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Local standout grads move on new journey

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CIS changes hands after director's 'retirement'

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

After more than two years of working to help kids and their families succeed in school and life, Communities in Schools Director Jeff Harris is ready for a new road. Harris passed the helm to Colleen Speer on July 1, while making lots of

plans for his "retirement."

"I think I have done what I wanted to do with CIS—we have a strong board and added new programs," he said. "I have other interests in my life I'd



HARRIS

like to pursue."

One of those interests is foreign culture and languages. Harris hopes to spend three months each year overseas, hopefully teaching. He'll also be leading "Talk Time" at Tacoma Community College, a program that helps non-native speakers hone their English

(See CIS, Page 19)

New page turned in landmark's history



Photos by Hugh McMillan

Volunteers marked new beginnings for the historical Wauna post office when they demolished part of a wing at the end of May. Next step is to brainstorm future uses and plan other needed work.

Native American art business burns to ground

By Karl Anderson
KP News

A local woman is trying to rebuild her business after a fire tore through the building in May. Formerly known as Grubb Hay and Feed, the business owned by Ethel Denney specialized in tapestries, jewelry, tobacco products and Native American art.

In the morning hours of May 8, the building located on Delano Road, off Cornwall, was engulfed in flames. Living nearly 2 miles from the business, Denney was not aware of the fire until a friend who passed by the business notified her.

"I lost nearly \$10,000 in merchandise," Denney said, "and we didn't have

(See FIRE, Page 3)



Photo by Karl Anderson

This is all that remains of the building after it was gutted by fire.

Outreach program heads to KP

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

A group of organizations are banding together to bring literacy and employment services to the Key Peninsula in an effort dubbed as the Key Peninsula Outreach Project. Tacoma Community College, Tacoma Community House, Key Pen Family Resource Center, local schools and other groups are part of the coalition that has been discussing various local needs since last fall and is looking at ways to better serve KP residents.

"The goal is to provide education and support services. Everyone has a 'twist' on it but together we can provide more," said Becky Morgan, TCC director for the Gig Harbor campus. "It's a network to provide full services while each group has its own mission."

KP Outreach Project

To find out more about the project or if you are interested in volunteering as a tutor or coordinator, contact Karen Knipher at 851-2424.

For TCC, the focus on adult basic education is part of its overall objective. On the Key Peninsula, the goal is to provide literacy tutoring and GED classes. Staff from KP schools and other nonprofits have volunteered to administer the assessments, which are mandatory before signing up for classes.

Although a similar program is available at TCC's Gig Harbor campus, transportation and other factors often create barriers for Key Peninsula families, which is why a local site is so important, says TCC Adult Basic Education Coordinator Karen

Knipher. But before a program can go full-speed, materials, books, some equipment, volunteers and a coordinator are needed, as well as some startup funds.

"We need a coordinator in the community, who embraces literacy and has education background, to volunteer the time to coordinate tutors," Morgan said.

Tacoma Community House, which began a youth employment and mentoring program at the Civic Center in January, will share its space as well as integrate its new program into the outreach effort. TCH, which usually focuses on urban areas, was able to come to the Key Peninsula thanks to a grant. "I think the coalition is a great idea," said the KP coordinator, Bob Strobe. "We are looking at many options, and it may be possible that in the future we would combine some of our programs (for expanded services)."



Fire station breaks ground

Fire District 16 broke ground the last week of May on its new Station 1 in Wauna, just a few days short of the June timeline that Chief Eric Nelsen called "extremely optimistic" in February. Scherer Associates of Olympia is the project's architect, and Bailey Berg General Contractor LLC was awarded the contract in May to build the station, with plans for completion by September.

The Board of Fire Commissioners recently refinanced the 1993 Unlimited Tax General Obligation Bonds, which will save taxpayers about \$150,000 over the duration of the bonds.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson

KP Community Council organizing group updates

The Community Council Organizing Committee changed hands in June, with Joyce Tovey replacing Dennis Taylor as co-chair. Taylor, Safe Streets coordinator, resigned from his position but will continue to work with the council in a supporting role, according to Co-chair Jeff Harris. "My objective is to continue to move the process along as quickly as possible," Harris said.

The organizing committee is hoping to stage elections for the actual council this fall, with one member to be elected for every 1,000 population count based on the U.S. Census tracts. The organizers are exploring possibilities to hold elections within Pierce County's November elections, which would be less expensive than a special election. An estimated budget has been drafted, and a needs assessment survey will be sent out in the near future to a sample of the population and representative groups.

The next organizing committee meeting is July 22, 7 p.m., KPMS. Call Jeff Harris at 884-5733 for details.

News Briefs

Domestic violence shelter receives \$70,000 grant

I.M.Pact received a \$75,000 grant in June from a private foundation, including \$70,000 for its long-planned safe house and \$5,000 for educational programs. "It is a dream come true," said I.M.Pact's Penny Gazabat, explaining that a local couple who is on the foundation's board inquired about the group at the Livable Community Fair in May.

Read more about the grant and the plans in the August issue of KP News.

Hospital slated for GH North

Franciscan Health Systems announced plans in June to build a hospital/ER facility in Gig Harbor North, near Target. The news was welcome by KP paramedics, who say it would significantly reduce transport time, which is billed to the patients per mile. Planned for 2007, the 112-bed, state of the art hospital would offer intensive care, emergency room, surgery and general medical services. The hospital would create about 450 new jobs and is estimated to cost \$94 million, to be paid by FHS and grants.

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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Land-use commission gets county council's blessing

By Bill Trandum
KP News

The Pierce County Council acted on two Key Peninsula issues at its May 27 meeting. First was an ordinance to create a Key Peninsula Advisory Commission, referred to as the KPAC. Sponsored by county Councilman Terry Lee, the purpose of the ordinance is to establish a nine-member land-use advisory commission. Members will be appointed by the county executive and will serve without pay. As stated in the ordinance, they "shall be broadly representative of the Key Peninsula Community and the various interests associated therewith."

Lee said that with increased access to the Key Peninsula resulting from improvements on State Route 16 it is important to have a framework in place to assure predictability and coordination of land-use issues on the Peninsula.

The second resolution declares an intent to initiate a community plan for the Key Peninsula and requests that the

KP Advisory Commission

The Key Peninsula Advisory Commission, created by action of the Pierce County Council, is a separate body from the volunteer Key Peninsula Community Council. The two bodies would serve the same constituency and are viewed by supporters as vehicles for providing a coordinated voice for Key Peninsula residents. The county executive-appointed KPAC has a narrow focus to deal only with land-use planning issues. For information, contact Terry Lee's office at 798-6654

county executive include funding for the plan in the next annual budget. Both resolutions, proposed by Lee, passed unanimously.

Chairman Harold Moss said that community support would be key to making sure the item is actually included in the 2004 county executive's budget.



Photo courtesy of Ethel Denney

The building before the fire burned it to the ground.

(From FIRE, Page 1)

any insurance. The Fire Department said the fire was caused by a space heater, but the heater was off."

Eric Nelsen, fire chief for Pierce County Fire District 16 that responded to the fire, explained that even if an appliance is turned off it can still cause a fire if faulty wiring is involved.

Tracy Lyon, division chief for District 16 who was first on the scene, said that

50 percent of the building had already been destroyed when the crews arrived. "What was left was torn down," he said.

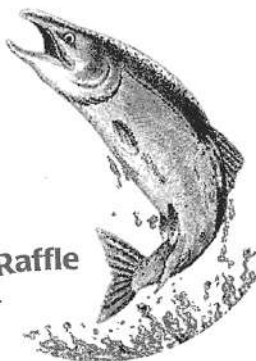
The county fire marshal's report listed the cause as a "space heater that was too close to surrounding combustibles."

Denney is now set up at Peninsula Park & Sell on weekends, trying to get her business back on its feet. "We're literally starting from the ground up," she said, "and in hopes of finding a building with low rent that we can move into."

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Editorial

As former Vaughn Union High classmates raked through 50- or 60-year-old memories at a reunion in June, Peninsula's class of 2003 created its own at graduation. While one generation traveled down memory lane recounting dreams that came true, the other, dreams in hand, was barely putting its shoes on.

The two groups were gathered not in the same place and not even on the same day. The school name and place had changed. Yet in an odd sort of way, the two ceremonies seemed to meld, as if the older generation's shoes were wearing out and it was time to pass the torch.

As one high school teacher put it, the fledgling heroes of tomorrow have their work cut out. They inherit one tough world. Some are up to the challenge. Some are not. We can only hope they stand on a strong foundation of values—and that any time they need help, they know where to turn.

Perhaps in 50 or 60 years, class of 2003 will travel the road back and revisit today's dreams. They'll look back at the fruits of their efforts, and be ready to pass the torch too. For those of us left behind, there are lots of new foundations to build in the meantime.

KPPRD is at crossroads, needs your help

By Nancy Lind
KPPRD Chair

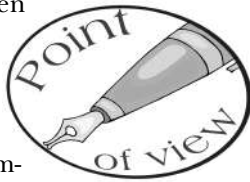
In 1972 the Key Peninsula Park and Recreation District was formed by a vote of the community, and the first 20 acres were acquired from Pierce County.

Many residents in the community have been active volunteers, board members, generous contributors and supporters. The last member to leave the board was

Marilyn Tagert who donated a great deal of her time and effort, and we thank her for all the hard work.

The KP Sports Center (known as Volunteer Park) is 30 years old. Capital improvements are vitally needed. Pierce County Parks is contributing \$150,000 of Real Estate Excise Taxes earmarked for parks to upgrade and build some specific projects. This fund must be matched by KPPRD, not with levy money. Developing the upper field, upgrading the water system, renovating the bathrooms are a few specific projects the board will explore.

The willingness of many to work hard to make this a great park district is heart-



ening. Volunteers are wonderful and the community is terrific to donate services. But we are at a crossroads. There are increasingly more jobs to do, more resources to tap into, more grants to write, more sophisticated methods of park management, more operations to oversee, more creative ideas and most of all more help for overworked volunteers.

In 1976, \$5,000 was raised for matching funds for the tennis courts. In 1977, a special levy of \$55,000 was raised to continue work. Seeding, fencing, a well reservoir, sprinkling system, electric power, on-site storage and shelter were built. A HUD grant of \$47,000 to the park district due to the efforts of Pierce County provided more capital improvements. Since 1977, KPPRD has passed 9 levies out of 18 efforts. Two bond issues failed.

Today, 30 years later, I believe we are more than ready to find the right person to manage the parks on a salary basis. This would be someone to coordinate, facilitate, and execute the multitude of tasks required to run a very serious business. And the park district should be run like a business. It should be more self-supporting, and it could be. The district has never hired a park manager. We have a paid groundskeeper. There has been a long-

standing mindset that the park can and should be run by volunteers because that's always the way it has been done. This is a fallacy. Volunteers have worked very hard over the years and burnout is common. During the years of failed levies, the park was kept open with sheer grit and gnashing of teeth.

The last M & O levy passed in 1999 and lasted four years. This September KPPRD will run another levy, for doing much needed upgrading, paying essential expenses and maybe hiring more help. The Peninsula Park & Rec. Dist. (PPRD) will run a levy at the same time but that is on the Gig Harbor side. The two names are confusing; be aware of the difference.

The concession stand at KP Sports Center is also a big part of the income into the district. We urge the community to come to the park and try out the good food. They are open for business only when games are played so unless you see the park full of players, call 884-FOOD.

We are asking the community to think about the hiring of a park manager and give us some feedback. Let us know your thoughts and help us make a very important decision. Call 884-9240 and leave a message for the park. We always appreciate your input.

Letters to the Editor

Scholarship committee thanks community

The Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula community for making our program such a success since its beginning in 1984. Many of the founders of the program were Key Peninsula residents, as are a good share of our current donors.

Scholarships were given to over 170 students this year for use on continued academic or vocational education. The students received not just financial help, but encouragement and inspiration from their community by way of these awards. Sometimes the receipt of a scholarship is the convincing factor for a young person who might otherwise not continue his or her schooling.

Businesses, organizations and families who wish to join the donor list for the coming year can obtain additional information by calling Marsha Williams at 857-7557. Another way to support the program is by shopping, donating or vol-

unteering at the S.A.V.E. Thrift Store located below the high school in Purdy. Profits from the store, which is open year-round, support activity groups and scholarships at Peninsula High School.

Thanks again to all those who help make the Hawks Scholarship Program one of the best around, year after year.

Marsha Williams

Peninsula Hawks Scholarship President

Kudos to meth lab fighters

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the two individuals who contacted me with information about meth lab operations in their community. It is only through such noble and proactive attitudes that we are going to wipe this cancer out of our neighborhoods. What one of these citizens said about there being "more of us than there are of them" couldn't have been expressed better.

The information supplied about meth cooking sludge being dumped in lakes on our Peninsula is of great concern to the families whose children swim in those waters and for the anglers who fish there. You may not be aware that when these people flagrantly dump their used

"cooking apparatus" on your property or in your lake, the cost created by the HazMat team for removal is billed to the property owner.

This is our community. We have certain expectations, like a safe place for our children to grow up and play without danger. It is my hope that many more people who call this "home" will start doing something about it. Kudos to you folks!

Karl Anderson, KP News staff

Courteous driver sets example for others

On June 16, a wonderful event happened in Key Center at the caution light. Believe it or not the traffic was very heavy at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. While waiting in a line of stopped cars heading toward Purdy, a pickup was making a left turn. A very gracious and courteous woman driving a car south stopped the long row of slow moving cars and let the pickup make the turn.

I am used to seeing this type of action on the Big Island of Hawaii where people stop and let you cross or enter the highway. This creates a very positive attitude and you very seldom see road rage.

Thank you, lady, for spreading the Aloha spirit on the Key Peninsula and may we all follow your example.

Fred Ramsdell, Lakebay

KPMS student recognized for saving 5-year-old boy

While visiting the Coonan family's new home with Mom and brother Feb. 1, 5-year-old Riley Voss got hard candy lodged in his throat and couldn't breathe. The boys were upstairs watching TV while the parents were downstairs making dinner. When Riley grabbed his neck, Kyle Coonan, a 14-year-old KPMS student, realized Riley was choking and couldn't breathe. Kyle called out for help but did not wait; he just grabbed Riley from behind and performed the Heimlich Maneuver and the candy popped out, allowing Riley to breathe again.

Because of Kyle's quick actions Riley is here today and healthy. On June 17, the Key Peninsula Fire Department awarded Kyle Coonan a certificate of excellence.

Thank you so much, Kyle, for saving Riley's life. You will always be my hero.

Stacy Voss, Key Peninsula

A vanishing business with no solution

By Karl Anderson
KP News

The two essential elements for any business are supply and demand. Businesses fail every day due to lack of demand. Others fail due to mismanagement. But for Oceanus Nautical Antiques, a very specialized business in Key Center, the reason for having to soon close doors is a most unique one.

They no longer have access to any supply.

It isn't because of anything they've done wrong. And it certainly isn't due to the lack of demand. There are people all over the world wanting the products and willing to pay the price. In fact, the success of this business doesn't even depend on walk-in traffic: The clientele live in England, New York, Germany, and anywhere in between.

When customers do walk through the doors, they are transported to a bygone era. Walls are adorned with binnacles, ship's wheels, telegraphs, and gargantuan running lights that used whale oil in the 1860s. Prints, carvings, oars, and vintage



Photo by Karl Anderson

Oceanus Nautical Antiques, which takes walk-ins by appointments, is packed with treasures. Owner Harriet Otto says she will eventually go out of business after running out of supply.

ship models are everywhere. More treasures hang from the ceiling. It looks like a museum.

Owner Harriet Otto says the business is destined to die. "I cannot replace these

original, authentic maritime pieces because there aren't any more. There used to be lots of old ships from the 1800s and early 1900s that were being dismantled and scrapped, but they are gone now," she says.

"Those few pieces that are still available are so scarce that it would cost me 10 times more to purchase them than what I could sell them for."

When shipping was the primary means of transportation and trading in the 1800s, Barkentine schooners were commonplace. The fixtures, most made by artisans who took great pride in their work, became increasingly sought after. But there were only so many ships, only so many fixtures.

"The stuff off newer ships is not as attractive as those ships of yesteryear," Otto says. "Today, with the use of mass production there just isn't any character in the modern pieces."

Otto says that the peak period when this kind of business was booming was in the mid-70s. "You could still get your hands on all kinds of authentic nautical pieces back then," she says. "But today that is no longer the case."

Reproductions are not the answer either. "The kind of clientele we have don't want cheap reproductions," she says. "They want the real thing, but the real thing is disappearing."

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William C. Dietz
FOR WHATEVER
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about the economic climate on the Key Peninsula I rubbed my hands with glee. After all, the United States lost 2.3 million jobs during the last two and a half years—and if the big picture were that bleak I figured conditions on the Peninsula would be worse. I couldn't wait to start.

Knowing that there had been complaints regarding the length of time it takes to obtain building permits, and figuring that could hurt business, I met with Terry Lee, county councilmember, District 7. "Pierce County has issued more permits this year than ever before," Lee said. "But we're aware of the problem, which is why we hired a consultant to look at what can be done to encourage business development including streamlining the permitting process."

Still reeling from Lee's upbeat assessment of the regulatory environment, I went to see Ed Taylor, owner of the Westwynd Motel in Purdy, and past president of the Key Peninsula Business Association. Taylor gave this assessment. "I think it's a healthy business climate. It's not commonly known, but there are more than 250 businesses on the peninsula."

Not to be dissuaded from my persistently negative point of view, I peppered Taylor with tough questions. "What about Gig Harbor North?" I demanded. "Surely that's having a negative impact on peninsula based businesses."

"No," Taylor replied, "I haven't heard any complaints."

"OK," I said, "then what about the motel business? That's tanking, right?"

"The three summer months are very busy," Taylor replied. "This year is tracking to last year."

Frustrated by Taylor's consistently positive perspective, I crossed the bridge and drove south. I was passing the Brookside restaurant when it came to me. The building had been on the market since the last ice age. Bad news and then some. I called Lawrence Wedvik, of Dobe Realty. He was philosophical: "It's a matter of finding agreement between buyer

and seller. We have three or four showings every week. The owners want a large down payment so that slows people down."

That sounded positive, but when pressed regarding the services available on the peninsula Wedvik admitted that, "We need a drugstore in Key Center, more places to eat, and improvements to the highway."

The whiff of negativity got my pulse pounding, and thus heartened I hastened to set up a meeting with Joyce Tovey at Windemere Realty. Things looked positive at first, meaning negative, when Tovey echoed Wedvik's desire for additional services. But then she lowered the boom. "I feel things are going well. It's a good climate. My business had grown 50 percent quarter over quarter from last year."

I was nearly on the ropes by then, but took one last shot at the "Gig Harbor North is bad for business" idea. Tovey was merciless. "I think Gig Harbor North has helped out business," she said cheerfully. "Folks who work there can live on the peninsula...and people from the peninsula have a shorter distance to drive."

Nearly overwhelmed by the realtor's unrelenting optimism, I decided to talk with Jonathan White, marketing coordinator and key accounts manager at Peninsula Light Co. "Right now commercial and residential growth averages 2 percent across all of the sub-stations on the peninsula," White informed. "Of course back in the late '80s and early '90s we averaged more than 100 new connections per month. We saw a dropoff after 1994. The bottom fell out."

There it was! Bad news! The only problem being that it was nine years old. Still, old bad news is better than no bad news, and I was overjoyed.

But White wasn't finished. "The Pierce County Growth Management Plan allows for commercial growth in areas like Lake Kathryn Village, Key Center, and Home but not much else," he explained. And that, combined with the state's moratorium on new water rights, existing zoning laws, and the creation of a community council, is likely to keep negative growth under control. "As for the future," White continued cheerfully, "I think tourism will be very important for the peninsula."

"Aha!" I shouted, leaping out of my chair with excitement, "Tourists will add to the already heavy traffic on 302 and the Key Peninsula Highway! And that's bad!"

"Only until they build a bypass at the end of Burley Bay," White said calmly, and smiled as I stumbled out of the building and into the sunshine.



Bargain shoppers will find many choices along with interesting people at the Swap Meet.

Photo by
Karl Anderson

Swap Meet offers new, recycled treasures

By Irene Torres
KP News

Jerry Davis has retired twice, and still finds plenty to keep him busy, especially during the summer at the Key Peninsula Park & Sell Swap Meet. During the winter months, he travels to Florida to SCUBA dive. He has some beautiful underwater photographs to share with shoppers while they listen to him describe his merchandise, or tell stories liberally seasoned with his sense of humor.

Davis relocated and purchased land on the Key Peninsula in 1985, with plans to build a restaurant; but county code requirements were cost-prohibitive. He discovered a requirement to keep the land in use as a commercial venture in order to retain that zoning classification.

He found the swap meet business to best suit his needs for a flexible schedule. It also brought an unanticipated benefit, "an opportunity to have fun and visit with friends every weekend."

He started the swap meet with a few tents, and in the past three years, has been expanding on the corner of Elgin-Clifton at Wright-Bliss Road. In 2003, he added wooden kiosks, which provide dry, secure storefronts to display his varied merchandise.

On a recent Saturday, the Swap Meet bustled with activity. As customers drove in, they were greeted with an enthusiastic, "Come on in!" and waved toward the parking area by a smiling Davis. As they walked through, they could find nearly

(See SWAP, Page 7)

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(From SWAP, Page 6)

anything from books to bikes, from “three kinds of raspberry plants” to Barbie toys and accessories. Further along the walk were clothing, bedding, household items and furniture, all reasonably priced. “All CDs and videotapes...a dollar each,” he announced. Along the perimeter fence were stacks of seasoned and split Madrona firewood, “for only \$100 a cord,” hawked Davis.

There are 30 spaces where vendors are encouraged to display and sell. Davis says, “It’s entrepreneurship at a low cost.” Private parties and commercial vendors can display free on Fridays, and pay \$10 a day, though Davis sometimes offers a half-off coupon special for weekend sales. Beginning this summer, Davis offers free space to all nonprofit organizations for their weekend fundraising activities. He provides free coffee and doughnuts to sellers, and for the nominal fee of \$1 a day, privately owned vehicles and boats receive maximum exposure to potential buyers.

Peninsula residents Roger and Tina Gibson recently sold their boat at Swap Meet, and returned to sell their crafts, jewelry, and “miscellaneous treasures

from days gone by.” “We enjoy the close-in location, without the hassle of the drive to the Midway Flea Market,” they said.

Paul Nolte, another local vendor, said, “This is a perfect location and the price is right.” He smiled as he sold a table saw “for 1,000 pennies” to a buyer who said, “I came all the way from Tacoma to shop here.” That same buyer purchased what looked to be an antique boat compass on a gimble, as he announced plans to install it on a steamboat he’s restoring.

Other sale items were a kerosene heater, fire extinguisher, and a windsurfing board with two sails beckoning potential buyers with a bargain price of only \$75, complete with boom and a bag of rigging. One vendor manufactures sturdy, beautiful iron gates for driveways and fences. Yet another offers new and gently used tools and sporting goods.

Kimberly Wood, owner of “Grace’s Great Gifts,” was a first-time vendor, displaying new collectible lighthouses, figurines of dolphins, garden statuary, wind chimes, and other new items. She said she appreciates “the low overhead of rental space here because retail space is not cheap.” Customers can “touch and feel” her merchandise. “I’m hooked!” she said, laughing.

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Civic Center fund-raisers continue

Insurance hike hits hard

By Irene Torres
KP News

The Key Peninsula Civic Center is going full speed to meet its financial obligations with fund-raisers throughout the year. Despite recent monumental increases in liability insurance premiums, which have hit the nonprofit organization hard, Board President Betty Kelley remains optimistic.

"We generate revenue from organizations and individuals renting the center, from class tuition, and our big fund-raisers are fireworks sales and dances, which may help us to stay solvent. The Civic Center does not receive money from any government agencies," Kelley said, adding that fund-raising events will continue for as long as necessary.

"We will be having a 'Flavor of Fall' event this year. We would like to use the proceeds to refurbish the stage so that we can have theatre productions."

The annual insurance policy costs the Civic Center \$25,365, an amount that

has doubled since 1999. This translates into a need for the Civic Center to generate \$500 per week just to cover insurance. Because of this economic reality, community support for the center, its events, and fund-raising efforts will continue to be important, she said.

Dances are some of the activities the center hopes to increase. "We can make \$1,000-\$2,000 on a dance. We are scheduling as many as possible," Kelley said.

The board also plans to set up a Web site to advertise events and services: The center is available for rent by private parties for weddings, receptions, birthdays and reunions.

The board has also looked at ways of saving on insurance. "We are looking into joining with other nonprofits to find a group rate, but no luck so far," Kelley said. "We have a unique venue so we don't fit into many of the categories others do."

The Civic Center was purchased from the school district by community members and continues to be run by civic-minded volunteers.

Fund-raising efforts

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Fireworks Stand, one of the biggest fund-raisers, will be open in Key Center June 28 – July 4 in the parking lot by Key Center Saloon.

You can also help by saving your Peninsula Market receipts and giving them to the Civic Center, which can receive a 1 percent rebate. Drop them off at the office or mail them in.

"Flavor of Fall" in October will feature dinner and auction and needs volunteers to help organize.

Help with maintenance and repairs is also needed. Call the Civic Center at 884-3456 for details.

Kelley's invitation is sincere. "Every member of the community is welcome to join the board of directors to help," she said. "We would happily welcome any new members. We need new volunteers and ideas to help with additional fund-raisers—the people we have can only do so much."

A taste of fun, good will

Flavor of Fall is the Civic Center's biggest fund-raiser, not to mention its most anticipated event. The gala is not until Oct. 4, but preparations had started already.

In a sense, it truly takes a village.

All sorts of items are donated by residents for the auction, and everyone including the caterer volunteers the time.

Joni Welch had tried to attend several times, but tickets had been sold out or she'd been working. This year, she will finally make it—as the chef.

The owner of Party Executives had planned and catered all sorts of events, but this one is really special, her way to support the community. The "Cruise into Fall" theme will be followed to the letter, so naturally the food is buffet style.

"We want to make it look really spectacular," she said. But that is pretty much a given: The tireless volunteers spend so many hours bustling, they make party planning seem like a piece of cake. The Two Water Arts Alliance will use the artistic talents of its members to transform the center into a cruise ship.

Organizers say tickets are just about sold out by September—perhaps a tall tale sign of the event's popularity.

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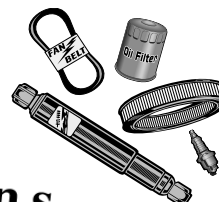
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KPMS unveils students' work of art

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

A crowd of excited well-wishers gathered at the entrance to the Key Peninsula Middle School last week of May for the unveiling of a four-panel, art tile mosaic designed and assembled by students of KPMS' arts and photography teacher Janet Buday. The theme of the art project was, "Where we live."

Some 70 of Buday's sixth, seventh and eighth graders competed in the competition for the honor of having the winning design made into an artistic addition to the school's entryway. The selection was made by a committee of Co-Principals Jim Adams and B.J. Bolson and After 'Ours Director Penny Gazabat. The nod was given to 14-year-old Sonya Kochubey.

Sonya is from Togliatti, Russia, near Moscow, and has been in the States less than a year. She entered KPMS in the summer of 2002.

Asked, to her surprise in her native Russian, where she got her inspiration for the final design, she said, "from my heart." She is happy here but misses



Sonya Kochubey, right, is the designer of the mosaic. She says it's an expression of nature.

Photo by
Rodika
Tolefson

her cousins and friends in Russia, she said, adding, "My design means an expression of nature as I have seen it, mainly through pictures Mrs. Buday shows us in class."

Buday explained that, once the design had been selected, she "got a great deal on the price of tiles at Whittington Tile and Marble in Gorst," and that her "class then broke the small, square tiles into preferred shapes."

In her address to the gathering at the

artwork, Buday thanked Sonya and all the students as well as the adults who helped.

"Thank you to my dedicated art students and students of After 'Ours who persevered in their endeavor to complete the four-panel mosaic," she said. "It took cutting each glass tile into pieces and careful placement of each tile on the board one by one."

If you haven't seen this work of art yet, a trip to KPMS is definitely in order.

School thanks volunteers

By Sabra Stratford
Evergreen Elementary

Volunteers at Evergreen Elementary were treated to tea, dessert and entertainment on June 5, with Evergreen staff serving and thanking the volunteers. The Evergreen Blues harmonica group, under the direction of Geoff Baillie, performed and brought down the house at the event.

About 140 volunteers assist Evergreen students during the school year. Many enriching activities are supported by community members and parents. Activities supported by volunteers include the After 'Ours Program, PTA, classroom help, Reading Is Fundamental, field trips, ECEAP preschool help, library assistance, ice cream and popcorn sales, Reading and Math Family Nights and fifth grade camp.

Sue Surrat, AmeriCorps volunteer, has coordinated, recruited, trained and scheduled the volunteers. The goal was to increase support over last year's total of 130 volunteers. With her help, Evergreen achieved that goal.

If you are interested in joining the Evergreen volunteers, please call the school at 884-3393. Volunteers are needed for the 2003-2004 school year.

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Evergreen Coop Preschool jump-starts kindergarten

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Key Peninsula's Evergreen Cooperative Preschool hosts children 3.5 to 5 years of age and has been in operation for several years, providing a chance for kids to create art, explore sensory tables, build with blocks, pretend, sing songs, read stories, go on field trips and share nutritious snacks. They also learn pre-academic skills as well as social skills like taking turns and cooperating.

Debbie Ehrhardt, volunteer mom and co-president of the coop preschool, says, "We keep the same vacation schedule as the public schools. Parents are very involved in the classes for which we, the parents, provide nutritious snacks. Each parent works in class at least two days a month."

What is unique about cooperative preschools is parent participation. A volunteer parent board elected by the membership operates the business of the preschool. Parent helpers work in the classroom on a rotating basis and



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Preschoolers release painted lady butterflies raised from caterpillars, which were ordered from Insect Lore of California and spun their own cocoons.

maintain a supportive atmosphere for the kids. Because of parent involvement, there is a low child-to-adult ratio and tuition is kept affordable. Some scholarships are available. The coop is affiliated with Bates Technical College; it is not affiliated with the Peninsula School District.

"Mary Tyler is a wonderful teacher

who is always in control," Ehrhardt said. "She has a way with children. We take field trips, and have done Penrose Point State Park at low tide, the Home fire station, the salmon hatchery, and the Pumpkin Patch. Parents do the field trips together with the kids and siblings are always welcome.

"I have personally enjoyed being a part of the coop. It has given me the opportunity to watch (my son) Nicholas grow. It is a great jump-start for kindergarten."

Evergreen Cooperative Preschool, a nonprofit organization, meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Longbranch Community Church, from which it rents space but with which it has no religious affiliation.

Preschool Coop

To find out more about this and other coop preschools, call 884-5535 for the Key Peninsula, 620-4420 for Purdy, or 858-6911 for Gig Harbor.

Go, champs!



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Key Peninsula Middle School for the fourth year in a row won the all-district middle school track and field competition. One of the stars, seventh grader Kyle Gootkin pictured above, won first in 100-meter dash. Thomas Slater was best in the state for the discus with 123 feet and is one of top 10 in the nation in sixth grade discus.

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August 23

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TwoWaters
ARTS ALLIANCE

Chef Oliver

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Oliver Coldeen, who majored in theatre in college, says he's a member of the world's second-oldest profession — that of chef. He notes early Biblical references to bakers to support that idea.

Perhaps best known locally for operating the former Oliver's Smokehouse Grill at the KC Corral for nearly four years, he also has a reputation as a volunteer cook. He prepares I.M.Pact dinners at Community House in Lakebay two Sundays a month for Longbranch and Grace Churches, and is the chef for the annual Longbranch Church Salmon Bake at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

Coldeen grew up on Vashon Island and met wife, Julie, there. In high school, he washed dishes for a restaurant, worked up to cook his senior year, and returned there after college graduation. With a grin, he tells the joke about the engineer who asks, "How does it work?"; the scientist, "Why does it work?"; the accountant, "How much does it cost?" and the liberal arts major who asks, "You want fries with it?"

He enjoyed cooking but had no formal training. His employment record includes a diverse list: a nursing home

Longbranch Salmon Bake

Indulge in Chef Oliver's cooking on July 26 at the annual Longbranch Community Church Salmon Bake at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Tickets to the fund-raiser are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids up to age 12. Dinner is served between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. and the festivities include kids' games and face paintings, entertainment and live and silent auctions. See event details in the Community Works section.

on Vashon, VJ's Country Inn, Delmonicos, the Huckleberry Inn, Rib Ticklers, and The Inn at Gig Harbor. He worked for Ram Corporation, which owns and operates restaurants and sports bars, and opened one for them in Lakewood in 1990. He is currently lunch chef at the The Beach House at Purdy, with one dinner stint each week.

He says he really learned to cook from Shannon Rowe at Delmonicos, using special techniques, sauces, and seasonings.

Oliver and Julie lived in Longbranch for a while, as self-sustaining as possible. They raised hogs, rabbits, chickens and organic fruits and vegetables. They've given up the animals in their current lifestyle, but now in a new home, they

music and more. The free event is July 14-18 at the Civic Center, for children grades K-6. Call 853-6761.

Go on a Jesus Expedition

Join in the fun and adventure while visiting Antarctica, excavating in the Egyptian desert, trekking up Mount Everest and diving into the Pacific Ocean. Kids will love the fun active experiences that will help them learn about Jesus' awesome love and power. Children 3-10 years old are invited to attend the Bible School at Vaughn Community Church July 14-17. Call 884-2269.



Chef Oliver cooks up a storm at the annual Salmon Bake that benefits the Longbranch Community Church.

Photo courtesy of
Bob Olmsted

again have the beginnings of a lush vegetable garden.

Coldeen is a master baker who loves to turn out pies or a batch of five loaves of steaming bread. He shares cooking at home with his wife and daughters, and is delighted that although his work is cooking, he still loves to do it at home or other places.

Longbranch Church members rave about Oliver's famous soup. He's a regular cook for family potluck events there.

Coldeen helped Gene Schultz when the I.M.Pact meals were at the Civic Center in Vaughn before they moved to the Community House.

He believes the meals are as beneficial to the workers as to those served each

Sunday afternoon.

Daughters Ruth and Rachael are excellent help when Oliver is cooking. They help set up, serve, clean up, and I.M.Pact meal regulars know their friendly smiles.

Coldeen also plays guitar and leads praise music at Longbranch Church. He had both guitar and piano lessons, but stubbornly refused to read music. With a good ear, he manages well on both instruments.

Some future day he hopes to open a small barbecue place on the peninsula, a family business that includes Julie and the girls.

Meanwhile, Oliver pursues his profession as chef with gusto and his own creative flair.

Vacation Bible Schools

Crack the Character Code

KP Baptist Church presents this summer's Vacation Bible School, The Great Kingdom Caper—Cracking the Character Code. Cases, codes and clues will lead kids to learn how to live with compassion and kindness, humility and gentleness, patience and endurance, forgiveness and love. The theme sends sleuths (kids) through the streets of London and the British Isles on adventures in Christian character. Activities will include crafts,



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To have your church news listed, email them to keypennews@yahoo.com or fax to 884-4699, by third Monday of the month.

Public meeting for Key Peninsula-Islands water planning project

Pierce County Water Programs is hosting a public meeting to explain the process for the upcoming Key Peninsula-Islands Basin Plan, which is intended to prioritize surface water management fee expenditures in the area. County staff and consultants from URS Corporation are in the first phase of preparing a plan for the basin, which includes the Key Peninsula/ Burley-Minter and Rocky Bay areas. The Basin Plan will also address islands including Fox, Raft, Anderson, Ketron, and Herron. The first phase focuses on data collection phase so Pierce County and URS will be surveying local streams and soliciting residents for information on the area.

The plan will be used to evaluate and prioritize potential capital improvement projects aimed at reducing flooding problems and protecting water quality and floodplain habitat. County stormwater utility fees collected from property owners within the basin will provide funding for the plan and for the capital improvements.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8, at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, in Vaughn. Pierce County and URS will explain the basin planning process, provide more information on what will be involved in the stream surveys, and ask attendees for information they have on local flooding, water quality, and habitat problems.

A similar presentation will be given on Tuesday, July 15, at 4 p.m., hosted by the Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands Watershed Council. That meeting will be held at Peninsula Light Business Office, 13315 Goodnough Drive N.W. in Purdy.

For information, contact Barbara Ann Smolko, Pierce County Water Programs, 798-2725.

—Submitted by Barbara Ann Smolko

Vaughn Bay Garden Club has potluck

The Vaughn Bay Garden Club will have a potluck picnic on July 16 at the home of Joy Rakes. This is a new calendared meeting for the group. Plans for next year's meetings will be discussed. The next scheduled meeting will be the Welcome Back Tea in September. Contact 884-1527 or 884-5403 for more information.

—Submitted by Colleen Slater

Looking for organization to head up Halloween Fun Night @ Civic Center on Friday Oct. 31, 2003. Inquire at 884-3456

Summer of Art with Two Waters Arts Alliance



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CLASSES, EVENTS AND CAMP

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Sumi Painting August 9 and 16
Key Fair Aug. 15-17
Driftwood Art/Clay Day August 23
Monthly Events: Drawing Studio, third Wednesdays.

Tuition from \$15, family discounts and scholarships available. Call Margo, 884-2955, to register.

Felt-making workshop.

Photo courtesy of Kathy Bauer

Angels can take the heat

Summer arrived the first week of June. Three fans were going and the doors were open and it was still plenty warm in the store. But!! That didn't stop us from having a GREAT bike sale. We were able to find homes for all but one of the 28 bikes donated by the Kiwanis Club after the members of the Purdy Corrections Facility reconditioned them. With those bikes went a certificate for a free helmet. The Angel Guild encourages anyone regardless of age to wear a helmet when biking, skating, skateboarding or riding a scooter. Heads need to be protected from injury. Helmets can be purchased at the Key Center Fire Station and need to be fitted to each individual's head.

We want to say thank you to Kiwanis members and the Purdy Corrections people. We also express our thanks to Keith Hillstrom and Mike Merrick from Peninsula Iron Works for not only donating but building and installing a strong new gate to help us try to solve a security problem we have been having.

The Angels Guild will be a sponsor of the Key Peninsula Community Fair again this year. That was the only request for help received last month.

The store is located in Key Center at the KC Corral and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 to 4. Come in for great shopping opportunities. There are always new things for your treasure hunting enjoyment. We even have a beautiful wedding gown with a very small price

tag for those on a budget or who just like to find a bargain. SO! COME ON IN!

—Submitted by Mary Ramsdell

Free kids screening

Free health screenings for children up to 3 years old will be offered July 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Family Resource Center. The screening will include language, learning, vision, hearing and motor skill checkup. To set up an appointment, call Child Reach at 798-3698. The Family Resource Center is located inside the Civic Center at Vaughn.

Just one month to go for the Ashes Rummage Sale

The Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary "Ashes" rummage sale is on Saturday, Aug. 2, 9 to 4 at the Key Center Fire Station. Don't forget, we welcome your participation and thank you for your support in both your donations and of course shopping opportunities. We always have unbelievable treasures, everything from A to Z (last year we even had a kitchen sink), so mark your calendar.

Donations can be dropped off at the fire station on Friday the 1st or if you need something picked up call Marguerite at 884-3771 or Mary at 884-4834.

Since they say you shouldn't shop on an empty stomach, the Key Peninsula Firefighters Assoc. will be serving their famous pancake breakfast Saturday morning Aug. 1 at 7:30 a.m. See you there.

—Submitted by Mary Ramsdell

Salmon bake time is finally here

July 26 is the Big Salmon Bake. This third annual fund-raising event is sponsored by the Longbranch Community Church and is held at the Longbranch Improvement Club. This fun day for family time will include a deluxe salmon dinner, a raffle, and a live and silent auction. For the kids there will be a "face painting clown" along with fun games.

The top raffle prizes are: a night's deluxe accommodations at the Inn of Gig Harbor; adventure on the Washington Dinner Train for Two; and a getaway at the Bear's Lair B & B. The auction items will include exciting gift baskets and a guided kayak trip in the South Sound. Other attractions include a white elephant sale.

Chef Oliver Coldeen's "Dinner with all the Trimmings" will be served from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Special treats are fresh squeezed lemonade and strawberry shortcake.

Advance tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children up to age 12, and kids under 5 eat free. Tickets may be purchased from any member of the Longbranch Community Church, or at Sunnycrest Nursery, Charboneau Construction, Longbranch Marina, Home Country Store, and Dave Ahrens Coast Hardware in Lake Kathryn. Call 857-6474 or 884-3502.

Proceeds from the event go toward community and church functions. Buy your tickets now and mark your calendar!

—Submitted by Gary Ostlund

Raptors, puppets at library

Join the fun at the Key Center Library with puppet theatre and a reptile show.

Wednesday, July 9 at 2:00 p.m.: Raptors: the winged hunters with Metro Parks and the Point Defiance Zoo, for ages 6 & up.

Thursday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m.: Puppet Theatre presents "Three Little Pigs" and "Three Billy Goats Gruff" for ages 5 & up.

Thursday, August 7 at 10:30 a.m.: Puppet Theatre presents "Gingerbread Boy" and "Little Red Riding Hood" for ages 5 & up.

Library hours are Tu/Wed. 11-8, Thu/Fri 11-6, Sat 12-5.

Women's golf invitational

Round up a partner and put on your cowgirl hat for the first Horseshoe Lake Women's Club Invitational July 12. Open to all women golfers, the 2-lady best ball tournament is planned as an annual event. Entry deadline is July 4. Call 857-3326 for details.

Travel to lavender fest

Sunnycrest Nursery invites you to travel to the annual Lavender Festival in Sequim July 18 on a bus going from Key Center and stopping at three farms as well as the street fair. Boxed lunch will be served. For cost and details call 884-3937.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Boy Scouts Troop 220 had been busy, fixing the reader board at the Civic Center.

"Cruise into Fall" with the year's biggest gala at Civic Center

Fifteen years ago we held the first Flavor of Fall dinner auction as a fundraiser for the Key Peninsula Civic Center. It became our largest annual fund-raising event. Over the last 15 years, funds raised have provided support for the general operations, capital improvements, site maintenance and development of new programs. The Civic Center has been our community's main facility since 1956 and serves many nonprofits, such as Children's Home Society, Boy Scouts, Tops, V.F.W., W.I.C., Key Peninsula Historical Society and Museum. The Civic Center is also the publisher of the Key Peninsula News and hosts the ever-

popular Friday Night Skate.

This is an opportunity for you to support your local community by supporting the Key Peninsula Civic Center. We are looking for donations for the auction as well as volunteers to help make the event a success. Your donation is tax deductible and we will be publishing the names of all donors in the Key Peninsula News and the event program. You can also support us by coming to the gala on Oct. 4 and joining the celebration. Thank you for your continued support! Call Claudia Loy, 884-4169, or Kristen Bottiger, 884-5420.

—Submitted by Kristen Bottiger



Flavor of Fall organizer Claudia Loy is having a ball with her daughter and her mother at the 1994 event, which featured Mardi Gras as the theme.

Photo courtesy of Claudia Loy

To have your organization's news published in the Key Peninsula News and the Key Peninsula Electronic Newsletter (distributed by email), send your announcement to keypenews@yahoo.com or fax to 884-4053. You can also write to PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394 or drop it off at the Civic Center. Include the following information: name of event, sponsoring group, date/time, place, cover charge (if any) and a phone number for more information.

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Recovering Shuttle Columbia

Wauna resident becomes 'part of NASA family' during recovery effort

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Rebecca Stay had never been away from her husband and daughter for more than one day. So when first asked to help recover Shuttle Columbia in Texas for three weeks this spring, she declined.

But when her search and rescue team later really needed her, the Wauna woman packed up—and the next morning flew out.

The next three weeks would become a grueling, physically and emotionally demanding experience in the sweltering Texas wilderness. If tornadoes, floods or mud didn't take a toll, poisonous snakes, alligators, fire ants and wild hogs kept the crews at bay during the 14- to 16-hour days.

"The conditions were really hazardous and toward the end it got really hot so people got dehydrated and sick with pneumonia," Stay said. "If you were smart, you'd duct tape the bottom of your pants and wear bug spray; you had to wear all this equipment in 80 degrees while wearing long-sleeve shirts, boots and snake-proof chaps made of Gortex."

More than 5,000 recovery personnel from around the country participated in the effort at four mobile camps set up by FEMA and NASA in a multi-agency effort. Firefighters, search and rescue personnel, FEMA, NASA and Environmental Protection Agency representatives banded together in the effort.

For Stay, an experienced wilderness search and rescue volunteer with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, the

tough conditions were familiar: She had been out in the mountains and wilderness alone with her dog many times.

"I knew it was going to be long, exhausting days," she said. "What I didn't know about were the tornadoes, snakes, fire ants—we couldn't even lean against a tree, lay on the ground or sit down to eat lunch unless we were in a truck."

Gig Harbor's Tom Minor, a Pierce County Sheriff's commander, also joined the FEMA operation as part of the Puget Sound Urban Task Force. The group was charged with developing search technique standards for the recovery crews, comprised of U.S. Forest Department firefighters. Minor brought other local FEMA standby reservists in, and Stay became one of the technical search specialists, a temporary paid FEMA employee tasked with observing and evaluating eight 20-person search crews at one of the four camps.

"Their (the perished astronauts') mission became our mission..."

-Rebecca Stay

Each camp was completely mobile and could be packed and moved in a day. In addition to the shower, personnel and map-making trailers, a fueling truck was brought in, and when mud became a problem, even a truck-washing station. Every rental truck and many cars in eastern Texas were used in the operation.

Driving from one location to the next, Stay observed the crews to ensure they followed the guidelines.

"We had to teach people how to line up in a straight line, how fast to go, how far apart to be," she said. "I would be behind



Wauna's Rebecca Stay displays the memorabilia she brought home after Shuttle Columbia recovery work. Columbia broke apart on Feb. 1 on the way back to Earth, killing all seven astronauts.

Photo by
Rodika Tollefson

the crews, zigzagging back and forth....They had guidelines for everything and everything had to be done a specific way....so that there was nothing left to question." NASA, FEMA, EPA, medical and pyrotechnics personnel were also assigned to the crews. Everything was very organized and planned out, she said.

Up by 5 a.m., Stay started her workdays at 6. Writing reports and participating in briefings was part of the daily routine.

Through the thick briars and grass 3-4 feet tall, searchers often could not see each other within 10 feet, but were able to recover pieces the size of toenails, and as big as 600 pounds. Each camp would cover more than 2,000 miles per day. At this point of the search, the bodies had been recovered so the focus was on shuttle pieces.

"Their (the perished astronauts') mission became our mission. Our job was not only to bring back their bodies, but to bring their beloved shuttle home," she said. By the time FEMA turned over the recovery to NASA on April 30, the crews had found about 40 percent of the shuttle.

Stay and her colleagues became not only part of history but also part of the NASA family. Astronauts visited the camps regularly, telling the crews how much their

efforts were appreciated and how important their work was in "solving the puzzle" and helping shuttles fly again. She met the next crew slated to fly, including the first woman commander, Eileen Collins.

"The NASA family is very close," she said. "You felt like you became part of that family. Everybody was very emotional and professional."

Perhaps one of the most emotional parts was visiting the space center in Houston and getting a rare glimpse of a mock shuttle. At that moment, searchers recognized some of the pieces they found: "You felt sick to your stomach because all of a sudden it really brought it home."

During those days away from her family, Stay spent long hours on the phone with her daughter and husband—one time even going over "plant watering 101" for 30 minutes. Despite the original worries about going, toward the end of the mission she didn't want to leave, and felt good about her work. "I didn't want to go home after the three weeks but I had a family and a job," she said.

Stay said NASA is still looking for shuttle pieces and may call on FEMA's help again this fall. And this time, she'll go without any qualms.

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From Pioneer Stock Virginia Seavy

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Virginia Bernston arrived in Lakebay when her father joined Captain Ed Lorenz to form the Lorenz-Bernston Navigation Co.

She started first grade in 1923 where Miss Beckstrom was teacher of the one-room school. In 1924 the ladies of the community started the Lakebay Community Church in the school. "Talk about multi-purpose — school on weekdays and Sunday School on Sundays," she recalls.

When Lakebay School District built the brick building (now Community House) for students from the lower peninsula, the church bought the school building.

After eighth-grade graduation, Virginia rode the ferry from Pt. Fosdick to Tacoma to attend Jason Lee Junior High. She stayed with an aunt during the week. Her freshman year she went to Stadium. She traveled on her dad's boat "Arcadia" to the municipal dock at Titlow Beach, took a bus to school and back to catch the return boat each day.

The "Arcadia" noted left Lakebay at 6:30 a.m. and connected with the 8:40 bus "for Tacoma School service for students of Jason Lee and Stadium."

Virginia's parents apparently decided it was too much hassle for her to go to Tacoma on a daily basis, so she finished high school at Vaughn. Valedictorian at graduation, she attended Washington State College on a \$35 scholarship, which paid room and board for one semester.

She graduated with her bachelor in business degree and worked for Weyerhaeuser in Tacoma until her marriage to Keith Seavy. The Seavys lived in Seattle for five years, where their two sons were born.

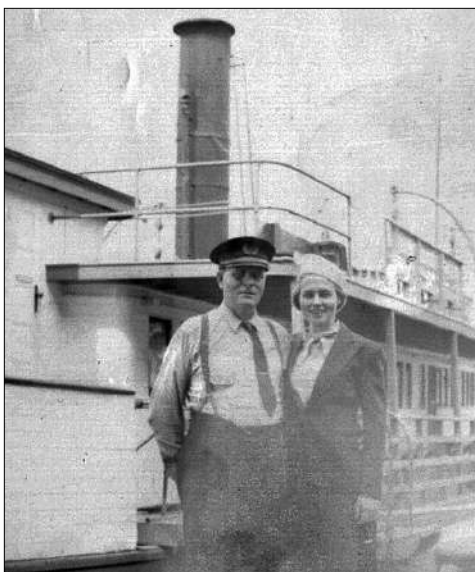


Photo courtesy of Virginia Seavy

Virginia with her father, Bert Bernston, with "Arcadia" in the background.

General Insurance, Keith's company, transferred him to San Francisco in 1946. They made their home in the Santa Clara Valley until retirement 29 years later. Virginia was a school secretary for Los Altos. An ideal job, she said, with the same hours as the boys and summers off together.

In 1975 Virginia returned to the land where she was raised. Her mother had divided the property between Virginia and her sister, and the Seavys built a home on their half, overlooking the waters of Mayo Cove. They attend Lakebay Church where she went to school and Sunday School as a child.

Virginia loves to garden, and was a WSU Master Gardener for several years. She's a charter member of Angel Guild, historian and Lakebay board representative for the Key Peninsula Historical Society.

She enjoys learning more local history of the peninsula and is delighted that her father was part of it. Photographs and paintings of her father's boats hang on a wall in her home, a pictorial memory of "The Mosquito Fleet" that brought her to Lakebay, an area that gave her "roots."

Mosquito Fleet plowed the waters of Key Pen

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Like a "swarm of mosquitoes," as many as 2,000 small vessels plied the waters of Puget Sound between Olympia and Alaska from 1850s to mid-1940s.

More than a century ago, "roads" on the Key Peninsula were rough trails through the woods, and transportation was mainly by boat. Every settlement had its own dock, and the little steamships met daily or weekly schedules.

In 1876, German immigrant Carl Lorenz and family moved to Lakebay. Lorenz deepened and widened the creek connecting Mayo Cove to Bay Lake and built a waterwheel-powered sawmill.

Local business prospered, and Lorenz and sons Otto and Edward headed for Seattle with lumber, rowing a specially built scow. They allowed neighbors to ride their lumber boat and soon realized there was a need for scheduled trips for passengers as well as freight. The "Sophia" was the first of a string of boats that made nearly a dozen stops between Lakebay and Tacoma.

"Captain Ed" Lorenz acquired the mail franchise from Tacoma to Lakebay, bidding \$1 less than the only other bidder. According to Robert, son of "Arcadia's" first mate Jim Ulsh, men sat in the front cabin, smoked and told stories, while women stayed in the rear cabin, crocheted, and minded children.

One time some government officials planned to cross from Tacoma to Home to close the settlement down. Lorenz, aware of their intent, said the boat was broken and wouldn't be making that scheduled run. The officials left and never returned.

Information compiled from KP Historical Museum. More stories about the people, boats and local history fill multiple volumes available to visitors on Thursdays and Saturdays, 1 - 4 p.m.

In 1918, Bert Bernston formed a partnership with Lorenz, purchased the "Thurow," and transported his family to Lakebay one cold, snowy January day. "Captain Bert" piloted most of the runs for the Lorenz-Bernston company, with Lorenz taking occasional turns.

The "Arcadia," built in 1928 and christened with grape juice by 13-year-old Virginia Bernston, was their longest running boat. All the machinery from "Sentinel," the second Lorenz-Bernston steamer, was put into the Arcadia, and a Stanley Steamer engine installed to power a freight elevator.

"Arcadia" was the last boat to operate on a regular route, and the last to bring the mail to Lakebay. She was sold for a McNeil Island ferry in 1942 when Lorenz died and Bernston temporarily retired. Sold again in 1959, she was renamed "Virginia VI" by the Puget Sound Excursion Lines of Seattle, sister ship to "Virginia V," built in Gig Harbor with the original engine from a Lorenz boat, "Tyrus."

Other boats and captains ferried mail and produce around the Peninsula waters in the early 1900s. By 1925, improved roads, railroads and car ferries began to compete with the slow little boats. When Arcadia made the last run with the mail for Lakebay in 1941, the end of an era had arrived. Although later used with others as excursion boats, the days of the Mosquito Fleet sailed into history.

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Peninsula Light Co. Workshop Schedule

2003

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Call (253) 857-1530 For Reservations.

2003

July

12 INTRODUCTION TO SHORELINE PERMITTING AND BULKHEADS

*Anna Maria Sibon PC Planning and Land Service-
Colin Wagner, Camp Seymour Project Engineer. To
be held at Camp Seymour 11am to 2pm.*

August

12 LANDSCAPING AND STORM WATER CONTROL FOR SHORELINES

*Harold Smelt, PC Water Prog Project Engineer. To be
held Tuesday at GH Civic Center Council Chambers
6:30 to 8:30pm.*

September

10 SEPTIC, SENSE, SCENTS AND CENTS

*How to maintain your septic system. Jim Hoyle,
Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept.*

24 GENERATOR SAFETY

*Electrical code requirements, transfer switches, fuel
options and more. Jonathan White, PLC Marketing
Coordinator.*

October

22 IS YOUR FURNACE INSTALLED CORRECTLY?

*Problems encountered by a field inspector. Paul
Thorton, Field Inspector, NW Sheet Metal Inspection
Service.*

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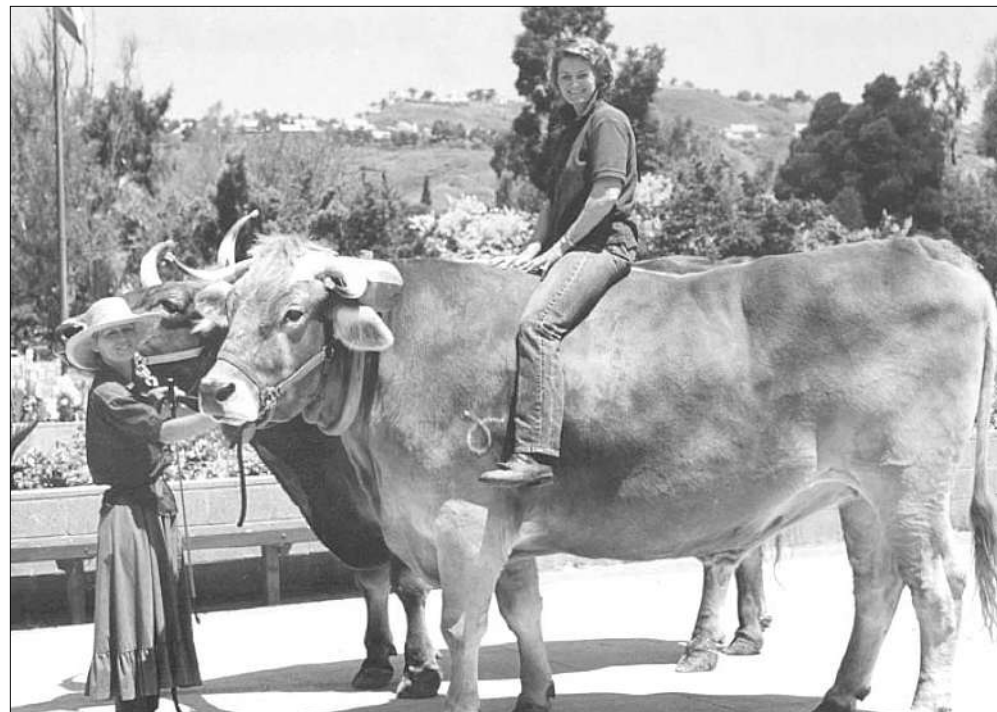


Photo courtesy of Sheryl Curtis

Sheryl Curtis revives a piece of history with her oxen, who are en route to Key Pen.

Living show oxen-tuates Key Peninsula fair

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

They walked for nearly 3,000 miles barefoot, often in pouring rain. Covered in mud, cold and hungry, they carried on. Without them no one would get supplies; hundreds of people counted on them. So they kept walking.

They were bullwhackers — the freighters of yesteryear. Long before the freight industry got its trucks, it was flourishing just the same. The freighters, men and women with the stamina of champions, trekked through the West with covered wagons pulled by oxen, delivering everything from ink to medicine.

Women?

Well, at least three of them. Arizona Mary, Calamity Jane and Madam Knutson were the only known women bullwhackers of the 19th century.

The fourth, Bullwacking Kass, lives today in Washington state. She doesn't walk barefooted for thousands of miles and in fact mostly walks with her oxen in parades. But everything else is the same — from the covered wagon and clothes to homemade mosquito bread.

In August, Kass and her dozen oxen will temporarily settle on the Key Peninsula, in a living history show at the KP Community Fair. While there, she will share artifacts, information and demon-

strations. Those brave enough to approach the 4-to-6-foot tall oxen (castrated, domesticated bulls) will be able to pet and brush them. The rest would get a rare glimpse at life in a covered wagon camp about 150 years ago.

Known as Sheryl Curtis to most people, she's a barber on most days of the year, using the money to support her Old World Oxen Living History Company. Inspiration for her show, especially popular with kids, came from an old history book.

"I saw a picture of Arizona Mary, and I had never heard of females in freighting," Curtis said. "I decided that is what I wanted to do."

Curtis buys the bulls when they are a day old and trains them from the get-go. To reproduce the bullwhackers' life, she pieced together bits of information from diaries, books and pictures. "If I hadn't seen that picture, that part of history would have probably died," she said.

Longbranch Players are back in action

By Mary Mazur
LIC dinner theatre production manager

Theater will be coming to Key Peninsula this September once again. The Longbranch Players, a community theater group sponsored by the Improvement Club centered in Longbranch, drew acting and production talent and audience from up and down Key Peninsula and the broader South Sound area in the 1990s for its production of a number of plays.

The Longbranch Players was originated in 1995 by Pat and Tricia Thompson as a dinner theater. It was the second one the Thompsons started, after their first experience in Sulphur Springs, Texas. As luck would have it there was a college-trained and experienced dramatist in the community, Dave Starkweather, who directed the first play, "The Foreigner" by Larry Shue, with Pat as producer and set builder. Tricia catered the dinner and designed the set. The response from the community was enthusiastic.

"We made many improvements over the years to the Improvement Club as a theater, like enlargement of the stage, lighting and improvements in the presentation of meals, thanks to Tricia and Dorothy Rome," Pat said. Over the years the Players put on more events, including "You Can't Take it with You" and "George Washington Slept Here," both by Moss Hart and George Kaufman. They then did "The Showcase of Stars," a variety show featuring Key Peninsula talent.

After a few years of hibernation, the Longbranch Players is gearing up again for "Sylvia" by A. R. Gurney. Pat says, "We hope people on the Peninsula will be as enthused as we are. If putting a play on is your 'cup of tea' then we would love to hear from you." (Call Pat Thompson at 884-5286 or Jo Sturm at 884-1350.)

Casting for the comedy is nearing completion. The play is scheduled for four evening Dinner Theater performances at the LIC Sept. 19, 20, 26 and 27. Rehearsals will begin July 20, under the professional direction of Jerri Lee Young of Seattle, who has directed many plays, including at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Intiman Theater of Seattle, Royal Theatre in New York City, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

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Ren Faire anticipates large crowd

By Karl Anderson
KP News

Once again knights and noblemen will quest for the hearts of damsels and maidens on Key Peninsula. Returning for its sixth year, the Renaissance Faire will be held over three consecutive weekends, Aug. 2-3, 9-10, and 16-17.

"We're expecting more than 50,000 visitors," said Ron Cleveland, promoter and owner of the event.

Visitors can journey back in time and take in a wide variety of events including

jousting; sword fighting; fire eating; Shakespearean acting; living chess matches; Celtic, Scottish and mid-Eastern dancing; juggling; a puppet show; face painting; archery; and much more.

"We have vendors that come from all parts of the country," said Cleveland, "including Missouri, Tennessee, Arizona, Texas, and California."

Vendors and visitors alike dress in the garb and accoutrements from the 6th through the 17th centuries, including Viking, Celtic, Highlanders, swashbucklers, noblemen, peasants, fairies, and other fantasy personas. One of the most popular vendors that has been returning for several years is the Honey Root Beer stand from Missouri.

The Seattle Knights, a period-themed acting troupe, will once again be interacting with spectators in the jousting area as they battle each other with noble versus less-than-noble forces and tactics.

With all the costumes, period-themed events, and revelry that is part of such an event, visitors will find this experience a very good way, perhaps the best, to be a part of history from a time long gone.



Courtesy of Renaissance Faire

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Caril Ridley and her son, Devon, setting out on the first leg of the new Key Peninsula Kayak Trail from Allyn around Devil's Head to Purdy.

Photo courtesy of Caril Ridley

Puget Sound Paddlers Symposium docks at Key Pen

By Caril Ridley
KP Outdoor Club

Water sports enthusiasts will be converging on the Key Peninsula with paddle craft from all over the Pacific Northwest to dedicate the newest marine trail on Saturday and Sunday, July 26-27. They will have an opportunity to experience the beauty of the Central Puget Sound and to share interests or skills through kayaking and canoeing demonstrations, instruction, classes and games for the young at heart. The weekend-long event will be followed on Saturday by a tidal run through Pitt Passage to Filucy Bay with a shuttle back for those interested or a return paddle on

the tide. Saturday night will be a roaring social event and potluck, and attendees are invited to bring a dish to share. Camping overnight is optional and reservations are recommended. Cars driving into the park must pay a \$5 day-use fee. Boaters may paddle in from boat launches at nearby Home, Lakebay, Longbranch or the Fox Island bridge.

The event at Penrose State Park is sponsored by the KP Trails Association and the KP Outdoor Club. KPOTA will present its latest publication, "The Key Peninsula Marine Trails Guidebook," to inaugurate the newest marine trail, soon to become one of Puget Sound's most beautiful water trails.

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(From CIS, Page 1)

skills. He is considering pursuing a teaching certificate as well, to teach English as a Second Language.

Harris has been active in various community outreach programs as part of CIS, and he plans to continue his community involvement, including the Community Council Organizing Committee, domestic violence issues and education.

CIS has been collaborating with local schools to bring funding, volunteers and programs such as reading, mentoring and family nights. Working with various organizations, CIS has secured an estimated \$48,500 in grants last school year for Key Peninsula schools. "It's a partnership with the

school district," Harris said. "I am satisfied that we are established now."

The new director, Colleen Speer, is also pleased with the future new programs and the potential that CIS has. Speer has worked with nonprofit organizations for almost 30 years, and after helping other communities all this time is ready to be involved in her own area.

"I have lived on the Key Peninsula for 10 years," she said. "I have a real heart for this community because this is my home and this is where I raised my children." With her children still attending local schools, Speer has already built ties with the educational community and looks forward to "making a difference."

Corrections

- A story in the Summer Recreation Guide listed Carney Lake as one of area waters with public swimming. We have used a credible source that lists public swimming, boating and fishing there, but area residents have informed us there is no longer public swimming at the beach. The Wash. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife did not return phone calls asking for clarification. The lake is also closed to fishing for part of the year.

- June's profile of Elsie Olson stated the huckleberry cleaner that her husband, Elmer, invented is displayed at the KP Museum. Joyce Niemann, Elsie's daughter, notes she still uses the invention, an electric model, to clean her huckleberries. The museum display is a hand-turned model.

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Windermere Gives Locally

On Friday June 20, all Windermere agents in the Northwest will take the day off to participate in the annual Windermere Community Service Day. That is the day when Windermere agents give back to their community by helping out an individual or organization needing assistance.

Last year, Windermere/Key Realty worked at Volunteer Park putting together playground equipment. This year we will help with the new home being built at Lake Minterwood by Habitat for Humanity, for Angela Hebard and her family.

By the time you get this paper, we will have finished our day of work, doing whatever is asked of us by the Habitat organization. We will have helped Angela's family get their new home and we will have all gained from the experience.

Congratulations to **Ryan Cail** from Longbranch, the recipient of the Windermere / Key Realty Scholarship. Ryan will be attending Seattle University next year.

This scholarship was funded by the Windermere Foundation, to which, all Windermere agents contribute a portion from every transaction they close during the year.



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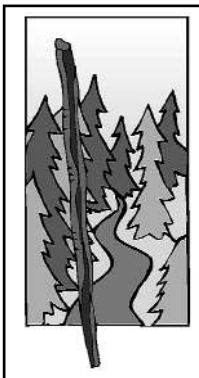
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Longbranch Shores view lot in area of very nice homes-beach access w/boat ramp. Price \$92,500.MLS#23081411.

Editor's note:

This is part one of three featuring 10 Key Peninsula trails. Other trails to be featured in the next two months are Purdy Spit County Park; Key Center DNR Property; Dutcher Cove State Park; Maple Hollow DNR Property; Penrose State Park; the Linds' Property; and Joemma Beach State Park. We hope you take the time to explore the Peninsula and enjoy the trails. KP News advises you to use the trail safely and always let someone know about your hiking plans.

In the few years that I've lived here, I have really enjoyed running and walking in some beautiful places on the Key Peninsula. Here are my top 10 favorites from north to south where you can hike on public lands. The directions given can easily be misinterpreted. Please rely on yourselves to explore and not the descriptions below. Be sure to take food, water, and other survival essentials on your walk.



On the trail
WITH SIMON PRIEST

Wear sensible and sturdy footwear that is well broken in.

1) Fern Lake/Lake Koeneman: This multi-user trail is about 3 miles round-trip. It begins at the boat launch for Carney Lake near the Kitsap County line on Wright-Bliss Road. Look for the trail-head sign across the paved road. The trail goes uphill steeply to begin and follows the county line past a few houses to a wetland and then turns northwest to a crossing of West Rocky Creek. If you are able to cross here, the trail continues a short distance to a lakeside access point. Please share the trail with equestrians and mountain bicyclists.

2) Rocky Creek Conservation Area: Park near the entrance to Lake Holiday at the end of 150th Avenue, just off Highway 302. This is a 2-mile loop on a pedestrian-only trail with a nice side trip to explore East Rocky Creek. Look for the trail going uphill, away from the housing gate and across an old logging road. At a T-junction turn right (the trail loop will bring you back to here from the left), cross a bridge built by volunteers from the Key Bank in Purdy. After going up a few steps, and taking two left bends, an old grassy road brings you down to go

straight across Crews Road in the heart of the conservation area. Minutes later you arrive at the picnic area. Three other trails leave here. One takes you to a creekside resting spot, and the middle trail goes uphill steeply for a short piece then winds around, drops gently down to Crews Road and eventually returns to the loop. Turn right to reach your car. If you miss this turn, you'll find yourself back at the footbridge. Avoid the third trail.

3) Horseshoe Lake DNR Property: This area has a network of multi-user trails shared with equestrians and mountain bicyclists. Before exploring side trails, walk the perimeter gravel road to get a feel for the lay of the land. The many trails inside the road loop twist and turn in all directions and you can easily get lost. However, knowing the perimeter road and staying within this boundary means you can explore freely inside the loop. To begin the trail, drive a short distance west down the 144th Street power transmission lines from Highway 302 and away from the Lake Kathryn and Wauna areas. Look for a rusty iron gate on the right side, park here, and begin walking on the loop road.

Next month: Purdy Spit, Key Center DNR Property, Dutcher Cove, Maple Hollow.

Adoption workshop offered

Local resident and adoption specialist Brian Combs will present an adoption workshop at the Civic Center on July 16, 6-8 p.m. Topics include domestic and international options, costs and how to get started. Combs has adopted twice from China, provides home study social work services, and is an independent social worker with an affiliation to Faith International Adoptions. Call Brian 884-4306 or email homesstudy@ahomestudy.com.

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Surrounded by water: Preserving a precious resource

By **Jonathan White**, *Peninsula Light Co*
& **Barbara Ann Smolko**, *PC Water Pr.*

Benjamin Franklin was quoted as saying, "We never know the value of water, until the well is dry." Western Washington is seen as having an abundance of water, but unfortunately, this isn't the case. Our demand for water continues to grow every day but our supply stays the same.

In addition, we may be allowing our supply to become contaminated. On the Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas, most of our drinking water comes from underground sources. However, sometimes surface water seeps into the ground and groundwater

springs to the surface. We must work to protect both surface and groundwater.

In 1999, Kitsap County received a grant from the state Department of Ecology to initiate a watershed planning process in the Kitsap Watershed, which includes the Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands (KGI) Watershed. The five-year planning process, commonly referred to as 2514, is required to address water quantity issues, and participating organizations may choose to address water quality, habitat and minimum instream flows. The process includes an assessment phase to determine current water supply, future needs, recharge rates of groundwater, and existing uses and

water rights obligations. This information will be used to identify strategies to ensure sufficient water supplies for humans and fish. Water purveyors, local governments, and public interest groups within the watershed are participating.

Closer to home, Pierce County Water Programs and local residents are implementing additional plans. In 2000, after three years of work by the KGI Watershed Committee, the county Council adopted the KGI Watershed Characterization and Action Plan to address water pollution concerns. The city of Gig Harbor and Kitsap County have concurred with the plan. The Gig Harbor Basin Plan will be used by PC

Water Programs to prioritize flood reduction, fish passage, stream restoration, and habitat acquisition projects.

The Key Peninsula-Islands Basin Plan is just getting underway and public input is vital. The watershed council is coordinating public involvement. Maintaining the quality of life on the peninsulas will be a challenge for all, especially when it comes to water and its impact on shellfish, salmon, shorelines and drinking water.

To participate or to learn more about water, call Barbara Ann Smolko at 798-6156. The KGI Watershed Council meets each third Tuesday of the month at Peninsula Light., 4-6 pm. The public is invited to join.

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Sky is the limit

High school graduates embark on new journey

By Irene Torres
KP News

High school seniors from the Class of 2003 are beginning a new journey. Some of the students have impressive academic achievements, and others are talented in areas of music and sports, arts and crafts, or have other, special technical skills. All of them have one thing in common: the promise of an exciting future.

Graduating students on the Peninsula are deserving of rewards for the focus, motivation and self-discipline that are required for success. And the parents, siblings, teachers, coaches, and mentors who supported them during their years of sacrifice and study are rightly proud of these local youth. It used to be said, "The sky is the limit." For these young people, the time is right to reach for the stars, and beyond.

A number of local graduates were honored in late May with scholarships for further college studies donated by various organizations. Below are the stories of a few of those successful seniors.

Brandon Wasserburger

Graduating in the top 15 percent of his class, with a 3.6 GPA, Brandon Wasserburger was awarded local scholarships totaling \$975, including a S.A.V.E. Thrift Store scholarship in honor of Donna Parrisher, and smaller ones from the Track and Field and Basketball programs. He is applying for matching scholarship funds through the "Dollars for Scholars" Collegiate Partners Program at Central Washington University, where he is enrolled this fall. He plans to study English with an eventual goal to major in media communications. An only child, Brent credits his parents, who are "always supportive, through thick and thin," for his success. His youth pastor, Steve Warren, and his Honors English teacher, Mrs. Nugent, "a very inspiring woman," also have his appreciation.

While in high school, Brent was a member of National Honor Society, and played basketball all four years. He ran track and cross-country for three years, and is a member of the Belfair Community Baptist Church, where he has been involved with community service activities such as the Relay for Life, building the Minter Golf

Course, as well as the 30-hour famine. He works at Big 5 sporting goods store in Gig Harbor.

Jessica Welker

A student in the "running start" program in conjunction with Peninsula High School and Tacoma Community College, Jessica Welker has plans to attend Western Washington University this fall. Her Scholarship Notebook reflects 30 hours of community service; but those who know her are aware that she volunteers many additional hours. Jessica was one of three teenagers nominated for Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year in February. She is a member of the National Honor Society, has been involved with the Help the Homeless Club and Adopt a Road litter pickup programs. She is a frequent volunteer at the Rocky Creek Conservation Area, and with the Pierce County Stream Team, the vice-president of the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Arbor Day Foundation, and participated in cross country and track—all of this while maintaining a 3.7 grade point average.

She credits two women, Carol Alex and Melissa Pulliam, whose guidance with the YMCA Earth Service Corps led her to pursue a career in environmental science. She is president of the Environmental Club at the High School. Jessica, with a group of seven other students from the club, will leave Aug. 24 for a project in Costa Rica, working on protecting leatherback sea turtles and reforestation for the green macaw. Her eventual goal is a master's degree in environmental education, and she hopes to study abroad. Jessica has three younger sisters, and is an excellent role model for them and other youth.

Paul Michaels

Peninsula High School graduate Paul Michaels won two scholarship awards from the Key Peninsula PTA and Band Trek. He enjoyed playing soccer for two years and participated for four years as a member of the symphonic band. Paul was a member of the Key Club in his sophomore and junior years. His younger brother, David, will be attending Peninsula High this fall. Paul

expressed appreciation to the scholarship donors, noting, "I'd like to thank them a lot. It's a great program." He is enrolled this fall at Western Washington University, and plans to use the scholarships for textbooks. Paul plans to study English and biology, but is undecided on his major.

Jaymee Niemann

Vaughn resident Jaymee Niemann received a total of \$1,500 (including \$500 from the KPBA) in scholarships. Jaymee's dreams are already coming true. She just returned from four months in Cannes, France, where she studied the French language and French cooking as part of the Study Abroad program.

While in high school, Jaymee earned a 3.9 GPA. She played volleyball, basketball and tennis. She also earned a first place award for her black and white portrait photography, and two third place awards. She volunteered with the Little Buddies Program and worked as a library assistant at Vaughn Elementary School.

Jaymee has one brother, 21, and she credits her parents, Sally and Michael Niemann, with "pushing me to 'get there' and always to study hard."

Jaymee is looking for a job this summer, and will work for a year before enrolling in the French Culinary Institute in New York City.

Brian Baillie

Brian Baillie was also the recipient of two scholarships this year, from Peninsula High School Football and the S.A.V.E. Thrift Store. During his four years at PHS, he played football, and for two years was in Pep Club and ran track. His community service activities included Little Buddies and Blues Kids at Evergreen Elementary, and highway cleanup with the Lions Club. Paul is registered at Central Washington University this fall where he plans to use the scholarships for tuition and books, studying English and history. He would like to thank a special teacher, Jonathan Bill, for inspiring him to become a teacher.

The scholarship awards to PHS students totaled \$200,225, excluding grants and scholarships from colleges and the military or the military academies.

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