable — I think we created a good foundation... (The plan) did protect everybody who has a vested interest at this point, but will restrict excessive growth and protect the community character."

One of the aspects that make the plan unique is its focus on preserving the area, even while encouraging economic development. Tourism opportunities that take advantage of the area's natural features are especially promoted. One of the biggest differences between this plan and other community plans within the county, however, is the fact that most of proposed ideas are "encouraged" rather than required, which makes implementation at county level challenging.

"It is a reflection of the community, and the community has several camps," senior planner Mike Kruger, who coordinated the plan, said in an interview. "I think it's

Planning commission schedule for KP plan

The Pierce County Planning Commission will hold the following discussions and public hearings on the community plan elements:

May 9, land use

May 16, facilities and services, community character

May 23, natural environment and economic development

Testimony will be taken only on the element scheduled. The commission is expected to hold discussion and take action on May 30. All meetings are at 7 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church's McColley Hall, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Citizens unable to attend may submit their comments in writing; comments may also be delivered to the public hearing. For details regarding procedures, call county planning at 798-2785.

balanced... It definitely has the community's fingerprints all over it."

The plan's maximum development scenario shows that if all 7,000-plus vacant lots are developed, the population of the Key Peninsula will double. Some citizens have been concerned what such a scenario would mean for local traffic and water. Kruger said based on available studies, the Key Pen has enough well water to accommodate that population, because the local drinking water comes from aquifer recharge. "I'm not offering any guarantees obviously but the research that's been done shows there's enough water for 35,000 people," he said.

Both the planning commission and the county council will hold public hearings and can make their own changes to the plan, although Kruger doesn't think they

will make significant changes. Nonetheless, he encouraged board members and the public to follow the process and appear at the May hearings.

One of the residents who plan to go to the hearings is David Mikelsen, who had advocated for a moratorium on building permits until clearcutting, water and road issues are resolved. Mikelsen, whose grandfather owned Taylor Bay Estates and whose parents were the last owners of the Longbranch Mercantile before its recent sale, lives in Longbranch and has been a frequent participant in the planning board meetings. He said he's accepted the fact that the area will change and is "reasonably happy with the plan," praising the work done by Kruger and the board. Still, he feels the issues of transportation and quality of life remains, and plans to make his views known to the commission. To demonstrate his concerns, he held a one-man protest in April at the site of construction of a new church off Key Peninsula Highway (see related story on page 12).

Chuck West, one of the planning board members, said the plan is only the first step in planning the future. "I really look at this as the beginning of the process — this is just the paperwork," he said. "We still have to go into the community and make these things work."

The plan, once adopted, could still see changes. "It's a fluid thing, amendments are constant," said James DePew, a Gig Harbor resident who owns property on the Key Peninsula. DePew was on the Gig Harbor community planning board that updated Gig Harbor's comprehensive plan in 2000. "If you find something in the plan that's a mistake and unworkable, it can change," he said. "People don't have to fear they have to have it absolutely right."

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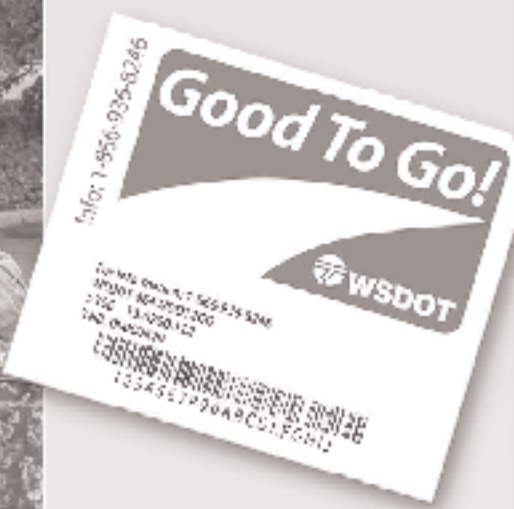
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Photos by Mindi LaRose

Above, the screen of a camera while it's being operated.

Left, Firefighter Todd Banscoyk demonstrates the thermal imaging camera.

FD-16 to add thermal cameras

Fire District 16 plans to purchase two new thermal heat cameras, which can detect heat signatures in dark or smoke-filled environments. The cameras were designed to see through smoke in a fire to identify victims, but local rescuers have found them useful in many other situations, including to search for people in wooded areas. "We've used them in motor vehicle accidents to locate people, and to scan heat signatures off the water on the shore," said Chief Tom Lique. " (In an accident), you can shine it at a car and count how many occupants are in the vehicle."

The district has previously purchased a camera in 2000, but plans to replace it as well as add a second one. The camera works as long as there is a difference in temperature, so it can identify anything else that has elevated temperatures, like hot spots. "It's a very useful tool and it's a matter of being creative in how we use them," Lique said.

BRIEF news

Efforts underway for a new safe house

Following the closure of the domestic violence shelter on the Key Peninsula, IMPact House is fundraising to open another facility. The safe house officially closed Jan. 31, leaving no other facilities in the Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor areas for domestic violence victims.

The facility was not staffed 24/7, and had no separate entrance to the house for visitors, which left residents vulnerable to potentially violent encounters. Partly because of this ease of access, the 78 women and children served in 2006 were not from the Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor communities. In that same year, 341 victims of domestic violence were

turned away for lack of resources.

Penny Gazabat, IMPact House executive director, said, "Everything we do is based on the safety of our victims." Advocacy by phone is still available, she added.

The Impact House board is holding its second annual fundraising luncheon on May 10 at noon at the Inn of Gig Harbor, in conjunction with the anniversary of the homicide/suicide Crystal Brame domestic violence tragedy. Keynote speaker Nancy Solomon will address "Turning what if....into what is." Reservations for the event can be made by calling 884-5086 or emailing impactkp@aol.com. The capital campaign to raise funds for another safe house is expected to take three years. When a new facility is opened, it will most likely be in Gig Harbor for a variety of reasons, among them constraints of the sheriff's office in responding to calls.

BRIEF

news

Commercial shellfish classifications complete

Greg Combs, public health adviser in the Office of Shellfish and Water Protection at the Washington State Department of Health confirmed in April the west side of the Key Peninsula has been classified "approved for commercial shellfish harvest." This process has been quietly undertaken over the last five years at the request of the shellfish industry, and is now complete (Vaughn Bay is lagging, but Combs expects to have the classification out soon). In all, 57 water test stations, from Rocky Point to Devil's Head, including four around Herron Island, have been established by DOH. Each of these sites will be randomly sampled by the agency six times annually for fecal coliform, according to Combs. Conditionally approved aquatic bodies, such as Burley Lagoon, are sampled monthly. Maps submitted by the DOH showing the 57 test station sites are available (see "Geoducks on the KP") at www.keypennews.com.

Flags to honor fallen soldiers in 'Aisle of Honor'

On Sunday, May 27, The Key Peninsula Veteran's Institute will again present a Memorial Day observance that will include a formal program and the brilliant display of large American flags, known as "The Aisle of Honor," at the Vaughn Cemetery. This year's display will include 256 flags, each representing a veteran of service to the country, and each veteran having some connection with the Key Peninsula.

While Memorial Day services have been held for many years at the Vaughn Cemetery, this year will mark the 14th presentation of "The Aisle of Honor," which began in 1993 with the first group of 50# large casket flags flying on the hillside.

The formal program, which will begin at 1 p.m., will include a U.S. Navy band, a color guard, a rifle team, a trumpeter, singers, a Salute to the Fallen, and a naming of the veterans whose flags are displayed in "The Aisle of Honor." At press time, the possibility of a flyover by aircraft from an active military base was being discussed.

This local observance of Memorial Day has become known as one of the



Honoring soldiers is an annual tradition at the Vaughn Cemetery.

Photo by
Hugh McMillan

finest and most significant events honoring American servicemen and women in Washington state, according to organizers. The ceremony is held rain or shy.

Coffee and refreshments will be served by members of the KPVI. A golf cart shuttle will be available to those needing assistance in walking from the top of the hill to the audience seating area. KPVI is composed of honorably discharged service men and women and

their families; new members are welcome. The group meets at the Key Peninsula Community Services and Food Bank in Home.

Directions to the cemetery: Drive to the main Key Center intersection and then turn west to the main Vaughn intersection, a distance of about a mile. Continue west and follow the "Aisle of Honor" signs to the Vaughn Cemetery, which is located on the hill to the driver's right.

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Few recovery resources assist KP residents

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

According to Wanda Rochelle, a prevention manager for the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Safe Streets Campaign headquartered in Tacoma, Washington has one of the highest rates of methamphetamine abuse in the nation, with more labs than Texas, New York, and Florida combined. This highly addictive drug has found its way into our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and our schools. The costs to the society are staggering. "If you are a taxpayer, you are affected by meth/drug addiction," she said.

DFC has just received a \$500,000 federal grant, payable in equal annual stipends over five years, to "reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, among adults by addressing the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse, and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse." The organization is implementing this goal through related efforts of the Pierce County Alliance coalition.

Obligated to choose substances to

Editor's note: This is the second part of a two-part article on methamphetamine addiction in our community.

focus on, Rochelle said meth, alcohol, and marijuana were selected as the substances with the greatest population need in the county. Initial funds of the DFC, she said, are being used in multiple-media outreach to "establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, private nonprofit agencies and federal, state, local and tribal governments to support the efforts of community coalitions to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth." Rochelle did not see distance or lack of public transportation as a potential roadblock for Key Peninsula residents who might benefit from planned outreach as a result of the funding.

In contrast, Randy Viers, Key Pen resident and program director for Olalla Recovery Centers, names transportation and stark lack of immediate support on the KP as crucial deficits in an addict's struggle to return to normalcy. Viers' facilities in Olalla and Gig Harbor receive

calls from people needing treatment, sometimes court-ordered alternatives to jail time — but the callers have no way to get to a facility or evening treatment.

He is critical of taking a short-sighted approach to this growing addiction and recovery challenge. "An attitude of 'treat 'em and street 'em' in recovery is really easy," he said. "An addict is left with just having to change everything in his/her life..."

When he was involved with addiction and, eventually, recovery, Viers still had a driver's license, car, home, family. He acknowledges that "some individuals have lost everything, and on the KP, those people don't have a 'clean and sober' safehouse to begin again." Viers has seen in his work with addicts how easy it is to slip back into the old habits again when alternatives are not available. The closest safehouses, where a person in recovery can reside for a week or a lifetime, are in Kitsap County or Pierce County east of the bridge.

The closest in-residence program to the KP is at the Olalla Recovery Centers. Part of that 21-day program involves three educational Saturday sessions for the

remaining family members. "Sometimes the family is sicker than the patient in recovery," Viers said. Other family members may still be involved in addiction, enabling or even unintentionally encouraging the behavior. He stresses it is vitally important to get the whole family into treatment, to share their stories. Realizing they are not alone breaks the isolation, diminishes the shame and alienation that addiction can create.

After discharge from a program, Viers said families return to a rural community of limited resources; it's almost setting them up for failure. They have a greater need than most for balance, getting to work, to 12-step meetings, being involved in their communities, following up with after-care, reconciling any remaining legal problems or obligations. On the KP, the only resources immediately available to substance-abusers and their families are one of a few 12-step meetings. Viers is committed to making needed transportation available through Olalla Recovery Centers, but he won't "chase them (addicts) down."

"Every one of us is responsible for our own recovery," he said.

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Key Peninsula resident leads tech trip to Uganda

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Key Peninsula Fire Department firefighter/EMT volunteer Chance Gower, a Wauna resident who teaches computer technology at South Kitsap High School, will be part of a group that will travel in June to Uganda to deliver computers for the country's education system.

Gower, together with SKHS staff members Sean and Cathy Duttry and a group of students, collected surplus computers from local businesses and organizations. The students, from South Kitsap, Forest Ridge and Mount Si high schools in Kitsap County, collected 400 computers, refurbished them, and designed a refurbishing center that will soon be established in Uganda's capital, Kampala to house the machines as well as serve as a teaching center.

Recently, John Nsambu, the youngest Ugandan minister of information and communication technology in the country's history, visited the area with fellow Ugandans, Sofia Nantongo, Mathias Muko, and Nicholas Nyombi. They toured the Puget Sound area, met with South Kitsap High students and teachers, and enjoyed local cuisine.

Nsambu has visited SKHS several times in the past. This is the fifth year of an ongoing mission by "Computers for Uganda" to refurbish, install, and train Ugandan students in the operation of computers. To date the program has given many hours of learning experience to Ugandan students and staff helping to speed the progress of technology in Ugandan schools.

Gower said, "The Honorable Nsambu's efforts in this program have helped to elevate Uganda's emerging technology market and shown a marked increase in the math and science scores of Ugandan



Photo by Hugh McMillan

John Nsambu, the youngest Ugandan Minister of Information and Communication Technology in the country's history, introduces his traveling companions to South Kitsap High School student volunteers who will be traveling June 8 to Uganda with their computer technology teacher, Chance Gower, seen in the background, and SKHS staff members Sean and Cathy Duttry (not in photo) to deliver 400 computers to Uganda's capitol city, Kampala, for the country's education system.

students, thereby demonstrating this to be a successful ongoing program ... Nsambu described how, as he travels throughout Uganda, he comes across children walking away from school. When he asks why, the reply invariably is, 'The teacher sent me home as I have no pencil.' This smallest of things can forfeit a child's education in Uganda. Pencils are almost unaffordable luxury. Pencil sharpeners are even less available and children have to use razor blades to sharpen pencils."

"Pencils, paper, and other essentials are rare sights in any of the schools of Kampala," Nsambu told the gathering of student volunteers assembled in the SKHS computer lab. "Local Rotary clubs are working together with our students in association with the Computers for Uganda and Computers for the World programs to help touch children's lives

with a reusable resource for years to come. With the original intent to spread technological skill among female students, the initiative grew into an international connection. Associated schools refurbish and install computers in the indigent schools in Uganda."

The program requires chosen Ugandan schools to have at least 50 percent female students and to continue to involve young women in technology. The program has worked with some 25 schools and 1,500 computers.

This June, SKHS' and Forest Ridge's 16 selected students will be led to Uganda by a small group of chaperones including Gower and Janet Graeber, former principal of Forest Ridge High School. The plan exceeds that of previous years. The main initiative is to establish the refurbishing center that will be used by in-country businesses to refurbish, recycle,

and repair computers, thus eliminating the step of refurbishing them before transport from the United States. It will also sustain computers and create more self-sufficiency in Uganda. The count of computers installed each year has been between 200 and 300; this year will be the largest with 400.

U.S. students and chaperones spend three weeks of summer in Uganda teaching and installing computers and sharing technological education with impoverished communities. Students who volunteer for the program are selected on the basis of desire to educate and to experience Uganda's culture. While there, they also meet the president and members of Uganda's parliament — and even experience a three-day Safari. Their mission is made a little easier because the national language in Uganda is English.

Anyone seeking information on the Computers for Uganda Program or wishing to donate regular lead pencils and handheld plastic pencil sharpeners to the children of Uganda may contact Gower at 360-874-5680.

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Key Pen artist to politicians: 'Step It Up'

Gig Harbor eco-event part of national campaign

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Robin Peterson doesn't see herself as an activist or even an organizer. The Key Peninsula artist says she's reticent to stick her neck out — but “the problem is, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem,” she says.

It took her a while to decide, but finally Peterson felt it was time to speak out. She wrote in an email to friends: “I am tired of the media telling me what I think. I'm also tired of the irresponsible way our government has (not) responded to the detrimental changes we are causing to our environment.” Peterson invited her friends to join her in an “unorganized paddle” in Gig Harbor on April 14, as part of a nationwide campaign called Step It Up that encouraged people to hold environmental awareness events around the country.

More than 30 people — many of them strangers — answered Peterson's call. Some brought their kayaks and boats for a paddle. Others brought family members, including youngsters, and carried banners

(created by Peninsula High School students) saying “Cut the carbon by 80 percent by 2050,” “Running out” and “Key Peninsula says Step It Up.”

Sue Richardson celebrated her 60th birthday at the rally. “We are doing it for our grandkids,” says Richardson, of Olalla, who came with husband John.

Retired Vaughn teacher Andrea Jewell and her husband, John, a retired principal, brought their kayak. “We feel that our pollution and global warming is an incredibly serious topic,” Andrea says. “We are seeing changes already. As teachers, we're aware how interconnected things are... Little changes in the environment make big differences. We think everybody needs to take it seriously and start doing something now.”

Myrna Binion, a Wauna artist and grandmother, says she is concerned about what will happen “in our grandchildren's life.” “I'm really fearful of what's happening and the political climate for the past six years has been a disaster,” she says.

The idea behind Step It Up, which was held at about 1,400 sites across the country, is to get the attention of political leaders in Congress and urge them to cut carbon by 80 percent by year 2050.

“I figured it was time to do something or shut up,” Peterson says. “My intention is to say, ‘Look, I'm ready to stand up.’”

Peterson believes everyone can do little things like recycling and conserving water to help the environment. She says she doesn't want to be responsible for leaving the kind of legacy that future generations will be paying for. “It's time they (the government) start listening to the people,” she says. “If it takes groups of 40 at a time (to attract their attention), so be it — it will just take a little longer. I still believe in the system.”

To put her idea of “something is better than nothing” to use, Peterson asked participants to sign in with the number of miles they've driven so she can buy carbon credits “for the carbon spewed by our cars to get here.” She had enough mileage to “buy” about one ton of carbon emissions.

Peterson wrote in a thank-you email to supporters after the event: “Steppin It Up really floated our boats today... This was the kind of day that reinforced exactly why we want Congress to pay attention to what we are saying. We know we live in a wonderful place and it's up to us to pass along the same opportunity to future generations.”



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Key Peninsula artist Robin Peterson is the organizer of what she called an “unorganized paddle” in Gig Harbor as part of the national Step It Up campaign on April 14. For more photos from the event, visit www.keypennews.com.



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*Unanswered questions are not as dangerous as unquestioned answers. (author unknown.)

Construction draws concerns, protester

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The clearing of a parcel off Key Peninsula Highway across from the Shell gas station was visible in April from the highway, causing some local residents to question the ongoing development that they feel compromises the highway view corridors. A couple of neighbors contacted the Key Peninsula News to voice concerns about what they believed to be clearcutting of the property. Longbranch resident David Mikelsen held a one-person protest, wearing a surgical mask and holding a sign saying, "No more clear cuts."

"I've been going to (Key Peninsula Community) Planning Board meetings for two years and people have gone through great effort to protect the buffer zone," Mikelsen said. "My real concern is the continued clearcutting and the impact it will have on our aquifer." (See related story on page 6.) Mikelsen also questioned why the debris was being burned instead of being hauled to a disposal facility.

The parcel is the future home of Community Bible Fellowship, the largest church on the Key Peninsula based on its



Photo by Vic Renz

David Mikelsen held his lone protest several times at the construction site for the Community Bible Fellowship church.

congregation. The 14-year-old church started out in the home of pastor Tim Cedarland, and is currently meeting at the Key Peninsula Middle School.

Cedarland said the property had been logged 15 years ago and had mostly brush

and scotchbroom left. A local sawmill operator not affiliated with the church and familiar with property confirmed the information to the KP News, as did the county planning staff. The church has been undergoing the permitting process for more than three years, and applied for a variance for the required 50-foot buffer. A hearing examiner approved a reduced 25-foot, "filtered screen" buffer (a low-vegetation buffer that allows partial view of the site).

"There isn't a requirement that they have to leave the trees under the landscape code they fell under at the time of application," county planner Rob Wenman said. The landscaping plan, which includes replanting to create the buffer, was approved. The plantings will have to be in place before occupancy permits are issued.

"Everything has been done according to county specs," Cedarland said.

Construction for the 15,000-square-foot facility, which will include a sanctuary and a fellowship hall, is expected to last a year. Cedarland said the project is not affiliated with Gig Harbor based Cedarland NW, which is owned by his family members.

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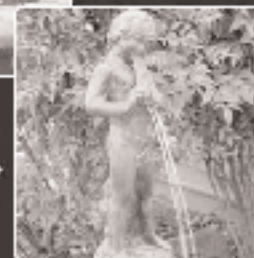
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Youth center to start construction

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Tacoma band "Jamison" provides entertainment at a youth rally held at the Red Barn in Key Center in April.

A new youth center called the Red Barn, located in Key Center, is scheduled to open doors this fall. Organizers of the project hope to see the center remodeling complete in time for the next school year.

The youth center will be located just off the Key Peninsula Highway in Key Center in the building known to many as the "the red barn," hence the name. The three-part building used to house a manufacturing facility for disposable cameras; one wing has been occupied by Communities in Schools of Peninsula for the past few years.

Following an extensive process with Pierce County, the group spearheading the project anticipates to receive permits within the next two months, and hopes to start construction immediately after.

The group, which operates under the auspices of Vaughn Community Church but is an independent entity, has been working on the project for more than two years. The youth center will be open to the community regardless of religious affiliation, and the main focus will be to provide

young people a place to hang out after school.

Pete Hedin, the chair of the Red Barn committee, said the center will cater to high school-age youth. A coffee lounge and a gymnasium with a basketball court will be the primary features. Some of the details are still being discussed, including making the center available to other groups for activities. The Boys and Girls Club, which is looking for a facility on the

Key Peninsula, has named the Red Barn one of its locations of interest.

Hedin said ideas are still being considered, and now that permits are closer to being obtained, more decisions will be made. "We'll start exploring the options now," he said.

Construction is expected to cost \$60,000, and much of the labor will be volunteer-based. The two buildings the center will occupy under a long-term lease

will be gutted and undergo extensive interior work.

The Red Barn committee had previously raised funds from individuals and organizations, but Hedin said all the money was spent on the permitting process due to the many requirements placed by the county.

"We have jumped through all the hurdles... and the county is smiling on us now," he said. The committee plans to ramp up fundraising efforts to pay for construction and hopes to receive support from businesses and community members. Car washes, garage sales and other efforts may be planned.

The Red Barn youth center will be staffed by volunteers, and Hedin said the hours of operation are still being determined. The goal is to keep the center open after school, with some planned weekend activities such as concerts. In April, the committee organized a youth rally with food and bands "as a heads up" that things are moving along and show the kinds of events that will be staged both indoors and outside.

"It will be a safe place where (youth) can come and visit," Hedin said.

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Peninsula High School special education teacher Wendy Christiensen with some of the students whose performance helped her gain the prestigious You Make a Difference Award of the Washington PAVE organization for her "involvement and support in the lives of people with disabilities." She is the teacher of Key Peninsula student James Washington and helped to make his fundraiser for the Community Inclusions Program on March 30 very successful (for a story about the project, visit www.keypennews.com).

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Fourth graders Melissa Wright, Stevie Elston, and Myriah Ann Monzon are smiling after enjoying the annual Waffles for WASL feast at Vaughn Elementary School. The traditional breakfast, served with the help of parents, kicks off the Washington Assessment of Student Learning testing. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



L-R, Peninsula High School students Jeff Skaggs, George Lamphere and Bryan Humlie demonstrate to school staff the robots they built. The Peninsula High School robotics team traveled to California at the end of April to participate in a regional "BotBall" competition, an internationally recognized event in which students were given just seven weeks to design, build and test a robot to perform complex goals without the use of remote controls. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



L-R, Arbor Day Celebration special award winner Kim Westenhiser, teacher Jeff Stafki, and first- place winner of the fourth/fifth grade poster contest Mercedes McFarlane, 11, all from Minter Creek Elementary School. Kim's picture was selected for the cover of the Arbor Day poetry and essay booklet. The seventh annual Arbor Day Celebration was held April 28 at the Gig Harbor Civic Center. *Photo courtesy GH/KP Arbor Day Foundation* Right, Peninsula High School sophomores Dan Wickens, Jami Kovatch, and Alex Walker are spray-painting the words Pay it Forward at what every PHS student knows to be "The Rock." The words are an encouragement for everyone to attend senior student James Washington's senior project fundraiser for the Community Inclusions Program. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



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Sam Shake is packing for Holland

By Danna Webster, KP News

Sam Shake is a Key Peninsula Middle School student in seventh grade. This summer, he will serve as a sports ambassador representing the USA in Holland.

"It is going to be a great trip because this kind of thing is just a once in a lifetime chance. All the experience is so great — I'm going to a country across the world; plus, I can compete in my favorite sport over there. It is just amazing," he says.

Shake is a wrestler. This is his fourth year to participate in the sport, two at KPMS and two with Peninsula Youth Wrestling (PYW).

Mark Helwig coached Sam in sixth and seventh grades at KPMS. Helwig wrote a letter of recommendation to People to People, sponsors of the ambassador program. He is familiar with the program professionally and personally. His daughter, Taylor, went to Australia two years ago. He says People to People is a good social program because it provides a growing-up experience. It is usually the first time away from home and family,



Photo by Danna Webster

KPMS seventh grader, Sam Shake will serve as a People to People sports ambassador in Holland.

and allows students to meet new people, learn to manage funds and operate in a foreign environment.

"They are really looking for kids with pretty good grades, involved in athletics, and coachable," Helwig says. The trip is

not cheap — Helwig's family opted to cover the \$5,000 costs for Taylor's trip to Australia by using money budgeted for their family vacation. Usually, fundraising is one more requirement for students in the program.

Sam's mother, Stacy Shake, says fundraising is the hardest part. "We are, of course, trying to raise funds, so Sam is looking for some opportunities for work. We also have a donated basket that will be raffled off that we are selling tickets for," she said via email.

The basket is a donation from the Bee Hive antique shop in Gig Harbor. Raffle tickets are available at the Bee Hive; tickets and the basket will be on display at Key Fitness in Key Center from May 7 to 11 and at the Livable Community Fair on May 12. The winning ticket will be drawn at the fair. A Friday night fundraising skate party is planned for June 29 at the Civic Center.

Sam has posters up advertising work for hire: yard work, cleanup, weeding, storm cleanup, digging, burning. He has already gotten jobs. His mother thinks all the effort is worth it. She sees

The People to People program was founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. The sports ambassador portion of the program began in 2000 with the mission of "peace through understanding, using the camaraderie of sport to gain maturity and a greater connection to the people and cultures of the world," according to the program's Website, www.sportsambassadors.org.

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this as a good experience. "Sam is a good age. He will come back with new maturity. Independence is expected of them," she says.

The young man leaves for Holland July 20. He is already thinking about what he must do to get ready and what he wants to pack to take with him. The wrestling rules he has learned over the past four years are not the rules that will be used in the games in Holland. "I'll be wrestling in a different kind of style — free style. I have to learn rules for that to go over there," he explains. As far as what he wants to pack to take, he says, "Maybe something to trade. So we can remember and they can remember."

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School district committee ends facilities discussion

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

The Long Range Facility Task Force, formed last September by the directors for the Peninsula School District, concluded its work in April. The task force consisted of 42 citizens from all walks of life appointed by the school board. They met twice monthly to discuss and determine school facility needs through the year 2030.

Professional school planning experts Reed Hansen and Ned Hammond were contracted to assist the task force. Hansen's area of expertise is population and growth. Hammond's specialty is facilities and use.

The group recommended that the board adopt a "moderate growth scenario," using a 1.8 percent annual growth rate. That scenario would result in having 1,350 more elementary students on the Key Peninsula in 20 years than the existing schools could handle. The overages for middle school and high school would be 790 and 890, respectively.

The group determined that existing schools now run at or near capacity, with most schools boosting capacity by using some temporary structures (portable classrooms). The task force concluded that the equivalent of one new high school, one new middle school, and at least one new elementary school would need to be constructed on the Key Peninsula to accommodate the growth. No specific recommendations about new schools and their locations were made.

The task force recognized the Purdy Spit is a "choke point" that seriously interferes with student transport over the bridge, with congestion worsening in years to come. According to Assistant Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto, "Currently half of the high school students at PHS, and nearly half of the middle school students at Harbor Ridge must travel across the spit from Key Peninsula to get to school." A new "bus barn" to be located on the KP was discussed to further solve this problem.

At the March 13 meeting, Hansen

revised the growth numbers downward, stating, "Recently released information now projects a flat (no growth) period continuing for years before a slight upcurve in student population." His new projections were for student overages of only 378 (elementary), 165 (middle school), and 133 (high school) for the Key Peninsula for the year 2030, drastically reducing the need for new facilities.

Task force member Chuck West, a KP resident, said, "Even Mr. Hansen's bigger numbers are too low. The KP is growing much faster than that. Anybody can see that by just looking around. He should not have used the same growth rates for both the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas. Gig Harbor is getting built out with a lot of housing for older folk without kids. The KP has a high percentage of working class with more school age kids."

"Reed Hansen was using two sets of numbers," commented Cuzzetto, "one for a 'moderate growth rate,' and another set for a 'minimum growth rate'; this covers both scenarios that he thought most likely to occur."

Geoffrey Baillie, the school board representative for the Key Peninsula and currently board president, stated, "The board voted to adopt the 'moderate growth scenario.' The final report for the task force will be presented to us by

the end of this month (April), and available for others to review before the end of May. The board will start considering options for new schools later this year and, hopefully, finalize a long-term capital facilities plan."

The next phase of facility planning will be the formation of a follow-up group that will study specific facility needs and action for the next five to seven years. No date has been announced.

"The next census is only three years away (2010)", West said. "That should prove conclusively what the true population and needs actually are."

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Olivia Konicek: Outstanding all around

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Longbranch resident Olivia Konicek has been named a 2007 Student of Distinction. And well she should be.

From her performance as a third grader in Evergreen Elementary, where she excelled at virtually any project in which she was involved, through her outstanding performance as a student at Key Peninsula Middle School, and now approaching graduation with honors from Peninsula High School, she has been not only a student of distinction, but an athlete of distinction and a student leader of distinction.

At KPMS, where for all three years she maintained a 4.0 GPA, she took woodshop as a seventh grader. As a class project, she built an Adirondack chair admired by her peers and teachers. Ever generous, when someone asked if she would make one for them, she turned out another excellent chair. When her alma mater Evergreen's PTSA held a fund-raising auction, she contributed a double Adirondack that brought in almost \$400.

As requests for the chairs began to multiply, in order to gain access to a more extensive variety of woods and to achieve discount prices on them, she became a licensed business owner—at age 14.

Not only did Konicek continue to excel academically and maintain her 4.0 average at KPMS, she was a sought-after athlete and was voted team captain on the basketball team in ninth grade. When an injury took her out of basketball, she joined the PHS swim team and was on the varsity squad for three years; she also played water polo for two years.

Over the years, she capitalized on the good fortune of traveling to Europe, Alaska, and South America with her

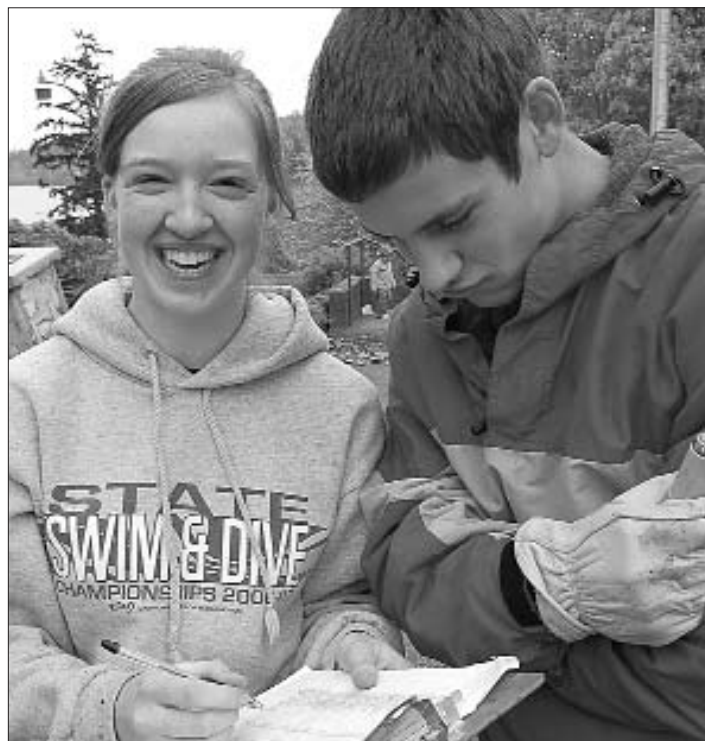
Editor's note: In June, many outstanding Key Peninsula residents will graduate from Peninsula High School and move on to college. We congratulate these young men and women on their achievements. Olivia Konicek is one of many students who deserve recognition, and embodies the best of her generation.

grandfather and with environmentally responsible groups to absorb knowledge of various countries and cultures, and to study and work with those who, among other things, worked with hands-on concerned peers and mentors in saving sea turtles from predators and poachers. Konicek was always comfortable in whatever surroundings she found herself, enjoyed experiencing and learning from different cultures, sometimes rather primitive living conditions, and the cuisines of any nation.

She has helped set up the annual Zoo Lights program at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. She is a generous giver who inspires others to follow her lead. She organized a schoolwide service project supportive of the Holiday Helper Program of the Children's Home Society. Konicek rallied 325 students in 13 classes.

"Together, we sponsored 53 kids for the holiday season, each with an individualized gift/wish and two clothing items," she said. "Our PHS students donated over \$2,000 worth of gifts, thus providing for 17 percent of the total number of children sponsored."

Konicek's list of community involvement is extensive. Among other things, she was a YMCA Camp Seymour cabin leader intern for summer of 2006 and



Olivia Konicek, PHS' National Honor Society president, checks in junior Spencer Baebler and other student volunteers for Campus Clean-Up. Olivia spearheaded the partnership of National Honor Society with the Campus Clean-Up Committee, and over 30 NHS student volunteers helped with the cleanup.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

volunteered at camp a leader, teacher and staff assistant; was cabin leader of 12 girls for Evergreen's fifth-grade camp in the spring of 2006, and tutored second grade students in reading at Evergreen Elementary once a week through Communities In Schools-Peninsula. She was a nominee for the Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year award in 2004.

On meeting a Hungarian exchange student at PHS, she befriended her and on many days drove her to meet and visit with a large number of Konicek's friends and to become acquainted with our part of the world.

She served as President of PHS National Honor Society's 125 members last year, was CEO of a "business" with a team of 16 juniors during Washington

Business Week, and won numerous athletic awards including the Seamount League Junior of the Year award, Most Inspirational, Most Improved, Rookie of the Year, and Senior of the Year for her PHS swimming and water polo career.

Despite all this, she is utterly lacking in conceit, always considerate of others, quietly, modestly self-assured, goal-oriented, confident, helpful and, although she could likely attend any university anywhere, probably with a substantial scholarship, she has elected to attend Western Washington University where she has been accepted in the school's Honor Program.

"It's a good school offering just what I want," she said. What a credit to the community to have such an outstanding young citizen.

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Round-up time for 2007 senior projects

By Danna Webster, KP News

High noon, on May 31, is showdown time for Peninsula High School seniors. They will present their senior projects to panels of judges consisting of school staff and community members.

Barbara Trotter, president of Key Peninsula Community Council who will serve on a panel this year, was a member of the PSD school board when the idea was proposed in the mid-'90s. She was one of the first senior project judges. "The requirements changed and improved over the years," she said, recalling a couple of unforgettable projects. One led to a student dropping a lifelong career plan of becoming a paramedic after working with real paramedics for her project; another student developed a sign language class for her project. That student is at an Oregon college majoring in education with the intent to teach sign language.

Key Pen residents Elliott Gurr, Skye Gebhardt and Tom Smeall are among the seniors who will go before a panel of judges on May 31. The senior project counts as 25 percent of the grade for their civics class. They must have their presentation ready, an eight-page paper written and a three-ring notebook portfolio ready by May 16. "No late work accepted," state the guidelines more than once. The guidelines also tell students the project must reflect a stretch, something that goes beyond what they have done before.

Gebhardt is taking pictures of people, places and sites of the Key Peninsula. She is comparing old and new. "I'm doing a project that I love doing," she says, explaining that her family moved from Federal Way and she loves Key Pen because it is not too big and not too small. "I love how everybody here is connected," she says.

She says the project may sound easy, taking pictures and making a book of them, but there are plenty of obstacles to overcome. Scheduling appointments is one, and converting her Apple computer program into one compatible with the equipment at Office Depot is another. In the draft of her project paper, she wrote: "Although it may say Longbranch on my mailing address, I consider the whole Key Peninsula to be my community. It's a delightful little place where you wave to passing cars and are able to have whole

“

"It's too hard to change the teenager — so I'm trying to change the children."

— Tom Smeall

”

conversations with strangers about the weather. The Key Peninsula is a kind of place where you can go into town, run into a few friends, chat with an old acquaintance but then come home to your own private piece of land — where it is quiet and peaceful. The Key Peninsula is truly a wonderful place to live for anyone coming from the city."

Gurr decided to do a food drive. Some friends were doing things like a blood drive and an internship at St. Joseph's Medical Center. His experience as a volunteer at the food bank at Key Peninsula Community Services helped his decision. When he succeeded in getting family friend Al Hove to be his mentor, he was on the road to success. Hove has experience in fundraising and, according to Elliott's mother, Elaine Gurr, he encouraged Elliott to spice up his food-drive campaign and keep people from falling asleep. Rather than asking major grocery stores to donate food, Gurr told them he wanted to stop hunger on the Key Peninsula. On his advertising poster, he painted a green pickle driving a yellow sport cars and labeled it "Food Drive."

Gurr said he tried a food drive at school that didn't work out well. Things weren't looking much better after his first 45 minutes at Albertsons. He only had two items. But then, the food donations started to pour in.

"It was pretty amazing," he said. He filled up the back of his family car with 734 pounds of food and drove it to the food bank in Home. "It felt pretty good to give back to the community," Gurr said. He said about the senior projects program: "It's definitely a good experience — talking to people, the business world. I connected with media and advertising. I thought that was really good."



Photo by Mindi LaRose

PHS senior James Washington (left) thanks Donna Forbes (center) for her help at the "Pay It Forward" Dinner and Auction to benefit the Community Inclusion Youth Program. The March 31 auction was part of his senior project and was attended by hundreds of people. For a complete story about Pay It Forward and more auction photos, visit www.keypennews.com.

It was a first-time experience for his mentor, Al Hove, who was delighted to assist. Hove said: "It's more than about the food. This project can cultivate something inside him — that he is capable of helping the world." Asked about finding the time to volunteer as a mentor, he said "mentors have a responsibility to provide a hand up" because every successful person receives assistance at some point.

Smeall wants to be a writer, a novelist by trade. His project is called "Summer Daydreams." He wants youngsters to have a book of their own to read this summer, and collected donations of used children's books that he will sell for nickels and dimes at the Livable Community Fair.

Smeall reports to his mentors, the KP Writers' Guild, every Saturday. "I'm trying to stop this trend I'm seeing of illiteracy among teenagers," he said. He noted at the high school the "library is deserted except for magazines and computers, and for many of his peers, "reading is considered like a chore or something that needs to be done." The money made from Smeall's used book sale will be donated to the Vaughn Elementary School library and the Literacy Council of Kitsap County.

Why does he want to sell books to elementary children? "If I can get them when they're young, and they carry that attitude as they mature — really cool — to curb this problem," he said. He wants kids to "have fun reading this summer and see it more as a pastime."

"It's too hard to change the teenager — so I'm trying to change the chil-

dren," he said.

Doraine Mosich, the PHS program coordinator for the senior projects, said, "The senior project gives students the opportunity to explore careers, pathways, and dreams." It is her job to communicate with the seniors and their advisers so that no senior will be late for the May 16 deadline and every senior will present the project to the judges on May 31.

About 45 community members and "the entire staff participates with the evaluation on May 31, excluding one or two secretaries who answer phones, etc.," Mosich said. The judges will hear from 266 seniors, all with a paper that explains their project, a portfolio in a three-ring binder containing visual documentation of their experiences, and a presentation that shares what they accomplished.

Skye Gebhardt, Elliott Gurr, and Tom Smeall are sure to make the Key Peninsula proud.

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KPMS hosts Family Night

KPMS is having a NASA Science Family Night on Tuesday, May 22. Students will be running the activities that will include a readers' theatre, egg rockets, bottle rockets, straw rockets, and stomp rockets. The portable planetarium from the Seattle Science Center will be there as well as at least two astronomers from the Tacoma Astronomical Society with their telescopes for moon and star viewing. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., the KPMS band will play, and there will be a special presentation of slides and videos from the teachers who flew in reduced gravity. Special guests from NASA are anticipated.

Peninsula Outlook wins 'Best of Show'

The National Scholastic Press Association awarded The Peninsula Outlook, Peninsula High School's newspaper, with a seventh place "Best of Show" award at the Journalism Education Association Convention in Denver, Colo., in April.

The Outlook entered the 17-plus pages newspaper category. "This year we entered the hardest category, which makes winning even more special," co-editor-in-chief Cassandra Kapp said.

The Outlook also received 11 individual awards, and The Phoenix, Peninsula's literary magazine, placed ninth for "Best of Show."

In addition, the Quill and Scroll Society awarded the Outlook four individual achievement awards, and The Edward R. Murrow Symposium Competition recognized the Outlook with awards in four out of five categories.

PSD mechanic third in regional competition

The "Washington Association for Pupil Transportation Third Annual Technicians Competition for Mechanics," held in March at the Renton Transportation Department, included four contestants from the Peninsula School District: Bill Fors, Matthew Lonning, Joel Schroeder, and Dave Sicotte. Lonning placed third in the regional competition, and at press time was due to compete at the state level in Yakima on April 28.

The regional competition involved a

written examination of 40 questions and three safety inspection stations. Contestants had to troubleshoot defects (under the watchful eye of a Washington State Patrol inspector) that could put a bus out of service, do a diagnosis on a bus that would not start, and diagnose a bus that pulls to the side when braking.

PSD bus drivers will also get their chance to demonstrate their skills: The "Puget Sound ESD 121 School Bus Driver Safety Competition" will be held on Saturday, May 5, at Clover Park High School. Six contestants from PSD, out of 75 district drivers, are taking part in that competition. The drivers train for the competition on their own time, usually weekends, with Craig Sherman, transportation coordinator, and Pam Johnson, driver trainer. The competition involves a written examination and pretrip inspection; the drivers then drive a bus through a course demonstrating driving skills.

"I just want to say how proud I am of the mechanics taking part in the competition, and good luck to Matt at (the) state (event)," said transportation director Annie Bell. "I'm looking forward to going over to the Bus Safety Competition and seeing the drivers take part in this event. I wish them the best."

Vaughn auction to raise funds for playground

Vaughn Elementary School will host a Vaughn Community Auction with the theme "Come Swing on a Star" on May 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. The proceeds will go to completing the outdoor "Big Toy," with a portion of the funds also going to The Marsha Iverson Books for Special Readers Foundation and the Key Peninsula Cooperative Preschool Programs. The first phase of the environmentally friendly playground will be installed in May as well.

Cost for the dinner is \$25/person; table reservations are available for 10 people/table. For information contact Tina Self, 857-8552 or 530-4700. Tickets are also available at Ravensara Espresso. The auction will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.

KMPS band to play in GH

The Key Peninsula Middle School's beginning and intermediate bands will play in a concert on June 2 at noon in downtown Gig Harbor. The concert is planned to be held at Jerisich Park on Harborview Drive. Community members are welcome!



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Future Key Peninsula Philharmonic Symphony musicians hone their skills under the direction of Evergreen Elementary School's toddler class conductor Beverly Hopper at a rhythm practice session at the school.

Learning starts early at Evergreen Elementary

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Evergreen Elementary School's toddler class is made up of pre-preschool youngsters whose moms or dads accompany them to one of the school's portables. The whole thing is under the direction of one of the most enthusiastic kid inspirers known to mankind, Beverly Hopper, who has the toddler's involved in a constantly moving, changing exercise-in-creativity, learning art, storytelling, rhythm-and-music making, and experiencing socializing with their peers in a safe, clean, fun-filled adventure.

The class meets once a week for an hour and is assisted by Vicki Biggs from the Readiness to Learn Program. The class could be referred to as "toddlers' academy," a term more appropriate than "toddlers class," the latter much too mundane to convey the spirit of the wide-eyed, knowledge-sponging-up, friendly, getting-acquainted-with-your-peers atmosphere embracing the warm, nondemanding learning world in which the kids delightfully find themselves. "There is an underlying message for having the toddler class," said Evergreen Principal Jacque Crisman. "This is really about the parents helping

"This is really about the parents helping their own children with language development."

— Jacque Crisman, Evergreen principal

their own children with language development. Bev is there, along with Vicki from Children's Home Society to guide parents as well as students. Parents are the first teachers of children who will eventually be attending Evergreen. They can help us with a jumpstart on language development and the kids have fun at the same time. Pretty neat!"

The program is not a free baby-sitting operation. Parents are required to accompany their wee ones and stay with them. The parents seem to have more — well at least as much — fun as their offspring.

"In this classroom, we talk to children, read to children, touch and feel a variety of objects, sing and move to music, paint and play with arts and crafts activities," Hopper said. "Parents will participate with their children because children learn best when learning with a person with whom they share an emotional connection."

CORRECTION

Lee Spunaugle's obituary published in the March 2007 issue incorrectly identified Lane Spunaugle as his wife. The couple were divorced earlier this year prior to Lee's death. We regret the error.

COMMUNITY WORKS

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

May 4, 11, 17, 25 – Mustard Seed Project

The Mustard Seed Project invites you to help build an elder-friendly Key Peninsula and attend a Community Task Group meeting. A guest speaker begins each meeting. The work of these task groups is to gather information, review possibilities and create options for “aging in place” in this community. All meetings are held in the Key Peninsula Library Brones Room:

Senior Information and Referral Group — Friday, May 4, 10 a.m.

Transportation and Mobility for Elders Group — Friday, May 11, 10 a.m.

Elder Health and Wellness-related Services Group — Thursday, May 17, 10 a.m.

Housing Options for Aging in Place Group – May 25, 10 a.m.

Contact Edie at 884-3920 or ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org

May 5 – Jim Valley concert

Key Peninsula Cooperative Preschool is sponsoring an interactive children’s musical performance with Jim Valley. Valley, a native of Tacoma and former lead guitar for Paul Revere and the Raiders, has performed since 1980 for children and families all over the country. More about Valley at www.rainbow-planet.com.

Saturday, May 5, 2-3 p.m., Key Peninsula Civic Center, \$5/family; Tara, 884-6350

May 5 – Saturday matinee at library

The PG-rated movie “Nanny McPhee” will be shown at the Key Center Library at 2 p.m. This movie stars Emma Thompson, Colin Firth and Angela Lansbury and is an adaptation of the Nurse Mathilda books.

May 6 – Lutheran Church presents auction

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church hosts the annual “Chocolate Sunday” auction. Funds help support KPLC’s community meals program and the emergency

shelter. The community is invited to join a live auction of valuable items and services such as handcrafted bird-feeders, a hand-crocheted rug, fine wines and dinners, Kassel mantel clock, yard work, window cleaning, and more. A silent auction of homemade baked goods and candy is also offered. Provided free are a light lunch and a chocolate sundae.

Sunday, May 6, 1 p.m., McColley Hall, 4213 Lackey Rd; 884-9606

May 7 and more – Bloodmobile dates

The Cascade Regional Blood Services Bloodmobile schedule at Gig Harbor North Albertson’s (11330 51st Ave NW) is:

Monday, May 7, 1-7 p.m.; Sunday, May 13, 12-4 p.m. (a PHS senior project); Monday, May 14, 1-7 p.m.; Monday, May 21, 1-7 p.m.; Monday, May 28, 1-7 p.m.

May 7 – Peacemakers host presentation

Key Peacemakers hosts a presentation by Dr. Zoltan Grossman titled “From Wounded Knee to Iraq: A Century of U.S. Military Interventions.” Dr. Grossman is a faculty member at Evergreen State College.

Since 1979 Grossman has been a community activist for many causes, has published many articles and developed academic and community programs such as: “A People’s Geography of American Empire” and “The Wars in Iraq and the Geographies of September 11.”

Monday, May 7, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; Dory 884-9299

May 10 – KPCCA meeting

Folks who want to help keep the Key Peninsula a place where people want to live and raise families should consider volunteering to be a board member for the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association. The KPCCA’s monthly meeting is on the second Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore room at the center.

Thursday, May 10, 7 p.m., KP Civic Center; Mark at 884-2196 or Jena at 884-3456

May 10 – Uppity Women at library

The Friends of the Key Center Library host an evening with Inquiring Mind speaker Susan Butruille, who will present “Tea, True Womanhood and Uppity Women.”

Hear tales of Washington women, both uppity and refined, who explored a wider world for themselves and for their sisters. Learn, enjoy, listen and you may recognize echoes of your own life and times.

Thursday, May 10, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; 884-2242

May 12 – Car Care Day

Lakebay Christian Assembly is sponsoring the seventh annual “Single Mothers’ Car Care Day.” At this free event, the team will change your car’s oil and oil filter, check the fluids, and vacuum the car’s interior. You must call by May 9 to set up your appointment time in advance.

Saturday, May 12, all day, Lakebay Christian Assembly; Sharron Dean at 884-9948

May 13-14 – Key Peacemakers vigils

The Key Peacemakers are supporting two events over Mother’s Day weekend. In honor of Grandmothers for Peace, there will be a gathering at the Civic Center. The second event is Ground Zero at Bangor centering on the issue of nuclear arms and war. Visit the website at www.gzcenter.org.

Sunday, May 13 at 1 p.m., Civic Center; Dory, 884-9299

May 16 – Girl Scouts’ camp meeting

The Girl Scouts day camp at Penrose State Park is in July. An informational meeting about Girl Scouts day and resident camp opportunities, troops and being a leader will be held at Purdy Elementary School on May 16.

Wednesday, May 16, 7 p.m., Purdy Elementary; Libby, 857-9071 or LibbySmithGS@centurytel.net

May 16-17 – AARP Alive offered

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen’s Club hosts an AARP 55-Alive Driving Review Course \$10 per person. Participants age 55 and older may receive a discount on their car insurance for attending this course. The deadline for reservations is May 14.

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen’s Club is located at 3503 Jackson Lake Road KPN, in Lakebay.

Wednesday and Thursday, May 16-17, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; A.E. Dolfin at 884-5767

May 12 – Sam Stewart memorial fundraiser

The first annual fundraising walk in memory of Sam Stewart will be hosted by the Stewart family. Sam lost his battle with leukemia last year. “The past year has been an experience we can’t find words to describe...the pain of Sam’s passing following his courageous battle with leukemia...the lonely and awkward stumble attempting to walk as a family of three, has illuminated our need for and appreciation of our supportive community. We are grateful to all of you who have helped us in so many ways this past year,” writes Sam’s mother, Donna Stewart.

Walkers, runners and joggers are invited to Lake Minterwood to lend their support to three organizations that honor Sam’s memory: The Humane Society, Camp Goodtimes and Mercy Corp. A big red tent will help participants locate the activity and all are invited to stop by the Stewart home for “a bottle of water, some fruit, and a hug” at 14615 113th St.

Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 884-3174

May 19 – Shellfish workshop

Pierce County’s Shellfish Partners are hosting a free workshop on the basics of beach habitat and shoreline living. Speakers will offer details about the history of shellfish on the Key Peninsula, an introduction to the shoreline environment, and helpful information on shoreline landscaping, onsite septic systems, livestock and pet waste management, and stormwater for homeowners.

Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. to noon, KP Civic Center in Vaughn; to register, contact Barbara Ann Smolko 798-6156 or bsmolko@co.pierce.wa.us.

May 25 – Evening movie at library

“Cold Mountain,” rated R, will be shown at the Key Center Library on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. The movie is based during the Civil War era and stars Jude Law, Nicole Kidman and Renee Zellweger.

May 26-27 – Boy Scout rummage sale/car wash

Boy Scout Troop 220 and Venture Crew 220 are holding their 10th annual rummage sale and car wash Memorial Day weekend. The car wash will be at the Harvest Time gas station and store; rummage sale at Lake Kathryn Village. Donations (no appliances please) will be accepted at the KP Civic Center on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8 p.m. during the month of May.

Saturday-Sunday, May 26-27; Paula, 884-4094

May 29 – KP Metro Park District special meeting

KP Metro Park District will hold a special meeting on the single topic of District Comprehensive Plan.

Tuesday, May 29, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park; 884-9240 or info@keypeninsulaparks.com

Summer – Bible school

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church will “Take the Plunge” this summer by offering a week of Vacation Bible School. First graders through middle school are invited to a very special week, during which kids will learn uncommon lessons of love

through a very common element — water. Bible lessons will be reinforced through creative crafts, spirited songs, and plenty of puppets presented by Fishers of Men Puppet Ministry from the Fox Island Spirit Theatre group. Registration is free.

July 30-August 3, 9 a.m.-noon daily; 884-3312 or www.kpluth.org

July 6 - Adult co-ed softball registration due

KP Metro Parks is now accepting team registrations for co-ed softball. Games start the week of July 16, Monday-Thursday nights. Individuals without a team may be put on a player availability list. Cost of the league and end of season tournament is \$575. Team registrations and rosters are due by July 6; info@keypeninsulaparks.com or 884-9240

Ongoing – TOPS

TOPS 1019, Vaughn, elected new officers in March; Frankie Johnson is leader, Dolly Gelsleichter is co-leader, Marcia Nolan is secretary, Vickie Shurr is treasurer, Andrea McFarland is weight recorder with Joanne Cluver as her assistant. The group is currently focused on eating more fiber and healthy choices. TOPS meets on Mondays at 6 p.m. at the fire station on 302 and Wright- Bliss Road Frankie, 884-4102

Ongoing – Aerobics and yoga classes

Exercise classes taught by Kristina Butorec have been so enthusiastically received that the Longbranch Improvement Club has expanded the schedule. Aerobics (9 - 10 a.m.) followed by yoga (10:10-11 a.m.) classes are offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings through mid-June. Evening yoga classes are 7-8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Drop-in rate is \$10 for each class. Call Carolyn at 884-9157 to sign-up.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Carolyn Wiley

Carolyn Wiley is the events coordinator for the Longbranch Improvement Club, which sponsors many functions for its members and guests as well as popular community events such as Old Timers’ Day, Salmon Bake, dinner theater, Memorial and Labor Day dances, the Personal Best lecture series and Odyssey Cruises.



WILEY

Carolyn and her husband, David, moved to the Peninsula after her retirement from teaching in 1998. They participated as regular LIC member volunteers until the day she volunteered to be a “hastler” for the president — John Biggs at the time. Her attributes as an “unabashed beggar” and phone call solicitor extraordinaire served the president well, and serves Wiley now as she recruits labor, materials, money donations, and help with many events for the club. “The really rewarding thing (recruiting LIC volunteers) is, when you have a grunt task to do, you have a raft of talented and enthusiastic people to do it,” she says.

Wiley doesn’t just plan; she works, too. “I find you every place I go,” Norma Larsen told Wiley at the volunteers’ work party on April 21. Larsen had worked in the kitchen, office, bath-

Get Involved

Renaissance Fantasy Faire needs volunteers to help create the second largest annual theatrical event in Washington. Listen for the thunder of hooves as the jousting begins. Come and meet Mary Queen of Scots and her ladies in waiting. This is the 10th year of the faire. Volunteers of all ages are needed. Visit www.washingtonrenfaire.com or call 884-4210 or 1-800-359-5948.

KP Civic Center has an urgent need for at least two people to repair and maintain the roller skates used by the kids at the Friday Skate Nights. The volunteer work is mostly replacing and servicing the wheels and doing cosmetic work on the boots. Work at home or at the Civic Center. The kids will be very grateful. Call Phil at 884-9172 or Jena at 884-3456.

rooms, behind the stage, and outside.

Wiley is also involved with quilting, is a member of three book clubs and belongs to Friends of the Library in Key Center. Though it is hard for her to find time to read, her book list has expanded because her job at the library is book cleaning. “My reading list has expanded to a lot of dirty books,” she jokes.

— Danna Webster

~OFF THE KEY~

May 17 – Workforce fashion event


Clean out your closets and help aspiring women and men who are re-entering the workforce to look their best at West Sound Workforce’s “Power of Change: A fashion event!” Apparel donations will benefit the Key Peninsula’s Children’s Home Society clothing closet. Interview-ready clothing less than five years old needed: business suits of all sizes, especially in sizes 16 plus, tailored separates, handbags, briefcases, umbrellas, coats, blouses, tops, skirts, conservative accessories, quality footwear, and unopened pantyhose

and makeup. Bring donations to West Sound Workforce’s Gig Harbor office at 5790 Soundview Drive, #103 on Thursday, May 17, from 4-6 p.m. For information on this benefit, contact Heidi Miles at 853-3633 or visit www.westsoundworkforce.com.

May 18 – Wildlife workshop held

The public is invited to attend a free workshop to learn about Gig Harbor’s amazing marine and wildlife.

Friday, May 18, 7 to 9 p.m. at Gig Harbor City Hall. To register, contact Leslie Harbaugh at www.harborwild-watch.org or call 265-6977.



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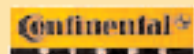
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Minter to become 'Real Estate Central'

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Key Peninsula will soon have its very own real estate shopping center. Near the intersection of State Route-302 and 118th Street, in the area formerly known as Brookside, three real estate offices will be open for business by this summer. All three realties chose the location for similar reasons: visibility and high traffic count.

"Commercial property for a retail office is scarce," said Steve Skibbs in an earlier interview with KP News. He is the owner of the Windermere Key Realty, which will soon be moving to the building formerly occupied by the New Brookside Restaurant. Skibbs said he had been looking for quite a while for an office location on the KP before he purchased the new site.

The newest office to the location will be the John L. Scott Co. co-owned by Elizabeth Ashe, Curtis Gibson, and Jeremiah Durham. That office plans to move by June into the space currently occupied by Ellis Accounting. The owner of that building is Mavi Macfarlane; she is in the process of remodeling the exterior.

"It's getting a new face lift, a new pitched roof, covered porches, and boxed-in columns," Macfarlane says. She wants the remodel to complement the new two-story building she also owns on the other side of the new Windermere building.

After about two and a half years, Green Acre Homes Realty earns the title of old-timer on the block. The realty is in the same building where JLS will soon reside. "We're the little tiny company," says Green Acre Homes co-owner Larry Bentley. "We are a full-

“

The Key Peninsula is really where the most aggressive market is for the next five years.

— Mavi Macfarlane,
John L. Scott

”

service realty, plus a manufactured home dealer."

Is Bentley concerned about being sandwiched between two real estate company giants? "I think we'll pull people in regardless, just because we are a down-home atmosphere," he says. Bentley and his co-owner, Ava Campbell, have a total of four agents in their office and two of them are semi-retired. Their company is primarily a real estate office but also provides in-park manufactured home sales service and they have the ability to transfer titles.

Bentley has ordered a new sign for his office. "This is what our new motto is going to be," he says. The lettering reads, "Support the Little Guy."

Macfarlane is a licensed agent with John L. Scott and owner of two of the three buildings involved. "I'm very excited and enthusiastic," she says when asked about the new location. Her vision is to "create an extremely good working environment with the best sales support." She expects to bring in a lender, transaction coordinators, and a satellite bank to her buildings.

The original plan was for John L. Scott to move into the larger building but commercial and residential zoning permits are in conflict, along with well water accessibility. She plans the addition of a "Class A well to the rear of property for the benefit of all parcels along there," she says.

The JLS office has recruited 15 agents, and their full capacity will be about 45. "The Key Peninsula is really where the most aggressive market is for the next five years," Macfarlane says. She thinks the big companies can be supportive neighbors to Green Acre Homes. They may benefit from the "overflow from the other big offices." It could be "like antique row," Macfarlane says. "Customers driving by will be certain, if they pull in that shopping center, they will get service from one of us."

Skibbs is awaiting permits for his building and completion of his remodel project. He expects to get into the new Windermere location by the end of June and have about 18 agents. "We are expecting everyone to transfer (from Key Center). Change is always challenging but we are optimistic about the move," he says. Since the remodeling work is basically cosmetic, he is disappointed that the permit process has taken so long. He jokes that the process might have gone more smoothly if he used the name "Windermere Real Estate Café."

With the retirement of co-owner Joyce Tovey, Skibbs becomes the sole owner of Windermere Key Realty. The Key Peninsula office will be the smallest of his three Windermere businesses. The Gig Harbor office has about 80 agents and the Port Orchard about 50.

The move has many advantages. Skibbs told the Kitsap Peninsula Business Journal in March, "By moving to this new location, I increase the traffic in front of my business by two-thirds more. I'm getting a substantial increase in visibility and also picking up customers who drive to Allyn and Belfair."

Regarding JLS as a new neighbor, he was quoted as saying, "It will be a one-stop shop. (Competition) is good for the consumer and helps them make a wise decision by giving people choices and options. The (Key) Peninsula is growing not (only) in residents but also in businesses — hopefully there will be more growth coming here."

The question is whether the expected growth, increased visibility and a great location can justify a real estate "shopping center." Having three offices in a row is a new concept in the real estate world. The director of public relations for John L. Scott, Shelley Rossi, replied in an email that several factors are taken into consideration when a new office opens. "To the best of my knowledge, this is the only known instance of a John L. Scott Real Estate office opening side by side with other, competing real estate firms. I would say that this is indeed a unique situation for our company," she wrote.

The publication REAL Trends, Inc., is considered to be a leading source of analysis and information on the residential brokerage industry. When REAL Trends Inc. staff were asked about three offices side by side, the email response said, "Have not encountered a situation where this has happened where it was planned that way. Should be an interesting development."



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BRIEFS

business

KC Computer Repair accepts old equipment

KC Computer Repair in the KC Corral, accepts computer components destined for the landfill to save residents a trip to Purdy. Owner Sheryl Mirenta does require that customers pay her the landfill cost that she (and everyone) pays for each piece, or pound-increment, unless the customer purchases equipment from her. Mirenta also has a "free" bin inside the store with usable items.

Free soil sampling

For a limited time, the Pierce Conservation District is offering free soil testing to local livestock owners. Soil sampling allows farmers to accurately assess their pasture's nutrient needs, preventing under- or over-application, and overpurchasing of fertilizer, seed, lime, and other amendments. For details, or to schedule a soil sample appointment, contact Erin Ewald with the Pierce Conservation District at 851-4313.

New nursery open for business

By William C. Dietz, KP News

Chere' Stebbins and her husband, Corky, opened "A OK Nursery and Garden" on April 1 and are working hard to bring their new enterprise up to speed. The business is located on part of what locals know as "The Farm," which belongs to Mike and Joyce Salatino.

"We sell honey, brown eggs, fresh you-pick rhubarb, veggie starts, and flowers to plant," Stebbins said. "Eventually we would like to go entirely organic but that will take time."

This isn't the first business they have run. They also own A&A Free Junk Car Removal, based in Tacoma, but serves Key Peninsula too. "Originally we were going to start the nursery at our location next to Key Pen Highway," Stebbins says, referring to the site where their church meets. "That's where we sold blueberry plants in the past. And we may have some plants available there later on."

But for the moment A OK Nursery and Garden is operating out of the

To find out what's available at A OK Nursery and Garden, call 884-2360, or stop by "The Farm" just north of Charboneau's. Business hours are Sunday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Salatino farm. And that's where Key Pen News found Stebbins, who was potting plants in one of the green houses, while pausing now and then to brush lady bugs off her clothing. "They eat aphids," Stebbins explained. "So I try not to step on them."

The decision to base the new business on The Farm was largely fortuitous. "We were already planning to start a nursery," Stebbins said, "so I came up here to buy pots, and Mike Salatino said, 'Why don't you rent my greenhouse?'" So Chere' and her husband did. "Mike and Joyce have been great," Stebbins adds. "Anything we need to know they tell us step-by-step. They're great people."

Stebbins doesn't have any experience running a nursery, but loves to grow things. She looks forward to



Photo by William C. Dietz

Chere' Stebbins at her new nursery in Wauna.

making the new business a success. Asked about the other enterprises on the peninsula, and growth in general, the entrepreneur said: "A lot of people are going to need flowers!"



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Vacations served no longer

Potential customers came to have "chips and salsa" at the Margarita Beach Café in Purdy and found a handwritten sign that read, "We are closed for business. Thank you for your support these past 5 years. Gordon, Steve and Joe."

The restaurant closed on April 19 following an eviction for nonpayment of rent. According to Pierce County Superior Court records, the landlord, Share Way Inc., filed a petition on March 29 to evict the business, which would have been three months behind in rent by April 1. A notice from the Pierce County Sheriff's Department dated April 19 was posted on the door, ordering the premises to be vacated by April 26.

The site once housed the famous Pearls by the Sea diner. The building had been vacant for several years before brothers Gordon and Steve Naccarato opened the Beach House, following extensive remodeling. Gordon had previously owned an Aspen restaurant in partnership with the parents of actress Gwyneth Paltrow and was named in 1988 as "one of the country's top 10 chefs" by the Food & Wine Magazine. He is also involved with the Pacific Grill in Tacoma.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

The Beach House was hailed as one of the region's top restaurants. Last October, the Beach House name, menu and concept were changed to the Margarita Beach Café.

In a blog on the Tacoma News Tribune's Website, a user by the name of ChefGordonNaccarato wrote in response to comments regarding the closure and well-wishes from patrons: "Thanks for all the good thoughts. Some of the best times ever. A very special place indeed. Amazing people. Both on the staff and those that made the trek to our front door. It was quite a ride..."

— Rodika Tollefson

FROM the Key Peninsula News, sponsor of the geoduck forum

Thank you

to the forum presenters, Key Peninsula Civic Center, Pierce Conservation District, Pierce County Water Programs, Key Peninsula Community Council, Key Peninsula Youth Council, Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Citizens Against Crime and the many volunteers who made the event possible

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Music expresses a way of life for Mary Salciccia

By Danna Webster, KP News

The music of Mary Salciccia has been a part of the Key Peninsula since 1984. Her third studio on the KP is nestled in Horseshoe Lake Estates. A wall of guitars faces her grand piano and a household of instruments from all the families: percussion, horn, string and woodwind. At the hub of the studio room is a computer that stores the text of "HELLO MUSIC," a book written by Salciccia with chapters that can be adapted for any instrument and individualized for every music student.

"I've been teaching about 30 years now and have had about one of every personality and aptitude of student. You have to make the method fit the person. Then we have fun. I really enjoy my students," she says.

Salciccia became a music student when she was 5 years old. She was the only musician in her large Italian family and so became the only entertainment. "When I heard 'Mary Alice come and play for us,' I was out of bed to play. That was my price for all my lessons," she says. "The priest told me I had a gift. That



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Mary Salciccia, owner of Expressions Music, in her home/studio.

"I'm one in a million," she tells, and recalls that when the priest told her father, "the next day in rolled a piano. My first piano lesson was that week." She understood the music teacher immediately. "I was like an idiot savant. I was 5 but he was telling me things I knew." After her lesson, she was afraid she would forget the names of the notes so she went home to her new piano and marked all 88 keys.

She has remained a musician her entire life, even during a five-year stint in Juneau, Alaska, where she went to work on commercial fishing boats. While in Alaska, she continued to entertain and began giving music lessons. Once settled on the Peninsula, she played piano and ragtime piano "all over the place." She accompanied the Peninsula High School music department for five years but rarely entertains now. "I've pretty much given up entertainment for teaching," she says. "I don't crave an audience. I'd rather be behind the big black curtain. I love to teach."

According to Salciccia, learning music symbols is like learning a new language. "Music is a language. You have to teach it as a language. If you know the language, you can play the music," she says. Some of her students try to tell her they can only play a song if they know it. She tells them, "That's like (saying), 'I can't read the book if I don't know the story.'"

She creates lessons for students using material from "HELLO MUSIC" and applying computer graphics to customize the lessons. "I create indi-

vidual programs — custom tailor a program for each student," she says.

Salciccia says she has written her book to "break down the elements of music that are unexplained in tradition music books. It sets the perfect foundation for music." Every student learns differently. "If one page doesn't work, another will," she says.

Salciccia has also created books for many instruments. Her students can have their own music book for any instrument they want to play with lessons customized for their learning style. "I love sitting at the computer, making pages, and making lessons," she says.

She brings her students a wholesome, well-rounded, practiced approach to music.

"I'm not trying to get anybody to Carnegie Hall. I'm giving them a lifestyle approach. Musicians on the KP have a very willing spirit. They are happy and want music to be a part of their life. It's not a fad. They entertain themselves," she says. "I'm serving the community out here. It's an honor. I feel very blessed to do what I do. I never take it for granted."

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"Serving the Key Peninsula For 60 Years"

Local woman organizes silent gathering

By Colleen Slater, KP News

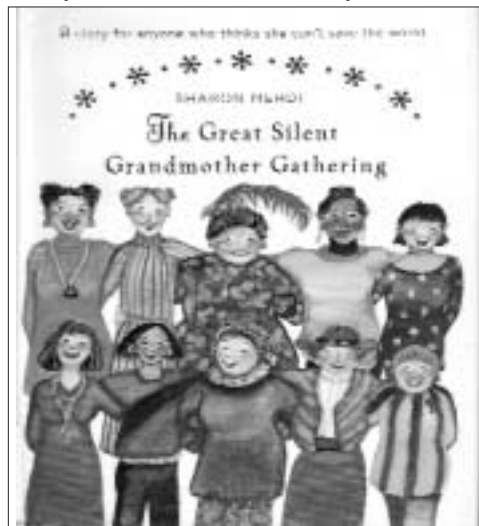
A Great Silent Grandmother Gathering will be held on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, at 1 p.m. at the flagpole at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Inspired by a book by Oregonian Sharon Mehdi titled "The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering," a group in Ohio set up a Website, www.standing-women.org. Available in 15 languages, and a You Tube video, it invites others all over the world to join them on Mother's Day and stand for five minutes of silence.

In March, Mary Krumbein of Vaughn received an email from a former student at the Quaker college "where I was registrar in my other life," she says. She shared it with her sister in Florida, and "once we each had established a place to stand in our communities, we tried to get on to the Website" to register. It was just a blog and didn't seem to work well. Each sister took one sponsor name and wrote to them at Ohio State University's Multicultural Center.

"Almost overnight the Website was completely revamped," says Krumbein, "and one of the women wrote my sister

to say she had tears in her eyes over the



response." There may have been 10 to 15 people listed then. At press time, there were over 700 locations listed, with three weeks to go.

"We will be standing for the world's children and grandchildren and for the seven generations beyond them," says the Website. "We dream of a world where all children have safe drinking water, clean air to breathe and enough food to eat... where they have access to a basic education to develop their minds

and healthcare to nurture their growing bodies... where they have a warm, safe and loving place to call home. A world where they don't live in fear of violence — in their home, in their neighborhood, in their school, or in their world."

"It's getting pretty exciting, and Sharon Mehdi (who is standing in Ashland, Ore.) must think she's died and gone to heaven," Krumbein says.

People are encouraged to arrive at 12:30 p.m. so the standing can begin promptly at 1. Bring bells to ring prior to the silent time, and again at the end of it. Those who cannot stand are welcome to bring chairs.

Women, men, children and grandchildren are invited to stand with these grandmothers for five minutes and join with a wave of others in places from Alaska to Zambia. Anyone who is unable to attend the local gathering may commit to standing on their own or with others, and are encouraged to register that information on the Website.

These gatherings are neither political nor "anti-anything," says Krumbein. They are about hope.

For more information on the book and author, visit www.grandmotherbook.com.

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KPCCA Upcoming Events

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May celebrates kindness to animals

By Stephanie Galindo, KP News

Morris the cat

Centuries ago, people believed that animals were placed on Earth for the benefit of humans, as was all of nature. But in 1877, several groups formed the American Humane Association (AHA) to create a national voice for the animals at our mercy. The AHA, led by Dr. William O. Stillman, established Be Kind to Animals Week™ in 43 states in 1915 to promote a compassionate message. Their goals were to encourage the clergy to spread the message by observing Humane Sunday, to visit local schools and promote humane education, and to publicize the good works of the nation's humane societies.

People saw numerous editorials during that first week, and concern spread far and wide. The week was made official by the 103rd Congress, and is now the oldest "official week" in the nation.

Local companion animals make a big difference in everyday lives. The love goes both ways, like in these stories of Morris the cat and Missy the dog, two Key Pen pets adored by their families.

Every year over 20,000 animals go through the Pierce County Humane Society but less than a third are adopted. One KP resident was looking for that special someone to bring home and went to the Humane Society to visit with the cats for a while.

"I looked around and noticed a long-haired orange tabby kitten in one of the cages. The lady told me that the little guy had just arrived. The person who had this litter of kittens could not afford to feed them and decided to take them in," Felice Capone says. The kitten appeared healthy but was "light as a feather." "He clung to my sweatshirt with one paw as I held him in my arms, his little motor purring louder and louder as he gazed into my eyes and dozed off. I decided to take him home and fatten him up," she said.

Her son, Ray, named the kitten Morris, who didn't get fatter, just longer and taller every day. He loves to be held — "He simply falls asleep in my arms every time," Capone says. She admits that his



Missy has become a big part of the Reyes family.
Photo courtesy Lee Reyes

Below, Morris the cat is as special as he is fluffy.
Photo by Stephanie Galindo

warmth and trust, and his little motor purring are relaxing after a long commute home to the Key Peninsula from work. Between Morris and their gentle older cat Sybel, Ray says that nothing beats coming home to a house full of love.

Missy's story

Lee Reyes says that in Guam, her husband was raised with "boonie dogs," dogs living outside the home tied up as watch dogs and not shown any affection. When they moved to the Key Peninsula, she convinced him to get a "real pet." Finally, at work, John fell for a Shitzu who loved to roll over and get a belly-rub. To John's surprise, Lee actually found a nearly identical Shitzu at the shelter. When John learned the difference between a "pet" and a guard dog, it was a big transformation.

The new Shitzu, Snickers wanted to play so he was constantly getting into trouble. That is why the Reyes family adopted Missy. However, Lee says, "Missy was not potty trained and got scared the moment you raised your voice or moved in her direction — she'd tuck her tail between her legs and run to hide. There were a lot of alpha dogs where she was living, and to this day, she still gathers food (from her own bowl) in her mouth and then chews it elsewhere. Getting her spayed probably saved her life, because the vet also found several tumors."

The Reyes kids fell in love with Missy at first sight. They sensed her being scared and vulnerable. Lee says, "She sleeps with Zach every night. She is also a fabulous watch dog."

The family showered Missy with attention and tried to hold her paws until she

Be kind to animals

If you know of a case of neglect, abuse or mistreatment, there are a number of organizations you can call, including county officials and the Animal Legal Defense Fund (who will help prosecute).

Peninsula Spay and Neuter Project encourages people not to contribute to generations of sad little orphans out here on the Key Peninsula, and spay or neuter their pets so that others can be rescued and matched with loving homes. If you need financial assistance or know of any feral (wild) cats, contact the Peninsula Spay and Neuter Project at PSNP.org.

learned not to pull away. Missy loves to chase and chew on balls: baseballs, tennis balls or golf balls, any kind of ball. The core of a chewed-up golf ball is now her favorite toy.

As far as Zach is concerned, Missy will always be his "Baby Girl." Lee fears the day that Missy or Snickers die because that will be the day her children learn the heartache of a loved one lost. But for now, theirs is a story of transformation and true love, thanks to the animals in their lives.



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Spring again and time, once more, for the annual spring "spruce up" – especially if you plan on putting your house on the market. Once again, I would urge you to step back to the street, look at your house as if you are seeing it for the first time with "New Eyes" and see what needs to be done to make it more attractive to a potential buyer. Often, a home can be much more attractive with minimal changes – simply picking up "junk" or adding some blooming flowers makes a tremendous change.

On the inside, too, we've heard a lot about staging – especially in a vacant home and it does work. Once again, it does not have to be drastic or expensive – little things can make a big difference – colorful pillows in a corner, a potted plant, a card table covered with a bright cloth.

In an occupied home – just the opposite works – clear out as much clutter as possible, pack it in boxes or throw away and make your home visible to buyers – not your "things".

We at Windermere / Key Realty are ready for spring and we hope you are too! So when you are ready to list or buy, please call one of these professional local Realtors:

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Hunt for egg-citing treasures



The annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Key Peninsula Civic Center is always a hit with youngsters of all ages. The event is sponsored and organized by the Boy Scout Troop 220.

Photos by Hugh McMillan

Bottom right, Caitlyn, 4, and Samantha, Nelsen, 4, stop long enough to have their photo taken following their hunt for treasures. Samantha will be a kindergartner at Vaughn Elementary next fall. Bottom left, Kathy Best has been the Easter Bunny at the egg hunt for many years. Left, the youngest crowd was set up inside the Civic Center this year, having the entire gymnasium to themselves. Above, older kids comb the grass for eggs, some of which had special prizes.



BRIEFS

arts&recreation



Odyssey sails from Longbranch

The Odyssey is a restored classic 90-foot yawl designed for a member of the Vanderbilt family in 1938. The boat was a frequent winner in fleet racing in Long Island Sound, cruised the Carribean and Galapagos islands, and was commanded by the U.S. Navy in World War II. Since 1978, it has served as a sail-training vessel with the Sea Scouts of Tacoma, who have scheduled two three-hour cruises in June departing from the Longbranch Marina. Reservations for either June 9 or 10 can be made through the marina dock master, Mark, at 884-5137, or Carolyn at 884-9157.

Key Singers play favorites

At their annual picnic last summer, the Key Singers surveyed members to discover their favorite songs. The public is invited to enjoy the results of the survey at this year's spring concert on May 20, 3



p.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Concert proceeds are used to purchase new sheet music and provide a \$300 music scholarship at Peninsula High School. Adults \$8; seniors and teens \$5; children 12 and under free.

The Roughnecks rock 'n' roll in Longbranch

Jo Miller and her Burly Roughnecks are a band of impeccable musicians blending swing, country, rockabilly, and rock 'n' roll, served up with clever banter and storytelling. Miller writes songs from another era and makes vintage gems her own; her musical evolution has moved from bluegrass and Western swing to honky-tonk and hillbilly jump.

Shake your booty, or sit and listen — either way you are in for a rare treat on



May 26 (Memorial Day weekend). The Roughnecks play at the Longbranch Improvement Club from 8 p.m. to midnight that Saturday; doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets (\$12) are available at the door, and can be pre-purchased at Sunnycrest Nursery, Longbranch Marina, Home Store, or at LakeBay Nautical in Olympic Village in Gig Harbor. Participants 21 and over are invited to enjoy a no-host bar; snacks are provided.

Play with the Down Home band

Open to anyone who has played a band instrument sometime in their lifetime, this band is a community gem. The first practice of the season will be at the Key Medical Center. An energetic

performance venue this year includes gigs at the Gig Harbor Cancer Run, Old Timers' Day, and a number of other community events. It's easy to join this musical group — just show up for practice on Thursday, May 3, at 7 p.m. at Key Medical Center, 15610 89th St., Key Center or call Dr. Roes at 884-9221.

Ty Hardin at Encore!

Key Pen celebrity/movie star Ty Hardin will join the cast of the musical "Annie" at Gig Harbor's Encore! Theater. The show opens Friday, May 4, for a three-weekend run through May 20. Performances will be Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The production celebrates the 30th anniversary of the show, which was a Broadway hit.

The family-friendly show, based on the comic strip "Little Orphan Annie," includes famous songs "Tomorrow" and "It's a Hard Knock Life." Hardin will play President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The show plays at 6615 38th Avenue NW in Gig Harbor; reservations by calling 858-2282. Tickets are \$6 for children through age 6; \$8 for ages 7-12; \$11 for military, seniors and teens; \$15 for adults.

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(From **FIRE**, Page 1)

stating that Yanity had a gun. No weapon was discovered on Yanity when police arrived, according to Detective Ed Troyer, spokesman for the Pierce County Sheriff Department.

"Yanity picked up a coffee mug and hit Bosch with it," Troyer said. A broken mug handle and blood on Bosch's face were visible when the scuffle ended, after which Bosch was treated by district paramedics and later reemerged with a bandage around his face.

The building was locked down for two hours after several Pierce County Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene around 10:30 a.m. Troyer said Bosch was taken to a hospital "for stitches and observation." Yanity was questioned and eventually transported, wearing handcuffs, to Pierce County jail. He was booked for second degree felony assault and later posted \$10,000 bail. He was arraigned on April 25, with no further court dates available at press time.

While waiting for police to respond to the April 24 incident, one witness observed, "It had to happen sooner or later," to which another person replied, "It's... not surprising." For more than a year, disagreements and personal attacks between Bosch and Yanity have turned many of the commissioners meetings into extensive debates over meeting minutes, reimbursements, attendance of non-district functions, and personal disagreements.

At a November 2006 meeting attended by the KP News, the commissioners spent about two hours on the consent agenda, including 45 minutes discussing approval of vouchers that included commissioner reimbursements on which Yanity and Bosch disagreed. The meeting was attended by the district's attorney Joe Quinn, at the rate of \$160 per hour. One audience member commented: "You've wasted more money arguing about it. Get on with business." Quinn, whose hourly contract rate increased to \$200 in March, has been present at many of the meetings in the past year and a half. Following the April 24 fight, district officials said the presence of a police officer may be requested for future meetings.

Audience members ranging from residents to firefighters have commented at the meetings how dysfunctional the board appeared to be. At the Dec. 21 board meeting, Union Local 3125 President Robert Bosch said, "These meetings are a circus and have become an embarrassment to this district."

Bosch and Yanity have been accusing each other of various wrongdoings

including slander, intimidation, lies and extortion. Bosch submitted a formal complaint after a Nov. 28 meeting at which Yanity threatened administrative manager Christina Bosch, the district and the board with legal action related to his access to records. Bosch wrote in the complaint that "these threats to intimidate and harass District 16 employees violate their statutory rights" and requested that Yanity be censured; no further action was taken because commissioners are not subject to the district's code of ethics that prohibits harassment of employees.

The conflict between the two, former longtime friends, escalated recently to criminal complaints against each other submitted to the Pierce County Sheriff's Office. The filing stemmed from a March 27 board meeting, at which Bosch tried to submit a letter that alleged Yanity sexually harassed a woman who rented his cabin in Alaska. According to Quinn, the allegations have "nothing to do with district business" because the letter, apparently mailed by an Alaska resident, "has nothing to do with Commissioner Yanity—it's about Al Yanity" as an individual. The two commissioners have accused each other of writing the letter, with Yanity subsequently accusing Bosch of extortion and Bosch calling Yanity "a perpetrator."

Five-member board

Before the fight closed down the April 24 meeting, the commissioners had passed a motion to put a measure on the November ballot asking for board expansion from three commissioners to five. The proposal was recommended by the district's Future Planning Committee, chaired by Bosch. "I lean toward a five-member board in hopes to get a more positive atmosphere, but I'm not sure it's going to happen," Bosch said at a committee meeting. Yanity voted against the motion, although in an interview prior to the meeting he said he was likely to abstain. "I'm not in favor or not opposed to it," he told the KP News. "I personally think it's a waste of money. If people think they want it, they can vote for it."

Increasing the board to five members is a move that would cost about \$10,000 per new commissioner per year for per diem and travel reimbursements, including an expected raise in per diem from \$70 to \$90 that was approved by the Legislature and at press time awaited the governor's approval.

Commissioner Rick Stout, board chairman, said in an interview that having five commissioners would allow the district to have two commissioners on the same committee and other gatherings without constituting a quorum. It will also take



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Pierce County Sheriff's deputies are escorting a handcuffed Allen Yanity to a patrol car to be transported to jail.

three people to pass motions, which Stout feels means better constituent representation.

At the April 10 meeting, Ben Thompson questioned whether that move would bring improvements. Thompson, who lost his bid for the board to Yanity in 2005, ran on the platform of increasing to five members. He said in an interview: "The district is just deadlocked; there is no incentive to discuss the direction of the fire department... It seems like a poor method of running the district with a three-person board."

Thompson told the board at the April 10 meeting they should investigate the feasibility of combining the district with a neighboring one. Following that comment, Ed Taylor, former fire commissioner, told the board: "I don't think there's another district that will have you—they'd be embarrassed." He suggested the solution is for the two commissioners to resign, to which Yanity replied, "...I will not resign for the convenience of Mr. Bosch."

While neither commissioner would resign, a move is under way to potentially force them out of office. Mike Salatino, who referred to himself as "an irate citizen" during the introductions at the April 10 meeting, said he is ready to write a recall petition. He told commissioners the fire district "is an absolute embarrassment to the community." Salatino told the KP News the petition should ask to "recall everyone culpable and who we feel are responsible for the mess down there today," referring to the April 24 altercation. "We need a complete shake-up of the board," he said.

Fire District 5 in Gig Harbor has increased its board from three to five members in the 2005 election. Kevin Entze, chair of FD-5 Board of Commissioners, said the change has been discussed for a few years. Although they didn't have the political squabbles that are plaguing FD-16, Entze said Fire District 5

felt a three-person board "makes it tough to do things because two people make a quorum." "It's worth the expense," he said. "It's proved beneficial for the district and has created a better relationship with the firefighters and the union—and the community."

While moving to a bigger board could improve efficiency, supporters of the idea acknowledge it may not improve the political climate: The two new commissioners would be appointed by the existing board. According to state law, one would serve until the next "general fire district election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms, and the other appointee to serve until the second general fire district election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms." Which means if the public doesn't vote until November, it is likely the new commissioners would not be appointed until 2008, when the current board's composition may change even without a recall: Stout's term expires this year.

Stout, a retired FD-16 fire battalion chief whose tie-breaking vote frequently agrees with Bosch's, told the KP News, "I haven't made up my mind yet" about running for a second term. The deadline for candidate filings is June 8, and so far no one has publicly announced candidacy.

Regardless of Stout's decision about candidacy, Salatino is moving forward with a recall committee, which will meet at his home at noon on May 5. He said the committee may write two petitions; the second one would be to expand the board now instead of waiting for November elections. Salatino was overheard at earlier meetings saying that he didn't like the idea that an expanded board would entail two appointments rather than elections.

Citizen action is a welcome concept for Detective Troyer. In his opinion, the threats and blackmail accusations of Yanity and Bosch have required too much police involvement. "(We) shouldn't have to be using police resources for fire commissioners," Troyer said. "Since we can't get it straightened out, maybe the citizens can."

Division Chief Chuck West, while not familiar with the recall discussions, said fire district members have no control of commissioners. "The commissioners are elected officials. The public needs to step forward on this and we are encouraging them to do so," he said. West added that despite the recent events, district firefighters and paramedics continue to do their duties in serving the public. "My guys are still doing their jobs. They are affected by this personally, and their feelings," he said. "But professionally, these guys are out on the street still doing a great job."

Boating tips that to have you ready for opening day

By Danna Webster, KP News

Two Key Peninsula boaters helped create a common-sense checklist for getting your boat ready to sail — or motor — after a winter off the water. The men have the same last name, have never met and are not related. Tim Shirley became a certified boat mechanic 30 years ago and Frank Shirley is a sailor of some “30 odd years mostly around Puget Sound.” One skipper pushes his boat with the wind; the other pulls his boat through the water with a propeller powered by a motor.

Peninsula Marine mechanic Tim Shirley was a sportsman class off-shore racer. Engine power and speed are the attributes he most admires about a boat. For sailor Frank Shirley, the less reliance upon a motor the better. He uses a motor on the back of his sailboat to get out to the mooring anchor. “The objective is to never use the motor again until time to go home,” Frank says, meaning the time to go home at the end of the season.

‘First things I look at when I get ready to fire up a boat’

Motor boat tips from Tim Shirley of Longbranch:

Checklist:
 Battery — charge it
 Spark plugs — change them
 Lanyard connected (a.k.a. dead man switch)
 Lights work
 Steering turns right and left
 Flush and run the motor
 Check the prop for nicks
 Boat plug in

“The most common problem for people firing up a boat after winter is a dead battery,” Tim says. “More boats sink because they don’t put the boat plug in than anything else.”

And what is the lanyard switch? “The lanyard is hooked up to the ignition switch. One of the most common problems is that it is pulled out,” he says. “Back in the day when we were racing, we called it ‘the dead man switch.’ It’s what we grabbed if we got thrown out of the boat. It cancels the engine.”

Tim has some hints about a couple of common problems with the two-stroke outboard engine. Spark plugs on two-stroke engines foul easily. It is easy to change them, and better be safe than



Photo by Frank Slater

People come from all over the state to enjoy the beauty of Mt. Rainer from the Longbranch Marina. According to dock master Mark Jones, “People love it for what it isn’t. They love the tranquility. It’s like the old San Juans of the ‘60s,” he says.

sorry. Another big problem for two-strokes is oil settles to the bottom of the fuel tank. His advice is to buy a fuel additive and follow the directions on the label. Start up the motor and check that it is operating properly before you launch. “Run it in the driveway and check your lights. Always flush and run the motor in the driveway before you go down to the ramp and have a good time,” he says.

‘What to do before you take it out and throw it in the water’

Sailboat tips from Frank Shirley of Vaughn:

Checklist:
 Battery — charge it
 Lights working: running lights; mast

head lights; inside cabin lights
 Flush and run the back-up motor

Check and sometimes replace:
 Main sheet and jib sheet
 Main jib halyard
 Check and lube:
 Wench-grease
 Outboard motor bracket —WD-40
 Jam cleats—squirt with WD-40
 Snap shackles work — WD-40
 Jib has brass hooks that need to be lubed — silicon or WD-40
 Check for sharp protrusions on rigging-cover with tape
 Check rudder is in good condition
 Check buoy line that ties up to anchor
 Check line and chain on anchor
 Paint bottom
 Wipe down inside with Clorox solution
 Boat registration on

Local marinas

Carr Inlet:
 Lakebay Marina—884-3350 (fuel available)
 Longbranch Marina—884-5137
 Case Inlet:
 Fair Harbor Marina—360-426-4028 (fuel available)
 Port of Allyn—360-275-2430
 For further recommendations check out Nautical Know How - Boating Tips Notebook at www.boatsafe.com/nauticalknowhow/safetips.htm.

One maintenance hint from Frank Shirley is that a problem with the inside cabin lights usually means it has gotten wet around the light bulb. Dry the socket and change the bulb before tackling wiring diagrams. Another hint is to use black electrician’s tape on any projection like cotter pins that could tear sails — or you.

He first puts the backup motor on his row boat and checks it out thoroughly before mounting the motor on his sailboat. Having the motor fail when you need it can lead to unflattering consequences. It has happened to Frank once or twice. “That has happened a couple of times, to my embarrassment,” he says. “The wife tows me with the row boat.”

Boating season officially begins at the Longbranch Marina on the first Saturday in May. You and your boating vessel are invited to the Opening Day breakfast presented by the Longbranch Improvement Club from 8 a.m. to noon. There is a sailboat regatta, sponsored by the Longbranch Yacht Club at 10 a.m. Better check out your boating vessel soon or you may have to swim over to the marina.

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During the comment period, Michael Elston addresses the audience.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

(From **FORUM**, Page 1)

"There are ongoing water quality tests every day of the workweek," he said, adding that it is a vigorous process to assure that tests are correct. "One of my jobs is to proof data sheets after approved by the computer. I know every station in the state," Combs said.

Sarah Dzinbal from the Department of Natural Resources outlined the studies that determined whether state tidelands should be leased for geoduck aquaculture. The leases will be for 10 years. "We don't have any leases signed yet," she said. Currently all the active farms are private.

Taylor Shellfish public affairs manager Bill Dewey introduced some advantages of geoduck farming. It is Dewey's position that geoduck farming benefits the community because the shellfish life cycle improves water quality. "The geoduck filters about 30 gallons of water per day. Chesapeake Bay is adding back shellfish to improve water quality," he said. According to Dewey, the farmer benefits financially. It takes six years for the crop to mature and during that time, the farmer may receive \$1,000 a year for the lease. After the harvest, the farmer will receive 10 percent of the sale, which may be \$60,000 or more.

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee outlined the aim of county officials to address property rights' concerns and conditions that should be required for permits. "Geoduck farming can be a means to offset property tax — a source of revenue. People can stay in their homes," Lee said.

A list of conditions that should be met to protect the property rights of neighbors has been developed. Some examples of those conditions are: securing permits from all agencies involved; no harvesting between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., on Sundays or state holidays; minimizing noise; marking equipment; maintaining all unnatural debris off beaches; and protecting eel grass beds.

"It is easy to identify these issues," Lee said. "Science issues are hard to identify." The job ahead is to develop best science

practices for the farms, he said.

The county will begin hearings on May 7 to determine permit conditions that may eventually become mandatory in the county's Shoreline Master Plan.

"Come to public hearings — that's where the conditions for approval come from. Make the people that make the conditions aware," Lee said. "There are a lot of opportunities for influencing the process."

Laura Hendricks, co-founder and president of the Henderson Bay Shoreline Association, presented her study of scientific evidence relative to the environmental concerns about geoduck farming. She introduced herself to the audience as the "party crasher."

"You've been hearing all the good things," she said and began to challenge some of the earlier positions. About property rights she asked, "What rights do we have? What rights, do we take from the next-door neighbor and all of Puget Sound?"

With regard to geoduck farming, Hendricks said, "We are changing our natural habitat," and listed such concerns as water quality degradation, environmental disturbance caused by pressure-hose harvesting, smelly algae-covered tubes, and shellfish fecal matter.

About the DOH water quality presentation, she said, "You only test for human, not for fecal shellfish waste." Then she challenged the audience: "The Key Peninsula needs to think about what we want. What are we doing here?"

The forum was sponsored by the Key Peninsula News in collaboration with the Key Peninsula Community Council and Shellfish Partners (comprised of Pierce County Public Works and Utilities Water Programs, Pierce Conservation District and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department). The intent of the sponsors was to present an unbiased examination of the issue of geoduck farming. Chris Fitzgerald, news editor of the KP News, spearheaded the idea following an eight-month series on the subject. She used the network developed from research for the articles to secure the panelists.

More on geoducks

The forum panelists did not get the chance to respond to all audience questions due to limited time. The Key Peninsula News asked them to answer the remaining questions, and the responses will be published online at www.keypennews.com (click on the online version of this article).

The Community Development Committee of the Pierce County Council will hold a public hearing on proposed drafted interim regulations for geoduck, docks, floats, and hydraulic lifts on May 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the council chambers in Tacoma.

The Key Peninsula Community Council is gathering information and plans to take a position on geoduck farming in the local community. The council invites community members to attend its June meeting to voice their views, after which time the directors will draft an official position that will be presented to Pierce County Council.

"The reps from the county and industry were people of consequence. They had experiences in their fields. That told me they (those represented) know there is a lot at stake," she said.

The audience members had the opportunity to ask questions after the presentations as well as make comments.

One of the audience comments came from Susan Mendenhall, who said the lessons from bulkhead experiences took decades to learn. She credited the community for being stewards of the environment but concluded that the forum left her with mixed opinions. "I don't know where I stand (about geoduck farming). I hope everyone continues to

be involved in the process," she said.

Response received from feedback cards indicated approval of the forum. The survey question "Did you find this forum useful and informative?" only received one single "no" from the 20 percent of the audience who turned them in. The responses also indicated the perplexity of the audience over the question of geoduck farming. When asked their position on the subject, they split evenly "in favor" and "against," with two undecided. The comments from the audience at the forum showed a similar split, with some of those commenting being geoduck farming supporters and others against it.



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Motorcycles ride into Key Center for MS fundraiser

Photos and story by Danna Webster

Traffic was stopped in Key Center the last Saturday in March. The motorcycle riders' fundraiser for MS was riding into town and making a right turn into O'Callahan's. When the last engine shut off, there were 187 bikes in the parking lot. O'Callahan's was the second of five stops for the rally that also rode through Purdy, Port Orchard, Union and Belfair.

The rides have raised about \$46,000 over the last five years, according to "Butcher," president of the Band of Brothers motorcycle club. He appreciates



the cooperation of the other clubs and asked to send his thanks for support and help to these HOG (Harley Owners Group) chapters: Banditos, Area 51, BFE, Gypsy Jokers, American Steel, Vietnam Vets, Hombres, American Legacy Vets and Band of Brothers.

Butcher said the fundraiser efforts are an expression of "the love of brotherhood and support of each other."

"We take care of each other for good causes," he said.



Above, a rare sight in Key Center: nearly 200 parked Harleys. Left, President Butcher from the Band of Brothers Motorcycle Club with Carla Snyder, who rides in the sidecar of her husband's bike. She is an inspiration for the fundraiser ride because she has battled MS since 1998.

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BACK IN TIME

What's in a name?

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Many local places bear the names of early settlers, or members of Capt. Charles Wilkes' 1841 expedition, but some have been replaced or forgotten.

What happened to Balch's Cove, Blanchard, Lewis Lake, Lyle, Meridian, and Springfield? Did you know that Minter and Elgin are the same place? Or that McNeil Island might have become Duntze Island?

Delano, Jackson Lake, Joe's Bay, McDermott Point, Palmer Lake, Penrose Point, Taylor Bay, Vaughn, Purdy, and Minter all carry names of early settlers or men who came when local communities were developing.

Names from the Wilkes expedition include Case and Carr inlets; Hartstene, Herron, and McNeil islands. Wilkes honored his commissioned officers and scientists with major waterway names and his petty officers with less prominent sites, but never put his own name on any place in the Northwest.

Joe's Bay, with the official name of Von Geldern Cove on most maps, was called Alarm Cove by Capt. Peter Puget. Whether Von Geldern was an early settler in the Home area, or Wilkes' crew member, is an unsettled question. Joe Faulkner, an early settler on the cove, is considered the Joe of the bay's name.

Duplicate names in a state are often changed at the postmaster-general's request. Because of that, Blanchard became Herron, Springfield was renamed Wauna, and Clifton was turned into Belfair. Belfair was chosen by then postmaster Mrs. Murray, who saw the name in a book she was reading.

Some names are changed at the whim of one person. Minter, named for the George Minter family, was turned into Elgin by schoolteacher/postmaster William R. Kernoodle. Early schools were Elgin, but the current one is Minter Creek.

The community of Sidney, named for developer Sidney Stephens, asked the Legislature to return their name to Port Orchard, for H.M. Orchard, clerk of Capt. George Vancouver's Discovery. Orchard surveyed the area, and realized a supposed cove, Rich Passage, was an extensive inlet.

In 1846, Capt. Inskip called McNeil

A future installment will discuss roads named for early citizens. Readers are encouraged to submit information, especially for lesser known roads. Email to news@keypennews.com or call 884-4699.

Duntze Island for a fellow British captain, John Duntze. A year later, McNeil was recognized as the official name, although the namesake was McNeill.

Glen Cove, originally called Balch's Cove, had a name change in 1896. Warren T. Ball, the original postmaster, or Harry Winchester, who began logging there, apparently gave the first name to honor Lafayette Balch, founder of Steilacoom, the oldest incorporated town in the state. Emory Hermans, postmaster in 1896, may have changed the name to Glen Cove.

Lewis Lake, originally Stansberry Lake, held a post office for a little over a year. Entrepreneur B. A. Lewis renamed the lake to draw new settlers in to buy his land. Stansberry is still found on many maps, but it's now Lake Holiday.

Delano, named for Capt. George E. Delano, consisted of a beach resort, with a post office in the hotel for about five years.

Meridian, situated near the Willamette Meridian between Lakebay and Longbranch, was home to the Hillel/Lorenz/Raasch brickworks. Mary Leighton established a post office there in 1890, a year before the town was platted. She married Joseph Floyd in 1894, and moved the post office to McNeil Island; the mainland area was then called West Meridian. The post office moved back there for nine months in 1915, but otherwise, stayed on the island until 1936.

Lyle, platted in 1890 between Minter Lagoon and Wauna, with three streets, left few traces of the hoped-for town. The dock between Minter and Lyle served both communities.

Whiteman's Cove honors the first settler there named Reed, who had a Native American wife. Why not Reed's Cove? It's also spelled Whitman and Whiteman Cove on some maps and documents.

Thanks to a grant from the Ben B. Cheney foundation, and the tireless efforts of our Grant Writing Committee, the Civic Center will soon advertise for contractors to bid on remodeling the front entry way of the center.

The Building Committee hopes to advertise the project around May 1 and to have it completed this summer. Interested contractors can contact the Civic Center office at 884-3456.



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PSD focused on district-wide, region-wide emergency preparedness

Peninsula School District has a comprehensive emergency preparedness program that includes an emergency response plan, staff safety training, and regular drills. In addition, PSD has been collaborating with other local agencies on regional disaster management.

A committee representing PSD, the city of Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor fire districts, Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, Peninsula Light Co., Pierce County Sheriff's, and other organizations has been meeting for more than a year to assess local resources and to help coordinate response in the event of a widespread disaster.

The agencies are reviewing various aspects that may be affect the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula areas in a regional disaster, including telecommunications, transportation, utilities, resource management, law enforcement and fire fighting.

"Our students come first. Our main goal is to keep the students safe and reunite them with their



Teachers at Voyager Elementary School are holding "OK" cards during a recent fire drill to indicate they have accounted for all students in their classrooms. Each PSD school holds several fire, earthquake and building lockdown drills throughout the year.

families," says Caroline Antholt, Peninsula School District executive assistant. "Once students are gone, we can open the high schools for showers, provide fuel, transportation, machinery, ground crews and other resources that may be needed in a big disaster."

The school district also owns the KGHP-FM radio station that is housed at Peninsula High School and is operated largely by students and volunteers. During the December storm, KGHP provided

regular updates on power outages from Peninsula Light Co., and for several days had hourly live reports from the utility's staff.

The storm gave the disaster preparedness committee the opportunity to see its plan in action and make improvements.

"Because we had the plan in place, everybody knew each other at the Emergency Operations Center during the disaster, and that really helped with the coordination," Antholt says. "Knowing the key players made a big difference."

MAY EVENTS

- 3-6 PHS presents "Hello, Dolly!" in the Milton S. Boyd Auditorium; all shows at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for the general public, \$7 for senior citizens, students WA SB and children 11-years old and under.
- 10 School board regular meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Peninsula High School
- 19 Vaughn auction "Swing on a Star" 5:30 p.m. at Key Peninsula Civic Center. Contact Tina Self, 857-8552 or 530-4700.
- 24 School board study session 6:30 p.m. district office
- 31 Vaughn Elementary 2007-2008 All-Day Kindergarten Orientation at 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Employment at Peninsula Transportation!

Substitute School Bus Driver: Classroom and behind the wheel training in July. For additional information call Craig Sherman or Annie Bell at 530-3900.

Employment at Peninsula Pools!

Pool Lifeguard and Swim Instructor: Call Alexie McElhoo, Aquatics Manager, at 530-4575 for additional information.

Summer School Highlights

- High School Credit Recovery Classes July 9 - August 2.
- Jump Start Summer Program July 30 - August 16
Students must be nominated for participation in Jump Start
- Support Class for 10th grade WASL retakes July 9 - August 2
WASL Support Classes are FREE and offered in math, reading or writing.

Summer School Contact: Ron Witter c/o Discovery Elementary 4905 Rosedale Gig Harbor, WA 98335 (253) 530-1265 or visit www.sspsd401.net/default.asp

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



A team from Peninsula School District's Food Services Department won the "Best Plate Presentation" award at the annual Sode who-sponsored Culinary Celebration competition in March. Dawn Chaussee and Cheryl Prante from Peninsula High School, Cinde Ryan from Gig Harbor High School, Mary Williams from Voyager Elementary, and Teri Percy from Vaughn Elementary, were part of the winning team.

Business Week!

WA Business Week will be held at PHS this year for juniors, the week of June 14-20. About 100 students will participate in Health Week for the first time, which will focus primarily on the Health Care Field. Students will be organized into "clinics" to develop medical response plans to address a variety of global health issues and experience what it is like to make real-world choices. The focus is on preparing for careers in Healthcare.

Emergency Management & Preparedness Links:

- Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov/dhspublic
- Planning: www.nlc.org/nlc.org/site/programs/homeland_security/index.cfm
- U.S. Dept of Education Emergency Plan: www.ed.gov/emergencyplan
- OSPI Safety Center: www.k12.wa.us/safetycenter

To view additional links visit our website: www.peninsula.wednet.edu/support/safety.asp



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Entertainment to be announced; other attractions include children's activities (crafts, arts, reptiles), food, plant sale, outdoor displays

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(From **FAMILY**, Page 1)

fundraising walk for the CF Foundation Washington/Alaska Chapter, coming up in mid-May.

Josh was 3 months old before his parents, John and DeeDee, had a name for his distress. They knew something was wrong. Josh wasn't growing; he weighed only a few ounces more at 3 months than he did when born full-term, and still wore newborn clothing. He cried all the time and was fussy. After diagnosis, he was placed on a series of daily treatments and medications that will continue throughout his life, and his body weight and development "all averaged out by age 1." The Louxes already had one son, Christopher, who was a healthy 2-year-old.

CF, as the family calls Josh's condition, changed everything, says DeeDee. She and John had planned to have a large family. While testing their baby and the parents to find answers, doctors discovered John and DeeDee carry a gene for the disease. They are among more than 10 million Americans who are symptomless carriers of the defective CF gene. (While progress has been made, there is no cure for this fatal devastating disease.) There was no history of CF in either family, yet any child they conceived would have a one in four chance of having the same disease. Daughter Aleisha was born healthy three years later.

DeeDee says the family has a "new normal": daily treatments, medications, and more doctor and hospitalizations for ailments that wouldn't much slow other youngsters down. This year, Josh is going to school; his brother and sister are still home-schooled. DeeDee's intuition, and Josh's behavior, told her he needed some breathing room — she was mom, nurse, teacher, pharmacist. School "has been wonderful for him," she says. During a recent hospitalization, classmates sent him cards. Josh insisted on a post-hospital visit to school before spring break to thank his friends.

Josh is nearly the shortest kid in his third-grade class at Hosanna Christian School in Gig Harbor, except for one smaller girl who wears high-heeled



Photo by Mindi LaRose

About 200 family members and friends joined Josh at the event, which also raised awareness for a May cystic fibrosis fundraising walk.

shoes to make herself taller. That makes Josh the shortest by default — and his good third-grade friend, Austin, is the tallest. These important distinctions are not lost on Josh. When asked what he like most about school, he quickly named math — and food. He reports he eats his own lunch, goes back for seconds, and takes any classmate leftovers offered.

"I eat a lot," he says, fidgeting with his stocking feet on the edge of the coffee table in front of the sofa where he sits, "and I still never grow." DeeDee says Josh takes pills before every meal to help his body retain nutrients, and reminds him he has grown two inches since last December. "No," he corrects softly, still studying his toes, "Just one and one half inches."

"I feel different," Josh says, unable to explain how. He longs to be just a boy who plays outside before school, who needn't "waste my time" with treat-

ments. In another life, this wiry, plucky kid with a first-class pitching arm (and trophies from three years running to prove it) would probably have other kids lined up to paint the fence while he whistled off with a fishing pole. Instead, he gets up an hour early every morning, plugs two hair-dryer type hoses attached to a small machine into a black nylon vest. He slips the vest on over his pjs, fastens the front snug with two straps and flips the machine on. Like an inflatable scuba vest, the device fills with air and hugs his chest and back. While he watches a video or plays a game and wears a medicated nebulizer mask, the activated vest pulsates against his body, "jiggling" his chest and back to give up the mucus that collected in his lungs overnight. Every morning. Then pills with breakfast. Nothing he wants to share with classmates during recess.

When DeeDee was pregnant with Josh, she became reacquainted with a classmate at her high school reunion. There was something "different" about this friend while they were in school; she coughed a lot, missed classes. Turns out her friend, now married and on a career track, has CF. DeeDee asks her advice occasionally; the two have something in common — one leading a full life and beating the average life-expectancy odds, with a disease doctors told her parents would bury her before kindergarten, the other raising a son to "work hard and take care of himself."

Josh's family is honest with him. They talk about the hard things; mostly they tell him there are no guarantees — for anyone.

CF kids live with tangible isolation and experience the kind of loneliness

Fundraising walk

A "Great Strides" fundraising walk to benefit the CF Foundation will be held in Gig Harbor on Saturday, May 12. Check-in is 10 a.m. at the Rush Companies, Inc. building in Park Plaza. The 4-mile walk commences at nearby Cushman Trail, and winds back to the starting point, to a free barbecue for walkers. For more information or to register, visit <http://greatstrides.cff.org> or call 1-800-647-7774.

that comes from being "the only one," because CF people don't congregate. There are no "camps" for CF kids, no special events where they mingle. In a cruel twist, bad bacteria from one strain can be communicated from one affected person to another affected person, and the result is more sickness that cannot be reversed. When parents of CF kids occasionally attend network functions, their children are not present. In their "new normal," DeeDee says they tell Josh, "CF is a part of your life; it's not your whole life."

Doctors now know the more active CF kids are, the better — the more their lungs get a healthy workout, the longer they retain the capacity. It is information that Josh regularly puts to the test. If he could meet another kid with CF, he knows what he would ask: "How many times are you 'doing the vest?'" It is a question that connects the dot back to "different." Josh wonders how another kid would fit the vest treatment in — he is eager to be just a kid growing up, throwing fastballs, drawing, playing his guitar. Way too busy to be bothered with CF.



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HELP WANTED
The Civic Center urgently needs at least two persons to repair and maintain the roller skates used by the youth at the Friday Night Youth Skating Program. The work consists primarily of replacing and servicing the wheels and doing some cosmetic work on the boots. Flexible hours; work at the center or at home. The lack of pay is more than compensated for by the gratitude of the youth. Contact Phil Bauer at 884-9172 or the Civic Center at 884-3456.

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Out & About

A large group of seagulls and bald eagles put on a spectacular show at Von Geldern Cove in early April. The commotion attracted many people to watch from the Home Bridge and their waterfront homes. Some witnesses counted 14 eagles (which are in mating season) swirling in the skies.

Photo courtesy Karina Whitmarsh



More than 100 people came to the annual Community Easter Sunrise Service at Penrose Point State Park on April 8. The event was hosted by Lakebay Community Church, but included people from various Key Pen churches. *Photo courtesy Karina Whitmarsh*



Two-year-old Caleb Barringer and his father, Ryan, are playing catch during a youth rally at the Red Barn, which will soon host a youth center.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson



L-R, Erin Ewald of Pierce Conservation District, KP Civic Center President Ben Thompson and Bruce Macdonald, member of the Civic Center board and the KP News publishing board, behind the scenes during the geoduck information forum sponsored by the KP News. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



As the eagles and seagulls swarmed around Von Geldern Cove (see top left photo), these cormorants huddled on a raft on the cove. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Below, the Glenn family of Gig Harbor, Daphne, 16 months, Samantha, 4, mom Stephanie and dad David are looking at kayakers and boaters paddling in Gig Harbor as part of the Step It Up event, organized locally by KP resident Robin Peterson to raise environmental awareness. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



Shirley and Don Olson visit with Phil Radcliffe during a fundraising breakfast held for Radcliffe, who was injured in a sawmill accident earlier this year. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



To see more Out & About photos, visit our Website at 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!