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Best plans go awry for Wauna home

Owner foregoes retirement to complete project

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Perched above State Route 302 on the Key Peninsula side of the Purdy Spit, a house under construction for more than two years nears completion, illustrating the complexity of building on an environmentally sensitive site. Passers-by, who can see the home clearly from the highway, surely ask themselves questions. How does the house keep from slipping down to the road? When will it ever be safely completed and occupied?

When Yvonne Rose bought lots No. 2 and 3 in the Emerald Shores subdivision during a family visit from Ohio in January 2003, she hired a geotech engineer to begin a site study before returning home. Her brother referred her to Cedarland NW Homes, where he is a landscaper, and she contracted with the company to build her custom home.

Rose planned to retire from her Ohio phone company job and relocate to her



Photo by Mindi LaRose

It is unclear when this custom home project, started in 2003, will be ready for occupancy.

new life on the Key Peninsula. Instead, after moving to Washington state, she rented a home on Fox Island and began navigating her way through Pierce County's planning and land services, in an attempt to obtain the final occupancy permit that will finally bring her "home." The building cost overruns have forced her back into the workforce.

According to the county, a two-story,

three-bedroom residential building permit application was filed in August 2003 and issued in June 2004. An abbreviated geotech site design was submitted in December 2003 and approved in July 2004. Glen Coad, development engineering technical support supervisor, thought it "odd" that the building permit

(See **WAUNA**, Page 24)



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Gates installed earlier on 144th Street have not been locked yet by Tacoma Power, which plans to install electrical gates instead for safety reasons.

Residents sue Tacoma utility

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The owners of five properties on the Key Peninsula filed a lawsuit in January against the city of Tacoma and its Tacoma Public Utilities, following a long-standing dispute related to 144th Street, a primitive road owned by the utility that has been used by residents for years to access their homes.

According to John Ludlow, an attorney with a Bellevue law firm representing the property owners, the plaintiffs are asking either for the Tacoma Power to grant a

(See **UTILITY**, Page 20)

Commissioners appoint new chief

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Fire District 16 Board of Commissioners promoted Tom Lique to the position of fire chief effective Jan. 1. Lique, a department veteran, has been the acting chief since last June.



LIQUE

"We agreed he is the best one for the job, and he's been doing an outstanding job in the interim," said board chairman Rick Stout.

(See **LIQUE**, Page 17)

Key Pen Family Resource Center gets new director

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center started the new year with a new program manager at the helm. Jud Morris was selected after an extensive search that included about 40 applicants, following the departure last year of Edie Morgan.



MORRIS

Morris comes to the center with 40 years of experience in social work, which included urban and rural areas. A Washington state resident for about 20 years, he currently lives on Raft Island near Gig Harbor.

Morris has a wide gamut of previous jobs in the social work field, including

work with special needs children, child protective services, mental health clients, and aging and adult services. Part of The Children's Home Society organization since 2001, he most recently worked at its Tacoma office.

Morris is not a complete stranger to the Key Peninsula. He has been in the area before looking to buy a home, and had visited the KP Family Resource Center. "The building has its challenges, but I really think we deliver superb services," he said in an interview about a week after he started his new job.

Morris said he'd like to refocus the center's vision and concentrate on helping clients become self-sufficient — what he refers to as "not doing things for people but with people." He hopes to get the community involved in the process, and together with staff discussed ways to do that. One of the first changes was the format of the

monthly advisory board meetings. At the next meeting, and others in the future, Morris would like community members to come and participate in developing the vision for the center. He would like to ask for input and encourage them to become involved.

The staff came up with the idea, Morris said. "They were fabulous about it," he said.

Morris, who grew up in Chicago, says he understands the neighborhood feeling of a rural area like the Key Peninsula, with its sense that "we are in it together."

"I like the Key...I think there is a lot of potential here, and challenges to be met through hard work of many people," he said. "I think what stands out initially (about the area) — and I understand the economic difference — the unique geographic structure and the isolated area create a different sense of community than in an area like

Community invited

The KP Family Resource Center staff invites all interested community members to the next advisory board meeting, on Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the Civic Center. KPFRFC welcomes input in creating a new vision for the center. For information, call 884-5433.

Tacoma."

Morris hopes to take advantage of that sense of community and not only involve more people in the center but also create an inclusive environment for the people served by KPFRFC. He plans to look at new classes and other services with the focus on self-sufficiency, while at the same time try to make the center self-sufficient as well. "We are not looking at doing things that cost more money, but taking a look at how we do more what we do," he said.

Rain causes road problems

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Olson Drive KPN in Vaughn was closed in January in the aftermath of the rain streak by Pierce County Public Works. Several local roads were flooded.

Road crews filled 12-hour shifts for several days while trying to deal with the rain-induced problems, which included seven closed roads around the county and 28 roads with water over the roadway.



News brief

Critical Areas Ordinance passes

The Pierce County Critical Areas Ordinance regulations, as proposed last fall during multiple meetings on the Key Peninsula and in Purdy, have passed and will go into effect March 1.

On Jan. 12, a hearings board held a telephone conference with attorneys and plaintiffs (Tahoma Audubon Society, People for Puget Sound, and Citizens for a Healthy Bay); all parties submitted written documentation that they are satisfied with the new regulations, according to county staff.

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

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS!

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Fire guts Vaughn Bay home

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Jane Van Slyke heard a big boom sometime after 4 a.m. on Jan. 4. "It was awfully loud," she said, and figured it was from exercises at Fort Lewis.

Helen Wolniewicz, neighbor and sister-in-law to Van Slyke, woke about that time, and saw it was very bright outside. "Bobby left that old security light on again," she thought.

Dolores Meshke looked across the water to see bright flames, and woke husband Joe, who called 9-1-1.

Rose Gebo wakened and smelled smoke, and thought someone was having a bonfire on the beach. "Not at 4:30 in the morning!" said husband Gary. He also called 9-1-1, and was told he was the third caller.

Jerry Wolniewicz called his neighbor across the street and told him, "Your house is on fire!" He intended to call his cousin, Bob McEntee, whose home was alive with



Bob McEntee's house and its contents were a total loss.

Photo by Colleen Slater

flames, but had misdialed.

The group of neighbors gathered as the Key Peninsula firemen doused the flames enveloping McEntee's home on Vaughn Bay. They were concerned that McEntee was in the house, until Gebo realized only one of his trucks was there.

McEntee, who had left about midnight to pick up his daughter at the Seattle Tacoma International Airport, lost everything except his

trucks, boat, and what he had with him. Even the motor on his boat was damaged.

The first 9-1-1 call was from a firefighter on his way home from a graveyard shift. He recognized the glow in the sky as a fire, and went to the boat ramp to investigate.

A couple who delivers the Kitsap Sun to KP residents went by to see if they could help.

The house, nearly 70 years old, belonged to McEntee's parents, Emmett and Martha (Van Slyke) McEntee. Built for "Grandpa" Tom Gabrielson, the land was originally part of Alfred Van Slyke's holdings on Vaughn Bay. Alfred's son, Nick, sold a portion to sister Nell Holman, who sold it to Bob Davidson, Gabrielson's son-in-law.

Harmon Van Slyke Sr., son of Alfred and father of Martha, later bought the property from Davidson, and McEntees bought it from her dad about 1950. They used the house as a summer cottage.

Bob McEntee has lived there since 2001. He said he has insurance and plans to rebuild.

Hearing held in herring pens dispute

By William C. Dietz
KP News

Since last July KP News has been following the dispute between Pierce County's Department of Planning and Land Services, which would like to see herring pens removed from Mayo Cove, and marina operator Derwin Hostetler, who wants them to stay. Making the situation all the more complicated has been the fact that there are local residents on both sides of the issue.

On Jan. 12 the issue moved one step closer to resolution when a hearing was held to consider Hostetler's appeal of a cease and desist order issued by the county. According to Code Enforcement Officer Mark Luppino, "Additional information was submitted by the attorney for local residents opposed to the herring pens. Plus, Mr. Hostetler's attorney submitted additional information too."

At press time, all sides had until Jan. 20 to respond. "Then, the Deputy Hearing Examiner Mark Hurdelbrink will render his final decision as to whether Mr. Hostetler has legal nonconforming status or the cease and desist order will stand," Luppino said.

If the examiner were to find for the county, the Department of Planning and Land Services will request that the herring pens be removed.

If the parties agree to whatever finding is forthcoming, the matter will end. But, since both sides of the dispute can appeal all, or a portion of the examiner's findings, this particular fish story may continue.

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Editorial

New park planning a big job for a small district

The Key Peninsula community received an incredible gift last year from the state Legislature, which appropriated funds to grant 360 acres of state property to the newly born KP Metropolitan Park District. The property would more than double the district's current park and open space (a total of about 248 acres for Home Park, Volunteer Park and the Rocky Creek Conservation Area).

While local community leaders have been pursuing this property for several years, the real work is only beginning. To develop the park to its potential would require intensive planning, extensive public input, and substantial funding — likely into the millions of dollars.

The community is well aware that the commissioners of the KPMPD ran on an election platform that promised no new taxes. However, it would be impossible to develop the new park on the current budget of about \$150,000 per year, which derives most of the revenue from existing zoo/trek taxes that were diverted from the county to KPMPD upon the district's creation. The development of the park is likely to require a new traffic light along with other infrastructure, and that requires more resources than the district currently has. Even grants often require matching funds.

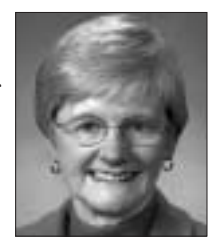
How much money should the district plan to spend on improvements? Where will the money come from? Those are questions the park commissioners will eventually ask the community. In the meantime, the question on the table is what should be the future use of the park. A group of citizens has prioritized a long wish list of possibilities, and will continue to discuss the park's future.

"It's a huge project for a small community," KPMPD Director Scott Gallacher agrees. It's a project that will impact everyone directly or indirectly, and many generations into the future. The community should not wait until the plans come up for the commissioners' votes, or for a levy to be promoted, in order to become involved — this is the time when the dream is being created, the time when the public's input is most needed. The citizens group meets once a month — anyone who wants to have a voice in the future should attend.

Protecting our children and leaving politics at the door

By state Reps. Pat Lantz and Derek Kilmer
Special to KP News

As a grandmother and an expectant father, respectively, we have never felt more strongly about the need to protect all of our children. We have been working with our colleagues from both sides of the aisle to craft bills that will catch more sex offenders, convict more sex offenders, and protect more children. Key to this goal are bipartisan bills we're co-sponsoring:



LANTZ



KILMER

To catch more offenders: HB 2408 changes the statute of limitations for sex offenses committed against children to allow prosecutors to use DNA evidence to identify perpetrators of sex crimes any time after the commission of the crime; HB 2410 makes the possession of child pornography a sex offense.

To convict more offenders: HB 2411 creates a minimum sentence of 25 years to life for offenders who use force in the commission of rape of a child (under age 15) in the first degree, or child molestation in the first degree, and 25 years to life for offenders who are strangers to the victim; HB 2412

increases penalties for failure to register as a sex offender.

To protect our children: HB 2407 requires electronic monitoring of sex offenders who have committed the most serious sex offenses; HB 2409 makes sex offenders register within 72 hours of moving to Washington and toughens rules on how homeless offenders are monitored; HB 2454 protects communication between sexual assault advocates and victims; and HB 2576 establishes a sexual assault protection order, so that sexual assault victims can be protected from contact with a perpetrator.

Additionally, we have co-sponsored a package of sex predator bills at the request of state Attorney General Rob McKenna, a Republican.

In spite of all this, a partisan interest group has been making bogus phone calls to try and get you to believe that nothing is happening to protect our kids. Their claims are flat out untrue.

On the first day of this legislative session, some legislators attempted to force an immediate vote on a 116-page bill that hadn't even been read by prosecutors, police officers, and victims' advocates, nor by our colleagues in the House. An issue as important as our children's safety deserves more than a five-minute glance by legislators.

Additionally, approving that motion would have meant cutting the public out of the process. Victims and their advocates asked us not to do that. And we weren't willing to do it. Sadly —

though perhaps not surprisingly — partisan-interest groups outside the Legislature are spending thousands of dollars making phone calls in our area, trying to use this issue for political gain.

But protecting our kids is too important for partisan gimmicks. Police, prosecutors, and, most importantly, victims, deserve to be heard on this critical issue. We need their input to develop the tools needed to catch and convict these atrocious predators and protect our kids.

Despite what those outrageous phone calls would have folks think, we are moving quickly and aggressively on these issues. On the first week of the session, there were public hearings on all of the bills above, including the 116-page proposal.

We'll continue to listen to prosecutors, police officers, and victims' advocates, all of whom testified in support of the bills we've sponsored. And we'll continue to listen to all of you. We promise to carefully evaluate all these proposals and do what's right for our kids.

We're confident that we will approve legislation this year that will move us forward on the path to making and keeping our children safe.

Rep. Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor, and Rep. Patricia Lantz, D-Gig Harbor, represent the 26th Legislative District, which extends from the Tacoma Narrows Bridge to Bremerton, including Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula, Port Orchard, and parts of Bremerton.

Letters to the Editor

Good Samaritan surprises Key Center deli owner

A huge thank you to the mystery artist who hand-painted a new freestanding sign for "On The Way Deli" in Key Center. The new sign mysteriously appeared one morning to replace the cardboard version. I would be willing to offer a free sandwich to repay the favor. But there are so many artists on the KP, how would I know which one deserves the credit?

*Lisa Larson
On The Way Deli, Key Center*

KPVI thanks community

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute wishes to thank both the places of business and the residents of the area for their participation in the recent annual KPVI "Trees of Sharing" holiday program to aid local veterans. In this program, Christmas trees with personal gift requests for veterans were placed at The Bridgeway Market, the Peninsula Markets at Lake Kathryn and in Key Center, the Friendly Food Mart of Vaughn on Elgin-Clifton Road, at Lulu's HomePort Restaurant, and at the Home Texaco station.

Approximately 300 residents took a gift request from one of the trees,

purchased and wrapped the item for a veteran, and returned the gifts to the stores, where they were collected by KPVI members and delivered prior to Christmas to resident veterans at the American Lake Medical Facility.

The Trees of Sharing is an annual operation of the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute, and is made possible by the community support, which is so very much appreciated. KPVI meets regularly at the KP Community House and membership is open to U.S. veterans and their families.

*Roxyanne Wooldridge
President, Key Peninsula Veterans Institute*

Fund-raisers served regulation sandwich

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Fund-raising organizations historically employ food as an element of fellowship and/or donation-generating revenue resource. Particularly in rural communities, church dinners, potlucks, and food-oriented social gatherings flourish. However, complying with Pierce County Health Department Temporary Food Establishment Guidelines (TFEG) is no cakewalk. The comprehensive regulations, intended to provide for safe and sanitary handling of foodstuffs, were further refined in mid-2005 when the county narrowed both high and low food storage and preparation temperature ranges.

Four county-approved commercial kitchens exist on the Key Peninsula. These are the facilities at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Longbranch Improvement Club, Civic Center, and Key Peninsula Community Services. Any organization contracting with such a kitchen to host an event lasting from one to 21 days and serving food, in addition to obtaining a temporary food establishment license, must also have a person with a Washington State Food Worker's Card (issued by the local health department) present in the food area during the entire event. Such events include fairs, carnivals, public exhibitions, festivals, fund-raisers and sporting events.

Food worker's cards are issued for three years, after specific requirements are met, and can be renewed prior to expiration for up to five years, according to Ruth Bramhall, a current cardholder. "The regulations make (events) more expensive," she says. "But they've done it for the safety of the community."

An organization serving or selling food



Key Peninsula Lutheran Church member Dottie Davis lifts perfectly prepared sunny-side eggs with church Secretary Julie Johnson, ready to move them along to the serving line at a free breakfast for church members at the church on Jan. 21. The free meal was to have been for the general public but had to be limited to a church-only function instead as the church waited for a routine health department permit, expected Jan. 31.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

and advertising with flyers, banners, newspaper articles, or over the Internet is considered both to be holding a public event and subject to the TFEG. Pierce County Health Department further states, "Home canned and home prepared foods, ice made at home, raw milk or storage of foods at private homes are not allowed..." at publicly attended events. An event, dinner or gathering at which food is served, when attended by organization members and their guests, and for which no advertising has been done, is not considered a public event,

according to TFEG documents.

Locally, at least one organization holding periodic meetings at which the public is welcome has opted to simply not mention the potluck portion of the gathering. In a country culture, food and the enjoyment of neighborly camaraderie seem to go hand-in-hand. Home-cooking remains part of that, even though "we can't say we are having a potluck," an organizer says. Similarly, although a plate of homemade cookies offered after a library event may not be in keeping with county regulations, its friendliness helps

"If the county gets word of any of that today, they would shut them (the scouts) down."

-Janice McMillan, local resident

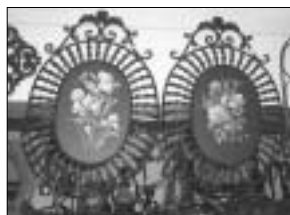
solidify a community.

Local residents Janice McMillan and Joyce Niemann remember not too many years ago scout troops and elementary school classes selling homemade cupcakes and cookies outside the local market. "If the county gets word of any of that today," says McMillan, "they would shut them (the scouts) down." She recalled a Lion's Club chowder cook-off one year at the Civic Center. People enjoyed it, but it never occurred again. The requirements are too strict and the one-day fees too high for most organizations to undertake a fund-raiser involving food today, many volunteers believe.

When "Tears in Heaven," a fund-raiser held last year for a planned KP skateboard park, wanted to include food, McMillan asked restaurants and bakeries to donate desserts, meaning they were all prepared commercially. "We had a kind of silent auction with them. We raised over \$1,000," she said, "and didn't have to be involved with the county health department."

To avoid the cost and complication of food-handling regulations, organizations such as a local fair or festival can run chili cook-offs or pie, cake and cookie contests whose entries are sampled only by judging panels. Look for more auctions, plant sales, and special events not geared toward food in the future of fund-raising. Spaghetti feeds, bake sales or even the time-honored lemonade stand may be fading into fond memory, as jurisdictions move toward greater control over public health issues.

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Planning board begins tackling transportation issues

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

The Key Peninsula Community Planning Board began exploring the transportation element of the KP community plan to a full house at Key Peninsula Middle School the evening of Jan. 18.

Mike Kruger, Planning and Land Services advance planner, announced that Mike Galizio, a transportation planner with Pierce County Public Works and Utilities, will lead the transportation meetings, which will continue every other Wednesday through the end of March. A guest speaker at each meeting will address specific transportation-related topics, beginning with the Feb. 1 session, focusing on Pierce Transit challenges on the peninsula.

While discussing numerous handouts, including articles, regulations, charts, and maps, Galizio repeatedly stressed that the bulk of transportation projects are intended to occur over a 20-year period. He also cautioned those present that Pierce County has a 20-year backlog

“Some solutions used elsewhere do not apply here on the peninsula.”

-Chuck West,
board member

and a \$650 million shortfall in identified transportation projects, with no revenue to cover them unless additional funding sources, such as traffic impact fees, are realized.

In all, 63 motorized and nonmotorized transportation-related project recommendations identified through the KP planning process are up for discussion, revision and/or elimination. Some of those projects involve creation of trails, which may fall within the parks and recreation element that will be discussed later.

In addition to resident-based recommendations, eight Pierce County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects are scheduled on the Key Peninsula. The first was the installation of the traffic light at Elgin-Clifton and

State Route 302, which became operational in January. Galizio is looking into a question regarding implementation of both a turn lane and signal, as provided for in the TIP. The other seven projects, five of which are bridge or culvert replacements, are scheduled to occur by 2009.

Planning board members voiced specific areas of transportation-related concerns during the brainstorming segment of the meeting. Member Matt Halvorsen spoke about the need to make the business district of Key Center “pedestrian-friendly,” noting that the ability to navigate shops and businesses only adds to the economic and aesthetic gain of the area.

“Some solutions used elsewhere do not apply here on the peninsula,” said Chuck West, another board member. “(We have) a greater priority for wider shoulders on 302, lighting at intersections, sidewalks and crosswalks in Key Center... a priority for safe pedestrian walkways to schools, parks, business areas.” He noted it is impossible to walk from his house to Key Center along the highway, and that

KP Community Planning Board

The next meetings for Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 1 and Feb. 15. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library. The Community Planning Board is working on policy development for the Key Peninsula Community Plan regarding transportation. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the meetings.

For information, see
www.piercecountywa.org/landuse.

several major intersections lack visibility for fire trucks and other large vehicles.

An audience participant asked about increased traffic from the NASCAR track being proposed in Kitsap County. Councilman Terry Lee, present in the audience, responded that it still had to go through the state environmental process. He suggested keeping an eye on the short session of the Legislature. “Whether they’ll get behind (the project) is doubtful,” he said.

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KP Citizen of the Year nominees announced

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

The sponsoring Key Peninsula Lions Club announced in January the names of nominees for the 22nd annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards dinner. They are all residents, property owners, or employed on the Key Peninsula and selected for their volunteer activities in support of the KP community, whether on an ongoing basis or for a special one-time accomplishment. Each nominee will receive a framed certificate of appreciation, will be the dinner guest of the Lions, and has a table for eight reserved in his or her name.

Citizens of the Year 2005, listed as their nominations were received, are: John and Shirley Nederlee, Sheryl Mirenta, Donna Chapman, Howard Johnson, Rick Lingle, Miriam Goad, Bonnie Graddon, Betty Mayer, Donna Bowen, Patricia Latshaw, Linda LeBlanc, John Biggs, Jean and Al' Yanity, Nicholas Robison, Tim Kezele, Kari Wilkinson, Joyce Salatino,

Victoria Hawkins, Phil Bauer, Jeff Harris, John Jewell, Kip Clinton, Kareen Borders, Karl Bonn, and Paula DeMoss. Advance sale tickets for the event will be \$20 until Feb. 28, available at the Home Store (at the Home bridge), Key Peninsula Community Services and Sunnycrest Nursery; thereafter they will be \$25. "This is to encourage people to make reservations early enough for us to provide our caterer an accurate estimate of the number of dinners needed," said co-chair of the event, past Lions President Patricia Medveckus.

KIRO Radio's Dave Ross will be the event's keynote speaker at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn on Saturday, March 11. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the Lions advise that "the event, as always, is open to everyone, not just friends and relations of the nominees," and encourage "everyone to attend to demonstrate appreciation to these citizen volunteers who make ours such a fine community in which to live."

For more information, call 853-2721 or 884-3319.

GED program needs volunteers, advisers

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

At the Jan. 18 meeting of the Tacoma Community College's Peninsula Adult Basic Education Program Advisory Committee, Becky Morgan, TCC's Gig Harbor campus dean, announced that the Continuing Education/Adult Basic Education/GED program on the Key Peninsula is looking for tutor volunteers. She added that qualified, interested candidates are being also sought to fill positions on the advisory committee, which now has a few vacancies.

The GED program on the KP is conducted during the day at the Home Fire Station. The program is free. A substantial number of students of all ages have graduated from the program with GED diplomas granted at ceremonies held in the Evergreen Elementary School's gymnasium over the years.

One such graduate said, "I was able to read a story to my grandson for the

first time in my life."

Another graduate praised the program: "I had a job that was going nowhere. With the help of the Peninsula Adult Basic Education Program, I improved my reading and math skills and went on to community college. Now I have a career in a skilled field and can support my family."

Linda Creswell, program coordinator for the Adult Basic Education Program, noted that "by devoting just four hours of tutoring each week, volunteers can help inspire the joy of learning in another, making the difference in helping others achieve their goals and improving their lives."

Volunteers receive 10-12 hours of literacy tutor training as well as continuing education sessions and workshops. For information, contact Linda Creswell at 851-2424.

Hugh McMillan is a member of the Peninsula Adult Basic Education Program Advisory Committee.

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Show & Tell



Photo by Hugh McMillan

CIS-P volunteer mentors Dick Vanberg and John Cicarelli assist Vaughn Elementary students Blake Cohoe and Nathan Meyer get over some reading hurdles on their way to improved grades. Brett Shelley is monitoring the procedure.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The gospel singers, the Chosen Vessels, Phyllis Samuel, Theresa Ellmer, Nadine Collins, Marsha Shelton, and Cynthia Holley, the latter a para-educator at KPMS, thrill the audience that filled the Key Peninsula Middle School's gymnasium theater with a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner during the school's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Above, Key Pen's TWolves (blue) battle against a Gig Harbor team during a Peninsula Athletic Association basketball game held at Key Peninsula Middle School. The TWolves are fifth-graders from Evergreen, Vaughn and Minter.



Left, A poster created and signed by students hangs in the hallway at Evergreen Elementary School on Olga McDonald's last day as AFTER 'OURS coordinator. Right, Peninsula High School's Seahawks keep the heat on during a recent basketball practice at the school. Photos by Rodika Tollefson



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Photo by Hugh McMillan

Holding their entries to the Evergreen Elementary's PTA Reflections Program competition last month are fifth grader Leah DurhamSmith, fourth grader Zoya Stoican, third grader Lauren Herold, pre-schooler Cameron Lutz, and third graders Allena Edgil-Lutz and Karlee Wilkinson. Stoican and Wilkinson's entries will advance to the state competitions.

Evergreen sponsors art show

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Of all days, Friday the 13th was the January day that Evergreen Elementary held its first-ever National PTA's Reflections Program. In its more than 30-year history, the program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools abroad to create works of art. It encompasses literature, musical compositions, photography, and the visual arts. This year's theme was "I wonder why ..."

The program was brought to Evergreen thanks to Kari Wilkinson, president of both the Evergreen and Key Peninsula Middle School PTAs. Two Waters Arts Alliance provided independent professional artists to judge the students' art.

Seana Lutz, secretary of Evergreen's PTA and chairperson of the event said, "This is our first year with Reflections at Evergreen but we plan to do it every year from now on."

The program provides opportunities for students to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts. The Washington State PTA will present awards at the state level in each arts category for each grade division. Within each art category there will be one Outstanding Interpretation Award and as many as five Awards of Excellence. The Outstanding Interpretation Award entry for each traditional category/division will be forwarded to the national PTA Reflections Program competitions. Four Evergreen kids' entries have been sent to the state competitions.

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Fun and learning go hand in hand at Evergreen after school

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Twice a week at Evergreen Elementary School, a big number of first through fifth-graders head to various rooms after school instead of their school buses. It's time for AFTER 'OURS, an afterschool program that engages the children in everything from academics to cooking, sign language and harmonica lessons.

"It extends the day of learning in a fun environment," said Olga McDonald, the school's AFTER 'OURS coordinator, who left in January to pursue a new career.

The program's choices change every five to six weeks, with four sessions held during the school year. In January, classes included cooking with an international flair, ballet/jazz dancing, knitting, a reading club, Tae-Kwon-Do, and Big Buddies/Little Buddies (coordinated by the Children's Home Society), as well as homework and reading

tutoring. Many of the instructors are community volunteers.

In the cooking class, a mid-January session had France as the theme, so young chefs made cheese and chocolate fondue while learning about French culture. Other countries "visited" included Ireland, England and Italy, and the "travelers" collected their recipes in special books — the recipes are easy to make so they can share with their families at home.

In the gym, young ladies were learning dance moves in one corner while boys and girls lined up in another corner for their chance to kick a mat under the supervision of black belt Charles Cowan from the ATA Black Belt Academy.

"It provides a safe place for kids to be, along with additional support for academics, social interaction and fun learning," said Carol McLaughlin, school district AFTER 'OURS manager who will be the interim site coordinator at Evergreen.



Left, Big Buddy Jessica Henderson, PHS ninth-grader, plays chess with third-grader Zach Lewis.

Below, Black belt instructor Charles Cowan watches students learning their kicks in the Tae-Kwon-Do class.

Photos by Rodika Tollefson



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"The elevator to success is out of order. You have to use the stairs...one step at a time." Joe Girard

CIS-P expands math, reading programs

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Communities in Schools of Peninsula has about doubled its afterschool reading and math programs this year, following two years of successful results. More than 100 students are being served at six elementary and middle schools, four of those buildings on the Key Pen.

"We really count on the community to pull this program along," said Colleen Speer, executive director of CIS-P, which is headquartered in Key Center. "The program is volunteer-dependent and most have such a good time, they come back."

About 70 volunteers are participating this year in the programs, which involve one-on-one or small group mentoring and tutoring. At the elementary school level, adult mentors spend one hour a week reading with students, and middle schoolers get help with math.

"It's an extra support for kids who need it," said Minter Creek Elementary

For more information

If you'd like to learn more about being a mentor, or about other CIS-P programs, call 884-5733.

first-grade teacher Jan Hein, who is coordinating the afterschool reading program at the school. This is the program's first year at Minter Creek, and Hein said the goal for partnering up with CIS-P was to help students who need an extra boost as well as foster ties with the community.

"This is a neat program because it's coming from the community saying, 'We want to help you,'" she said.

The programs are tailored to fit the needs of each school, which can choose which grade level would benefit the most. About 20 or more students are involved at each building. This is the third year the mentoring program is offered in its current format, following a pilot reading group at Vaughn the first year and a pilot



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Peninsula High School ninth-grader Rochelle Moore reads with Ian Burwell, third grader at Minter Creek during the afterschool reading program.

math program at Key Peninsula Middle School last year. Now, volunteers are present at Vaughn, Evergreen, Minter Creek and Artondale elementary schools, KPMS and Kopachuck Middle School. CIS-P staff recruits new volunteers through civic groups such as the Rotarians, through school PTAs, the chamber of commerce and even some local churches. Funded entirely by grants

to CIS-P, the program does not cost money for the schools: CIS-P pays for the site coordinators, snacks, and supplies. Volunteers receive an orientation and training, and CIS-P provides ongoing support to the coordinators.

"One of the most exciting aspects is that the schools where we've had the program saw the WASL scores go up," Speer said. "(The program) is not the only reason, but has made a difference."

Children who participate in the activity can often be heard talking about it enthusiastically, asking when the next session is coming up or simply being excited about it. Minter second grader Austyn Abernathy described his experience as "fun" during a recent week, and said his favorite part was that "we get to read." "I like to read," he said.

By the end of the year, mentors (who range in age from high school teens to retired seniors) can see great changes in their youngsters, not only in improved reading skills but also in self-confidence and enthusiasm. "The volunteer mentors really add the passion to the program, and the relationships they have with their students drive them to come back every week, and that relationship is what helps the students do so well," Speer said.

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Mrs. Henderson's special gift

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

The soft hush of students reading aloud fades after just a few minutes on Susan Henderson's side of freestanding bookshelves in the big special education room at Evergreen Elementary School, where she welcomes a total of 30 students across all grades.

Henderson earned her K-12 teaching credential in 1988 and waited 10 years to use it, choosing to stay home while her four children were small. She lives on the Key Peninsula with her family, and her entire seven-year teaching career has been in service to Peninsula schools. Her first year, Henderson taught special education at Peninsula High School, and then found her teaching "home" with the young learners at Evergreen Elementary, where she has been ever since.

A "resource special education



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald
Special education teacher Susan Henderson in her classroom at Evergreen Elementary.

teacher" helps children learn strategies to control disruptive behavior and utilizes programs in reading, writing or math to fill in learning gaps to help students progress toward grade-level participation. A special-ed teacher like

Nominate a teacher

The Key Peninsula News is featuring local teachers every month, the unsung heroes among us who are touching our children's lives. Do you know a teacher from a KP school who deserves to be featured? Let us know by calling 884-4699 or emailing news@keypennews.com (please leave your name and contact information).

Susan Henderson, calmly reassuring and joyfully animated, could be just what a troubled, defeated child needs. She is unaccustomed to putting her dedication in words. "I look for the key that unlocks a student's learning..." she begins, then turns the conversation from herself back to the children.

When a classroom teacher, school counselor, principal or parent feel a child could benefit from special education enrichment, a process with state-mandated guidelines ensues. Henderson teaches each child participant for about an hour every day; they then return to their regular classrooms. Each child has an individualized program, the culmination of care and knowledge of an entire team of people, from teacher to parent. Special-ed teachers like Henderson use it to make magic.

The first thing she and a new child do is write a story. Not just any story, but the tale of that child's difficulty, and what the child instinctively knows about providing self-help. The telling of difficulty is necessary, but it's not the focus.

"Everybody has things they're good at, and things they need to work on, but what makes you valuable as a person is completely different," says Henderson. "A student who feels powerful will learn much faster. I build students up with things they know about themselves." She adds that if they've forgotten, or did not know, she helps them find the good things. Every day, Henderson and the child begin their session by reading that story about all the good things and ideas the child has inside.

Once in special education, a student remains in the program for three years, with an evaluation and updated plan completed prior to each year's anniversary. That's a long time for grade-schoolers to have the comfort of the same teacher helping them succeed. Such a teacher becomes a confidant, a resource the child relies upon; every victory over

"A student who feels powerful will learn much faster."

-Susan Henderson, teacher

behavioral, emotional or academic challenge becomes a celebration.

Even with days beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. or later, Henderson earned her master's degree in elementary education two years ago, and attends classes and courses to enhance her skills. Her husband, a former science teacher, is now working toward his master's degree in theology; their children are in middle school and high school. The family makes wilderness camping at Lake Roosevelt an annual adventure, and Henderson is learning to ski a wakeboard. "Last summer I got up one time, and came to school in September all bruised up from falling off the board!" she says, laughing.

Henderson is also a singer and songwriter for her church, where her husband is pastor. As a child in the Yakima Valley, she remembers meeting special needs' kids; her cousin has Down's syndrome. "Special" children have always tugged at her compassionate nature, and teaching felt just right. Recalling that math was hard for her, Henderson says, "After struggling with algebra, I felt like a failure. It took every ounce of courage I possessed to go forward and get the math I needed for college." She understands what a toll difficulty in school can take on a child's confidence.

An observant teacher, she noticed that many of her students have excellent spatial skills. "I can't draw at all," she says. So she asks new students to draw with her. The immediate boost to the children's self-esteem results in smiles. Sometimes she asks students to help her with diagrams and charts, important tasks in assistance to Mrs. Henderson.

When pressed to explain such dedication to other people's children, Henderson says, "I'm passionate about children. It's inside my heart to help the children who need help the most. It's my job to figure out what is getting in the way of a child's ability to learn... In my mind, I picture my own kids. If they were needing help, I would want someone to work very hard and do everything they could for them. So how can I do any less for my students?"

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Civic Center gears up for events

Don't forget our "Sweetheart Dance," on Feb. 11, with desserts and beverages available. Dance to the "RockOdilies," a classic '50s to '70s rock and roll band at this over-21 event. Tickets are \$15 for singles or \$25 per couple.

We have open gym Sunday evenings from 6-9 p.m. for youth and adults: (6-7 p.m. for youth and adults, 7-9 p.m. adults only). Cost is \$2 per person over 17, children 16 and under free.

Other events happening on a regular basis include clogging, tennis, karate, Tae Kwon Do, indoor park and the famous Friday Night Skate. For schedules, call 884-3456 Monday through Friday, 1:30-6 p.m. or e-mail kpcca@keypeninsula.com.

Mark your calendar for upcoming Civic Center events: March 11- Citizen of the Year Awards Banquet; April 1-Crab Feed Fund-raiser; April 29- Mother/Daughter Luncheon and Fashion Show.

Carpet Update: Our new entryway carpet is installed. It looks great! Kudos to Ed Taylor, Loyd Miller and Thom Wilson from Excel Floors for a job well done.

—By Phil Bauer, President

Free house painting for seniors and disabled

Applications for free exterior house painting are now available for low-income seniors and low-income disabled men and women throughout Tacoma and Pierce County. Last summer, volunteers from Paint Tacoma-Pierce County Beautiful, a program of Associated Ministries, painted three houses in Purdy, one in Wauna, and one at Palmer Lake. There is no cost to the homeowner. The painters are volunteers, and paint is purchased with donated funds. For applications and information, call (253) 383-3056, ext. 106 or visit www.paintbeautiful.org. Deadline is April 1; qualifications apply.

Bayshore Garden Club meeting

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3 at the Longbranch Fire Station. For information, call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

Library hosts reenactment

On Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m., in honor of the 50-year anniversary of Rosa Parks' historic action, Friends of the KP Library present "A View from the Back of the Bus." Kimi Rabun reenacts Parks' life through song, poetry, and audience participation.

Rabun's philosophy is, "It is better to build a child than mend an adult."

Angel Guild update

It is already February, Cupid's month. Take a stroll through Angel Guild; you may find just what your Valentine would really like. With our larger store we are able to stock more items and have some unique "one-of-a-kind" finds.

Have you had enough rain? We have cozy coats, hats, and sometimes boots to keep you warm and dry. Children's clothing and gently-used adult clothing is in good supply. We also have lots of kids' toys and books at bargain prices. New stock arrives daily, so stop by often. We are open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., both for browsing and your most-appreciated donations (at the little building behind the store).

—By Betty Barkubein

Habitat for Humanity accepts applications

Habitat for Humanity is looking for new families as partners. Are you willing to work to build your house? Habitat partner families do 500 hours of sweat equity/work building their own and other Habitat houses. To apply for a Habitat house, you must attend an application meeting. The next two meetings are Saturday, Feb. 11, at 11 a.m. at Key Center Library, 8095 Key Peninsula Hwy. N, and Saturday, Feb. 18, at 10 a.m. at Home Fire Station #3, 1021 Key Peninsula Hwy, Lakebay.

Attending one of these meetings is the only way to obtain a Habitat application. More information, and a list of all documentation required, is available by calling the Habitat office at 627-5626. It takes two to four months for Habitat's family selection team to screen an application. Your case will move more quickly if you bring all requested information to the meeting.

Youth Basketball Clinics held

Key Peninsula Metro Park District is offering Youth Basketball Skills Clinics continuing through Feb. 18 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Clinics are co-ed and offered for the following age/grades at the following times: 2nd grade 9-9:50 a.m.; 1st grade 10-10:50 a.m.; kindergarten 11-11:50 a.m.; 3-4 year-olds 12-12:50 p.m.

Program focus is on basketball skills development (dribbling, passing and shooting). Adult involvement is required during the weekly clinics. Scaled down

equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all participants. Cost is \$29 per participant and includes basketball and shirt. Minimum of 10 participants per age/grade and a maximum of 30 participants per age/grade.

Adult men's basketball needs teams

KP Metro Park District is accepting team registrations for Adult Men's basketball. Teams will play a seven-game season plus compete in a season concluding tournament. All games will be on Sunday evenings and will start the week of Feb. 12, and be played at the Civic Center. Individuals without a team may contact KPMPD to be placed on a player availability list. League and tournament champions receive individual awards. Cost \$425/team. Registration deadline Feb. 3. Minimum of 4 teams and a maximum of 12 teams. For information, call 884-9240 or see www.keypeninsulaparks.com.

TOPS meets in Vaughn

We have many new recipes, games and exercises to offer this year. If you want to join a fun-filled, stress-free, support

weight-loss group, check us out. TOPS #1019 meets on Mondays at the Wright-Bliss Fire Station. Weigh-in starts at 6:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m. See you there.

—By Andrea Hale

TWAA sponsors classes

Two Waters Arts Alliance has the following classes in February: Gourd Basics with Kristen Bottiger and Nancy Howard, noon to 5 p.m. on Feb. 4; materials' list with registration; \$55 per person; Lampwork glass beads with Brynn Rydell, \$45 for two-hour session. Call Brynn at 884-2029 for information on both classes. Also offered is watercolor with Carolyn Scott Arnold, 360-269-7995; and Acrylic Painting with Adria Hanson, call 884-0777.

'ASHES' seeks members

Ladies of the "ASHES" Auxilliary for the Key Peninsula Fire Department welcome new members. We meet at the Key Center fire station on the first Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. A short business meeting is followed with a potluck lunch. Please join us and see what we're all about. Call President Marguerite Bussard at 884-3771 for details.

—By Sharon Ewing

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Lakebay church hosts African children's choir

Story by Rodika Tollefson
Photo by Mindi LaRose

The Lakebay Community Church in January was filled with the sound of African rhythms and gospel songs, presented by a group of 14 energetic and vibrant children and four adults dressed in bright Ugandan costumes. The group, part of the Watoto Children's Choir, is touring around the United States to raise funds, find sponsorships, and bring awareness to the AIDS epidemic in Africa. The children are orphans, and most of them lost their parents to the disease.

"We know what it feels like to be lonely and no one to care for us," 9-year-old Sharmaine shared with the audience in English in between songs. "Some of us have even been abused." The children, who wore bright smiles on their faces and radiated incredible energy, shared their dreams of becoming teachers, doctors, presidents, accountants, pilots, nurses and soccer



players. The youngsters, who ranged in ages from 6 to 12, mesmerized children and adults alike, and even engaged the audience to sing and dance along.

The visitors were invited to perform at the church by its Pioneer Clubs—a weekly Christian program for kids 3 years old through fifth grade—and were hosted for two nights by Key Pen families.

"We were looking for a group to come in and do something interesting for our

kids," said Linda Shelley, who coordinates the Pioneer Clubs. "They were in the area and agreed to come and perform."

Shelley said her goal has been to find activities that get entire families involved. The Pioneer Clubs are open to anyone in the community, and are focused on reaching youth with the gospel through a variety of activities.

For information on the Pioneer Clubs, call 884-3899.

Volunteer spotlight: Brent Adams

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Key Peninsula Little League President Brent Adams isn't coaching either son's baseball team this year. For the 2006 season, his concern is all the kids who want to play baseball and softball (girls-only teams) in this area, which has seen an increased competition for playing venues.



ADAMS

Adams has coached Little League since his boys were playing T-ball. The family moved to the Key Peninsula in 2002; the boys are now 12 and 15. Adams says he'll probably be involved until they are through.

"Baseball takes pretty much seven days a week," he says. Each team needs a manager, two coaches, a sponsor, and a team mom. On "select" and school sports teams, tryouts are required. "In Little League, everybody plays," says

The KP League is looking for sponsors, scholarships and donations as well as new players. For details, call Brent Adams at 857-2424, or email askkpl@hotmail.com; see more at <http://eteamz.com/keypeninsulalittleleague>.

Adams. "They learn about competition and commitment of their individual desire to achieve."

His presidency lasts a year, and Adams expects to build on last year's season. He wants to keep politics out of the league. "The managers, coaches, and players all have to be a tight group," he says.

Registration for the 2006 season has begun in January, and continues with teams forming and skills' clinics until the first April game. By mid-January, about 60 kids have signed up. Last year, the league had over 400 players, so Adams is braced for a mad-scramble, last-minute rush.

The league has scholarships available. "We furnish most of the equipment: bats, balls, catchers' equipment, practice bases. Last year we bought much needed new uniforms for the younger players; this year we want to buy them for the older kids," Adams says.

Get Involved: Volunteer opportunities

Key Peninsula Children's Home Society needs volunteers for front desk and clerical support. Contact Jud Morris, 884-5433.

A clerical support volunteer is needed at the **Communities in Schools of Peninsula** office for four hours per week. Contact Colleen Speer at 884-5733.

Adult tutor mentors needed to support students at **Key Peninsula Middle School** for one on one mentoring in small groups for language arts and social studies classes. Mentors provide assistance one hour each week for nine weeks beginning in February. Contact Rochelle Doan at 884-5733.

To list your volunteer opportunity, email it to news@keypennews.com or fax to 884-4053.

News briefs

KP roads to see guardrail improvements

Pierce County recently received funding from the Rural County Two-Lane Roadway program for various projects, including for guardrail improvements on the Key Peninsula. Specific locations include Cramer Road KPN (approximately 1,150 feet of guardrail, south of Thomas Road along Glen Cove), and 118th Avenue NW (approximately 150 feet of guardrail, north of SR-302 at three crossings of Minter Creek).

The proposed improvements will provide guardrail along the roadways, at bridge crossings, or culvert crossings. Guardrails at these locations are a high priority and may help prevent or lessen the severity of collisions involving a vehicle leaving the roadway, county officials said. The improvements are scheduled for construction during this fall.

KPMPD seeks concessionaire

The KP Metropolitan Park District is seeking a concessionaire for the Volunteer Park concession stand. Interested individuals or businesses may contact the park district for more information at 884-9240.

Key Pen parks update

A picnic shelter at Home Park is in the permitting process. The park was a recipient of the 2006 Lu Winsor Memorial Environmental Grant administered by Peninsula Light Co. for stream buffer signs. KPMPD also received a \$1,000 grant via the program to design, purchase, and install a trail map and trail head signage at the Rocky Creek Conservation Area.

The planning continues for the new 360-acre KP North park. At a meeting on Jan. 18, attendees prioritized a wish list into items of higher desire and lower desire. The intent of the group meeting is to gather ideas for potential future uses of the space. Among highly desirable uses are a park administration center, trails, sports fields, a horse park and arena, a skate park, camping and Renaissance fare space. The committee's next meeting will be held Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Key Center fire station.



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With all the lifestyle channels popping up on cable and satellite TV, there is a lot of information flowing that may not be accurate for our real estate market.

There is at least one program that would make you believe you can get thousands of dollars more for your property (above the list price) just by changing a few fixtures and painting the walls. Although this always helps when selling a home, the price you get is still what the market will bear and what an appraisal will support.

The most important thing most buyers see when looking at a possible future home is the maintenance level. This seems to be particularly true in our local market. If a buyer notices that the roof never gets cleaned of moss, their next thought, may be, (even subconsciously) "what else is being neglected?"

Another way to add value is to remodel the kitchen or bathrooms. These two rooms will bring you the best return on your investment as long as it is appropriate to the rest of the house. Adding square footage is also good, especially from an appraisal point of view. This type of work is best done if you plan to stay in the house and enjoy the efforts from your improvements.

The bottom line is, before you put your house on the market, talk to a Realtor, get a "Comparative Market Analysis" (CMA) to determine what the best price for your home would be, and ask your Realtor for advice on what types of improvements should be made, to make the best possible impression and to achieve the highest price.

At Windermere Key Realty, we strive to tour every new listing on the Key Peninsula. We know what other homes are listed. We know the price, condition, how long they've been on the market and other key factors that may attract a buyer. We know your competition when selling your home so we can tell you what you need to know.



LAKE VIEW CABIN \$110,000

Do you like to swim and fish? Would you like to enjoy a view of the lake from your large deck? If so, this clean and comfortable home is just for you! When you step through the French doors, you will see unbelievable craftsmanship. Be sure to notice the kitchen with all those wonderful built in spaces, check the cupboards out and the laundry area with stackable washer and dryer and picture yourself relaxing and reading a good book by the warm wood stove. MLS 26007009



MINI-FARM \$525,000

A must see dryland mini-farm on 4.24 acres is immaculate outside and in! Pastures are cross-fenced, 2 loafing sheds attached to large garage, shop space and finished loft. The beautiful craftsman home features dormers, is sided w/stained cedar shakes and has French doors. The covered decks, front and back, overlook the scenic pastures. MLS 26007855



LAKE OF THE WOODS \$95,000

Well taken care of, updated single wide w/wheel chair access. Attractive interior, 3 yr old roof and all newer appliances. Good commuter home, close to new shopping center, highway to Tacoma, Port Orchard and Seattle ferry. MLS 26003810



WEEKEND GET-A-WAY \$120,000

This well-maintained home features the popular open concept floor plan with spacious kitchen, vaulted ceilings and laundry/mud room with outside door to the large private back yard. This home is a easy walk to community lake with dock and play area. Great for the summer! MLS 26007168



WAUNA \$300,000

Look no further! Elegant formal living room w/vaulted ceiling, beautiful fireplace & soaring picture window on the main floor, family room and den on lower level. Two decks on two levels, low maintenance landscaping. Close to new shopping center, easy commute to Tacoma and the Seattle ferry. MLS 26002597



LAKE HOME \$100,000

Good starter or rental home with detached garage. Home is secluded from street by large cedar trees. Beach and park access to small lake – enjoy swimming and boating this summer. MLS 26007676



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(From LIQUE, Page 1)

Stout said although bringing new staff from the outside is not a bad idea, the commissioners felt it's better to give current personnel the opportunity to move up. The move will allow several other employees to seek promotion.

Lique's appointment follows a decision by the board to fire former Chief Eric Livingood-Nelsen, effective Dec. 31, 2005. Stout would not comment on the decision, referring questions to FD-16 attorney Joe Quinn.

Quinn conducted an investigation late last year and forwarded his findings to the board, stating several issues warranted some form of discipline but not recommending any specific action. He said the board decided to terminate Nelsen based on those findings, which included inattention to duty, conduct unbecoming, and failure to maintain the trust of commissioners and staff.

Nelsen has been on paid medical leave since last June, and has since reportedly undergone substance abuse treatment. Quinn said the board was initially trying to help him deal with his personal and health problems, but as time went by they felt they were not receiving adequate communication and

information from the chief. According to Quinn, the board felt "it would be very difficult for him to come back and get the trust of his subordinates."

"The board's decision to terminate Chief Nelsen was based solely on his inability to perform his job while he was on an approved medical leave, and that violates state and federal law as well as the fire chief's employment contract," Nelsen's attorney, Dan Johnson, wrote in an email to KP News. "He plans to take whatever legal action is necessary."

Lique hopes to move the department forward, and continue to build support for the organization. He said everybody on staff has been very professional for the past six months, and the community's support has been "incredible." "The community I think has been really tolerant. By and large, the community felt the commissioners will make the right decision at the right time...and for that we are grateful," he said.

One of Lique's focus areas will become staffing, he said. Although the district has grown and has added new buildings and new equipment, the staffing levels have not kept up with the increased number of service calls in recent years. Recruiting more volunteer firefighters could provide more help.

Lique himself started as a volunteer in 1984, while a senior at Peninsula High School. His father, Earl, had been a volunteer firefighter with the district as well. Lique was hired nearly 20 years ago and moved through the ranks, working at just about every level. His previous position was division chief in charge of operations and medical services.

"It was my goal to be a chief somewhere, but I didn't know I'd have the opportunity here. The Key Peninsula is a great place for me to raise my family," said Lique, who has two children and has been raising two nieces.

The fire district has changed a lot since Lique started. He recalls training on a 1958 Ford firetruck and being the seventh or eighth paid person hired. The level of training and the requirements for the volunteers have changed tremendously as well, and even the new, all computerized fire equipment requires a lot of training. The firefighters have unionized since then, paramedics were introduced to the service, and the staffing grew from one station to four during his career.

"Our system has changed a lot...and the community has changed a lot," he said. "There are lots of opportunities right now inside the fire district... I feel the community still supports the district."



Beloved Key Center dog laid to rest

Smokey Olson, so-called "Mayor of Key Center," died Jan. 21. He was 14 years old, and had many friends around town.

Special thanks from Don and Shirl Olson and their family to all the people who befriended Smokey, especially those at Sound Credit Union and the Key Center Tavern. A memorial service was held on Jan. 22, and was laid to rest on the Olson property.

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Business briefs

Key Center computer repair shop has new owner

Sheryl Mirenta, an 11-year Key Peninsula resident, bought the KC Computer Repair shop on Jan. 1 from previous owner Bill Horwitz. She re-opened the business, located in the KC Corral in Key Center, Jan. 12 after a remodeling project that included new flooring and a new security system.

Mirenta had previously worked at the shop and is a familiar face to established customers. A single mother of a teenage boy, following her husband's death more than a year ago, she said having her own business presented a good opportunity to support her family. "I thought, why not do something I enjoy for a living," she said.

KC Computer Repair will keep its name and offer repair services as well as individual computer classes. Jim Clair of Clairion Computers will be on-site to



MIRENTA

build new computers based on customers' requests.

Mirenta said she had great support from the community, with people helping with the remodeling, donating supplies and even buying her lunch. "Everybody has been very generous," she said.

Day care extends services

Key to Learning Childcare and Preschool day care center owner Helen Macumber is offering emergency day-care services for new customers. Macumber said she is concerned that so many families in the area don't have an emergency plan. Families interested in making arrangements for future emergency drop-ins should contact Macumber at 858-3460 to fill out the day care's required paperwork and get the children and parents acquainted with the day care provider.

"I just want people to have some peace of mind that they have a plan in effect," she said. "I especially would like firemen to have a plan for their children. Disasters happen every day to someone...and emergency personnel are needed, and if they are home alone with a child, they can't respond. I'd like to be a backup person... a plan B."

KP Business Association holds annual networking event

By Irene Torres
KP News

A rainy January night couldn't keep the Key Peninsula Business Association from celebrating its successes of the past year. Longtime business owners invited new entrepreneurs, civic leaders, legislators and guests to join them for dinner at Camp Seymour, to honor their retiring officers and welcome incoming leaders.

Ed Taylor told the group he had planned a "Chinese Theater" event, where outgoing officers could place their footprints in cement — and "leave a lasting impression." But his assistant informed him with a whisper that the buckets of cement, having been poured too early, had hardened, leaving Taylor to move to plan B: bringing the officers forward to receive a round of applause and words of appreciation for a job well done.

Introductions included the new Camp Seymour Executive Director Jeff Ball, the newly appointed Fire District 16 Chief Tom Lique, and the new Key Peninsula

For more information

To learn more about KPBA, see www.kpba.org. The KPBA invites prospective members to meetings, held first Friday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at Lulu's Homeport Restaurant, and third Friday of the month at noon at Blondie's.

For more information, contact President Bek Ashby at 851-9787.

Community Fair Executive Director Mary Graves. Each attendee was invited to stand and speak briefly about their business or civic interest. Goodwill and networking flowed throughout the evening, highlighted with a buffet dinner prepared by Camp Seymour staff.

KPBA President Bek Ashby displayed a new brochure, "Destination Key Peninsula," touting local businesses, which has been placed in realty offices, hotels, and other highly visible locations. She announced plans for an enhanced Website offering links to member business sites and links to a marketing piece for those businesses without Websites.



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PSD students have access to new technology tools

PSD middle and high school students can now retrieve their homework from any computer in the world, thanks to a pilot project that allows them to securely store files online.

"They can upload a file at school and open it at home to work on it, and vice versa," says Gracie Baker, computer lab instructor at Henderson Bay High School. That means the students no longer have to rely on disks for transporting their files, or worry about computer viruses.

The program, through the ePALS.com Website, also gives students E-mail accounts they can use to communicate with their teachers and each other. "We need to make sure the accounts are safe and filtered. The ePALS filter is very strong, both incoming and outgoing," says Ryan LeClaire, Director of Instructional Technology.

The filter works by scanning the words of every E-mail and highlighting certain words based on a special database. An E-mail with a flagged word is transmitted to an adult monitor who first must make sure the



Henderson Bay High School computer lab instructor Gracie Baker shows ninth-grader Zach Gould how the ePALS database and E-mail work.

message is appropriate.

EPALS.com also has a text translator for several foreign languages and the ability for teachers to set up online discussion forums for their students. Currently, a district wide online forum allows students and staff to discuss various subjects.

"The world the students live in outside school is filled with technology," LeClaire says. "I believe the majority of our students are using E-mail quite a bit outside of school—it's important to use the tools and prepare them for a work environment where E-mail is a major way to communicate."

February events

16 School Board meeting
6:30 p.m. Discovery
Elementary

20-24 No School
President's Break

March events

9 School Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. Voyager
Elementary

10 Non-Student Day

16-18 GHHS Spring Musical
"Bye Bye Birdie"
7:00 p.m. ASB \$6
w/o ASB \$8

17 Minter Creek PTA will
host an auction with a
Tuscan Garden
Theme. PTA is
currently accepting
donations.

27 School Board Study
Session 6:30 p.m.
District Office



GHHS pool offers levels 1-8 and private lessons on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Parent/Child classes are only held at GHHS pool.

PHS pool offers levels 1-8 and private lessons on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

*For more information,
call GHHS 858-5665 and
PHS 857-3533 or visit
www.pools.psd401.net.*

Photo of the month



Evergreen Elementary language teacher Beverly Hopper and Vicki Biggs of Key Peninsula Family Resource Center guide a group of mothers and their toddlers in a song during the school's weekly classes for toddlers 18 months to 3 years old.

An application and the District Skills Test must be on file in the Human Resources Office when applying for clerical or paraeducator positions. The next district skills test will be given on Feb. 7, 2006. Warm-ups start at 6 p.m. and testing at 6:15 p.m. To reserve a space, call 530-1044 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

FEB. 7

WASL 4th Grade Reading Scores

<u>Year</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Evergreen</u>	<u>Minter</u>	<u>Vaughn</u>
2000	65.8	78.0	87.0	63.6
2002	65.6	76.0	79.6	75.3
2005	79.5	82.7	89.7	91.5

At a glance...

The Instructional Technology Committee (ITC) drafted, revised, and approved new K-12 student technology competencies over the past year. The PSD student technology competencies have a strong foundation in the International Society for Technology in Education National Education Technology

Standards for Students.

To view competencies go to <http://www.peninsula.wednet.edu/learningteaching>.

Did you know...

PSD's test score rank, Pierce County: #1

Ratio of students to networked computers: 4:1

Staff with masters or doctorate degrees: 78%

(From UTILITY, Page 1)

prescriptive easement, or for the road to be declared a public highway. Although prescriptive easements cannot be claimed on government-owned properties, Ludlow says an exception to the rule states such easement may be granted when it can be proven the entity has been using the land for proprietary purpose and Tacoma Power is in business to provide power just like a private enterprise.

"One of the practical problems (with the easement) — it leaves title to the property to Tacoma Power but simply creates access for clients," he said.

Declaring the road a public highway (or county road) would be the better outcome of the suit, Ludlow said. He said such a highway could be established if certain conditions are met, including proof that public use of the road has been general, adverse, uninterrupted and under claim of right for more than 10 years. He said the courts have ruled in several cases similar to this one.

Property owners who use the road as the only means of access to their homes have been in dispute with the county and the utility for years. The dispute resurfaced a few years ago, when the county stopped granting permits until residents could prove "legal access." The moratorium was requested by Tacoma Power, who cited liability and maintenance concerns. (See previous Key Peninsula News articles).

Pierce County is also named as a defendant in the suit, which according to the Pierce County Superior Court database is scheduled for jury trial in January 2007.

"We are going to dispute their claim to have the right to use Tacoma Power's property to access their properties," said Bill Fosbre, a city of Tacoma attorney representing the case. "The city is very worried about the liability of using a path (for public use)." He said it was also a matter of fairness, as property owners knew they didn't have legal access when

they purchased their land far below its value.

Fosbre said the city is hopeful to have the case dismissed before getting to a trial, although Ludlow disagreed with that statement.

Tacoma Power had planned to install electronic gates restricting access on the road around February, and invited residents to a meeting with Tacoma Power Superintendent Steve Klein at the Middle School on Jan. 18 to discuss details. The residents would be required to sign license agreements relieving the utility of liability prior to getting access through the gates. The meeting, however, was canceled at the request of Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, who asked for a 60-day extension from the utility. Lee said the extension would allow him to research cost and liability issues associated with a potential acquisition of the road by the county.

"I'm just at the 11th hour, trying to answer every question I've had," he said.

The county could not take over a road that is below county standards unless it's classified as primitive — which can only serve up to 10 parcels, Lee said. Liability, however, is the biggest issue, and he will look into the possibility of designating it a substandard road and installing a sign stating that anyone entering the road assumes the risks. "When I do understand the liability issue, I'm not sure what I'll be able to do with it," he said.

Lee said he learned that 144th Street, also called Powerline Road or Pole Line Road, was identified in the county's 20-year transportation improvement plan in 1992 as a potential acquisition but was given a low priority. With the KP Community Planning Board currently discussing transportation issues, he said he wants to hear their priorities. "I want to know where, in the greatest scheme of things, the acquisition of Powerline Road may be," he said, "... (and) see the will of the community."



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Pro Contractors Specials

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<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Wheelbarrow</h3>  <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$59⁹⁹</p> <p>6 Cubic Foot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy-duty home owner or contractor wheelbarrow. • Heavy gauge seamless steel tray with front tray braces. • "H" brace and 16" wheel assembly with pneumatic 2-ply tire with oil tube bearing. • Knobby tire. <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">CEK (8548-4422-3)</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Framing Saw</h3>  <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$144⁹⁹</p> <p>7-1/4"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy-duty high torque framing saw. • Light weight design. • Lower guard improves performance when making bevel cuts and cutting drains. • 50 degree bevel capacity. • Includes 24 tooth carbide blade, wrench and grounded plug. <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">DW3780 (D432-0378-0)</p> </div>
<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Miter Saw Stand</h3>  <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$119⁹⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sturdy galvanized steel construction withstands rugged daily use. • Universal tool mounting clamps provide rock solid support for all miter saw sizes and brands. • Allows fast and easy on/off access to stand. • Left and right extension arms provide 48" to 114" of overall work support. • Self locking, folding legs for compact and easy mobility. • Non-skid rubber feet and carry handle. <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">PLUS100 (3529-0100-3)</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Chalk Reel</h3>  <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8⁹⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2x's stronger, high performance line. • Line lock allows reel to be used as a plumb bob. • 50% more durable diecast metal plates. • Chalk handle clutch with metal handle. • 6x's faster helical gear system. • High impact rubber grip. • Wide pronged hook and locking side door. <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">2001303 (4231-2001-0)</p> </div>

<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Power Tape</h3>  <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$6⁹⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value Pack includes three pocket rules: 1"x25", 1/2"x10", and a 1/2"x3" with key ring. • The 10" and 25" rules have Hi-Viz orange case. <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">L25103MP (5100-2510-0)</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Plastic Locking Mailbox</h3>  <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$79⁹⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access delivered mail only with a key. • Unique secure design. • No key needed for mail delivery. • Theft and vandal resistant. • Accepts large size mail. • Ample storage for weeks of mail. • Impact resistant. • Waterproof, withstands extreme weather. • Rust, peel and fade proof. <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">879 (4022-0979-3)</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Black</p> </div>
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Sale Ends February 28, 2006



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Walking the talk

Volunteers help keep community clean

By William C. Dietz
KP News

Gig Harbor resident Vernon Young had a heart attack three years ago. He's better now, but his physician told him to get some exercise, and while doing so Young wound up creating a nonprofit organization called EnviroCorps.

EnviroCorps is a volunteer organization focused on maintaining parks, roadsides, or any other noncommercial land that members of the public have access to. And that's where the exercise comes in: Young is out there working on one project or another almost every day!

Of course Young didn't create EnviroCorps solely as the means to get some exercise. His interest in environmental issues and commitment to volunteerism goes back some 30 years, which has a lot to do with what makes EnviroCorps different.

"Big organizations aren't focused on the needs of the volunteer," Young says. "What makes our organization unique is

that we are focused on the needs of the volunteer first."

By visiting the organization's Website at www.envirocrops.org, would-be volunteers can peruse a list of tasks ranging from simple things like picking up roadside trash to more complex opportunities such as becoming an EnviroCorps team leader. Then, having selected a job, volunteers can complete the work in a manner that's comfortable for them. For example: Want to work all by yourself? Can do.... Want to bring some friends? The more the merrier. You're only available on Thursdays between 1:15 p.m. and 3 p.m.? No problem. The EnviroCorps can set you up. Some 102 opportunities are listed at the moment — many of which are on the Key Peninsula or very nearby. You don't need to pay a fee in order to participate, but paid memberships play an important part in keeping EnviroCorps going, and are tax deductible.

And the concept is working. Although the nonprofit was founded two years ago, the first year was spent putting all of the

necessary structures in place, so 12 months passed before the organization was fully up and running. Since then it has attracted 89 registered members and taken on all sorts of jobs, including 100 percent of the trail maintenance for the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District's McCormick Park.

But Young and his team would like to do a lot more. For example, volunteer Loyd Miller, who serves as the EnviroCorps job developer for the Key Peninsula Civic Center, gives a sampling of the projects he needs help on: "First of all, there's litter pickup, which can be done anytime by anybody... And then there's all of the limbs and stuff that fall from the trees during winter storms, and some flower gardens that need to be weeded, watered, and maintained in the spring."

From there Miller, who is also a member of the Civic Center's board of directors, goes on to list the picnic tables



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Volunteers Sam Livingston, Vernon Young, Jo Reasons, and Judy Austin clear the trails at the Rocky Creek Conservation Area.

that need to be refinished, the tennis court that should be swept or blown on a regular basis, and brush that should be cleared down along Vaughn Creek. "I could really use the help," Miller says. "So I would welcome people to sign up. My name is on the EnviroCorps Website and they can call me."

But if those particular projects don't appeal to you, or you would prefer to work on something closer to home, there are dozens more to choose from. So if you'd like to help the environment, and volunteer, direct your browser to www.envirocrops.org or call 265-6162.

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From Pioneer Stock Russ Dahl, lifelong citizen of Victor

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Russ Dahl, 83, has lived most of his life in Victor, where he was born.

His grandparents, Halvor and Lovisa Dahl, bought 40 acres of land near the Stock family of Rocky Bay in 1909. Halvor's father and other members of his family had changed their name from Svoldal to Dahl when they emigrated from Norway to South Dakota about 1882.

Halvor carried an old iron stove from the waterfront to his home on the hill. One of their early homes was a floathouse, which they later pulled up onto dry land. Russ notes his earliest memory is of that house on the water.

Henry Dahl, father to Russ, was 18 when he came to the area with his parents. He married school teacher Emma Jorgensen, and they raised five sons in Victor. Emma's parents had migrated from Denmark to Edgewood, Wash., around 1882. She graduated from high school and applied to teach. The only opening available was the one-room Victor school, with two pupils — Abe Anderson and Sara Peterson. After



Photo courtesy of Russ Dahl

The Peninsula Raiders played from 1938 to 1941. Back row, l-r: Chuck Niemann, John Reed, Russ Stock, Russ Dahl, Roy Niemann, Jack Niemann, Ed Okonek, Hank Stock; front row: Emmett (Swede) Johnson, Dick Sisson, Julie Stock, Bob Hahn, Ole Niemann, Bob Schillinger. Bat boy on left, unknown, on right, Gene Blair, nephew of John Reed.

one year, Emma attended Normal School in Bellingham for six weeks, and taught at Artondale for two years.

"She was the best woman there ever was," claims Russ, "and not just because she was my mother." She was active in the community, extremely well liked, and did things

for people.

Portions of Emma's 1914 diary are preserved in a family history son Noel Dahl created for family members.

Henry and Emma were married in 1921 in the home of Elton Cleveland's parents in Allyn, and made their first home near them. They bought 20 acres of forested property in 1925 on the Victor Cutoff Road (State Route 302) and lived out their lives there. Henry built their home with a large garage on one side, put in gas pumps, and had the Coulter Creek service station for several years. Grandson Howard, son of Don, has painted a replica of the station on the side of his Tacoma garage.

Henry was a faller for Overton's for about nine years, then bought a sawmill in 1937 and milled for the next dozen years. Aldy Visell in Key Center bought lumber from him.

When Russ was a senior at Vaughn Union High School, he bought 20 acres adjacent to his parents, and his dad milled the rough lumber for Russ' home.

Russ attended school in Shelton until his senior year, when he tired of hitchhiking home 21 miles after ball practice. He switched to Vaughn, where his brothers, Noel, Don, Jim, and Dave, later attended.

Russ pitched on softball teams, including the Peninsula Raiders, organized by Julie Stock, for several years. While working in

the Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, he was on the Shop X38 team, and was inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame. He still has his baseball cap from then.

In 1943, he played with the Kelly's Raiders, and their new team won the Bremerton city championship, over a previously unbeaten team.

After high school, Russ worked at the Navy yard and roomed with Julie Stock until he joined the Navy. He spent two and a half years, mostly as a Navy radar operator, in the Pacific, hauling troops to various areas in the war zone. They had one skirmish, at Okinawa on Invasion Day, 1945. They'd unloaded troops, were out in the open sea running a zig-zag course when a kamikaze pilot headed for them. He missed, landing in the ocean without an explosion.

After the war, Russ returned to the Navy yard until 1960, when he opted to cut wood, pick brush, and sell Christmas trees, which he did for the next 52 years.

His wife, Barbara (Reed), grew up in Allyn. They had known each other during school years. "But we were both too shy to talk to each other," Russ says. They got together at a dance in Bremerton just before he left the Navy, and will celebrate 60 years of marriage in April.

Russ plans to spend the rest of his life right where he is now, in Victor.



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Pastoral changes on the Peninsula

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Four pulpits in Key Peninsula churches have changed hands this past year, with at least one to undergo another change this spring.

Andy Larsen has been interim pastor at Lakebay Community Church for a year, and will move on in March, when a new pastor comes aboard. He says the Lakebay Community Church is a welcoming, friendly, unpretentious congregation that cares about its community.

Larsen, raised in University Place, has traveled the world in mission work, including 11 years with the Department of World Mission of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). In Monterrey, Mexico, a city of 4 million people, Larsen and his wife, Carol, started two congregations, working with a national missionary church-planting team. They also organized Bible studies, short-term mission projects and ecumenical outreach. Other cross-cultural mission work has taken them to Russia, Guatemala, Hawaii and Asia.

Larsen arrived in Lakebay last January, after serving as pastor of adult ministries to

Newport Covenant Church in Bellevue for five years. This summer, Larsen, his wife and their youngest son, Erick, will travel to Spain to participate in the Mosaics Project, working with "unreached" immigrants.

Larsen's experiences in missions and as a pastor, and Carol's background of counseling and teaching English to speakers of other languages will serve them well in this new endeavor.

Richard Hermstad, interim pastor at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, filled the pulpit in September, and was called in October to stay for a year. Hermstad, raised in Minnesota, has served 38 years as pastor in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Kansas, Oregon, and Washington. He has special training for interim pastoring, to move the church forward and refocus as needed.

KPLC is a congregation that cares about the people in the community, and advocates for the hungry and needy, he says. He cites their sharing of extra food after services, participating in I.M.Pact dinners each month, the Giving Tree at Christmas, holding an Undie Sunday for local school children, and offering McColley Hall as a community resource.

Hermstad, an accomplished musician

(piano, guitar, and voice), directed choirs in two former congregations, and occasionally doubled as accompanist for a worship service.

He spent 30 years as a volunteer fireman while pastoring in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. He says he'd always wanted to drive one of those big red fire trucks, but he also wanted to demonstrate to the community he was willing to risk his life for theirs.

Married 40 years, with three adult children, Hermstad considers himself semi-retired. This position, where he is available at least three days per week, meshes well with being a part-time chaplain at Tacoma Lutheran Home.

Tim Stobbe, the youngest pastor on the Key Peninsula, was elected as senior pastor of Vaughn Community Church in September. He and wife Tina, both Canadians, met while being involved in training for Venture Team International (VTI). They studied music, drama, preaching, puppetry and other tools to help them with missionary projects.

After five months overseas — he in Mexico, and she in the Philippines — they renewed their acquaintance and went on to minister together.

Stobbe chose their time with VTI "the best pre-marital counseling" available because there were lots of people interacting, like a large family where one could share feelings and ask questions.

He received his bachelor's degree in leadership and ministry, and by spring of 2001, they felt a sense it was time to move on in their ministry. Son Isaac was 1 year old at the time. Stobbe applied to several churches in an online job bank, and within three weeks had 10 offers. He narrowed the field to four, Vaughn one of them, although Tina did not want to leave Canada.

By fall, the other three churches had stopped communicating with him without explanation. Later, reasons were acceptable, such as a computer breaking down with all information lost.

On a visit to Stobbe's sister in Washington, they agreed to stop by Vaughn. Pastor Chuck Odegaard drove them around the peninsula, and the Stobbes wondered where all the people lived.

In November 2001, they moved to Vaughn, and since then Stobbe has gone from youth pastor, through spiritual development associate, to now senior pastor.

Vaughn Community is a church "with their arms open, welcoming everyone," Stobbe says. They are free to be as they are,

to live out the scripture of "one another" with a strong missionary influence.

Arlyce Kretschman is the new permanent part-time pastor of Longbranch Community Church. A native of New York state, she and husband Jerry followed their daughter to Washington to be close to their youngest grandchildren.

She served as senior pastor in two American Baptist churches in New York state before coming to pastor the First Baptist Church in Tacoma from 2001-2004. Under her leadership, representatives from Associated Ministries and several different churches spent nearly six years in round-table discussions to establish a new ecumenical church in Tacoma — Urban Grace: The Downtown Church. Several denominations formed this new congregation, where diversity is a hallmark.

When Kretschman retired, a friend handed her a little slip of paper stating Longbranch Community Church was looking for a pastor. She applied. Kretschman calls these last years the culmination of her life's work, and being pastor of Longbranch her reward.

"It's a cohesive church family... intentionally compassionate," she says. She admires the close community that extends outward and is not only open to diversity but appreciates and celebrates it.

She always told her parishioners they could call her anytime, and since her current phone number ends in 911, she says that's a good example of her availability to her flock.

Her passions are children — from her own grandchildren to the worldwide community — and gardening.

Kretschman and her husband have always been active in their local communities, and plan to be so on the Key Peninsula. Her installation will be held on Feb. 26 at 3 p.m. and the church invites all community members to attend.



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(From WAUNA, Page 1)

was issued before approval of the site development plan.

At the time of the geotech report, the Critical Areas Ordinance indicated sites with a grade of over 30 percent with at least a 10-foot height automatically became critical area designations, requiring further review. Coad says the county relies on the reporting geotech, but that "some are better than others." Had the report indicated steep and/or unstable slopes, the county would have initiated a site investigation, he said. AML GeoTech of Olympia stated, "In our opinion no part of this property warrants being set aside and maintained as an undisturbed buffer," also noting an on-site stand of alder.

The building permit issued, Cedarland NW began construction of the house in compliance with the septic design, showing the house in its present location on lot 2. The septic system was sited on the higher lot 3, where springs were deeper and soil types more amenable to a drainfield. The geotech report, unseen by Joe Cedarland, of Cedarland NW Homes, recommended the house be built on lot 3. According to Cedarland, his company's contract with Rose states they are only responsible for information provided to them.

In clearing for the foundation, Cedarland left the alders for erosion control, not a county requirement. After the foundation was in, Cedarland was notified that the building permit had been granted erroneously; the first design for storm water drainage was not approved. Pierce County required a second drainage design (which Cedarland said the company subsequently supplied through its engineer at the company's cost) and suspended the permit.

During the four-month suspension period, Rose hired a contractor to remove the alders, opening the view. Cedarland says they were not notified, nor was a tree-removal permit issued. "Once those trees were out, erosion worsened dramatically," he says.

The county investigated, and suspended work on the site in March 2005. Coad says, "(The) house was built on a slightly different location, and (we) had to readdress erosion control; (the) complete drain/outfall system was not completed. This is one of those times that everything didn't go smoothly." He says the suspension was to keep the owner and builder focused on building a retaining wall to correct the situation.

"Pierce County permits are revocable if the status of a site changes," Cedarland says, adding, "Our contract provided for no additional site work beyond the founda-

tion." They had a contract to build the house; landscaping was up to the owner. Their offer to construct the retaining wall was refused by Rose, who took out another loan and contracted with a Monroe company to do the installation.

In March 2005, Rose and Cedarland met with her lender; Rose was told construction would be complete by June. At the end of May, Rose's construction loan time limit ended; the house was not done, and she is now paying quarterly extensions. She estimates cost overruns to be about 33 percent, not counting the \$50,000 lien for unpaid labor and materials filed by Cedarland, after they were locked out of the house on June 15, 2005. "The house was not done and I wanted them out of there," Rose says. "In the contract I said I'd do the landscaping... IBC says a 10-foot shelf (must remain) at back of the house. Builder says it's landscaping."

Last September, the county received an application for a 10-foot retaining wall. As of Jan. 20, the final building inspection has not been signed off and will remain in suspension until the retaining wall is approved. On Jan. 13, Larry Freemont, Pierce County land erosion control inspector, tacked a list of eight items to be completed at the house, one of which included resolution of plastic sheeting on

the hillside. The county wants the ground seeded; Rose, now acting as her own general contractor, is concerned that uncovering the soil this early will erode it. She says there has been no movement on the hillside during the wet winter. After the final building inspection and occupancy permits are issued, hopefully by April or May 2006, she will compact and level the back (facing SR-302), build a deck, and seed to grass, pending county approval.

"There are many days I wish I'd never seen the lots. I came here to retire; instead I'm working three jobs," says Rose. She wasn't counting on all the extra geotech costs, installation of a fire hydrant (the house is just outside the 350-foot requirement to use the existing hydrant on 302), and "certainly not the retaining wall."

Both Rose and Cedarland are in agreement that the house is built on a solid foundation. The footing wall is more than 10 feet below the surface; sitting on "undisturbed soil left in its natural state" (bearing soil).

Cedarland says, "Left to its own device, any soil on that steep a slope, unless there are trees or retaining walls installed, will erode. The water (just) continues to move faster..." The soil seen drifting/eroding away from the corners of the house, he says, is fill. During the design process, a

structural engineer called for 5-foot-wide footings (standard county code calls for 24-inch footings). The wider the footings, the more stability; there is also more rebar in the foundation than in a standard house.

At a meeting last July, Rose, Cedarland, and their respective attorneys met. Cedarland offered to either buy the house back or complete it. Rose refused, "because they would take no responsibility for the outside." Cedarland is ready to propose a settlement in which they are paid for monies outstanding (half of the subcontractors have yet to be paid) and are released of any liability on the site, at which time they will release the lien. The other option, he says, is to file a lawsuit for collection of funds due. "(Construction is) a very complicated process and Pierce County is a complicated county to work in. People do not understand the county is more difficult than it was five years ago," he says. "They can stop or change the building process in midstream. It's costly and time-consuming, but we just have to deal with it."

Coincidentally, during their first meetings, Cedarland told Rose that hers would be the last house Cedarland NW Homes builds. As of six or so months back, Cedarland is out of the construction business, and has moved into lot development.

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Tips for the tax season

By R. Marvin Keizur
Special to KP News

An automatic six-month filing extension is available to all taxpayers for 2005 tax returns.

Any taxpayer, not just corporations, can request the six-month extension. There is now no need to obtain a shorter automatic extension (which had been three months for partnerships and limited liability companies and four months for individuals) and ask for more time.

For individuals, the six-month extension is requested on form 4868. For businesses (corporations, partnerships, LLCs) and for fiduciaries, the request is made on the new form 7004.

Filing electronically is easier than ever and it saves time and money. It speeds up refunds, bringing the refund

back in about two weeks, especially if you elect to have your refund electronically deposited to your bank account. With a paper return, it can be up to six weeks before your check refund is received by mail. Some filers elect to use the refund-anticipation loan. I don’t recommend it because of the high interest rate.

It is much better to wait two weeks and get the whole refund yourself. Be willing to discuss this with your tax preparer.

Keep a record of your gambling winnings and losses; if you got a 1099 from a casino, it must be reported on your tax return. Then you can deduct your losses from that amount.

Marvin Keizur is the owner of Key Pen-based Myr-Mar Accounting Service, Inc. with his wife, Myrtle.

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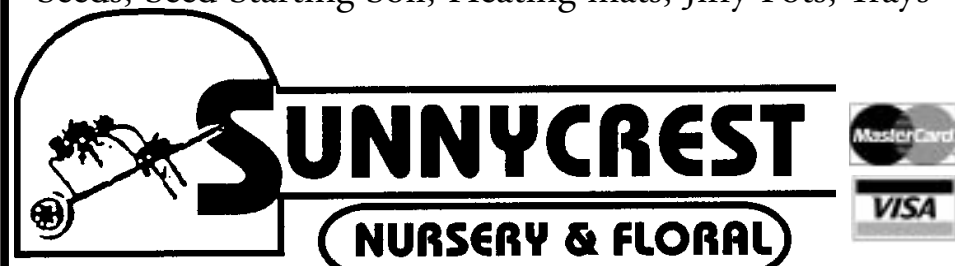
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Out & About



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Road crews are installing a new sign in January on State Route 302 several days before the new light at the intersection with Key Peninsula Highway became operational.



Photo courtesy of Sen. Bob Oke's office

First gentleman Mike Gregoire presents the state's first license plate honoring U.S. Navy personnel to District 26 Sen. Bob Oke, a 26-year Navy veteran who retired at the rank of senior chief petty officer. Oke was singled out for the first Navy plate because of his sponsorship of the bill to create the plates and his dedication to helping veterans, especially disabled veterans.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

A beautiful rainbow livens up the dreary skies in the North Key Pen area during a nonstop rain streak in January.

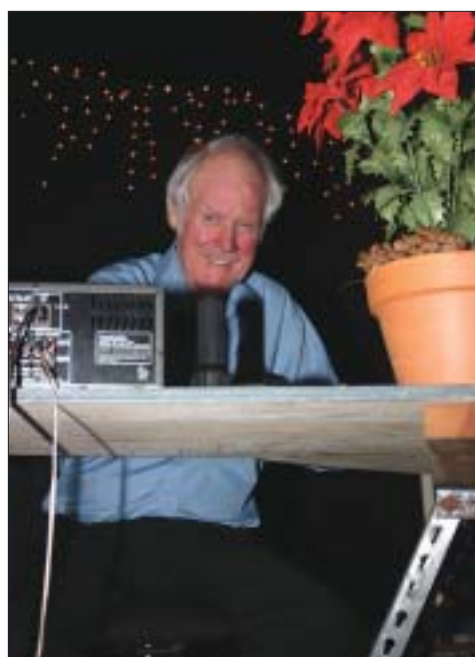


Photo by Hugh McMillan

Longtime resident and Longbranch Improvement Club supporter Dave Dahl dishes up a continuum of music at the LIC's annual New Year's Eve festivities.

Above, Just across the street from the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn, some 70 feet up in a deciduous tree not yet with leaves to conceal it, a paper wasp nest about 20 inches in diameter waits for spring to unleash its pesky inhabitants.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Below, On Christmas Day buses provided through Pierce Transit and driven by volunteer certified drivers bring guests to the annual Christmas dinner sponsored by Mike and Joyce Salatino at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

