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In memory of David Doolittle



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Washington State Patrol Trooper Johnny Alexander and WSP's Chaplain Marie Dudley at the dedication ceremony May 4. David Doolittle was killed May 4, 2000.

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Nadine Doolittle wants everyone who knew her son, David, to remember him every time they drive by the new signs on State Route 302 that say "Please Don't Drink and Drive. Sponsored by the David Doolittle family."

For those who didn't know David, Nadine wants the signs to be a

reminder how fast drunken driving can change so many lives.

One of the two signs was erected almost at the spot where David Doolittle lost his life. It took four years since his death to drive into the ground two simple signs with one simple message. Don't drink and drive—a phrase unfortunately taken for granted by so many drivers, like the one who

(See **DOOLITTLE**, Page 16)

Community Council elections

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Months of meetings, researching, discussions and planning are about to culminate for a group of local residents when the newly created Key Peninsula Community Council holds its first election June 26.

But the big work is only beginning. One thing organizers have not done was consider any priorities or important issues—a deliberate task left for the officially elected board. When the new directors enter their volunteer jobs in July, a committee that has been surveying residents about priorities will share the results that will help set the course. (Surveys are still available at the Key Center fire station, at the library and Safe Streets office in Key Center and at

(See **COUNCIL**, Page 9)

Candidates

Candidate bios will be mailed out along with the ballot to registered voters up to the week prior to the elections. The Key Peninsula News will also post them on its Website at www.keypennews.com after the first week of June (nominations are accepted until May 31). Info: 884-0557.

Key Pen voters say 'yes' to parks

More than 60 percent of voters said "yes" to the creation of a KP Metropolitan Park District at the May special election, although turnout was low. Countywide, only about 27 percent of voters had their say for various ballot measures.

At press time, results were not certified, but the MPD creation proposition was passing, and the following commissioners looked to be heading for the new board: Caril Ridley (54.12 percent); Ross

Bischoff (81.96); Paula DeMoss (53.74); Jerry Schick (60.78); Kip Clinton (53.28).

"The low turnout was a bit of a disappointment but we're happy with the vote," said Ben Thompson, who chaired the MPD creation committee and also ran as a commissioner against DeMoss. "I predicted that 60-70 percent will vote yes and we met our prediction. I am elated. The committee wishes the new commissioners the very best."

Clinton, who is on the current KP Parks and Recreation District board as well, said the two boards will meet concurrently for a few meetings. A dissolution of the KPPRD could take three to six months, she said. It must also be approved by the courts.

"This year, sometime, the KPPRD will go away," she said. The MPD will take over the assets from the KPPRD, along with an estimated debt of \$2,000-\$4,000 from last year's election costs.

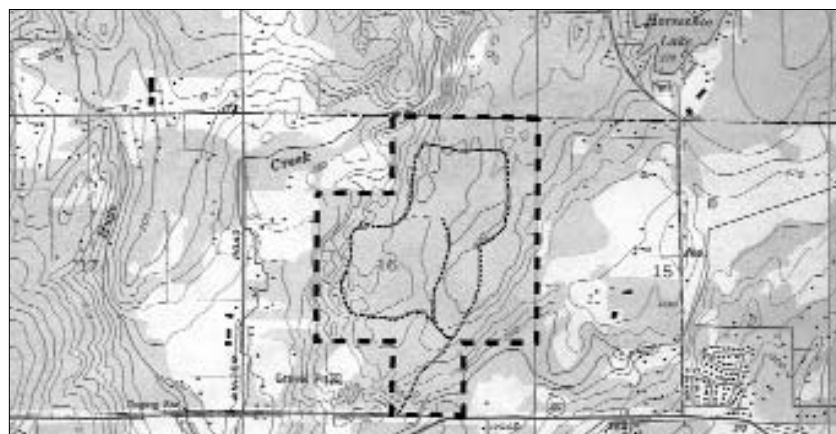
Park district dreams big: 360 acres' worth

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Before the idea of a metropolitan park district ever surfaced, commissioners with the current KP Parks and Recreation District had been working on a big dream: the acquisition of a 360-acre property that would become a regional park with unlimited possibilities. Think Christmas lights display, big parties including the KP Community Fair, Renaissance Faire and Old Timers' Day—all going on at the same time—car shows and Civil War re-enactments.

It's a big dream for a small park district, but local residents have been in discussions for about two years with several agencies and elected representatives to see how to make it happen. The idea came about after KPPRD created an acquisition committee, chaired by Ed Taylor, to look into opportunities. The 360-acre Department of Natural Resources property looked interesting. "We've identified over half a dozen possible properties in the north end and explored them; this one seemed to have the most potential and be most fruitful for the citizens of the Key Peninsula," he said.

The area, bordering Horseshoe Golf



The location of the property.

Map courtesy of Ed Taylor

Course on one side and the power line on another, has been used by DNR for logging as part of a trust land program whose revenues are used for financing public education.

"Part of the committee's job will be to make recommendations about potential funding. If we generate enough fees, it doesn't cost the park district any money," Taylor said.

But first, an acquisition must be made. Through the Trust Fund Transfer program, DNR can exchange, sell or transfer land that is not efficient to operate or does not generate solid revenues through timber sales and other methods. A park district could look for ways to make such an exchange or

purchase.

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, also involved in the discussions, said the county may consider trading land to make up for part of the value. Legislative funding would also be required. Lee said the property is No. 4 on the South Sound "land swap" list, and DNR was expected to meet in June to prioritize the statewide list. Should the KP land remain on the list, if the 2005 Legislature puts funding into prioritized projects, an acquisition can potentially be made in 2006.

"It would be a great regional park. There has been great interest from the Renaissance Faire because their current location is unpredictable, and the Key Peninsula Fair that is bursting at the

seams could expand," Lee said.

Rep. Pat Lantz said the creation of a metropolitan park district with its funding will be a great help for such a transaction because it would be very difficult to operate the park entirely with volunteers. "I love the Key Peninsula with its enthusiasm but you need something to fall back on," she said. "The Metropolitan Park District may be just what the doctor ordered." State grants could also be available for recreation and habitat projects, she said.

As for legislative funding, the uncertainty from year to year is like any other budget line item.

"It all depends who's in charge. Every year we have projects like this we try to get help with, but there is a lot of uncertainty with the upcoming elections and the new budget. Seniority does help," said Sen. Bob Oke, who helped with a similar property in South Kitsap—it took "making a lot of deals to keep it a park." But the 200-acre park on Jackson and Lund hasn't seen many improvements lately, Oke added, because all the levies failed except the initial one during the purchase, and there is limited local revenue.

Still, this is a dream Taylor and the others said is worth pursuing.

Comprehensive planning needs board members

Pierce County is seeking applications for community planning board members. The Pierce County Council has provided funding for a community land-use plan on the Key Peninsula in an effort spearheaded by Councilman Terry Lee who says this is the right time for residents to plan for the future of the

area.

This plan will supplement the Generalized Comprehensive Plan for Pierce County by addressing specific land use issues on the Key Peninsula. The plan will focus on residential, commercial and resource land uses and will address economic development, transportation and environmental protection.

"The community planning board's input along with the public's input will

create the vision for the Key Peninsula," Lee said. The county has set aside \$75,000 in this year's budget for the project, and Lee said more money will be earmarked next year for its completion.

Land planning was the No. 2 priority for the residents who participated in a recent survey (see related story on page 8). The planning effort is anticipated to start in August or September and will

take several years. Pierce County is looking for board members who could represent specific community interests such as the environment, building industry, business community, and residents. Applications should be received before July 4.

For additional information or to request an application form, contact Mike Kruger, associate planner, at 798-2700 or email mkruger@co.pierce.wa.us.

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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Submissions deadline: Third
Monday of each month
www.keypennews.com

Key Peninsula News is published monthly by the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn, Washington. Copyright 2003 with all rights reserved. Reproduction of editorial or graphic contents in any manner without permission is prohibited. Annual subscriptions (12 issues) are available for \$20.00 and are mailed first class. Copies are mailed presort standard to residents and post office box holders of the Key Peninsula. Single copies are available at the newspaper office in the basement of the Civic Center annex and at various distribution points located on the Key Peninsula. Approximately 18,000 people live in the distribution area.

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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!

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



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Old KP fire trucks to get new life in Guatemala

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

For the Key Peninsula's Fire District 16, they were old hand-me-downs at bargain prices that lately have cost much more to fix than they cost to buy. They broke down in the middle of emergency responses and often spent more days in the shop than on the road. But the two old fire engines that have caused many headaches for local firefighters are about to cause a lot of joy, and help save many lives.

The two engines, no longer needed thanks to voters who approved levies for new ones, will soon head for Guatemala—a country that until not long ago used doors as stretchers and pickup trucks as ambulances.

The district's board recently approved the donation of the two trucks — welcome news for Key Pen resident Ron Quinsey, a paramedic with the Lakewood fire department and a state

EMT instructor. Quinsey, with the help of various fire departments and other groups, has been helping Guatemalan firefighters, known as bomberos, for several years with training and equipment.

"When we passed the bond, I called up the fire chief," Quinsey said. "They will be given new life down there because for so long they have learned to deal with

having nothing."

The fire engines will be filled with various goodies for the Guatemalan team that is expected to arrive here in June and likely will drive the trucks all the way back. When word

spread about the mission, all sorts of donations and contributions rolled in from Peninsula and beyond, FD 16 Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen said. The bomberos will take home defibrillators, medical supplies, emergency airway kits, radios and even memorabilia.

"Six years ago when I first got involved, patients were picked up off the street, tossed into the back of a pickup

truck and delivered to a doctor without any first aid," Quinsey said. "Now they have enclosed ambulances with defibrillators and airway kits, even the first-line support equipment used in medic units today."

Education is valued even more, said Quinsey, who takes two weeks every year to conduct training in Guatemala.

"My belief is that the citizens of the Key Peninsula are very fortunate that they have such a good quality fire department, and to know their equipment will be donated to save lives

is such a hallmark of the citizens' spirit...What little life these apparatus have in them will be used to save lives somewhere else."

Although the original plan was to drive the trucks back to Guatemala, Quinsey said the current gasoline prices are making that a very expensive proposition, and he is trying to find alternative ways.

Anyone who would like to help or find out more about these missions may contact Quinsey at 253-370-2401 or by email at rquinsey@lakewoodfire.org.

"They will be given new life down there because for so long they have learned to deal with having nothing."

-Ron Quinsey



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Editorial

In lieu of an editorial this month, the staff of the Key Peninsula News would like to express a big thank you to all the readers for their kind support, generous

donations, and wonderful feedback that we will use to make the newspaper even better. We would also like to thank our advertisers, who make the newspaper possible with their support.

Thank you for being part of the Key Peninsula News!

It's a mad, mad (caterpillar) world

By Rodika Tollefson

Upon returning home one sunny mid-May afternoon, I found a large party of uninvited guests. A few dozen of them stretched out leisurely on my porch, most of them opting for the premium spots, in the shade.

The tent caterpillars, as they like to be called, betrayed barely a wriggle at the sight of my temporary disorientation. How bad is a little party, I thought to myself as I walked to the door, careful not to step on anything squishy. Later, I would pay for my ignorance. But not yet.

It took a couple of days to realize that word went down the grapevine about the delicious rose and other accommodations in my front yard, and guests started arriving by the dozen. Trouble was, someone forgot to notify the hostess that the great caterpillar convention was under way. I could have prepared appropriate snacks at least, perhaps some BT.

I don't like confrontations but I figured the least courtesy I could get was to be able to walk to my door undisturbed. So I tried gentle persuasion via the hose. It worked! For about five minutes. The sweeper? Another five. I watched in desperation as my annuals, freshly planted, were terrorized.

I can live through this, I said, I am resilient. I lived through communism, childbirth, in-laws and \$2.35 per gallon of gas. Caterpillar Woodstock can't be worse, can it?

I started storing the outdoor broom inside and took shifts sweeping, five minutes every half-hour. This is not about me anymore, I said. This is about the universe. It works like this: The little pests live far away from my yard. The human dominates. Everybody lives happily ever after.

The caterpillars did not take kindly to my manifesto. Word of mouth got more intense, the sleeping arrangements now extending to all the exterior walls and the lawn, the campsite stretching far into the driveway.

Three of them followed my husband and me into Gig Harbor one day. Great, scouts! Now they can go back and tell everyone the rose bushes and trees are sweeter

there—why else would property values be so much higher—and they could all relocate. But the three failed to catch a hop back. So much for that.

Other spies followed me into my house, attaching themselves to my clothes. But the day one snuck up my pant leg was the day their welcome officially expired.

As I drove down our dirt road, I peeked at my neighbors' yards. Judging by the several naked trees in their driveways, we're all in this together. It is about the universe.

We should call the county and ask if they plan to spray, my husband said. Sure, like the county will use our taxpayers' dollars on something useful like that. I wonder if we should propose a caterpillar tax. Hey, some Oregon county was considering a mosquito tax, why not? But since these caterpillars don't attack everyone equally, you couldn't really pay per square foot or property value. You'd have to pay per pest capita—what sort of census taker would want the job to do that math?

I keep thinking of a song called "Mad World" by Gary Jules, who in the saddest voice says, "All around me are familiar faces/Worn out places, worn out faces/Bright and early for their daily races/Going nowhere, going nowhere." Of course he was referring to humans when saying "it's a very, very mad world" but he might as well be singing about caterpillars—the part about drowning my sorrows sounded especially nice after four of those five-minute sweeping sessions, when every caterpillar swept into the bucket filled with water and soap was replaced by two others in some weird conspiracy. By the time I went for a drive and returned, hundreds of them were shaped like my stairs, the shovel handle, and the edge of the flower barrel.

I only drink about twice a year but this seems like a necessary occasion. I could get out that black cherry Zima, uncaterpillar my lawn chair, find a spot far away from any threat of flying caterpillars, and sing, "it's a mad mad world" aloud.

I am resilient. I can live through this.

At least until the moth congregation.

Rodika Tollefson is the KP News executive editor and a self-proclaimed pest phobic.

Letters to the Editor

Community leaders express support of paper

My, My, My, we seem to have quite a parks campaign going on here. What is truly sad is that the opinions of some well-respected community leaders have cast a shadow on this newspaper and its staff. Campaigns are tough on all. Thank-you for being the type of paper that addresses everybody's opinions and let me give mine.

This peninsula is budding and communication between the masses is a vital part of this continuum, communication that your staff provide with professionalism and determination. Your heart is to give us information and you do so well! Every month we are treated to informed and entertaining articles with Rodika and staff giving so much and getting so little. The time and effort that go into each issue is very consuming and the monetary return is not even close to being rewarding. The staff of KP News has a passion to provide us with a wonderful read every month, well researched and well displayed. Kudos! Thank-you and please don't change a thing, in my eyes and the eyes of many, you are very loved and respected.

*Cristi Watson
Key Center*

Here on Key Peninsula there have been and are now important changes underway that will affect this area for many years—changes that involve the building of badly needed community structures and services that are beneficial and even essential to the well-being of the whole community and to all of us who live here.

The growing interest in the district schools and public support of the fire department are but the beginning. Creating the Key Peninsula Community Council as a focal point and a voice to express the distinctive needs and character of Key Pen, the approval and construction of a hospital to serve the 50,000 people who live on the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas, the creation of the KP Metropolitan Park District and transfer of the assets of the local Parks and Recreation District to it, the construction of a land-use plan for the Peninsula: all of these are pending, and, we assume, on the verge of happening.

The rebirth and expansion of the Key Peninsula News as a true community newspaper has been a key part of this growth and expression of community

identity. It has provided a forum for voices in the community and, as never before when Key Pen was a mere annex of Gig Harbor, a place where people who live right here could find out what activities other folks on this Key Pen were busy at and what they thought. Times are really changing.

We owe our thanks for being community leaders of real vision to Bill Trandum, Rodika Tollefson and the people around them who have understood the need for a community newspaper and made it happen. And it is to Bill Trandum that I wish to give my thanks in particular, for sticking with it despite the crossfire of hotheaded opinion and criticism that often seems to come the way of those who dare to have vision and carry it out.

*Mary G. Mazur
Longbranch*

GH mayor asks for input

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of sitting in traffic listening to the reports of bumper-to-bumper, semi-rollover, freeway access closed, and three car pile-up on the freeways. Time is money and idling engines pollute the air. Fuel prices are rising. The DOT is out of money to maintain the freeways we have, let alone build more. The Legislature is burdened with other issues. Agencies have tried to find solutions using rail and express buses. But we need more.

Think for a moment about that beautiful waterway called Puget Sound. It seems to be waiting in the waves and saying, "Here I am. Use me."

Of course, the idea is not new. The Mosquito Fleet was a main transportation carrier at the turn of the 20th century and for the next 50 years. Last July, interested parties were invited by the Cascadia Project at Discovery Institute to discuss the options we may have today.

If your land transportation could connect with waterfront landings to facilitate an alternative to freeway headaches, wouldn't you consider going along for an enjoyable boat ride? Technology provides smaller, fuel-efficient, faster, non-polluting, beach erosion-free vessels.

A simple questionnaire is posted at www.cityofgigharbor.net. A small water passenger system in South Puget Sound could benefit everyone on the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas and beyond.

I will share the results of this simple survey with the Cascadia Project as we continue to meet and plan.

Gretchen Wilbert, Mayor, Gig Harbor

KP volunteer honored with Community Service Award

Key Peninsula's Hugh McMillan, whose name is no doubt known by just about every resident, has been honored with a Community Service Award by the Gig Harbor Rotary Club. He was nominated by Rotarian Marcia Harris, also a Key Pen resident, who is the deputy superintendent at Peninsula School District.



MCMILLAN

The school connection was one of the reasons Harris mentioned in her nomination—McMillan has been a fixture at various Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor school functions for years, camera and notepad in hand, as a volunteer reporter and photographer for the Peninsula Gateway and the Key Peninsula News. His name is also notorious for popping up on various community boards, from Communities in School of Peninsula and the Lions Club to Citizens Against Crime and Prison Pet Partnership.

Congratulations to Hugh!

Vaughn youth embark on Guatemala church mission

By Irene Torres
KP News

Partnering with Operation Mobilization (OM), a group of youth from Vaughn Community Church is preparing for a three-week mission in Guatemala beginning July 1.

Youth pastor Rory Adams said, "OM is very field-driven, and they have a need for short-term teams...people who are willing to serve and be flexible. We will be partnering with existing missionaries. We found a match in Guatemala."

The 23-year-old Adams went on a mission to the Ukraine three summers ago, where he worked with orphans. His father served a mission in Guatemala, but Adams has not yet traveled there.

Adams and Colleen Speer will chaperone Key Pen's 15- and 16-year-olds Morgan Roddy, Drew Pappas, Carli Speer, and Nate Hedin as well as a teen from Buckley.

The first week will be spent in training and getting acclimated to the culture.

"We'll do street evangelism, and pass

Read the upcoming issues of Key Peninsula News to find out how the trip turned out.

out tracts," said Adams. "The second week will be spent in construction of a church or orphanage. The third week, we will participate in a vacation Bible school type program."

But first, the group needs to raise \$10,000 to finance the trip. "Each teen is responsible for their own fund-raising," said Speer, who is traveling with her daughter Carli. "They have sent letters seeking support in addition to their other fund-raising activities."

The teens are amazed as donations roll in from their yard sale, firewood sales, personal work, a McTakeover (working at McDonalds for a day), and from their family, friends, and church.

"We stepped out in faith and are seeing how God provides," Adams said in mid-May. "We received a donated kayak and will be selling it to add to the fund. Things are going well, but we still have a way to go."

The church has sponsored other mission trips for adults, but this is the first youth-based mission.

"I am hopeful for all the team members to have the opportunity to serve others much less blessed than we are in America," Speer said.

To learn how you can help, call Rory Adams at the Vaughn Community Church at 884-4640.

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News Briefs

Gig Harbor hospital approved by state

After months of waiting, Franciscan Health Systems announced the exciting news in May that the state has approved its Certificate of Need for a proposed hospital to serve the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula areas. The new facility, St. Anthony Hospital, will begin construction in 2005, with a planned opening of 2007 or 2008. The state approved 80 of the 112 beds.

"We're gratified that the state agreed with our proposal—and the overwhelming support of Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula residents — for a new community hospital," said Franciscan President and Chief Executive Officer Joe Wilczek. "We believe that additional beds will be required to meet the area's long-term health care needs and we will work with state regulators to add capacity to the hospital in years to come. Meanwhile, we are happy to be moving forward toward making the hospital a reality."

During the public comment phase of the Department of Health's rigorous review process, approximately 1,000 residents expressed overwhelming support for the project in letters and at public hearings.

The hospital will include a 24-hour emergency department equipped to handle all but the most serious trauma cases; medical, surgical and critical care units; inpatient and outpatient surgery; a heart catheterization laboratory; diagnostic services, including MRI, CT scans, ultrasound and mammography; physical, occupational and speech therapies; and a sleep disorders clinic.

"Our evaluation shows this is needed, and the people who live there told us loud and clear that they want local access to care," said Laurie Jinkins,

acting assistant secretary of Health Professions Quality Assurance for the department.

The architect for the project is Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership (ZGF), one of the preeminent architectural firms in the Pacific Northwest whose work has attracted national attention and earned numerous professional awards, Franciscan said.

Franciscan Health System will hold public meetings on the Key Peninsula and in Gig Harbor in the upcoming weeks. Dates of the meeting will be posted on the FHS Website as they become available, at www.fhshealth.org.

Volksmarch planned for July

The Key Peninsula Trails Committee, under the direction of Simon Priest assisted by Caril Ridley and the Key Peninsula Lions' Volkssport Club, hope to build a new trail before the upcoming July 10 and 11 Volksmarch through Penrose Point State Park. They said creation of the new trail by volunteers will lead directly to the bike and hike campsite via the park's main entrance road.

Bud and Delores Ulsh, adjacent landowners, have volunteered their property to serve as the start/stop point for the Volksmarch. The 6.2-mile walk starts between 8 a.m. 1 p.m. and finishes at 4 both days). More details will be published in July.

Hospital commissions artists

Pacific Rim Tapestries, comprised of Key Pen artist Margo Macdonald as well as Gig Harbor's Cecilia Blomberg and Olympia's Mary Lane, have been commissioned by the Mary Bridge Children's Health Center in Tacoma for three tapestries for its new building. The tapestries will be placed on each floor near the elevators, Macdonald said, and are due in March. To learn more: <http://pacificrimtapestries.home.att.net/index.htm>.

KPMS' NASA program kicks off

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The Key Peninsula Middle School doesn't know yet how it will structure its NASA Explorer program or what kind of equipment it will buy with the \$17,000 that comes with it—but it already sounds exciting.

KPMS science teacher Karen Borders returned from a one-week kickoff program at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to share how impressed she was with presentations made by last year's students from various schools. Along with 49 other school representatives, she toured the space center and participated in the first of many workshops.

The partnership has allowed students to learn and research alongside scientists as they gather data from current experiments on the International Space Station and the Mars Exploration Mission, according to NASA. Many other opportunities will open up as each school individualizes a strategic plan. This is NASA Explorer program's second year, and so far KPMS is the only school in Washington state to have been selected.

In summer, Borders and four other members of the schools' NASA team will fly to the Aimes Research Center in California, where with the help of NASA representatives they will outline the three-year program. Sometime in the fall, the agency will have an official ceremony at the school.

Borders has used grant opportunities in the past to enhance her science



Photo courtesy of Karen Borders

KPMS science teacher Karen Borders with NASA Administrator Shawn O'Keefe, appointed by President Bush, at the Kennedy Space Center in May.

curriculum, and what attracted her to NASA's program was the fact that it's aligned with the school district's curriculum. Several disciplines including technology and math can be integrated.

"NASA is really interested in education," Borders said. "Administrator Shawn O'Keefe feels it's our kids' (generation) who will go to Mars."

The KPMS students were very excited and proud when they watched footage with the announcement of the school's name, Borders said. No doubt that excitement will continue as the program becomes implemented, especially since the school will have access to NASA resources and other support. Last year, astronauts even visited some schools.

"We're counting on the next generation of explorers to help carry the torch of exploration to the farthest regions of the universe," O'Keefe said in announcing this year's recipients. "There used to be a saying that the sky is the limit. Well, in this first year of the second century of flight, the sky and the heavens are not the limit, but rather the starting point of our exploration adventures."

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Engineer reports on historic building condition

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

With the creation of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, the Friends of the Wauna Post Office plan to pursue an inter-local agreement with the county in order to clean up and possibly restore the historic building. In April, an engineer commissioned by the group said the building can be restored.

"It is my professional opinion that there is significant enough amounts of serviceable lumber framing still within the building and that with a surgical approach to limited demolition and clean-up, it should be possible to restore the existing framing and foundations with the installation of supplemental and replacement lumber and fasteners," said the report, by Terry A. Nettles, a licensed engineer with 35 years in the field.

The biggest work appears to be needed with the roof and providing lateral bracing for the building; the floor and interior walls would also need

"We hope that we can prove to the neighbors that restoration of the old Wauna Post Office will be far better than destroying a portion of our history just because it's ugly now."

-Nancy Lind, organizer

repairs or replacing.

"We hope that we can prove to the neighbors that restoration of the old Wauna Post Office will be far better than destroying a portion of our history just because it's ugly now," said FOWPO's Nancy Lind. "The condition of the old Wauna Post Office on the Purdy Sandspit is a testament to our priorities. It is a dilapidated old building that should be someone's responsibility and since it has a historic designation, the possibilities are considerable to convert it into very

creative park use. The street is falling away in front, the posts underneath are askew, the rolled roofing rolled away, water stands on the floor, walls are molding and for all its neglect it still says to me, 'I've been here a long time, make me usable again.'"

Although many local residents would prefer to see the building gone, demolition would have to be approved by the Pierce County Landmarks Commission, which placed it on its historic register in 1990 "to commemorate the building's historic significance as the only remaining commercial structure of the town of Wauna."

"The Landmarks Commission strongly supports the preservation of the Wauna Post Office, as the building serves as the last remaining physical link to the town of Wauna's early development, including the period when the local commerce depended on water transport of goods and people," said commission representative Airyang Park, associate planner for Pierce

Another Town Meeting

A Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, at 7 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Civic Center to continue dialogue about the restoration of the post office and about the traffic on State Route 302 in the Wauna area. Anyone interested is invited to come.

County Planning and Land Services.

Even elected representatives have offered to help. Previously, county Councilman Terry Lee said he would dedicate \$10,000 out of his budget to restoration if the residents want the building preserved. State Sen. Pat Lantz, chair of the state's Heritage Caucus, said the post office "is a natural project" for a grant by the Washington State Historical Society that administers a Heritage Capital Projects Fund.

The Friends group doesn't have any estimates yet on restoration costs but Lind said they are working on costs with several contractors.



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Livable Community Fair gets rave reviews, good attendance

The fair was co-sponsored by The Key Peninsula Civic Center and the Safe Streets Campaign. Supporting sponsors were Pierce County, St. Joseph Medical Center, Pierce Transit, Ravensara Inc., and Banner Expressions.



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

On and off drizzle cut short some of the outside activities at the May Livable Community Fair at the Civic Center, but nobody seemed to mind. Not the folks with the Northwest Solar Group who had their solar panels—and good foot traffic—outside. Not the gardeners stopping by Lakebay Fuchsia Society's plant sale. Not even those residents who at times had to walk several yards in the rain, as parking spilled into the street.

And inside the building, it was just one big party. Music and dancing filled the stage as people mingled, had a little lunch break, gave loud cheers to entertainers young and old, or if they were brave enough even joined in for some clogging or handling of the snakes.

The main goal of the fair was to provide information about the organizations and agencies helping make the Key Peninsula livable—and that it did. About 55 groups showcased their best, in categories ranging from art and religion to land use and safety.

Damsels, noblemen and peasants of Renaissance Faire fame provided a colorful addition and demonstrations, and anyone looking for information from landscaping the septic system to what is all there to do on the Peninsula was likely to find the answer.

And if anyone who showed up didn't spot any old friends to chat with—well, hopefully they made new ones.



Sam Pratt, age 11 months, takes grandma Vonnie for a walk around the fair's booths. His mom, Bethany, and dad, Dennis, were nearby scouting for information—the family had just moved to Rocky Bay a week before the fair from Seattle, settling on 10 acres of land.

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Residents rank priorities

Community safety was ranked as No. 1 priority by Key Peninsula residents who attended the Livable Communities Fair at the Civic Center in May. Residents were invited to write comments on the topic "As Pierce County Executive, my priority would be . . ."

Community safety generated the most comments. Protecting children, enforcing laws, preventing crime, providing adequate police protection and getting rid of drug dealers and meth makers all received mention, according to the county.

Second priority was responsible land-use planning. Residents listed promoting growth, preventing sprawl, saving the rural atmosphere, addressing Growth Management Act noncompliance, protecting farmers, and improving the permitting process as priorities.

Protecting the environment ranked third. Enforcing littering and illegal dumping laws and preserving swamps, wetlands and other natural habitat areas were listed.

Next was improving transportation and infrastructure. Mentioned were upgrading State Route 302, installing a reversible lane on State Route 16 for commuters,

providing more bus service, rerouting traffic from Burley Road to Allyn, constructing a floating bridge between Taylor Bay, Longbranch and Olympia, and adding a stoplight at the intersection of SR-302 and Elgin Clifton Road.

Parks ranked fifth and included conserving forests and providing more parks, open space, trails and youth activities. At least one resident advocated vacating McNeil Island and converting it to a nonmotorized vehicle park as an economic development vacation destination project.

These also made the list: Keeping Pierce County business-friendly, thriving, growing and livable; supporting small businesses; creating more jobs; lowering taxes, including those on wetlands properties; cutting government waste; promoting Key Peninsula tourism; establishing after-school learning programs; building a hospital; adding healthcare programs; banning smoking in outdoor places; better caring for animals; improving communication; and acknowledging Key Peninsula as a significant part of Pierce County.

The "As Pierce County Executive" project was presented by the Pierce County Executive's Office and Pierce County Department of Communications.

(From COUNCIL, Page 1)

the two Peninsula Markets, and will be collected until June 26.) Other interim chairs and directors will also share their knowledge.

"We want to make sure the elected council has the best information and the best chance to succeed," Interim Chair Jeff Harris said. "We have not spelled out the book from A to Z...The elected directors will come to their own conclusions."

At press time, self-nominations were still coming in for each of the 14 seats

that are determined based on population count per U.S. Census tract, with eight candidates declared so far. Although only one person will be elected per 1,000 people per each area and candidates must run in their precinct only, residents registered with the Community Council will vote for all 14 seats.

Those who have not registered to vote will have the chance to do so at the voting polls, and those registered will receive ballots and candidate statements in the mail beginning the first week of June. Ballots may be mailed in (must be received by 4 p.m. June 26) or dropped

off on Election Day, and will also be available at the polling locations. Voters do not have to be registered with Pierce County but must be registered with the Community Council.

The votes will be counted after 4 p.m. on the same day and certified by a non-Key Pen resident, Harris said.

The council will be operated as a nonprofit, nongovernment entity funded entirely by memberships, grants and donations, and will not have the power to tax or make regulations but instead will represent the community as a voice to Pierce County and other agencies and

Polling locations

To vote in person, stop by between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 26 at one of the following locations: Texaco gas station off Elgin Clifton Road, Peninsula Market in Wauna or in Key Center and the Home Country Store in Home.

Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and to register new voters.

jurisdictions. County and elected representatives have previously expressed wide support for this type of community representation.

Accident injury ends in new 'vocation'

By Debra McElroy
Special to KP News

Connie Harris is a lucky woman in many ways.

She is donating her time to her friend, Mindy Brocenos, at the Cutter Bug, while she undergoes physical therapy on her left hand after almost losing three fingers in a woodworking accident.

On Dec. 28, Harris was working with a mitre saw alone, breaking a fast rule she and her roommate had established for

safety: No one works the power tools when the other isn't home. The board slipped in her hand, pulling it into the saw and severing three of the fingers, which were left hanging on by the tendon. Grabbing a towel, she knew it was just a matter of moments before she would go into shock and be helpless.

She wrapped her hand tightly in the towel and ran for the phone in the house,



HARRIS

kicked it off the receiver and dialed 911.

"I'll wait by the mailbox," she told the operator. No, she was told, wait in the house, stay where you are. She insisted, knowing that the trucks could never maneuver the sharp curves of her driveway, and the operator agreed.

She made it to the driveway, and began to panic. A neighbor, who had heard the call, came to wait with her. Harris says she became light-headed, and is grateful for the neighbor's company.

There have been many complaints on the Key Peninsula relating to the slow response time for emergencies, but Harris has only praise for the paramedics and the helicopter that took her to Harborview Hospital Trauma Center.

"Ten minutes is about all it took. I couldn't believe it, after everything I've heard about the area," she said. "I've got nothing but good things to say about the response crew. They were truly amazing."

She spent the next 13 days asleep, she says, in Harborview. The fingers were reattached and she is now going through physical therapy. She says the fingers burn, and she is amazed that she is feeling the inside of her body so acutely.

"It's the nerve regeneration that's causing the burning sensation. How many people ever get to feel that? I am witnessing what it is like to regrow a body part," she said.

Harris has lived in Washington for five years, and loves it. Living most of her life in Texas and Florida, she worked as a chemist and ran the Quality Assurance Laboratories for Shell Oil Co. After her two sons enrolled in college, she made the plunge to move with a best friend to Redmond, until she found and purchased the 10 acres she now lives on in the Jackson Lake area.

Mindy Brocenos of the Cutter Bug is Harris' hairdresser. "How 'bout you let me help you while I'm stuck doing my therapy?" she recalls telling Brocenos.

"I didn't want to be paid, I just want something to do and people to talk to. So she finally gave in and I answer her phones and set up her appointments... Plus, I am now a certified tanning bed operator. I have a degree in chemistry, in metallurgy and now I'm a certified tanning bed operator. Not what I would have pictured myself doing two years ago!" she said, laughing.



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Local artists go back to school

Story and photos by Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Several Key Peninsula artists went back to school in May. They did their homework. They talked to the teacher. They came to class on time and asked questions.

They represented different areas of arts—poetry, watercolors, drama, dance—but they shared one thing in common. They were part of Two Waters Arts Alliance's Artists in School pilot program that kicked off in May. Eight artists are visiting 13 classrooms at the four local schools, sharing what they know best and their passion for what they do.

In Laura Woods' kindergarten classroom at Vaughn Elementary, young actors huffed and puffed trying to knock down the three little pigs' homes, as visiting artist Paddy Gilson guided them along. At Evergreen Elementary School,

fifth graders tackled the challenge of coming up with limericks. At Minter Elementary, they made art from recycled materials. At Key Peninsula Middle School, they painted with watercolors. And that was just for starters.

"I am hearing from both teachers and the artists that it's been a wonderful experience," said Gilson, who is also the chief organizer of the residency program that is funded by grants from Angel Guild and the Lucky Star Foundation.

The program, modeled after a similar successful one on Vashon Island, has received support from the Peninsula School District. Next year, organizers hope to have 16 artists from a broad range of disciplines. "Hopefully it will grow each year. There are a lot of ways this can go in the community, it's exciting," Gilson said.

Rodika Tollefson is part of the AIS committee.



Left, Artists in School organizer Paddy Gilson of Two Waters Arts Alliance, one of the pilot program's artists in residency, directs kindergartners in Laura Woods' class at Vaughn Elementary in the staging of "Three Little Pigs." Below, Key Pen poet Debra McElroy has a laugh with an Evergreen Elementary fifth-grader over a limerick.

Artists are still being recruited for next year's residencies, which will take place after January. Anyone involved with puppetry is especially encouraged to apply but any other artists are welcome to participate. TWAA will match up artists with teachers next fall, after teachers apply for specific residencies. Artists are paid for the classroom time as well as extra planning time. Supplies are also provided.

TWAA welcomes donations designated for the program. To learn more about Artists in School, call Paddy Gilson at 884-9200, or see www.twowaters.org. Interested artists must apply by July 31 and must be experienced or comfortable working with children.



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STATE APPROVES NEW LOCAL HOSPITAL

Your support helped make a new hospital
in Gig Harbor a reality!

Thanks to overwhelming community support, state regulators have approved the Franciscan Health System's proposed community hospital to be built in north Gig Harbor. Construction of the new hospital is scheduled to begin in summer 2005, and it will open in 2007 or 2008.

The new facility will be named St. Anthony Hospital because it reflects the maritime roots of this area as St. Anthony is a patron saint of sailors and fishermen. St. Anthony Hospital will feature a 24-hour emergency department equipped to handle nearly all the emergencies that occur in the area; medical, surgical and critical care units; inpatient and outpatient surgery; a heart catheterization laboratory; radiology services; physical, occupational and speech therapies; and a sleep disorders clinic.

We thank the nearly 1,000 people who wrote letters and turned out for the public hearing in January. Community support truly made a difference in winning state approval for St. Anthony Hospital. Please watch for notices soon about a town meeting to update you on the next steps of development. For more information, go to our website at www.fhs.health.org.

— COMMUNITY

Franciscan Health System

Franciscan Health System includes St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma, St. Clare Hospital in Lake Wood, St. Francis Hospital in Federal Way, Franciscan Medical Group (including Gig Harbor Medical Clinic) and the Franciscan Care Center, a continuing care facility.

Healing with the HANDS & MIND

Sleep deprivation leads woman to art of hypnosis and other alternative healing methods

By Danielle V. Klenak
KP News

Lauren Swanberg, a Reiki healer, Past Life Regression therapist, as well as a Life Between Life counselor, has found the one thing some people spend a lifetime (sometimes more than one) trying to find: purpose.

It all started in 1978 while Swanberg, a native Washingtonian originally from Tacoma, was working two jobs in Texas. Living off less and less sleep working as a caterer and a hotel manager, she started talking to the hotel's security guard one night, and found out he was working four jobs. When pressed as to how he found the time to sleep, he explained he

managed to pack in what felt like eight hours of sleep into two hours every night through hypnosis.

Enticed to learn more about living on less sleep without the obvious physical repercussions, she began to explore the realm of self-hypnosis. This was the springboard that led her into the different practices she now teaches and utilizes.

Reiki is a form of healing done through hands, the result being a "balancing, as well as overall well-being," she says. There are three levels in Reiki, the first teaches you to heal yourself, the second allows you to send energy to others regardless of distance, and the third, mastery that gives you the qualifications to teach.

Out of curiosity, Swanberg, her sister and brother-in-law began attending Reiki training while in Hawaii. As they excelled to the second phase, they decided to test the possibility of sending energy to



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Lauren Swanberg at her Gig Harbor office.

someone. Her mother, back in Washington, had breast cancer. At 10 p.m. every night, the three of them focused their energy on her. Several days later, Swanberg spoke to her over the phone to find that since they'd begun their work, she had been waking up at midnight (10 p.m. on Hawaii time) totally energized and unable to go back to sleep. The experience solidified Swanberg's instincts that this was the right path for her. She is now a master Reiki practitioner, and teaches all levels of Reiki certification.

Her favorite form of healing, however, is past life regression. She says it's unique work, whether one believes in reincarnation or not. She believes that humans develop patterns over many lives, and these patterns manifest themselves as physical ailments, addictions, as well as within relationships. She enjoys the multifaceted nature of past life regression, because "everyone's different. No regression is the same."

When a young woman came to Swanberg out of pure curiosity, the woman, during a state of hypnosis, began to recount her life in the 1800s in San Francisco, writing under an assumed pen name. She also recited names of her family members, as well as intricate details, including street names, of the city at the time.

They explored the Mormon Genealogy site, where Swanberg claims they found not only the real name of the woman her

client said she was, but also the names of the family members she had recited during the session.

Swanberg has had a number of other incidents, particularly within her groups of students, where an individual will recount a past life that seems to intertwine or parallel a past life of another within the class. For those who have never tried hypnosis, she explains that being hypnotized feels like nothing more than "reading a good book, or driving in your car and missing the exit; it's an extreme level of focus." The person remains in control at all times but feels tremendously relaxed.

Her exploration of these arts has taken her to a number of different states, but she has settled in Longbranch because she adores being out in nature and the serenity of the woods. While she was looking for a place to set up her practice, she looked into an office space in Key Center but found the volume of her clients resided in Tacoma or Gig Harbor, although some do come from the Key Peninsula. She has chosen to work in Gig Harbor as a meeting point between the two places, calling her practice Positive Results Healing Arts.

At least one of Swanberg's students took the art to the next level—Bonny Snyder, also a Key Pen resident, who attended her classes then became certified herself, and joined Positive Results as a Reiki master and hypnotherapist.

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Just what the doctor ordered New doc finally arrives on Key Pen

By Irene Torres
KP News

For the first time in 23 years, a new physician will begin practice on the Key Peninsula. After 15 years of active recruiting, Dr. William Roes is pleased that Paul Schmidt, D.O., has joined his practice.

"I had a lot of dates," he said, referring to his long series of unsuccessful interviews, "but never made it to the prom."

The "date" is a handsome young physician who will finish his family practice residency at Tacoma Family Medicine in June. Dr. Schmidt is one of eight third-year residents in the Tacoma Family Medicine program. His primary facility has been Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup; but due to funding issues, that program will close this year. To gain experience in rural medicine, Schmidt has been coming to the Key Peninsula one Saturday a month and one month a year during his three-year residency. He spent the month of April in clinical rotation at Dr. Roes' office.

"It's really nice to be working with the community and the folks I'm familiar with," said Schmidt. "It already feels like I'm part of the clinic; knowing the staff and knowing some of the patients will make it a smooth transition."

Schmidt and his wife, Elesa, his "high school sweetheart," are from Gig Harbor, where they have lived for the three years since he returned from medical school in Kansas City and the University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine. The Schmidts are the parents of three boys, ages 5, 3, and one born this past March.

Health care on the Key Pen has always been in short supply. In 1974, the Longbranch Community Church began offering volunteer clinics and safe adult respite day care with Jean Broadsack, nurse practitioner, and nurses Nat Knox and Judy Wilson. Their work was supported by donations, volunteer labor, and the Angel Guild. Sometime later, a nonprofit community corporation now known as the KP Community Health Center, was formed.

Roes first came to the Key Peninsula as a medical student, studying at Washington University in St. Louis in 1977. In 1978, the KP Community Health Center received a grant that enabled it to expand. The center brought in Dean Shriner,



After two decades of looking, Dr. Roes has finally found a second physician for his practice: Dr. Schmidt.

Photo by
Irene Torres

nurse practitioner, and moved from the Longbranch parsonage to Key Center, into the building now occupied by A Lot of Love grooming salon. At that point, they began contracting with insurance companies and third-party payors, and started charging fee-for-service.

The director of Tacoma Family Medicine, Dr. Roy Verac, served as medical director of KP Health Center. He and Dr. Shirts, as part of the residency program, would send the chief resident to the Peninsula to see patients for half a day each week, and supervise Shriner. The residency program's electives included exposure to rural medicine and urban underserved areas.

In 1979, Roes began his rotation on the Key Pen and when he completed his residency, he began a full-time practice here in 1981. The National Health Service Corps had designated the KP as a "healthcare manpower shortage area," and offered medical training loan repayment to physicians who made a three-year commitment to work in such areas.

In 1981, the Health Center received a grant from the federal Housing and Urban Development agency to build a new facility. The first phase was the completion of the building housing the local branch of the Pierce County Library. In 1982, the Health Center moved into its present location in that building.

From 1981 to 1984 the staff worked as employees of the National Health and

Human Services Department of the U.S. government. In 1984, Dr. Roes became an independent contractor and medical director of the KP Health Center. The board of directors sold the business—equipment, accounts receivable, and access to patients—to Roes in an arrangement to provide medical services in lieu of rent until 1993, when he built his present office at 15610 89th Street, just up the hill from the library.

Dr. Roes' staff grew, as he added nurse practitioner Karen Schneider in 1987, for part-time work after her retirement from the Navy. Though his former receptionist, Frankie Johnson, has been retired for seven years, she says her times at the clinic are her best memories.

"It's the most positive place I ever worked in my life," she said. "I don't think people realize that the practice barely covered expenses. In fact, Dr. Roes may still be driving the Mustang his parents gave him when he went to college."

The practice has not been able to accept new patients for quite some time. With Schmidt's arrival, "which effectively doubles the number of doctors on the KP," Roes said they will accept new patients, and expand their weekly schedule to be open Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings, regularly.

"We're very fortunate to get Dr. Schmidt. Many physicians are moving out of the state—even though there's a crying need to keep them. We've lost orthopedists and neurosurgeons, and OB

is tight," he said. "I gave up obstetrics in 1993 because the insurance was so expensive." The single biggest challenge to the practice is the cost of professional liability insurance. "In one year, 2003-04, my premium increased 44 percent," he said. "Even though the rate increased only 3 percent this year, I hope a solution is found soon. I have a low-risk practice, perform no significant surgeries, do no OB, and I've had no claims."

Dr. Roes has made an application to the Washington Health Foundation to expand the clinic's services. The clinic offers well child clinics, flu shots (in the clinic, at KP Senior Services and on Herron Island), and sports physical examinations twice a year for Key Peninsula Middle School students.

Dr. Schmidt already seems at home in the 4,000-square-foot clinic, moving among its eight examination rooms and seeing patients on a recent Saturday morning. One room is designated for casting, splinting and small procedures. There is an X-ray machine, and minor laboratory services are offered on-site. A new service called colposcopy enables the evaluation of abnormal pap smears.

Because the office is so conveniently located, many patients are very sick when they arrive. "We've had two patients who (cardiac) arrested because they came in, instead of calling 911. Sometimes I think we're a level 3 or 4 trauma center," Roes said. Just in case, there is an emergency defibrillator on the "crash cart" in the closet.

Schmidt's osteopathic practice focuses on musculo-skeletal manipulation for acute and chronic pain, the frequency of which he leaves to the discretion of the patient. "The patient can tell when they need a manipulation," he said.

He wants to make a clear distinction between his practice and chiropractic: "They are not the same." Osteopaths practice a "whole person" approach to medicine. Instead of just treating specific symptoms or illnesses, they regard the body as an integrated whole, according to the American Osteopathic Association Website.

Schmidt's special interest in sports medicine, health maintenance and family medicine includes children. "As a young physician, I want to be able to follow them throughout their lives," he said.

Fifteen years is a long time to anticipate a date to the prom, but Schmidt's presence in the clinic should prove to be worth the wait. Roes hopes to have more free time when Schmidt's practice is going strong, so he can spend more time with his band...but that's another story.

Then & Now

The Vaughn Library Hall

By Colleen Slater
KP News

The Library Hall, at the juncture of Van Slyke and Hall Roads in Vaughn, began when Alfred Van Slyke gave the young men of the neighborhood permission to build a dance floor for the 4th of July celebration in 1889.

They called it "The Bowery" after decorating it with branches and ribbon bows. Before long, the local people decided to add walls and a roof to build a community center. A corner room, with its own entrance from the porch, was designated the library and housed the books the ladies had gathered over the years. Other books were added, and the library later became part of the Pierce County Library system.

The Hall was home for church and Sunday school until the Vaughn Church was built in 1898. The church was Episcopalian, so the Presbyterians continued to meet in the Hall until the Rev. Applegate invited them to use his

beautiful building, too.

The Library Association, formed by and for the ladies of the community, was in retaliation for the men not allowing women to attend their horticulture club meetings. During the association meetings, held only on nights of the full moon so the ladies could walk safely home after dark, some of the menfolk gathered in the tower to play cards.

The Ladies Aid Guild met to tie quilts made to raise funds for a church bell. The Good Roads Club, Vaughn Garden Club, Upper Sound Grange, and Amaranth also used the building. High school plays and graduations were held there until the gymnasium was built in 1937.

During World War II, women gathered to make and roll bandages and other items, and after the war continued to meet to make quilts for low-income families. Health clinics were held, too.

Films were shown at the Hall as early as 1930 and into the 1940s. Dances and dance lessons, parties for the young



Photo courtesy of Frank Slater

Vaughn Library Hall, with a basically unchanged exterior, is now a private home.

people, and even private family gatherings were held there over the years.

The Hall, as it was called, is now a private residence of Jerry Wolniewicz, a descendant of Alfred Van Slyke. The Civic Center became the community hub,

and the library, after many years at the Civic Center, was moved to Key Center.

Built by far-seeing pioneers of Vaughn, the Library Hall served its function for well over 60 years.



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LICENSED BONDED INSURED

Student awarded KP News scholarship

The Key Peninsula News was one of about 140 organizations, businesses and individuals who contributed scholarships to outstanding Peninsula High School seniors for their college or vocational education. The KP News Scholarship was awarded at the May 19 ceremony to Michelle Leisure, a Key Pen resident, for her dedicated work with the school's newspaper, The Outlook, and many other volunteer activities. She plans to pursue a major in English with emphasis in journalism.



LEISURE

Congratulations to Michelle and the many other seniors with their awards! On behalf of the community, we wish them well as they pursue their dreams and careers.

Civic Center events

School is almost over and the popular "Friday Night Skate" will end on June 11. Skating will resume in September, date to be announced.

"Jazz in June" is right around the corner, so come and dance the night away on June 5 with Prohibition Jazz Band. Just a reminder, you must be 21 years of age to come to the dance. This is one of our yearly fund-raisers. The dance is from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person, \$12.50 in advance. Tickets are available at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center; Civic Center in Vaughn; and the Liquor Store in Key Center. Call 884-3456 if you have questions.

Vaughn Elementary School Auction will be the night of June 12. If you have questions, call the school at 884-5700.

If you need a place to hold a special occasion, we have the room for you. Information is just a phone call away, at 884-3456.

—By Jena Henak

TOPS news

Hey, are you thinking about shedding those winter pounds? Come see what's happening at TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) #WA 1019, Vaughn, at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on June 15 at our Open House. Come learn what we're about and get the support you need to be your slimmer self!

We will be walking in our Annual TOPS Walk around Home on June 5, with other TOPS chapters, so if you see us out

Lakebay residents 'retire' from volunteer work in Arizona



Selmer "Red" Gudmunson and his wife, Marie "Micky."

Photo courtesy of Kevin Luke, Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix

By Aimee Dobson
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Phoenix

After 20 years of service at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Wayne Unruh Memorial Dining Room in Mesa, Selmer "Red" Gudmunson, age 91, and Marie "Micky" Gudmunson, age 80, are retiring...as volunteers.

Residents of Lakebay, Red and Micky spent their summers in Mesa, Ariz. One morning, Red was walking down Main Street in Mesa when he was approached by the manager of SVdP's Mesa Thrift Store who asked him if he would help serve coffee to the hungry and homeless. Soon after, Red brought his wife, Micky, to help as well.

In June, Red and Micky will celebrate their 60th wedding

anniversary. They met while they were both serving in the Navy. Red and Micky later worked for Stokley/Van Camp Foods, retiring in 1975.

Mark Ross, Wayne Unruh dining room manager, says of Red and Micky, "[They] are really great people, and we will miss them a lot."

On Wednesday, May 19, Red and Micky said their goodbyes to the staff and guests of the dining room where they have been volunteering for two decades.

"It has been a pleasure working with the other volunteers over the years," said Micky. "We have made a lot of friends—both volunteers and homeless people alike. We will miss everyone very much."

walking, this is part of our exercise program and you are more than welcome to join us. We meet on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the VFW Room at the Civic Center.

See you there! For information call Jo, 884-4220.

—By Jo Wickline

Camp Colman summer kick-off

Camp Colman invites residents for family activities and a barbeque on Sunday, June 6, from 2-5 p.m. The event is free. Please RSVP to 884-5772.

AARP 55-Alive classes offered

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club will be hosting an AARP 55-Alive Driving Review Course on June 16 and 17. Participants age 55 and older may receive

a discount on their car insurance for attending this course. Contact A.E. Dolfin at 884-5767. June 11 is the deadline for reservations. You don't have to be a Key Pen resident to participate.

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club is at 3503 Jackson Lake Rd KPN, Lakebay.

Salmon Bake around the corner

The Longbranch Community Church will hold its annual fund-raising Salmon Bake at the Longbranch Improvement Club on Saturday, July 24. This family event will include a deluxe Copper River Salmon dinner, a raffle, entertainment and both a live and silent auctions.

The top raffle prizes are a night's deluxe accommodation and dinner at the Inn of Gig Harbor. Others will win dinners for two on the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train, Anthony's in

Gig Harbor, E.R.Rogers in Steilacoom, and Johnny's Dock in Tacoma. A wide variety of items will be auctioned, including a guided kayak trip anywhere in the South Sound. The live auction is at 3:30 p.m. Other attractions include a white elephant sale.

Dinner will be served from 2 to 6 p.m., with special treats of fresh squeezed lemonade and strawberry shortcake.

Advance tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 7-12, and kids 6 and under 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. More information: 857-6474 or 884-3502.

Proceeds from the event will go toward community and church functions.

—By Gary Ostlund

Home Band rides again

The first practice of the Down Home Band will be held at the Key Medical Center on Tuesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. This band is open to anyone who plays a band instrument—it doesn't matter how long ago that was. The first performance will be at the Peninsula Cancer Run at the Peninsula High School field on June 26. If you are interested or are a regular performer, show up at the Medical Center at 15610 89th St. in beautiful downtown Key Center or call Dr. Roes at 884-9221.

Sportsmen's rummage sale

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club will be holding its semi-annual rummage sale at 3503 Jackson Lake Road in Lakebay on Saturday, June 19, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The sale will be held inside the clubhouse so you don't have to worry about the weather. Lots of treasures and crafts will be available. Come browse and buy, and join them for a fun day.

May Angel doings

May is the month that we play host to a gazillion caterpillars (outside the shop). It is business as usual inside. There have been some real treasures this past month. If you weren't one of the ones buying them, you missed out. Not to worry! There are many more things waiting for you.

We honored four different requests in April. Henderson Bay High School, Purdy Co-op Preschool, and Minter Elementary all had needs that were met by grants.

Please continue to support us so we can pass on good things to our community.

Your Peninsula Market receipts as well as donations of good, clean, usable items enable us to do that.

Thought for the month: Climb high, climb far; your goal the sky, your aim the stars.

—By Mary Ramsdell

White Cane Days 2004 deemed successful

The Key Peninsula Lion Club's annual White Cane Days fund-raiser on May 1 was one of the most successful in recent years. The club and the Northwest Foundation for Sight and Hearing thank the entire community. Members collected donations at the Peninsula Market.

Monies raised from the nationwide effort go to eye banks and sight and hearing foundations, serving thousands yearly. The Northwest Lions Foundation provided 2,299 corneas in 2003 for patients in need of sight restoration.

A free raffle prize of a garden pyramid clematis climber was won by Tami Burton of Lake Minterwood. The KP Lions meet the first and third Wednesdays, 7 p.m. at the KP Library.

Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Longbranch Fire Station on June 4. There will be a field trip to Wright's Park in Tacoma, followed

by lunch at a restaurant. For information, call Sylvia at 884-2487.

Kids invited to summer program

Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center will present its two summer programs again this year, Kindercamp for children ages 3-5 and their parents, and Summer Fun for kids going into first through fifth grades.

Kindercamp consists of age-appropriate activities that help parents nurture their children's development. Positive interaction is modeled and supported. Information is made available to the participants on a variety of topics.

The Summer Fun program is a three-hour camp Monday and Tuesday at Evergreen Elementary and Wednesday and Thursday at the Civic Center.

The program begins June 28, 9 a.m. to noon. Cost at each site is \$35 per child for the 5 weeks; scholarships are available. Applications are due by June 11. Call 884-5433 for details.

Annual Flea Mart

Victor Improvement Club will host its annual flea mart June 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. behind the fire station on SR-302 in Victor. Baked goods, books, clothing, hardware, tools, plants, etc. Hamburgers and hot dogs too! Come on down!

GET INVOLVED

Volunteers make a difference

By Communities in Schools of Peninsula

Who mentored you? Who coached your softball team, sang songs with you at camp? Listened to your adventures? Helped you read your first book? Showed you how to cook, or fix a car? Chances are it was your mom or dad, grandfather or grandmother, brother or sister or family friend. It might have been your neighbor, your teacher, or a person in your faith community. More importantly, it was someone who spent time with you, helping you grow a little wiser, a little more sure of yourself that you remember most.

Volunteering to help your neighbor has been a way of life on the Peninsula. Recently, several organizations

came together to help publicize the opportunities to volunteer on behalf of youth in our community. Working together with the Key Peninsula News, these organizations have been gathering information to let you know whom to contact so you may share your time and talents with our local young people.

"We have wonderful opportunities for people to be involved, ranging from reading mentoring programs to summer activities, and we wanted to let adults on the Peninsula know about opportunities to support youth," said Colleen Speer, executive director of Communities in Schools of Peninsula. Speer is one of the originators of the plan to publish volunteering information in the KP News on a monthly basis. When Speer and staff from Communities in Schools of Peninsula, Children's Home Society and Washington State University's 4-H Program got together to talk about how to feature volunteers who made a difference in our community, things started to happen. That's when they discovered

that Rodika Tollefson of the KP News was thinking along the same lines.

Beginning with this issue, watch the monthly volunteer column for the opportunities that are of interest to you. The volunteer column showcases local organizations that have specific requests for volunteers and will tell you whom to contact to get involved. Watch also for monthly features on volunteers nominated by various agencies to be recognized for the gifts of service they have given our community. Think back, look ahead! See if there might be a place where you would like to offer your time and talent to make a difference in someone's life right here at home.

Volunteer spotlight: Winter Shaufler



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Winter Shaufler, left, with her "Little Buddies."

Winter Shaufler, a junior at Peninsula High, has been involved for more than five years with the Children Home Society's summer program and the Little Buddies program. She is reliable, responsible, creative, and dedicated and doesn't ask for anything in return, according to CHS.

"I like working with kids. It's a good use of my time," Shaufler said. She spends about five hours a week with the Little Buddies during the school year and about 10 hours per week during the summer program. She is the oldest sister to two brothers and a sister at home, and after being the oldest in the house, being a Big Sister at CHS is a natural extension.

Shaufler likes to kayak, swim and do community service—while maintaining a 3.6 GPA.

She makes an excellent role model for children.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Big Brothers Big Sisters of King & Pierce Counties

Looking for caring adults on the Key Peninsula who want to mentor a child. Big Brothers and Big Sisters meet with their child either one hour a week in a local school or a few times a month out in the community. Contact Lacey Christman at 396-9630, ext. 238.

Peninsula Adult Basic Education Program

Key Peninsula Outreach needs to recruit tutors to help adults (16 and up) pass GED tests and/or build basic skills in reading, writing, and math. Training is provided. Contact Bob Strobe at 851-2424.

Washington State University Pierce County Extension 4-H Youth Development

Needs responsible, caring adults to mentor youth, teach life skills, and have fun. The current need is for project (interest) leaders and main club leaders. All adults are screened through the Washington State Patrol. Contact Nancy Baskett at 798-3258.

Children's Home Society

Youth and adults needed to help with the Summer Fun Youth Program beginning June 28 at Evergreen Elementary and Civic Center, for five weeks.

Volunteers needed with planning and staffing the Youth Night at the Key Peninsula Community Fair that will include a battle of the bands on Aug. 19. Youth are especially invited to participate in the planning of the day's activities. Children's Home Society also has an ongoing need for persons with office skills. Contact Edie Morgan at 884-543

YMCA Camp Seymour

Volunteers needed to assist with the following summer camp programs for children 8 to 14: woodworking, sailing. Lifeguard and/or instructor also needed for community recreational swim and swimming lessons for children. Contact Magill Lange at 884-3392.

To submit a listing, call 884-4699 or fax to 884-4053.

(From DOOLITTLE, Page 1)

turned David's ordinary morning drive to work into his last.

There are not enough tears in the ocean to express Nadine's sorrows. David was only the first tragedy for her family. He died as her husband battled cancer. Shortly after her husband passed away, another son was lost to the illness. How any human heart can bear such ordeal can only be understood by other hearts who've been there.

David and his wife, Cindy, were well known and well liked around the Key Peninsula. David, a tease, was big on fishing and golfing. He was always at community meetings, expressing his views. He loved kids, coaching them at soccer and baseball. "He was a funny character, always laughing and joking," Nadine said.

He had many friends on the Key Peninsula—including the paramedics who responded to the horrible crash on May 4, 2000. Fire District 16's Robert Bosch, one of the first people at the scene, left to transport the other driver to a hospital without knowing his good friend David was in the other car.

FD 16 Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen was a paramedic at the time and the family's neighbor when they lived in Key Center before moving to Vaughn. Nelsen's daughter went to school with the Doolittles' son, David. "He was killed instantly," Nelsen said. "He did not have a chance.... this overwhelming feeling like a rush went through me. I remember saying, 'O God, Cindy... Little David....'"

"We kept it really quiet but everybody knew it was a fatality accident, the word spreads around the community fast." Nelsen summoned Dick and Barb Granquist, the district's chaplains, and along with a state trooper drove through the long driveway at the family's home, where Cindy had a daycare. Breaking the news "was one of the most difficult things I've had to do in my life," he said.

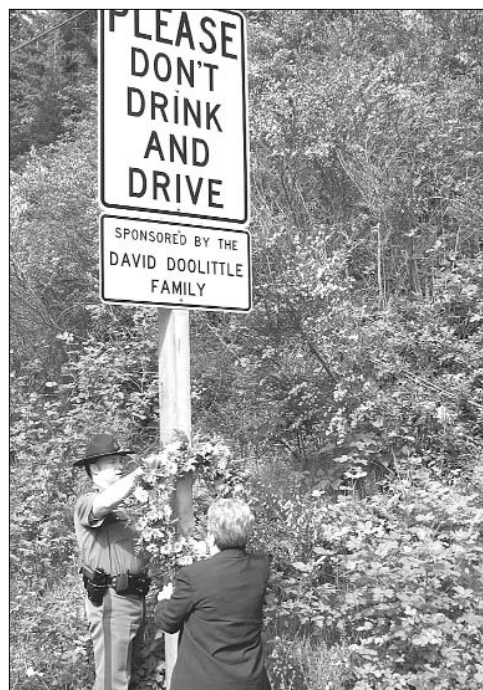


Photo by Hugh McMillan

Nadine Doolittle hangs a wreath on the sign with the help of a state trooper.

Nadine Doolittle has relived that day many times, speaking at various events as a member of a DUI panel. But visiting the Key Peninsula spot that claimed her son is still difficult. She has only returned once—for the sign dedication ceremony this May 4. Cindy and young David now live in the Gig Harbor area.

According to Washington State Patrol, about 22,000 drunken drivers are arrested every year. With every arrest, a life is potentially saved, a family spared the grief of the Doolittles. Nadine tells those attending the DUI panels they are lucky to have been arrested because someone could have been terribly hurt. Some of the listeners give her hugs afterwards, some shake hands, others dash by, heads down. She knows her work reaches some people, and she hopes the signs will do the same.

"I hope it will cause people to use a different kind of transportation (when they drink) and not take the chance," she said. "It doesn't take much."



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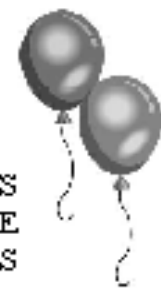
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Herron Island volunteer firefighters work together in emergencies

By Karen Hale
KP News

Herron Island is a beautiful place, barely detached by water off the west side of the Key Peninsula. According to a longtime resident who with her husband purchased property on Herron in 1963 and moved there permanently in 1978, Herron was mainly developed by the Herron Island Development Co. of Seattle during the 1950s and '60s. It was subsequently subdivided for profit, and now has 90 year-round residents. In addition, Herron Island has become a getaway for retirees and summer vacationers, many from Texas and beyond.

However, this creates a new problem: More houses that can burn and more people who can be hurt. Not a small problem for Fire District 16.

The good part of that is that if something happens to a resident or if a house catches fire, everyone tries to pitch in and help. The bad part is that if the neighbors don't pitch in and help, it may be a long wait for the fire department arrival.

It's all in the tides. It can be as fast as an eight-minute ride on the ferry for the firefighters or as long as 30 in low tide, not including the time from the station in Key Center to the ferry. It is because of this delay that the volunteers are so important to control a situation until FD 16 gets there.

According to Bill and Claudia Jones, Herron Island volunteer firefighter coordinators, the last time there was a purposely-started fire (a building contractor burning leftovers who didn't make sure it was completely out), the volunteers drove around and around the island, but couldn't see the smoke. The fire was started on a lower beach and the smoke was blowing over the water. By the



Photo by Karen Hale

The Herron Island fire station also serves as the community house.

time the volunteers were alerted to the position of the fire from someone offshore (down wind on Hartstene Island), the fire had crawled underground through huckleberry roots and had burned out half the stairs on the house. The folks on Hartstene had begun to boat over and throw water on the fire, which prevented more damage. It was a close call — and a good example of an inaccessible area.

Herron Island is approximately 1 1/2 miles long, 1 mile wide and 3 miles around and has three hydrants on it, one on each end and one in the middle. One is a draft hydrant (the top of it is painted black, that's how you can tell), which means it uses suction to pull the water out, taking even more time to set up the equipment. The other two hydrants have recently been upgraded, so they have fairly good pressure available to them. They are Class C, the lowest class at less than 500 gallons per minute. Island residents are footing the bill for the upgrade, in addition to their annual

assessment to live there (a bit over \$900).

The ambulance and fire truck for the volunteer department are parked in the community center's building, which also belongs to the island's maintenance folks. The back of the building has a kitchen and a space for lockers to store Christmas decorations and other community items. The truck and ambulance have to be moved outside if there is a meeting, as there is no other space to put chairs for people to sit except where the vehicles are parked. Even the baseball field/park behind is used as the landing area for helicopters when needed.

All the roads on Herron Island are gravel and circular. There is no blacktop anywhere except by the ferry dock and the boat launch. One long road is one-way. The situation makes driving the fire truck difficult. Rescuers can only approach those houses from one end, and if there is a fire on the other end, they would have to make sure, if they chose to approach from the other side,

Next month:

Read about Fire District's 16 volunteer firefighter program.

that they would not cause an accident.

A couple of steep dirt roads go down so deep it feels like a roller coaster. Driving a fire truck down that road is a scary proposition, but it has to be done, since some very expensive retirement houses are down there (including the residence of the creator of Mountain Mist, according to residents).

The volunteers perform 200 to 300 hours of training per year, have two drills per month and work one 12-hour shift minimum quarterly.

They have managed to reduce response times by getting most residents to purchase "Vital Signs," the red reflective signs the fire department sells. In a medical emergency, there are two designated drivers for the ambulance. There is only one defibrillator kit on the island, and their medical equipment is in short supply.

When the volunteers do their scouting runs checking for signs of fire by a slow drive-around, they look for things like smoke, debris piles, dead trees or grass, keeping a watchful eye on neighbors who may be junking up their yards with flammable items. They have no problem stopping to talk with someone who needs to clean up. It's in everyone's best interest — it's a small island, and fire travels fast. They make reports that help folks know when they need to coordinate roadside cleanups, to clear away the offending flammables.

All in all, the volunteer firefighters on Herron Island care very much for their community. They work hard to help coordinate fire service and rescues with the fire district. If they didn't, it would be a dangerous place to live.




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Summer Preview... arts alive

Classes and events for summer to register call 884-3407

Summer Programming Preview - June through Aug

Here is a sample of some of the many exciting events Two Waters is offering:

Feltmaking Workshop - This workshop is an artistic felt-making class for both children and adults. Jennifer will teach the ancient textile techniques of wet and needle felt-making as you create colorful, unique art textiles.
Saturday, June 12 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Watercolor - Join Beverly for either one or both classes as she shares her fabulous watercolor expertise. Beverly has won numerous awards in many art mediums and her teaching abilities have been proven over and over in the South Sound. Saturdays, June 19 and/or 26 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Brochures with full details & registration forms are available in local post offices, libraries, schools & businesses.

Feltmaking Workshop - Sat, June 12
Watercolor - Saturdays, June 19 and/or 26
The 3rd Annual Seaweed Show Free Event - Saturday, July 10
Cardmaking - Tuesday, July 13 & Thursday, July 15
Beach Walk and Clay Day - Sat, July 17
Mosaic Shopping Show - Sat, July 24
Art for the Woman's Soul - Sat, August 7
Poetry Writing Camp - Aug. 9, 11 & 13
Plat-air Painting - Saturdays, August 14 and/or 21
The Key Peninsula Community Fair - August 20, 21 & 22

From Pioneer Stock How baseball came to Longbranch

By Colleen Slater
KP News

When five Rickert boys arrived with their parents on the Longbranch dock in 1902, they teased Ellen Shellgren, who later said little did she know how much Longbranch would change after these boisterous brothers came.

August Rickert traveled from Menominee, Wisc., with his wife, sons, and the Guse family.

George Rickert, youngest of these five boys, was born in 1892 while crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Germany.

The Rickert brothers played baseball in Wisconsin, and soon rounded up enough local boys and young men to form a Longbranch team. Marvin, grandson of August, eventually gained national fame in the sport, playing from 1942 to 1950 for the Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, Boston Braves, Pittsburgh Pirates and Chicago White Socks.

August bought the White homestead, where they farmed and logged as Rickert

Brothers Logging Co., until George married and bought 52 acres of his own. He built a house for his bride and turned to logging and farming his own land. He used no power tools, but had a steam donkey. He rolled logs down to the water and made them into rafts, which tugboats towed away.

George was instrumental in obtaining electricity for the lower end of the Peninsula. The family raised chickens, cows and a horse. They also had Tony, the bull, for breeding purposes. George kept a journal of all sales.

He moved a young maple, still standing alone but now of magnificent proportions, to provide shade for the cows.

"They finished the house in 1928, moved in March, and I was born in August," noted Marge Radonich. She now lives in that house and likes to show off the original sink, still in use, where she was bathed as a baby.

Older sister Shirl (Olson) was born in the Monzingo Hospital in Gig Harbor that has since closed.



Photo courtesy of Marge Radonich
Marge Rickert as dining room helper at Western State Hospital, 1944.

Brother Dave, baseball player of local fame, played ball with the St. Louis Browns farm team in Redding, Calif., soon after high school. Marge recalls when Mr. Dow, the mail carrier, brought the important letter from the team scout right to the house.

Marge cleaned eggs every day after school. During depression years, a truck arrived at the Home warehouse to collect the eggs. Most widows had chickens and many wives supplemented their husband's wages with chicken and egg enterprises.

As the Rickert children got older and they no longer had chickens, they turned the old brooder house into a rumpus house, with a wind-up phonograph. The girls taught the boys to dance there. Their mom blinked the house lights when it was time to go in at night.

In 1944, Shirl and cousins worked at Paradise at Mount Rainier. Marge wasn't 16 until August, but was hired for dining room help at Western State Hospital. They didn't ask her age. She wore a white uniform, was called nurse, and unlocked patient doors at mealtimes.

"I thought it was better than berry picking and cleaning eggs," she said.

Marge doesn't know why the early family members moved from Wisconsin to the Peninsula.

She agrees that although few descendants are left here, the Rickert boys and their families did make a difference in the area around Longbranch.

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A hero's WELCOME

By Irene Torres
KP News

Army Sgt. Li Parshall has been busy since he returned home to the Key Peninsula from Iraq in mid-February. He's been processing out of active duty with the 671st Engineer Company MRB. He went on a couple of hikes with his son, Seth, and the Boy Scouts. He's ridden in the Tualatin (Ore.) VFW 671st parade, and participated in the Armed Forces Day parade in Bremerton. His unit has been downloading and inventorying equipment at Fort Lewis since the end of April. He's had an offer to join the VFW, and is seriously thinking of accepting.

Since his return, a lot of people have stopped him to say thank you. One woman at a local store, seeing him in uniform, said in tears, "I'm so proud of you guys and the work you're doing over there." But this humble man says, "I feel a little embarrassed being called a hero. I'm not Sergeant York, no Audie Murphy type. I was only doing my job."

"I didn't feel scared, but the anticipation of danger gives a real adrenaline high. We were in a hyper state, driving long hours. Most of the soldiers there knew of the dangers, but morale was high, and we did our jobs and soldiered on." Their major objective was to build a bridge over the Euphrates River. "The threat of ambushes with IED (improvised explosive devices) was nerve-racking. I became more wary and suspicious."

Last year on his April 11 birthday, after two months without a bath, he decided that he owed himself a dip in the Euphrates. So he and a friend "took off all our gear and just as we got 'into the bare' we heard the sounds of tracers over our heads." "Oh, no," he remembered thinking, "this is our worst nightmare." After a few uncertain moments, they decided the rounds weren't being aimed at them, so they went ahead and took a birthday bath.

One of his unit members received a shipment of balsa airplane kits, so they pitched in to put the kits together and gave them to the local children. "That

was a fun day," Parshall says. They usually weren't allowed to mingle with the local people, but had occasion to interact with them while on bridge duty. He traveled to the Biblical site of Abraham's house in Ur and visited some other sites that Westerners have not been allowed to visit for a decade.

Now that he's home, he says, "I'm trying to fit back into my life. While I was gone, some things went on that my family didn't want me to be concerned about."

He added, "I appreciate more the things that are here. When you see the way people live over there, it makes me realize how much we have. Iraqis are very accepting of their lot. Now, they are a lot happier and able to do things without fear of being taken to prison or executed.

"The best part of being home is being with my family, my wife and kids, and the people I served with—they are my family, too... There is the dichotomy between civilian and military. They are opposites, so this has been a slow adjustment back to a civilian mode of thinking.

"Most vets can't stand large crowds and tend to want to move away. I noticed that change in me, to be more aware of my surroundings. I'm back in my civilian job — driving a bus — and I find myself watching traffic more closely... especially any vehicles with orange and white. The Iraqi taxicabs are orange and white, and the insurgents used to arm them and use them to attack. I avoid any items alongside the road. I check above overpasses as I pass under them."

His unit is under a "stop loss," and is still considered on active duty until July. They participate in active duty training one week at a time. There is a one-year stabilization period before he could be reactivated. "I think I'll be all right, thanks to all the people who are supporting the troops, and especially the VA. They're going all out for us.

"My greatest reward has been from the people back home, the ones who have sons and daughters, husbands and wives in the service," Parshall says. "There is nothing more precious than the life of a child, your flesh and blood. They are the real heroes."



Li Parshall with family upon his return. From left to right, mom Barbara Bence, sister Virginia Jenkins, wife Anne, Li, and daughter Jessica in back row; and nephew Joe, son Seth and sister Laurel Parshall in front row.

Photo courtesy of the Parshall family

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Why? Of course interest rates have a lot to do with this - more than anything else. Rates are still around 6%, which means many more people qualify to buy more home than they have previously. There have been indications that interest rates will be going up in the near future - they have been rising some, but not substantially and have actually bounced around some.

Another factor is the lack of listings. What is listed, is being sold very quickly - of the 25 new homes being built in Palmer Lake about 1/3 of them are already sold. Well priced stick built homes below \$150,000 are a rare commodity in this market.

We are asked every day if the new bridge is having an effect on the market. Probably - just as much as the new shopping area and the prospect of a new hospital. When people do not have to go across the bridge for services, especially medical care, they like living on the Key Peninsula.

We are a growing community - there is nothing we can do to stop the growth - what we can do is grow responsibly. The more people who buy homes here, live in them and fix them up, the better our community will be. And, if you would like to have some input into the growth and direction of our community, please get involved in the newly formed Key Peninsula Community Council or the Key Peninsula Land Management Committee being formed later this summer. We probably can't stop the growth - but we certainly can have some say in how it's being done.

Foundation News:

\$200.00 to Evergreen School for refurbishing their emergency packs.

\$500.00 to Peninsula High School for a scholarship.

Community Service Day - June 18. We will be doing gardening work at Evergreen Elementary School.



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COTTAGE FARMHOUSE - \$189,950

This farmhouse has 1940's charm, wood and log interior, 1500 sq. ft. and room to grow. Located on 2 acres w/ pond, fruit trees and garden area, barn and two pasture areas. Has new roof, septic and well. MLS #24053487



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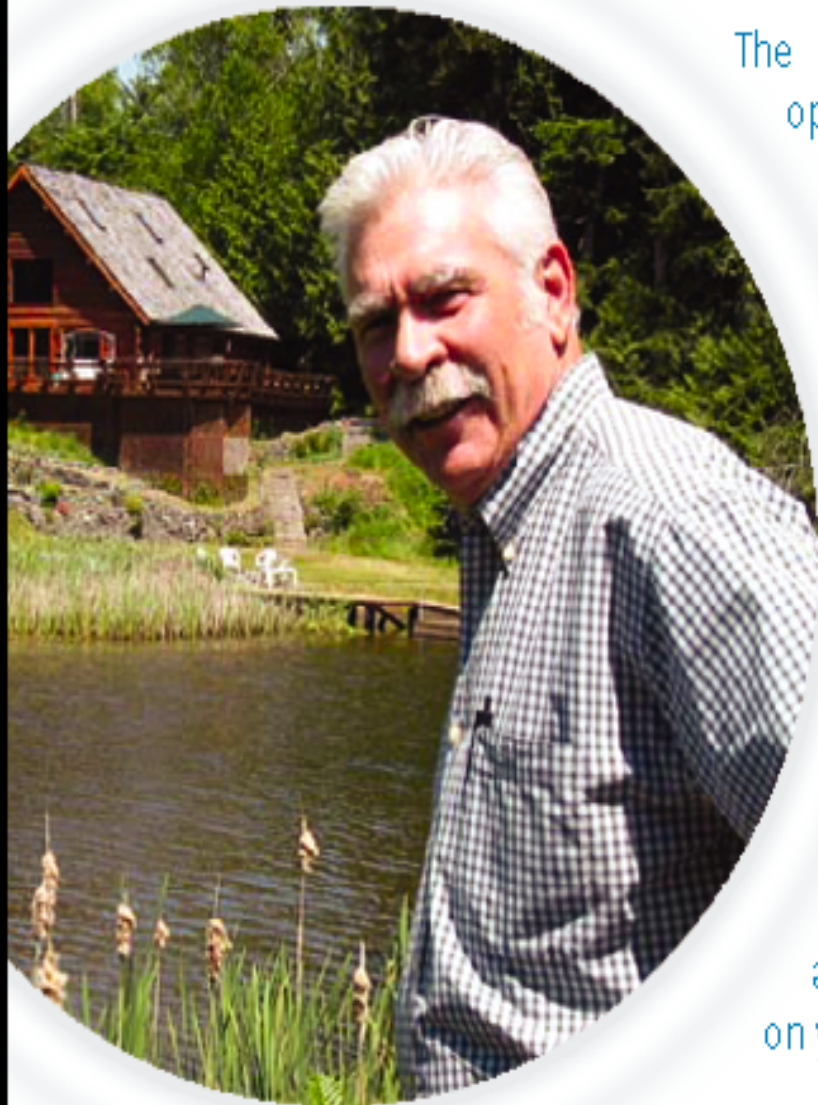


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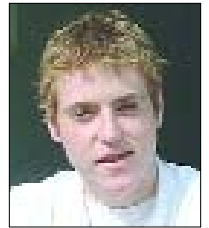
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Young & savvy: Student runs his business

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Eric Grandia got his first taste of entrepreneurship in elementary school. He made a nice profit in an imaginary marketplace using play money. "With 'Micro Money,' I was set for life," he said.



GRANDIA

So as soon as he got the chance to try out the game for real, Grandia started out detailing cars. This time, he was a high school senior, and the company was part of his senior project, but the competition, the client service, the marketing was as real as for any other fledgling business.

Anyone who would question his business savvy should consider this: The Key Pen resident and another Peninsula High senior last year finished second of 700 teams nationwide competing in a stock-market game.

"I'd like to say that it comes naturally but if I put in the time and stay motivated, I get the reward for it," he said. "I believe anybody can do anything they want, the only person who can stop you is yourself."

Not the kind of guy to stop himself, Grandia found another opportunity when he started his freshman year last fall at Olympic College. He manages the local branch of CollegePro, a national painting company that selects students to run franchises. Grandia painted houses last year, then took the franchise over, and now manages several employees and plans to hire a few more for the summer.

CollegePro handles all the bookings (usually via www.collegepro.com), so Grandia can focus on studies and doing cost estimates for customers. In summer, he will train his staff and manage the jobs.

The painters use mostly hand brushes, but spend an extensive amount of time on prep work and power washing the exterior. He pays them \$8-\$9 per hour plus bonuses—not bad for a summer job.

"Entrepreneurship is something I've always been interested in," he said. "I'd rather work 60 to 70 hours a week for myself than work for somebody else."

Not to mention it's a nice way to pay for college.

June, July tides will be some of the year's lowest

By Bill Trandum
KP News

The afternoon of Friday, June 4, will be an excellent time for people to check their summertime boat anchors (often half-buried, cement-filled buckets or tires) to see if they'll last another year. It's also a great time to take kids to the beach to see starfish, sand-dollar beds and other

creatures that are usually covered by deeper salt water. Sailboats anchored in shallower bays may find themselves lying over on their sides as their keels rest on the bottom. Marina owners will worry about boats and floats moored in shallow areas.

The reason for all this is one of the lowest tides of the year, which at Vaughn Bay (according to NOAA) will be a minus 4.3 feet and will occur at 1:23 p.m. on June 4. Because of the draining of the Case Inlet Basin, Allyn will be lower, at minus 4.4 feet.

When there is an exceptionally low tide, there is an exceptionally high tide as well. In our case it will be at 8:57 p.m. June 4 at Vaughn, where the high will reach plus 15.9 feet (a total tidal difference of 20.2 feet from the high to the low). Currents through the Narrows, Pitt Passage, and around Devil's Head will be maximized about half-way between the high and the low. For example the current at the Narrows at 9:51 a.m. will be 5.0 knots to the north (about 6.5 miles per hour) as the huge volume of water

SYZYG is the nearly straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies (as the sun, moon, and Earth during a solar or lunar eclipse) in a gravitational system. *Source: Miriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary*

You can get more info on tides at www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov.

rushes toward the ocean. And the current will be 5.9 knots towards the south (about 7.6 mph) at 4:46 p.m. as the water rushes back into the South Sound.

The natural phenomenon that causes the extraordinary highs and lows is a specific alignment of the sun and the moon that maximizes their gravitational pull on Earth's ocean surfaces. The condition is called SYZYG. If it is accompanied by strong onshore winds and low barometric pressure, tides have been known to overshoot their predicted highs, potentially causing coastal flooding.

People often wonder, "Where does the water go?" The answer is that it is pulled

out to sea about one-quarter of the way around the world to the West and to the East. The effect for North America is that the mid-Pacific and mid-Atlantic oceans get temporarily deeper when our tides are low; and they are relatively shallower when our tides are high. Think of the tides as causing a water bulge that travels around the Earth as the pull of the moon and the sun vary through the Earth's rotation.

The days before and after SYZYG also produce extraordinarily high and low tides, but they are not quite as extreme. For example, for Vaughn Bay, Thursday's low (at 12:37 p.m.) will be minus 4.0; the high (at 8:04 p.m.) will be plus 15.5. Saturday's low (at 1:23 p.m.) will be minus 4.1 feet; and the high will be plus 15.9 (at 9:49 p.m.).

Those who miss the fun in June get another chance on July 2—the low tide will be 1/10 foot lower.

Bill Trandum is a former U.S. Navy officer and an avid boater.



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Auditions for comedy announced

Auditions for the two-act comedy Longbranch Players' October dinner theater production are set for Sunday, June 20, at 1 p.m. and Monday, June 21, at 7 p.m. on the stage at the Longbranch Improvement Club, 4312 Key Peninsula Highway. The hilarious farce "Don't Dress for Dinner" by Marc Camoletti will be directed by Rick May, a well known Seattle-area director and actor. The play, taking place in the French countryside, deals with mixed identities.

The Players are encouraging area actors, actresses and wannabe actors and actresses to audition. Roles are available for three men and three women. Auditioners will be requested to read from the script, or they may do a brief prepared monologue, if desired. Production dates are October 1 & 2, 8 & 9, and 15 & 16. Rehearsals are scheduled to begin in late August.

May has been artistic director for both the Renton Civic Theater and Seattle's Civic Light Opera. His long list of directing and acting credits includes many plays throughout the Puget Sound area. A plus for those working on the production or acting in the play is that he is particularly interested in community theater and in the lively revival begun last year by the Longbranch Players.

The Players is also gathering a production staff for the play from people especially interested in theatre in the community. Acting or working on the play is an opportunity for anyone fascinated with theatre to work closely with an experienced director who enjoys bringing volunteers into theater participation.

Contact Mary Mazur, production/business manager, at 884-1061 if you have questions. The auditions are open to anyone interested.

Japanese exposure: Group heads on cultural trip

Several Key Pen residents including high school students will join a group from Gig Harbor for a 16-day cultural trip to Japan. The trip is organized by World Cultural Interaction led by Gig Harbor's Yasuko Wada. Key Pen artist Margo Macdonald, who will accompany the 10 students and

Wada, said the nonprofit group's goal is to foster cultural understanding. Thanks to Wada's connections in Japan, the group will visit sites not easily accessible by visitors, including the Tokyo home of a former first lady and temples and shrines. In July, a group from Takuma will visit in return, and organizers are still looking for host families.

"The idea is to start with kids and eventually we'd like to expand to include all sorts of groups of travelers," Macdonald said. Other countries are also being considered, such as Norway. The group has been actively fund-raising, including recently at a car wash outside the KP Civic Center at the Livable Community Fair. The students are paying for the bulk of their own expenses.

Anyone interested to learn more or to host a Japanese student should contact Yasuko Wada at 858-3945.

Summer art with TWAA

If you have been waiting for Two Waters Arts Alliance to announce summer classes, read on. TWAA is offering a Felting Workshop for the entire family, June 12, 11-1:00; Watercolor with award-winning Beverly Pedersen, June 19 & 26, 10-1:00; the 3rd Annual Scarecrow Show, a free family event, July 10, 10-noon; Cartooniversity for kids 9-14, July 13 & 15, 11-3:00; Beach Walk and Clay Day, July 17, 10-2:00; Mosaic Stepping Stones, July 24, 11-1:00; Art for the Woman's Soul, Aug. 7, 10-3:00; Poetry Writing Camp, July 9, 11 & 13, 11-2:00; and Plein-air Painting, Aug. 14 & 21, 11-1:00 pm.

In addition, July 4-10 TWAA and YMCA Camp Seymour are offering a week of overnight camp for kids entering grades 3-7 at Camp Seymour on the Key Pen. Campers will participate in traditional camp activities — canoeing, group games, campfires, archery — as well as art-focused "camptivity" workshops to include visual and performing arts.

To support your local art scene, reserve a class, become a member, or experience art in motion at the TWAA booth at the Key Pen Community Fair, Aug. 20-22. Scholarships and family discounts are available for most classes including TWAA art camp at Camp Seymour.

For details, call 884-3407 or visit www.twowaters.org.



The Prohibition Jazz Band can't get enough of Key Peninsula — or is it the other way around?

Photo courtesy of Ann Waldo

Prohibition Jazz returns for sixth year

On Saturday, June 5, the members of the popular Prohibition Jazz Band will again entertain with their fantastic music at the Civic Center. The group has been performing throughout the Northwest since 1994 and is featured at many of the jazz festivals in the area.

The band features Mike Ernesti on drums, Terry Strong on trombone and vocals, Willy Peterson with hot cornet, trumpet, flugel horn and vocals, Greg Massett on bass, leader Ron Harper with plectrum banjo and guitar, and Jeff Winslow on reeds. Their toe-tapping arrangements and improvisations are fine for listening as well as for dancing.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. and Doug Henry of InStep Dance will offer free dance lessons at 7:30 to help the dancers warm up. The band will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. Snacks and an open bar will be available. No minors will be admitted.

Tickets at the door are \$15 and may be purchased in advance for \$12.50 at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, at the KP Civic Center office (small building, lower floor) in Vaughn and at the Home Country Store. Call 884-3456 for information.

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Mysteries, dramas and laughter: A day in the life of a teacher



A DAY IN THE
LIFE

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

An hour before the 500-plus students fill up Vaughn Elementary School, Ms. Marci Cummings is already in her classroom, coffee in hand, sharpening pencils, getting supplies ready, taking mental notes about lesson plans, catching up on email.

In 45 minutes, Andrea and Kelsey and Taylor and 15 other first and second graders will join her in the mixed-age classroom, each looking for undivided attention with the books they are rewriting, with Minute Math 54, or with word spelling. And when they leave at 3:30, she will shift her attention to unit planning, work review, committees and curriculum activities. This hour before school is precious, maybe the only quiet time today.

"I feel like I'm going on stage," Cummings says later. "Kids walk in and your adrenaline goes up, and when they leave your mind just goes pshshhhh."

About 15 minutes before curtain call, soon to be announced by the crisp sound of the bell, students trickle in. Emily L. is among the first ones to arrive. She proceeds to quiz an adult visitor she's never seen before. Who is this person visiting, she wants to know, so she throws out classmates' names and after getting "no" to each one, she finally thinks hard

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a teacher, a police officer, a firefighter, a garbage hauler, a bus driver? Have you wished you could follow someone for a day to see what it's like to be in that person's shoes? The KP News staff decided to sneak behind the scenes of the Key Peninsula each month to find out just that. We plan to bring you a story every month in the series, A Day in the Life..., and we hope you enjoy this view into the lives of those people who help make our world better.

and says, "Do you have a student in the class?"

Emily L.—not to be confused with Emily D.—gets another no and proceeds to her desk, the first mystery of the day yet unsolved.

A few minutes later during silent reading time, she settles for "Chrysanthemum," while nearby, Tyler reads "Fire! Fire!" and Andrea pages through "Superbook of Horses."

At a small table in the corner, Ms. Cummings pulls out freshly sharpened pencils and paper for four students she helps with phonetic word lists. As they work their way through frog-plug-flag-twig-swim..., Emily L. is done reading "Chrysanthemum" and returns to the book rack for "Owen" and "Yum!"

Around 9:45 a.m., the hallway of Vaughn is long deserted, save for a collection of children's work lining up the walls. Giant paper people, haiku verses, dinosaur facts, paper-made Native American cradle boards, and "human" figures displaying internal organs offer a passing glimpse at what may be happening inside the classrooms.

By now, Ms. Cummings' class can be found deep in conversation that goes something like this:

"Good morning, Ms. Cummings!"

"Good morning, Brandon!"

"What did you do after you went home



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

Emily L.—not to be confused with Emily D.—and her table mates did good work today, and earned a bonus at the end.

from work?"

"I watered all my flowers and then I made Thai curry. What did you do?"

"Uhm...I went skating."

"Good morning, Ms. Cummings!"

"Good morning, Andrea!"

"Are those new shoes?"

"Well yes, thank you for noticing. Do you like them?"

In the next five minutes, after the back-and-forth conversation with each student, everyone learns that Ms. Cummings had a hard-boiled egg for breakfast, had to clean up pine cones out of her yard, went home after school Monday and Tuesday so she had to stay late Wednesday to catch up on work—and yes, tonight is her volleyball game night. Six games at 7.

Ms. Cummings used to ask the questions during the daily conversations that take place as part of roll call. But by the end of April, the students are expected to do it—part of developing their conversation skills, Cummings says.

Much of the learning in the classroom takes place in a similar fashion, woven naturally into the day along with math word problems, singing, reading and investigating. In this theatrical production of life, the dramas and comedies are full of impromptu laughter, outtakes, serious scenes and frequent breaking into song.

The walls display some of the daily routine and expectations, rules like "Be polite" and "Take turns." Occasionally, Ms. Cummings reminds her charges of certain rules, but for the most part these kids are well-behaved—which doesn't escape the other adults, including teachers and the lunch ladies: The classroom door is decorated with nine "excellence in the lunchroom" certificates. A schedule, posted by the door, is meticulously followed, because, as Cummings notes, "We live by the bell."

Other decorations tell stories of the classroom's inhabitants: neon paper kites, at least six versions of the alphabet, a

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“Math zone,” a set of computers bought with a Gates Foundation grant, a “Star of the Week” poster with a student’s photos, and a plant named Harry. Harry has followed Ms. Cummings for about 12 years from classroom to classroom, though only last year Ms. Cummings’ fourth grade students felt the veteran plant needed a name.

Books by far make the biggest collection—as they do perhaps in every American classroom. Reading is the cornerstone for just about everything, from silent to end-of-day group reading, to the classroom project—like making a book of lullabies for Mrs. Ganisin next door, whose fourth-graders, also known as Ms. Cummings’ students “reading buddies,” are preparing a surprise shower. Mrs. Ganisin is expecting Baby Joey in a few weeks and so the three lullaby books have lately been the focus of project time—an idea, Cummings says, that came on the spur of the moment and was so brilliant that she changed the curriculum slightly to fit in the new theme.

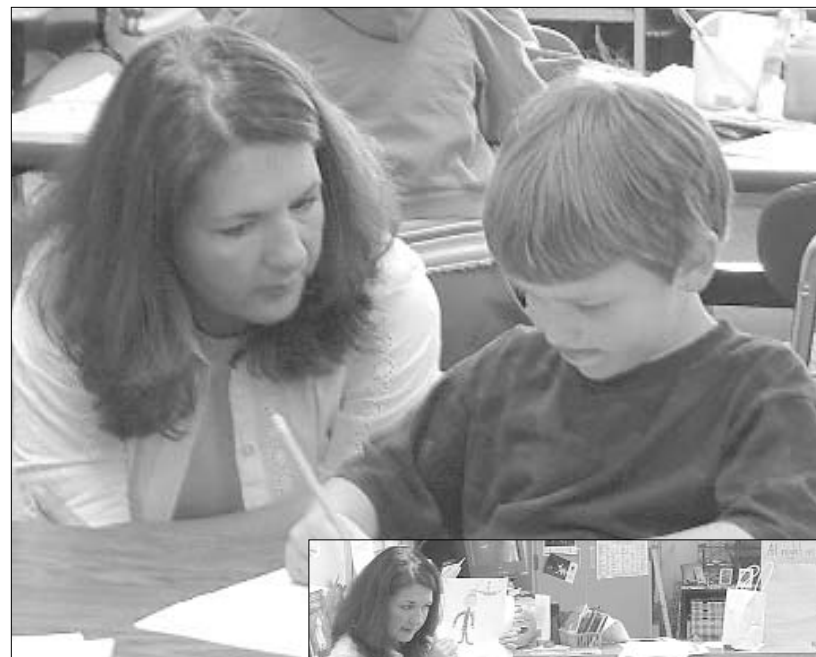
From the minute students walk in and to the end of the day when they read Chapter 21 of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” reading is what it’s all about. And so there are plenty of books, some in plastic cradles labeled “Learn to read books,” “Predictable books,” and so on, others self-published, including class anthologies.

One such book, published with the other two mixed-age classes—Ms. Harrison’s and Ms. Selfors’—is titled “Advice for Mr. Benoit About Being a Principal at Vaughn and Other Things He May Need to Know.”

Mr. Benoit, who will start as the school’s new principal in the fall following the retirement this year of Mr. Shurick, will indeed learn just about everything important about his new school from this book. For example, Bo lives in the library and is fed mice. The library is a cool place because it has a lot of fun books. No skipping in the hallway. If he joins the Running Club at recess, he can get a punch for each lap and get his exercise. He will also learn about special Husky recess, that a good principal knows how to jump rope and will come outside to play kickball, that there are very nice kids at Vaughn, that they like to laugh and do puzzles, that learning makes you smarter and that for some reason he shouldn’t get the hamburgers or the hot dogs.

There is encouragement: “You are going to be the best principal in the entire world.”

Then there is this advice: “Feel free for us to ask questions. We use questions a lot here at Vaughn. Questions are needed so much here, it might annoy you sorry. We



Below, Ms. Cummings shares some drawings as children sing lullabies from a book prepared for Ms. Ganisin next door who is expecting Baby Joey. Left, one-on-one with a student.

learn when we ask questions.”

And so questions are everywhere. During the literary arts session, when Ms. Cummings reads “The Stranger,” is the time to ask many questions. As Ms. Cummings reads page by page, she pauses for the questions. The book, she explains later, was selected to encourage specific reading strategies.

In the computer lab about an hour later, the questions go from what folder to save in to how to type in the box. Windows 2000 is tricky enough for some adults to figure out, but many of these 7- and 8-year-olds go through the “Save As” etc etc steps without a flinch. They work their way through typing into Microsoft Publisher their stories about the not so fun birthday party, the seed that transported someone to a place where people can fly, the swimming pool that would be so cool to buy some day, planting roses and sunflowers, or ponies.

Ms. Cummings had previously read each of the books and asked some authors to rewrite for publication. Some youngsters are nearly at the end of their typing while others just managed to type the name of the book and the author—but speed is not an issue. Instruction is individualized as much as possible.

Most of the day, the students navigate through their problems and mysteries independently while Cummings is there to steer them, check their work, and spend the time with those who need extra help. At the beginning of the year, Cummings’ lessons were much heavier on directions, but toward the end she likes to give her students the chance to use their problem-solving skills and take more ownership of



their learning—it makes the kids feel empowered, she says.

At lunchtime, the questions come again. More trivial perhaps but just as urgent.

“Ms. Cummings, can I go to Runners Club?”

“Ms. Cummings, can I go to the library?”

“Ms. Cummings, can I do cartwheels?”

“Ms. Cummings, can I not eat my pickles?”

“Ms. Cummings....”

“Ms. Cummings....”

Ms. Cummings spends her intermission lunching with the kids, who carried their trays outside. It’s a beautiful, sunny end-of-April Thursday—just perfect for the main entree of the biscuit and gravy, apparently a favorite. The teacher takes a little breather, chatting briefly with adults. She longs for professional discussions, the type of networking with colleagues that allows for collaboration and ideas to bloom. There is no time for that during the day, except during the district-wide in-services. After school, there is hardly time for that either. Curriculum training, committees, planning, grading—she already takes “homework” home every night and spends a few hours Sunday doing work.

In November, March and June her homework stack is especially high: It’s report card time. Cummings, who holds a master’s degree in education, says she used to be consumed by work but has

learned to make time for other things.

It’s easy to be consumed: Curriculum requirements are getting tougher and bigger every year. Class size has shrunk from 26 or so, but away went the instructional aides. Still, she loves Vaughn and its sense of community—a feeling she didn’t experience as a child since the family followed her father’s military assignments around the country and overseas.

Having taught several elementary ages, Cummings likes the K-2 grades the best. “You can see the learning happening. The excitement is really contagious,” she says.

Perhaps it’s not surprising then to hear Andrea say, in between her counting at afternoon math, that, “We always pretend we are teachers.” Andrea and Emily D. share other adventure stories about pretending while using connectable one-inch plastic cubes to measure calculator tape the length of their jumps. The exercise, part of a new curriculum called Investigations, adopted last year, calls for regular hands-on applications.

Emily D. goes for the rainbow look, 12 red, four orange, two yellow, 18 purple—her favorite color—and so on. She lines up her cube-made “stick” with the tape, concludes, “One more, I think,” then ends it with another purple. “Seventy-seven,” she says after counting, and records the result. Writing, just like reading, is everywhere, part of every assignment.

As the day winds down, the questions continue. “Can I go get my reading buddy?” “Can we read outside?” Reading always wraps up the day, and today is just the day for outside reading, as it turns out—a great bonus.

Emily L.’s table gets another bonus: They put their names in a jar for later prize drawings, an honor earned for good work today. At 3:15, chairs go back up, backpacks are scooped up, and the students line up to go outside, where they gather around Ms. Cummings to hear about Violet turning into a blueberry—only because she didn’t listen to Mr. Wonka, who warned her something bad would happen.

At 3:30, the bell declares that school is over, and the students move for the bus-loading or parent-pickup zones.

“Good bye, Ms. Cummings,” Emily L. says, heading back inside toward parent pickup.

“Good bye, Emily L.”

Ms. Cummings, left to her new pig unit planning and other “homework,” pauses for a moment before rising from her chair, as if reviewing the day’s performance after the curtain falls.

Pshshshhhh....

Recycling yard waste helps the environment

By Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.

Every so often, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department receives a report about a shoreline resident dumping yard waste, such as grass clippings, into a stream, lake, or Puget Sound. It appears these residents don't realize that such disposal practices are harmful to the environment and are illegal.

Yard waste, including grass clippings and pruning debris, consist of natural chemicals and elements that, when recycled properly, can supplement the growth process of lawns and gardens. However, when yard debris is dumped into

surface waters, nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are released into the water and are available to aquatic plants and algae. This leads to the enrichment, or eutrophication, of our streams, lakes, and Puget Sound. Unfortunately, along with the increase in aquatic plants and algae comes an increase in public health concerns such as toxic algae (in local lakes), noxious odors, and swimmer safety concerns. In addition, other beneficial uses can be impaired, including boating, fishing, and even property values.

The dumping of yard waste into surface waters is not only harmful to the environment — it is also a violation of n

state law and may be subject to penalty.

When Pierce County was sparsely populated, the dumping of yard waste into Puget Sound had such a minor impact that these practices were not a major problem. However, given our large current population, the high growth rate of the region, and the numerous sources of nutrients to our waters, the dumping of yard waste into the Sound is a bad idea. Various good alternatives for handling yard debris in Pierce County include grass-cycling (leaving the clippings on the lawn), backyard composting, curbside pick-up, or self-haul composting.

To sign up for curbside collection of

Nearest self-haul sites:

Key Center; 5900 block off KPHwy (2 miles south of Key Center); 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wed.-Sun.; 847-7555

Purdy Transfer Station; 14515 54th Ave.; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wed.-Sun.; 847-7555

Purdy Topsoils (woody waste only); 5819 133rd St NW, Gig Harbor; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; 857-5850.

yard waste, contact your garbage hauler. If you don't know which company to call or if you want more information about how to set up a backyard compost pile, contact Pierce County Solid Waste Division's information line at 798-4115 or visit www.co.pierce.wa.us/recycle.

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Out & About



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The Three Little Pigs (and many more) descended on Minter Creek Elementary in May for an opera performance.



Photo by Irene Torres

Above, Reminiscent of the Biblical plagues, a horde of tent caterpillars has emerged around the KP. The most effective way to reduce their numbers is to destroy their "tents." One environmentally friendly "home remedy" (untested by the KP News) calls for a solution of 1 cup of dishwashing liquid soap to be mixed into a gallon of water with 2 cups of cooking oil and 1/2 cup of vinegar, to make a spray for the infested areas. Below, The Blues Kids, directed by Geoff Baillie, performing at the Longbranch Improvement Club for a fund-raiser for their school, Evergreen Elementary. Baillie, a school district board member, and his company, Baillie and Associates, have sponsored the event for many years. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Students Sean Worren and Kylie Groves act in the Key Peninsula Middle School play "A different sort of Pharaoh: The life of Hatshepset," depicting the coronation of the first female Pharaoh. As the curtain "fell," the curtain fell, and the actors and audience shared a good laugh.



Photo by Irene Torres



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This year the big one didn't get away as residents of Lake of the Woods gathered for their annual fishing derby. Every year the lake is stocked with fish, and kids from 2 to 102 can try their luck at winning one of three trophies. Congratulations to this year's winners!

Photo by Dana Shaw