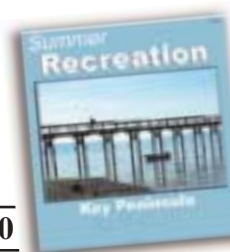




Peninsula KEY NEWS



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◀ Summer Guide, INSIDE

JUNE 2006

From The Key Peninsula Civic Center Circulation 8,400

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2006 PHS GRADUATES!
Happy Father's Day



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Key Pen Metro Parks District commissioners approve compensation

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

At a public candidates' forum held September 2005 at the Civic Center, candidates for several elected positions sat at long tables and fielded questions from the audience. Among the hopefuls were candidates for Fire District 16, the recently formed Key Peninsula Community Council, and the new Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (KPMPD). Of particular concern to the audience were the leanings of park district commissioner candidates.

Just months prior, KPMPD had come into creation through a 60 percent passing vote by peninsula residents. It was replacing a nearly bankrupt park system run by individuals who created Volunteer Park with the sweat of their own brows in the 1960s.

One question from the floor came from Mike Salatino, previous Key Peninsula park board chair. He asked Kip Clinton, incumbent KPMPD commissioner (and previous park board

• KPMPD budget issues story inside, see page 11.

member), what her intentions were regarding the issue of compensation for elected commissioners. (Washington State law allows compensation up to \$6,720 per commissioner per year, per RCW 35.61.150.) In a related article printed in the May 2004 issue of the KP News, Clinton had indicated one decision was firm: The commissioners will not request a per diem stipend.

"We (the original members) have agreed it's a strictly voluntary position," she said." She repeated those words on

(See **KPMPD**, Page 10)

Roofing with the guys and loving it



Photo by Kristen Pierce

Chantel Rolfzen would rather be on the roof than in the office.

By Kristen Pierce
KP News

Locally owned Lakebay Roofing is undergoing some changes. Since 1985, owner Tom Rolfzen has been running the business. He has worked hard to build a great reputation for himself and his company.

For many fathers with their own business, the day will come to step aside and let one of their children take over.

Usually, this changing of the guard takes place with the son. But this story has a slight twist.

For the past 10 years, Chantel Rolfzen has been working by her father's side, learning the ins and outs of the roofing business. Originally, she went to school to learn about computers and business skills to be experienced to work in the office, maintain the books and so on,

(See **ROLFZEN**, Page 30)

Evergreen student allegedly abducted

Rules of 'Stranger Danger' must be taught at home and school

By Danna Webster
KP News

On May 8, a fourth-grade student from Evergreen Elementary did not get off his bus. A full search and investigation was in progress by the time he was able to return to school nearly two hours later. As a result, the Pierce County Sheriff's Department is seeking the assistance of the public in locating an abduction suspect.

Pierce County Detective Theresa Berg says many tips have been received and there was one reported sighting the day

(See **EVERGREEN**, Page 27)

News briefs

Key Peninsula News wins journalism award

The Key Peninsula News had a winning entry in the Society of Professional Journalists 2006 Excellence in Journalism Awards, which were announced in May. KP News executive editor Rodika Tollefson placed second in the nondaily newspaper category for government/political reporting.

The winning entry, titled "Landlocked residents want answers," was part of a series reporting about the dispute between residents of 144th Street (or Powerline Road), Tacoma Power, and Pierce County.

The Western Washington Pro Chapter of the SPJ, the sponsor of the annual contest, said it received more than 500 entries in various categories for the nondaily and magazine competitions.

Kilmer receives state award

Rep. Derek Kilmer was selected as the recipient of the Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) 2006 WEDA LEADER (Leadership in Economic Advancement, Economic Development and Effective Revitalization) appreciation award. He was one of five state lawmakers recognized for their "exceptional efforts" to improve the state economy.

WEDA members nominate legislators for this award following the legislative session each year. Typically, a legislator from each caucus who has displayed outstanding leadership qualities to enhance economic development receives the award. This year, in addition to the two awards, one was given to a team of three legislators from the Tri-Cities area.

Airplane crashes into Rocky Bay

By Frank Slater and Colleen Slater
KP News

A single-engine private airplane made an unexpected water landing in Rocky Bay in the late afternoon of May 18. The two men on board were able to get out and get to shore, one with a tow by local kayaker Ron Reynolds.

Reynolds, of Rocky Bay, was cleaning his car when his dad called him to see the plane upside down in the water.

"I went for my kayak and paddled out," Reynolds said.

Low tide and Reynolds' response facili-

tated the rescue, said Capt. Paul Bosch, public information officer with Fire District 16.

Two personal watercraft (PCs) were launched from Vaughn Bay boat ramp, manned by Dist. 16 Fire Chief Tom Lique and Tony Carr.

Tacoma Motor Sports had previously donated these PCs to be used for rescue operations by FD-16.

The 60-year-old plane, recently maintained, was headed for a private landing strip on Rocky Bay, when the pilot radioed he was experiencing engine trouble.

It was a joint rescue effort between Mason County and Pierce County sheriff's departments and Fire District 16, with helicopters from KOMO-4 and KING-5 television stations overhead broadcasting the breaking news to television audiences.

The 61-year-old pilot from University Place and his passenger were taken to a Tacoma area hospital for observation.

The firemen had some difficulty launching the PCs due to the low tide. At the end of the boat ramp was mud, and the truck had to move onto the beach, which was soft near the water's edge.

Peninsula Light board incumbents re-elected

By Keith Stiles
Special to KP News

The results of the annual election of three members to the Board of Directors of The Peninsula Light Co., the member-owned cooperative that supplies electrical power to Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula, were announced at the general membership meeting on May 1. The meeting was held at Peninsula Light headquarters in Purdy, with approximately 30 interested parties in the audience.

Although the three current members of the board whose positions were up for election were challenged by both board-nominated and petitioning candidates, sitting members Paul Alvestad, Nick Markovich, and Paula Florence were returned by comfortable margins. Of the approximately 26,000 ballots mailed to property owners in the area served by Peninsula Light, about 6,600 — sufficient to ratify the election — were returned and counted by an independent Seattle concern.

The announced voting totals for the

candidates were as follows: Alvestad 4,177, Markovich 3,453, Florence 3,114, Junge 2,579, Thompson 1,784, Sutich 1,580, Cahill 1,426, and Glein 1,343.

While there may have been less publicized issues on the minds of the aspiring candidates, the issue most spoken about publicly was that of opening all of the board meetings to the public, not just

the yearly general membership meeting where election results are announced and other issues may be on the agenda. Current board President Marc Jorgenson stated that consideration would be given to the idea of opening board meetings to the public, but made no promises, nor did he speak of any certain timetable for action or further announcements.

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

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Judge upholds herring pens 'cease and desist' order

By William C. Dietz
KP News

"After reviewing all information, planning staff has concluded that the appellant does not have nonconforming rights." That was the decision that came down April 21 from Hearing Examiner Mark E. Hurdelbrink regarding Administrative Appeal Case No. AA4-05, known locally as the herring pen operation in Mayo Cove. (To read the full text of the finding, visit KP News online at www.keypennews.com and click on the story.)

Since July 2005, KP News has been covering the ongoing dispute between Pierce County's Department of Planning and Land Services and Mayo Cove herring pen owner Derwin Hostetler. The county maintained that Hostetler lacked the permits necessary to operate the herring pens, while the marina operator continued to claim legal nonconforming rights, which, if valid, would allow him to continue the operation.

However, after review, the hearing examiner concluded that: "...There are

two conditions that are applicable when determining whether a use is legally nonconforming. First, the person asserting the right must show that they had a legally established use when the use began and second, that the use has not ceased for more than one continuous year. It appears that Mr. Hostetler operated this herring pen operation since 1968 or 1969. Pierce County does not have any record of shoreline permitting for herring pens or other aquacultural uses within Mayo Cove. The Department of Natural Resources lease only includes uses associated with commercial moorage float and marina services dock. There was not a specific provision relating to a herring pen operation. No evidence shows that the herring pen was ever legally established at the marina or elsewhere in Mayo Cove. It also appears that the location of the herring pens is outside the current leased area. Both photographic evidence and testimony from neighboring property owners indicate that the herring pen uses have not been continuous since 1969 which is a requirement for noncon-

forming rights to remain established. The cease and desist order should be upheld."

Dylan Stanley, one of the residents who opposed the herring pens, reacted to the hearing examiner's finding this way. "It's been a long process. I have mixed feelings. I'm not jumping for joy. It's good for some people and hard for others... I think everybody just wants a healthy bay."

So is the long-running fish story finally over? No, it isn't. According to Diedre Wilson, senior planner for Pierce County Planning, "They (Hostetler and his attorneys) filed an appeal May 3."

KP News obtained a copy of the Motion For Reconsideration, which reads in part: "The Motion for Reconsideration is based upon the fact that the substantial rights of the appellant have been materially affected, including, but not limited to: 1. Errors of Procedure and Misinterpretation of Fact, including the determination by the Hearing Examiner that Hydraulic Project Approval and a Section 10 Permit from United States Army Corps of Engineers was required for herring

pens in 1969..."

"They're also asking that the cease and desist order be lifted until the review of the motion for reconsideration is completed," Wilson adds.

The motion for reconsideration will go before Hurdelbrink — the same hearing examiner who found against the herring pens in the April 21 decision.

Will the next finding settle the matter? Not necessarily. According to Mark Luppino, code enforcement officer for Pierce County, "Mr. Hostetler has an opportunity to appeal the hearing examiner's decision. If so, it would go to Superior Court."

When asked what he will do if Hurdelbrink denies the motion for reconsideration, Hostetler says, "I would listen to my lawyer's advice on that."

And given the fact that similar herring operations have been approved elsewhere in the state, he could also apply for the permits the county says he needs, and could potentially receive them.

KP News will continue to follow the story.

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Editorial

Park district arrives at financial crossroads

Two years ago, the Key Peninsula voters elected to create a local metropolitan park district, one of the first jurisdictions to do so under a new state law. Many things were uncertain during that election. The biggest question on many voters' minds was how the new revenue, which came along with a metro district via the zoo/trek tax, would be spent fairly.

One answer was apparently clear: The funding, estimated at around \$100,000 per year, though dependent on the economy, would bring in five times more than the revenue estimated by the KP Parks and Recreation District that was eventually replaced by the KP Metro Parks. The funding would provide much-needed improvement to aging infrastructure, the campaign for the creation of the metro asserted. Unlike levies that the old park district frequently had to pass, the new district would not create more taxation, organizers of the campaign said.

The Key Peninsula News took a more skeptical approach at the time. Since the campaign for metro did not provide a budget scenario, we created our own based on estimates. It became clear that the \$100,000 projected revenue per year would be spent quickly. We speculated the new commissioners would soon have to impose the tax the district is allowed to have without a public vote.

The possibility of a tax has, indeed, been mentioned by the new board. It is a necessary step, if the district is to grow and to develop the 360-acre property pending state transfer. Such a project requires careful, long-term planning — and adequate funds.

However, as commissioners grapple with the budget, they voted to give themselves the option to take a stipend — contrary to another assertion made during the metro campaign. The commissioners, who work many hours for the public's benefit, perhaps should be compensated for some of their time. Their work requires dedication, time away from family and other commitments.

Yet we question the timing of their vote to allow stipends.

Powerline Road not the best alternative to State Route 302

By Ron Coen
Special to KP News

For the sake of providing some sense of balance and reality to the conversation concerning the proposed use of the Powerline road as an alternative for State Route 302, the following points need to be considered.

- Use of the Powerline road would significantly add to the congestion already being experienced on 302. Anyone who has been on the Powerline road knows that it actually becomes 302 at one point near the proposed park. This convergence would cause massive backups in both directions.

- With the expectation of 2,000 cars per day expected at the new park during the Key Peninsula Community Fair, at exactly the point where the Powerline and 302 become one, it means we would have Los Angeles type gridlock rather than the inconvenience we now have.

- Still more significant, if the plan is not to route 302 to the north of the Burley Lagoon, then 144th and 302 would have to come together again at the very

If the current count of cars at the bridge is already 12,000 over design limit, how will connecting the Powerline road to the bridge improve the situation?

narrow, two-lane Purdy bridge. If the current count of cars at the bridge is already 12,000 over design limit, how will connecting the Powerline road to the bridge improve the situation? As it is, on school days, Purdy bridge traffic is frequently backed up across the sand spit and up the Wauna hill. The only other possible access from the Peninsula is north of the Lagoon.

- The proposal to use the Powerline road ignores geography. The road goes over some of the steepest hills in the area. Anyone who has been on the current gravel road in the snow knows that navigating those hills is dangerous and difficult even without the opposing traffic we would have on a 302 alternate.

- The environmental impact of paving the Powerline road is significant. The

road crosses streams and cuts through the Minter Watershed, a designated environmentally sensitive area that many of us have been trying to protect with the help of the state over the years. These streams produce salmon and the runoff from the road would likely have significant impact on the salmon habitat and the downstream oyster beds.

- Use of the Powerline road would be an exceptionally expensive undertaking. Dealing with the environmental issues alone would be cost prohibitive. The likely need for a new bridge across the Burley Lagoon to accommodate the new road would only add to the burden.

Providing access to a new park, while nice, is not adequate justification for the millions of dollars such a project will cost.

Without question, Highway 302 needs improvement. It is very dangerous, especially at the 118th intersection, but using Powerline road as an alternative will not fix the problems on 302 and will only exacerbate the current problem and make driving 302 still more dangerous.

Ron Coen lives in Wauna.

Letters to the Editor

KPMPD thanks volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with Parks Appreciation Day for Key Peninsula Metro Park District. Parks bring tremendous benefits to people of all ages and to the community. We especially thank the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Key Center Ward, Ollala Ward, Burley Ward, and the following individuals: Todd Rosenbach, Shawn Brooks, Ray Montero, Grant Drees, Derek Roberts and Fred Ramsdell. Volunteers provided over 140 hours of time in three park locations — Rocky Creek Conservation Area, Purdy Spit, and Home Park.

*Scott Gallacher
KPMPD Director*

Thanks for story coverage

I just wanted to write and thank you for the outstanding coverage you did for the Hugh McMillan recognition. The

event was held after the deadline date, but the KP news staff went out of their way to include it in the paper. We are all very grateful for the articles you included in the May edition. I also want to add that the photos you provided for the slide show were exactly what was needed.

*Bill Macaras
Scouts Troop 220 Scoutmaster*

Residents watch out for the neighborhood

In response to your article, "People vs. Pit Bulls," I got so mad! "Our" neighborhood is safe because we do stick our noses in. This pit bull thing was reported by me and many of my neighbors over two years ago.

The dogs, 21 at the time, had no food no water and many of the dogs had ripped flesh, some with stitches. I reported this to the sheriff, we knew they were fighting the dogs we could hear them sometimes late at night. The sheriff sent me to the Humane Society,

who sent me back to the sheriff.

After a few weeks of calling anyone and everyone, I was told "he" has a temporary kennel license and he lives in Federal Way. As to your "big scary guys" comment. You try to turn in strange things. No one cared. I watched several times, file six, seven expensive city vehicles, with darkened windows, going down the dead end dirt road, to a vacant lot with dogs. Scary? You bet! Don't get me wrong, I'm glad it's over, but we have a fabulous neighborhood! And caring people who are watching.

*Cheryl McCarthy
Lakebay*

Reader likes newspaper

I look forward every month to receive (Key) Peninsula News. It has become my favorite newspaper. Your story lines, news clips and history pages are all so informative and enjoyable.

Keep up the good work.

*Becky Olsen
Longbranch*

FD-16 chief focused on adding personnel

By Irene Torres
KP News

Key Peninsula's Fire District No. 16 has moved forward under the direction of its new Chief Tom Lique, who had been acting chief since last year and officially as chief since Jan. 1. The KP News spoke with Lique recently to find out about the transition, his future goals, and the department's operations.

"I am feeling good about the direction of the department. I believe my experience and knowledge of the organization and the department, and its members' knowledge of me have made my transition smooth to this point," he said. "I believe my relationship with (the union) and elected members of the organization is based on a mutual respect of each of our roles in serving the citizens of the Key Peninsula. I believe morale is good and our members are excited about the future of the department."

Under the direction of a three-member Board of Commissioners, Lique manages the district's \$4 million annual budget, a staff of about 30 volunteer fire suppression and medical aid personnel, and 17 staff EMT/firefighters and paramedics. Lique said the citizens of the Key Peninsula have always been fair to the department when it came to meeting resource needs, supporting bonds to build stations and purchase equipment, and levy lid-lift support when needed.

He explained that minimum career staffing for the department is three members per shift, of which one member must be a certified paramedic and one must be an officer, comprising a guaranteed medic unit on duty each day. Lique believes a need exists for more staffing within the department, and stated, "My



Photo by Mindi LaRose

A crew from Key Pen-based Birch Electric, headed by foreman Brian Nerland, works at the site of the former Wauna Fire Station. The building was divided into two separate sections. One side will host Seabeck Pizza owned by Nick Reynolds. Funds from the sale of the station, which occurred last summer, will go toward expansion of the new fire station.

concern is on these minimum-staffed days, one 911 medical aid call and transport drops our in-district shift staff to one career member and any available volunteers. Using this model, back to back calls create the need to rely more on mutual aid responses from surrounding fire districts."

Volunteer members usually respond from their homes, based on their personal schedules and availability. A limited number live in the fire stations as "resident volunteers." Fifteen career staff work set 24-hour assignments. Two members, added to staff in September 2005, are assigned to a floating 24-hour

shift.

Lique said, "The addition of the floating shift has allowed us to increase staff to four members about 80 percent of the time (two medic crews), one stationed in Wauna and one in Home."

In 2004, a \$1.99 million levy was approved for the purchase of trucks and firefighting equipment. "To date we have purchased four 2004 fire engines, two 'Jaws of Life' style rescue tools, and we expect to receive this month a 2006 medium duty rescue truck. We are in the process of writing specs for one new tender and one command vehicle to be purchased as indicated with this levy,"

"The addition of the floating shift has allowed us to increase staff to four members about 80 percent of the time (two medic crews), one stationed in Wauna and one in Home."

-Tom Lique, new chief

Lique said.

Proceeds from last summer's sale of the old Wauna station, \$456,885.31, are in a construction fund, dedicated for use in adding a meeting/training wing to the new Station 1 in Wauna. Lique said, "At this time, the monies in the construction fund do not meet the projected cost of the project. The commissioners have indicated that monies from the operating budget would be used if this project is to be completed."

A community committee will seek voter approval on a levy lid-lift this fall. If the lift is approved, Lique said, "One of my priorities is that of additional personnel... Our assigned staffing would increase to seven career members per shift... three at the Wauna fire station and four at the Home fire station. With seven career members per shift, the scheduled staffing level can be maintained at five to six members.

"The auditor keeps a keen eye on how we use voter-approved monies. Special levies and bonds are obligated to purchase the items the public was told they would purchase."

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I.M.Pact House holds successful fund-raiser

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

More than 100 people attended the first-ever fund-raising effort in May by supporters of I.M.Pact House, the Key Peninsula's domestic violence shelter home.

Penny Gazabat, I.M.Pact House executive director and Key Pen resident, said, "We asked Patty and Lane Judson to speak at the luncheon because it is important for our community to hear from them after the 2003 murder of their daughter, Crystal, at the hands of her husband, former Tacoma Police Chief David Brame. It is important for our community to know what has happened in the wake of this tragedy and to shed light on the need to have local domestic violence resources available in every community."

Patty Judson shared with the audience the daughter she and husband Lane had presented to the world, the young woman whose life was ended by the tactics of an abuser. Silence filled the room as she began to describe Crystal as a vibrant, intelligent, beautiful young woman who accomplished many goals she set for herself.

"At Mt. Tahoma High School," said Patty Judson, "she was a cheerleader and in the honor society. In college she did modeling, learned to speak French fluently, and was a sign language interpreter. She enjoyed tennis and ice skating along with ballet and was a ballet teacher. She received her BA in criminal justice from the University of Washington and met David while doing an internship for the Tacoma Police Department as an undercover officer for the vice squad."

Judson described David Brame's control tactics after they married. She said he used intimidation, isolation, humiliation, emotional and physical abuse along with economic control, allowing Crystal only \$200 a month for everything she and the children needed at a time when he made \$150,000 a year. Judson's message to the audience was to learn the "red flags of abuse so that the people we care about can live a life free of domestic violence."

Lane Judson spoke of his promise to his daughter the day she died of a gunshot wound to her head. He said it "took two and a half years to get the 'Crystal Clear Act,' Senate Bill 6161, passed to provide national protocols for officer-involved

domestic violence."

The bill also provides funding for the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center in Tacoma. "While this justice center is a step in the right direction in providing services to victims of abuse, it is not the silver bullet," he said. "Every community needs to have resources like I.M.Pact House for victims of abuse."

He emphasized, "As a majority of domestic violence is committed by men, we need to do all we can to get them involved in helping to solve this epidemic. Our job as men in this community is to hold men who choose to abuse their families accountable. As men in this community, it is our responsibility to ensure they know we will not condone abusive behavior."

A letter from "Beth," a victim/survivor who stayed at I.M.Pact House, closed the program. It described what she lost as a victim of abuse. "I lost everything I had ever known, my car, my home, my belongings, my children, and nearly my life. I.M.Pact House helped me regain my self-image and re-established me in the community with a fully furnished apartment."

"Beth" was reunited with her children



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Pastor John Ricciade, chair of Key Peninsula's I.M.Pact (Interdenominational Missions Pact), addresses the audience at its first ever fund-raising luncheon in May at Gig Harbor's Best Western Wesley Inn.

and entered college to pursue a degree. She said, "I.M.Pact House matters. It matters to women like me who have nowhere else to go, who would be lost and become just another statistic. I am not a statistic, I am a survivor."



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"I've learned... That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it" (author unknown)

MYSFACE.COM: An Internet addiction for teens everywhere

By Kristie Byrd
Special to KP News

Internet addictions don't seem very likely to some, but Myspace.com is changing that. With over 68 million registered accounts, the Webpage has become the world's fifth most popular Website.

On the site, there are many features. There are blogs, which are a sort of diary to write in and is posted on your page. There are also sections such as "about me," "who I'd like to meet," and "interests." This tells other people what you like and the type of person you are when they view your profile. You can also upload pictures for everyone to view and comment on. Myspace comes with an email account, bulletins for your friends to see, videos, music, and instant messaging. One of the most addicting aspects of the site is the

creation of your profile. You can change your background color, the scrollbar type, the font size and color, and much more.

This Website, however, isn't as pleasant as it seems. Many crimes have been linked to Myspace. Young teenagers give out personal information that makes it easy for them to get tracked down and possibly assaulted. Threats of school shootings have also been posted on Myspace accounts. On the Webpage, it is hard to tell fact from fiction.

Tom Anderson, the founder of Myspace, requires a minimum age of 14. The problem is, many of the Myspace users lie about their age and sign up anyway. Some schools and public libraries in the United States and the United Kingdom have tried to restrict access to Myspace because of all the gossip and malicious comments made there. In fact, some private schools have

tried to ban Myspace access at home.

When students at Key Peninsula Middle School were asked if they had a Myspace account, over 130 of them said they did.

"I usually spend about four hours a night on Myspace," said a KPMS eighth-grader. "I think it is addicting because it is the only time I get to spend talking to all of my friends. During school time, you only get to talk a little bit and without Myspace, I would be on the phone for a long time, so my parents actually don't mind the Webpage. I'd say that some kids do give out too much information on Myspace, but I don't and most of my friends don't, either."

In contrast, a ninth grader at Peninsula High School said: "I am not on Myspace for very long. I'd say for only 30 minutes to an hour. The thing I find most addicting is messaging and picture comments. I do think that teens sometimes give out too much information but I limit mine to my name, age, and the basics. To stay safe, I only add people to my friends list that I know."

Another KPMS eighth-grade student added, "I am on Myspace from basically the time I get home, until the time I go to bed, which is a long time. I think it's so addicting because you get to make

Tom Anderson, the founder of Myspace, requires a minimum age of 14. The problem is, many of the Myspace users lie about their age and sign up anyway.

layouts for your page and you get to customize it exactly how you want it. Also, you can meet new people and stay in touch with your friends. Some teens do give out too much information, which leads to bad things, but I don't. I think that as long as you're not putting your last name and what school you go to, it's fine."

This Internet site is growing with every new account made. To some adults, it's a bad place to be because of all the personal information passed around, but to teen-agers, it's just another place to hang out and talk to their friends. So is it an Internet addiction? The students at KPMS and PHS have confirmed the answer.

Kristie Byrd is an eighth-grade student at KPMS and a member of the school's student paper, Eye of the Cougar.

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Show & Tell

Minter Creek Elementary teacher Robin Horne receives the Ellen Fay Award for excellence in teaching from Superintendent Jim Coolican at the May Peninsula School Board meeting held at Key Peninsula Middle School.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson



Below, PHS students hold a dog and car wash for a senior project for Katie Stone (pictured in the center, background). The dog wash alone raised over \$350 for the Young Life middle school program.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Vaughn Elementary fifth grade teacher Anne Puckett is the recipient of a \$500 check under a "Cash for Class" program. The class received the money from a fund-raising company for making the most sales during the fund-raiser, which helps sponsor field trips and other events.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Left to right, Evergreen Elementary third grader Nathan Greenley, community volunteer Robin Roe, school librarian Jody McDougall, PTA President Kary Wilkinson and teacher Sabra Stratford show their appreciation to Larson Anthropological Services and Baillie and Associates, the sponsors of the annual dinner and dance benefit that raises funds for Evergreen's reading program. Geoff Baillie, president of the school board, also teaches harmonica after school at Evergreen.

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Music, imagination, and Mrs. Mary Farr

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Hearing footsteps, Mary Farr leans out the music studio doorway and flashes a welcoming grin. She is the music department's Energizer Bunny, an effervescent, lively music-specialist team-teacher of kindergarten through fifth grade at Vaughn Elementary School.



The music facilities at the school boast a professional sound system, wide assortment of instruments, and a collection of beautifully-crafted unusual drums, all thanks to the creativity of one of Farr's third-grade classes whose performance she entered several years ago in an Oscar Meyer contest. She proudly shows off their winning entry, which garnered the school \$10,000 for its music program.

Farr's lifelong love of music began on the family farm in Pennsylvania, when her mother insisted her 10 children all learn piano. Farr earned her first teaching credential in elementary education, intending to teach kindergarten. During her entire teaching career, she has always worked in elementary schools.

"Teaching is a high-energy job," she says. "It is a gift to be able to work with children, and every day has to be like it's the first time."

She explains that children sense if their teacher is not enthusiastic about the material. Even though she may have taught the same song to six different classes in the same day, every year for many years, each time she teaches it, she makes it "the first time," so the children's learning experience is not diminished.

Farr received her master's degree in special education and worked in preschool programming in Maryland, in early childhood and parent education, and as a resource room teacher for 20 years, most recently in Tacoma. Then, 10 years ago, she reinvented her career at Vaughn Elementary, where at the time there was no music curriculum in place. Creating the program as she went, she at

first used borrowed instruments from another school for her students. Now, funded by her own ingenuity, a supportive principal, and the talent she sees in her students, she explores the many ways music enhances education.

"I love using my special education background to teach music," she says, "because it is very inclusive. I tell my students that (making) music is like making a cake. We have different layers of skills — and it pulls the children together into a community."

Every student at Vaughn Elementary sits in Farr's music circle twice weekly. Shy students hold stuffed animals when they're feeling unsure about new material. New students and others needing one-on-one time can try instruments during Farr's planning hours.

"My job is to inspire students to get a taste of what music is," she says, adding that being comfortable in the classroom and having fun is the result of a solid plan and the administration's respect for the music/arts program.

Farr has a high regard for her principal, Mike Benoit. "He inspires staff each day to improve upon the day before," she says.

Farr's music rollicks over into her private life. At one time, she played guitar and sang locally in the Ricky Snickers Band. "My husband was our roadie," she says with a chuckle. Now she hosts "Monday Nights at Mary's," a musician get-together, in her professional music studio.

Farr and her husband sail during summer, and she is an avid fiction reader. She has a daughter in college, and attends summer school herself, most recently "New England Dance Masters" instruction for teachers. She plans to teach her students contra dancing, a blend of Irish sets and Scottish reels, then host a school function where the students teach their parents.

Farr delights in being "discovered" by her young students as just an ordinary person running errands. "They can't believe it. Mrs. Farr! At the store!" she says, her eyes twinkling. "Because they think I live at school."

A former student recently called Farr to volunteer-teach her students for his senior service project at Peninsula High.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Mary Farr engages a class of fifth graders into exploring the elements of music (rhythm, tempo, timbre, and melody) by participating with a partner in moving streamers to match the elements and the mood of a few excerpts of classical music. The lesson was geared to prepare the class for a field trip to a Tacoma Symphony Orchestra performance.

As a fourth grader at Vaughn Elementary, Tommy Heard was intrigued with the drums, and when he got his first snare drum, he brought it to school.

"I didn't know anything about music before Mrs. Farr's class; she inspired me to keep learning," he says.

Since then, Heard has played music. He arrives at school at 6:30 every morning to play in the jazz band, Razzmatazz, among other musical venues. He chose Farr's classroom because it was both his way of learning to do something new, and to give back something of value to his community. Heard doesn't know if playing the drums will become a profession, but says, "Music will definitely not disappear from my life."

Other former students occasionally attend younger siblings' music programs at Vaughn Elementary. After the

"I didn't know anything about music before Mrs. Farr's class; she inspired me to keep learning."

-Tommy Heard

program, sometimes they ask Farr, "Do you remember me?" She says she might need just the tiniest hint; then, where the nearly-grown student stands waiting to be recognized, she "sees" a second grader who was afraid to sing. Too precious to be forgotten, the student leaves feeling good, remembered by a teacher who made a difference.



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(From **KMPD**, Page 1)

that September evening. Salatino said, "That's all I wanted to know," and sat down, satisfied that the intentions of the departing park board would be honored.

According to current KMPD board president, Paula DeMoss, at the outset of organizing the district, some individuals firmly opposed any kind of compensation for the new commissioners. She said there were misgivings that, with compensation attached, perhaps those who might run — and be elected — may not have the best interests of the area in mind.

As a governmental body, the board is required to address the subject of compensation annually. Delayed from winter this calendar year, on May 8, 2006, four of the five current park district commissioners voted in favor of Resolution No. R 2006-03, "...Establishing Commissioner Compensation." Those voting for the resolution were DeMoss, Vice President Jerry Schick, and members-at-large Ross Bischoff and Caril Ridley. Clinton, board clerk, abstained, although she did sign the resolution as a member of the board "to show solidarity."

The resolution states the procedures for reporting and paying compensation (up to \$70 per day). These include submittal of a Commissioner Compensation Form, and conditions under which a commissioner may request compensation (a day or portion of a day devoted to official business of the district and otherwise case-by-case). Regarding district business outside of official public board meetings, the resolution states that compensation is not an entitlement, "unless compensation for such business of the district is pre-approved by the board on a case-by-case basis." Adoption of the resolution does not preclude any commissioner from choosing to waive compensation at any time. This can be accomplished simply by "written waiver filed with the clerk... anytime after the commissioner's election and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid." It is up to each commissioner to determine if, when, and for how long they might consider either taking or waiving compensation for hours spent in service on the board.

In an email statement to KP News, Ridley wrote, "I've never opposed compensation for commissioners elected to represent their community. As a long-time volunteer, I wholeheartedly support reasonable compensation and recognize that community service should never be exclusive to people affording their own agenda. Therefore, I believe reasonable compensation for services required offers

everybody an opportunity to serve without personal loss, whatever their financial situation. Reasonable compensation attracts the support, the quality guidance and effective decision making our growing district deserves."

At the May 8 meeting, according to the minutes, Schick presented the compensation resolution. DeMoss said "she would not object to compensation for pre-approved out-of-district events, but commissioners should not expect compensation for regular board meetings," to which Bischoff agreed.

In a brief discussion of the resolution at the May 22 meeting, commenting to the board that KP News was attempting to acquire information about the resolution, DeMoss said, "This is a touchy subject. We put in extra hours outside the meetings — it takes time; gas costs... (This) more or less covers our expenses to allow us to pursue the 360 (acre park) acquisition. It is a personal choice to accept compensation."

Schick added that "it would be exceedingly difficult for any one commissioner to come to that maximum (\$6,720)." Concerned about news coverage, DeMoss said, "I desperately do not want an article to be written wrong on this topic." She directed Scott Gallacher, park district director, to put together a press release for commissioner-approval to be given to local newspapers at some point in the near future. The press release was not available at press time. Bischoff and Schick did not respond to email requests for interviews.

In an interview after the meeting of May 22, DeMoss said she thought any requests

for compensation would amount to less than \$500 by year-end. She also said that even for that amount, "there was no way" to budget it in without deleting something else. The May 8 minutes indicate a discussion ensued regarding "personal choice" and the Peninsula Metro Park District in Gig Harbor, whose five commissioners' compensation are both budgeted and taken. Clinton "reminded the commissioners that should one or all ask for compensation, that would 'bust the budget,'" the minutes said.

The new resolution prompted Gallacher, who reports to the five commissioners, to say in an interview, "We're going to have to revisit the budget. The commissioners attend two meetings a month — three to five or six hours apiece. They also have other things that come to them from me. Fire district commissioners are paid for their meetings — and other county elected officials have small stipends. My hope is they (the commissioners) don't take the full amount; there is nothing in the budget for it. But they should be paid. If we had to pay someone to put in the amount of time they spend on parks issues, it would cost a lot more (than what they're allowed to take). There has to be some value attached to that."

The actual budget to minimally run Volunteer Park, and bare-bones maintaining of Home Park and Rocky Creek Conservation Area since the district's inception in March 2004, is as follows: 2004 annual (rounded) total: \$67,500 with monthly average of \$9,600; 2005 annual total: \$122,600 with monthly average of \$10,200; 2006 to date: \$49,800 with monthly average of \$9,900.

Pierce County is currently enjoying the greatest increase in retail sales tax since 1990, (up 11.3 percent, according to Washington State Department of Revenue), which is reflected in the increase in the KMPD's share of the zoo/trek tax. The park district's challenge is that the district's population is growing, and with it, park usage. The commissioners are intent on land-banking more property, which, according to Ed Taylor, an audience member at the May 22 meeting, "can be done in a way that doesn't cost any money — if you do it right."

Current parks have plenty of deferred maintenance, while the budget stays virtually the same. "Parks are important for economic development of an area," Gallacher said. "People don't always want to pay for them, but they want them. Sometimes you have to pay for what you want."

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Funding issues ahead for KP Metro Park District

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Peninsula Metro Park District in Gig Harbor has a generous budget for employees, improvements, equipment and materials, and funding to support it through a variety of means, including a 2006 property tax assessment. Contrast this with Key Peninsula Metro Park District (KPMPD), whose director, Scott Gallacher, is the district's only full-time employee (he employs one seasonal employee as well). The district's three parks are miles apart, and the district has neither truck nor trailer to use for hauling bark, gravel, fence posts, etc. The district's 1980s field tractor has thousands of hours on it and an oil leak. Gallacher used some of his own tools to construct the new trail signs at Rocky Creek Conservation Area, and when he first arrived at his new position, he also furnished the first aid kit.

Gallacher acknowledges that in the past, "This community has done a lot with nothing, and that's great. One person brought these tools, someone else had those skills; they put something together that worked with what they had."

He goes on to explain the difference between building with commercial wear-and-tear in mind, and using whatever materials are at hand. For instance, when the concession facility was renovated, the floor received two coats of epoxy, and the walls were surfaced with a commercial-grade product. Those materials were more expensive at the outset, but, he says, "You only have to do them once. We risk park liability by using (substandard) materials for commercial use."

Having been on the job now for over 12 months, Gallacher is in a common-sense position to assess the day-to-day needs of the park district properties. "I'm in the public service business," he says. "I could use another maintenance person full time (and keep them busy year round with projects). The park district needs to plan six years out — think in the future... The population and demand on/for services is not



At the Livable Community Fair in May, KPMPD Commissioners Ross Bischoff and Kip Clinton show the conceptual master plan for the 360-acre park to be transferred from the state.

Photo by
Mindi LaRose

declining, it's increasing. That is not going to stop."

KPMPD board President Paula DeMoss agrees that Volunteer Park has deferred maintenance issues using thousands of budget dollars, and that the park will eventually be inadequate to meet increased public demands. She said there is no way for the park district to meet the increased demand for services on its present budget.

Not surprisingly, because he confronts the need daily, Gallacher advocates at park board meetings for a property tax assessment. "We can't plan, acquire and/or maintain park properties relying on the (subsistence) zoo/trek funds; they are like a yo-yo, tied to the economy and cannot be counted on," he says. "Of course, I have a proposed budget, but I never know from month to month what is really coming in. For the park district to grow and expand services, we need to build infrastructure, and it cannot be done on the current budget."

That statement is an echo of statements made in an article in the April 2004 issue of KP News by Byron Olson, director of management and budget for Tacoma's metro parks district. He said the zoo/trek tax fluctuated with the economy. "You try and forecast as best you can. You work with folks to create an economic forecast based on past history," he told KP News.

KPMPD Commissioner Kip Clinton is sympathetic with this dilemma. As recently as the week of May 15, she said, "Frankly, I think we will have to ask the public for a levy to match capital improvement grants," possibly as early as next year. She acknowledged that the district needs a master plan to go after grants. The old park board thought they had one in a document researched and crafted by former Key Peninsula resident Simon Priest. However, due to copyright

issues stated in a letter received in May, it appears that document may not be available to use. A major grant source has a June 1 deadline, and the prospect of meeting it is remote.

Gallacher's experience with funding is that public or private grant agencies, and those of the local, state, and federal government, like to fund projects "when multiple collaborations and individuals step up to be involved as well."

"They don't like to be asked for money when you (the district, in this case) are not giving money also, especially governmental granting agencies," he says.

Commissioner Caril Ridley says, "Popular parks tradition tells us, 'If you build it they will come'... Building for the future requires financial backing... donations, grants, project-levies and sometimes tax-allocations designed to build infrastructure that eventually bring future profits and create self-sustainability. The Key Peninsula's parks district has been traditionally underfunded... unable to grow beyond its original Volunteer Park facilities and expand land resources for a growing district. (We) understand this region's potential for growth and recognize our mandate to build effective foundations for future parks, recreation and leisure time activity... A healthy community doesn't just happen. Creating a progressive society requires citizens offering as well as receiving."

DeMoss believes the more people who move to the peninsula, the easier it will be to get funding, because people will want to "support the park district." She avoids words like "tax assessment" and "levy," although she says if one had to be used, a tax assessment makes more sense than a levy, which has costs associated with it. The district can impose a limited tax without public vote.

She says, "We will not do anything

without public support. We are trying our best to (show people that we want to) make the 360 acre park benefit everyone on the peninsula."

As a guest speaker at the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board meeting May 17, Gallacher shared with the committee members and audience the vision of KPMPD for park lands both under its jurisdiction, and those it hoped to acquire in the near future (360-acre park on SR 302/144th Street and possibly the Purdy Spit). He exhibited newly acquired conceptual maps of the proposed 360-acre park, and described the property's topography. He spoke of plans to install equipment, continue land-banking for future parks, and build an extensive trail system.

In answer to a question from fire commissioner and planning board member Jim Bosch regarding funding, he replied, "We're small. We're trying to collaborate with everybody — grants, nonprofits..."

Another board member asked, "How are you hoping to acquire this land?" Gallacher said they were hoping to get the 360-acre land as a gift from the state through a land transfer from the Department of Natural Resources. "So," asked Bosch, "you basically don't have any money to buy land if somebody doesn't give it to you?" To which Gallacher answered, "That's correct."

Other audience members suggested KPMPD focus on current park ownership and install playground equipment. Gallacher replied that he would be happy to do that, if he had the budget for it. Everything comes back to the budget — to money, the lack of it, and the need for it to meet the desires of park users.

In an article in the April 2004 issue of the KP News, Ben Thompson, then chair of the Key Peninsula Metro Park Formation Committee, and Mike Salatino, commissioner for the now-dissolved Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District, maintained that creating a metro park district would "not only provide a stable source of funding but also relieve the peninsula's taxpayers of the need to pass special levies."

"There aren't going to be new taxes as a direct result of the creation of the district," Thompson told the KP News at the time.

Two years after those words were spoken, the relatively new district finds itself long on projects both needed and desired, and short on funding. The director and a few of the commissioners say they believe that to grow the park system everyone seems to want, hard choices will need to be made, and soon.

A look back: Sen. Bob Oke reflects on 16 years in state Senate

By Christopher Britton
Special to KP News

In 1985, at the age of 44, Bob Oke thought his life was winding down. Little did the recently retired Navy veteran realize as he was reeling in a salmon during one of his many fishing trips to Manchester, near Port Orchard, that his true calling in life was about to begin.

Oke's political career actually sputtered to life four years later, after two failed attempts at unseating then-incumbent Rep. Wes Pruitt in 1986 and again in '88. Oke finally was elected to the state Senate in 1990, defeating incumbent Bill Smitherman in a contentious race.

What transpired over the following 16 years would prove to be among the most tumultuous, controversial, and perhaps rewarding periods in Oke's life, culminating in the passage of an anti-tobacco sampling bill protecting children, enjoying the honor of having a Centralia pheasant game farm named after him, and winning a hard-fought victory on the successful passage of the second Tacoma Narrows Bridge project.

In the midst of all of this, he was diagnosed in 2004 with multiple myeloma, a rare form of blood cancer. Despite his initial recovery, the cancer has returned, and he is currently undergoing chemotherapy to fight his illness. Oke, a Republican representing the 26th Legislative District, will not run for re-election this year at the end of his term.

In spite of this latest struggle, Oke still finds the time to actively serve his community. Just hours before this interview, he could be found at Voyager Elementary School visiting with students who wrote him thank-you letters expressing their gratitude for the passage of the anti-tobacco bill.

Oke, his wife, Judy, and their three Brittany spaniels (Abbey, Princess and Isi) spent an afternoon relaxing at their 5-acre homestead in Port Orchard and reflecting back on his 16 years in the Washington State Senate.



Photo by Christopher Britton
Sen. Bob Oke and his wife, Judy.

KP News: What do you consider to be your greatest/proudest achievement while serving in the state Legislature?

Oke: Passage of the bill to end the giving away of free cigarettes and chewing tobacco in Washington state. That was a six-year experience, and it was one of the last bills approved by the House this year. I think this will do more in keeping tobacco products away from our kids than anything else we've been able to do.

KPN: Was this an effort on the part of the tobacco industry to market tobacco products to children?

Oke: What was happening was at that time, some five or six years ago [the tobacco companies] weren't paying any attention to the law because the law wasn't paying any attention to them... Of the 80 percent to 85 percent of smokers that start, start at the age of 17 or less, and they kill 440,000 people every year, so those are the people they have to replace.

KPN: Do you feel like you have any unfinished business in the Legislature?

Oke: Right now, no. I had told them with about a week to go [prior to the close of the 2006 session] that "if you people don't pass that [tobacco] sampling bill, I'm going to run again—which would have been very difficult—and I'm going to win my seat, and then I'm going to go over to campaign against Bill Grant [D-Walla Walla], who's been holding it up for six years."

KPN: If it were possible to go back to any time during your tenure in Olympia, what one thing would you change or do differently?

Oke: That's a difficult one... maybe doing more of visiting schools and the

kids. I enjoyed it, and I think they got a lot out of those visits. They would come down and visit me in Olympia, too, and I always tried to make sure that I gave time to the groups. Sometimes we would be in some critical, critical voting phase and it would be hard to get over and visit with them. But I tried to make it to every group and spend close to a half-hour with them.

KPN: What do you see as the Key Peninsula's most pressing issue in the next five to 10 years?

Oke: I think Highway 302. You know what's surprised me in 16 years? To my knowledge, I can't remember anyone asking me to widen or do something with the bridge, the Purdy Bridge. I mean, it's just too narrow. It's like the Tacoma Narrows Bridge... I've been surprised there hasn't been a push for something there, because it's a backup, in fact, we're backing up traffic clear to [State Route] 16 in the evenings now.

It's a dangerous road. We're doing some things to the road, but there needs to be a major improvement. One of the improvements we're hoping to do would be a road a little north from Purdy, which would be a straight shot through to the highway that goes through Shelton. It's on the list of things to do, but there's no money to do it.

On both sides of the [Narrows] bridge we're now spending about \$350 million for the connectors all the way to Nalley-Valley, and then the last piece, we'll pump \$425 million to fix [the Tacoma Dome area]. So we're getting a lot of money and all of that will affect, certainly, the Key Peninsula.

KPN: What was your greatest disappointment?

Oke: Probably back to the sampling [bill], why it took six years. It makes me mad at times. We could have had the bill passed in the first year, we had the votes, and may have saved a lot of young people from getting started.

KPN: What do you consider to be the most significant event (state, national, local, or otherwise) to ever occur during your 16 years in the Legislature?

Oke: For me it's the second Tacoma Narrows Bridge... We received hate mail... Four or five years back, [Penny Drost, a staff member] called one day, and she said, "Bob, I think you and Judy need to give up on this bridge. It's becoming dangerous." When I would go to a meeting in Gig Harbor, the local police would wait for me to escort me to the car... The brochures they put out against me in the two elections were really ugly.

KPN: Have you endorsed anyone in

particular for your position?

Oke: I've endorsed Jim Hines. He's been very active in [promoting Jessica's Law regarding sex offenders]. He would be a good legislator. I think he would do a good job in the Senate. Lois McMahan, my desire is for her to stay in the House. She's familiar with it.

KPN: What do you feel to be the most controversial issue you've dealt with as a lawmaker?

Oke: The second bridge, no question about it.

KPN: Why do you feel it was controversial?

Oke: We had six projects selected by companies all over the world, and the Tacoma Narrows project was the only one that survived... The real thing that killed the other five projects was that the word got out that we were going to charge tolls on existing highways, and that was not true. We were going to charge tolls on new portions of highway, and it's going to happen. We're going to build toll lanes and let people decide if they want to pay more money or wait in line.

KPN: So the controversy was based on the erroneous information that the existing roads would have tolls placed on them?

Oke: Yeah, and the fervor of the people that came to Olympia was awesome. I've never seen one issue get people so stirred up like that particular issue. And the legislators were running scared. They didn't want any part of something so many people were against paying for, but I knew there was no viable option without tolls and I never considered not supporting the second Tacoma Narrows Bridge project.

KPN: Do you plan to participate in public life in the future?

Oke: I've let the governor know that I would enjoy...being on the Fish and Wildlife Commission. There are nine members, and that's really the area that I've focused on so much in my 16 years, is improving hunting and fishing, the quality for outdoor recreation, and state parks. We're losing so much, and there can be tremendous benefits for families and the state in supporting those issues.

KPN: What are your plans after your recovery?

Oke: I like to hear the question like that. I really haven't made any firm plans, because there are very few things that are firm in my life, right now, but Sunday at church we were exposed to lots of local things they are trying to do for people. It's a mentorship program [for kids]. Getting out and sharing my story with others seems to be a benefit

Homerun Concessions a hit at Volunteer Park

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

After working several years in the school lunch program for two school districts, Kristi Adams decided she'd had enough of trying to do her job somebody else's way, and left to find other employment. When her husband, Brent, current president of Key Peninsula Little League, said he had found her a new job, she wasn't keen on the prospect of going back into food services. Until she learned he was talking about starting her own seasonal enterprise in the unused concession building at Volunteer Park.

Homerun Concessions opened its doors on April 6. Key Peninsula Metro Park District Director Scott Gallacher said the building had stood empty for several years, due to disrepair and lack of resources to correct the deficiencies. Early in 2005, KPMPD spent upwards of \$20,000 on deferred maintenance, upgraded the kitchen, and brought heat into the building to bring it into county code compliance. Gallacher was pleased to say that after repair work was complete, the newly renovated facility passed its health



The concession stand at Volunteer Park, which has been vacant for a long time, now has regular hours.

Photo by
Chris Fitzgerald

inspection the first time around.

In March, he put out a request for proposals to have the concession open again.

"When people are down at the park during a tournament, or all day on Saturday, they want to have food," he said.

When no proposals were forthcoming, his intentions were to hire someone to run the facility.

"It made no sense at all to have the building sit vacant (after having spent the

money to remodel it)," he said. Meanwhile, Brent Adams had been observing the construction while running Little League tryouts. The timing was just right for both KPMPD and Adams to put together a seasonal lease. During the Little League season from April through the end of August, the concession will provide additional rental revenue to the park district and serve park patrons.

Adams kept the menu to what a baseball park devotee would expect: hot dogs,

hamburgers, chips. The absence of a fryer simplified health department permits, and keeps grease cleanup to a minimum, although she says if she runs the concession again next year, she has had so many requests for fries, she will probably add one.

"I am very pleased," she said, noting she's meeting great people, and having fun at the same time. She loves being her own boss, having the ability to run the kitchen efficiently, and making her own choices. The concession is open weekdays from 4:30 until 8:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. Adams just added breakfast sandwiches to the Saturday menu, and has hired a part-time employee to assist.

In planning to open the business, the couple called upon relatives in the restaurant industry to help determine a realistic startup cost and budget. Kristi is happy to report they opened with the inventory and supplies she had intended, and had the greater part of that startup cost still in the bank. Only in business for about six weeks now, Adams says she is doing much better than breaking even, something few new businesses can boast.

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High times at low tide on Purdy Spit

Community invited to beach walk

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Shellfish Partners, a new Pierce County program aimed at educating the public in ways to safeguard water quality and protect shellfish resources, is holding its first community event, a beach walk, at the Purdy Spit in June. Coordinated by the core group made up of Pierce County Water Programs, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and the Pierce Conservation District, Shellfish Partners invites individuals, businesses, schools and organizations interested in protecting the environment to join with them.

"Changing the Tide" is the motto of the organization, whose goal is to "help people better understand the relationships between land use and water quality, and teach better strategies for waste disposal and water quality management." The organization wants to foster community support to ensure that shellfish harvested in Pierce County are safe to eat; when water is clean enough to keep shellfish beds open, beaches are safe for swimming and recreation, too.

Many actions that protect shellfish take place on land near water and shorelines. On June 24 at extreme low tide (11:08 a.m., minus 2.8 tide), participants can begin to learn more about beaches, shellfish, water quality, and responsible use of natural resources.

Shellfish Partners hopes that by introducing people to the plants and animals living on the tidelands and discussing some of the issues faced in keeping marine and surface water clean, everyone can work together more effectively in preventing beach closures for swimming, fishing and shellfish harvesting.

The event begins at 10 a.m., includes lunch at the Beach House restaurant, and concludes at 3 p.m. Four guest presenters include Alan Rammer, a conservation education program specialist for shellfish and marine fish education at the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Teri King, the marine water quality specialist for the Washington Sea Grant Program,

will be sharing expertise, as will Leslie Banigan, Kitsap County Health District's pollution identification and correction coordinator. Banigan is currently working with Burley Lagoon to correct failing septic systems and educate the public on water quality concerns.

Tim Kezele, with the Key Peninsula Historical Society, was invited by the Puget Sound Action Team (Shellfish Partners and KGA Watershed Council) to provide a display and share a natural history perspective of the peninsula. His presentation will take place in the Beach House meeting room, where he will also be available to answer questions about the natural history of the Key Peninsula.

Pre-registration is required. There is no fee. For information, call 866-845-9485.

Six Fire District 16 personnel promoted

Fire District 16 promoted six firefighters, who officially received their new badges at a May fire commissioners' meeting. The promotions were what Chief Tom Lique characterized as a way to bring stability to the department. Pictured here are Chuck West, promoted to division chief of support services and technical services, receiving the badge from his wife, Sharon, and Guy Allen, promoted to division chief of operations, receiving his badge from Commissioner Jim Bosch.

West, a longtime Key Peninsula resident, started as a volunteer firefighter with the district in 1983 and has been a career firefighter for 20 years. Allen, who has been acting as division chief since last July, joined the KP Fire District in 1999 as a lieutenant from



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Blaine.

Also promoted were: Robert Bosch and Mike Riegler to captain and Bill Sawaya and Gary Way to lieutenant. Bosch, a longtime KP resident who started with the department as a volunteer in 1984, has been a career firefighter/paramedic since 1991. Riegler, also a longtime volunteer, has been a career firefighter/paramedic since 1991. Way, who had lived here for 30 years, started as a volunteer in 1989 and became career personnel three years later. Sawaya, a Peninsula High School graduate who grew up on the Key Pen but has since moved away, also started as a volunteer, in 1994, and became a career firefighter in 1997, eventually also being certified as a paramedic.

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June 3 – Civic Center dance

The Civic Center presents the “Jazz in June” dance to be held on Saturday, June 3. Tickets are \$20 with dinner and \$15 for the dance only.

On May 13, the Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair was held at the Civic Center. A BIG thanks goes to Dennis Taylor from Safe Streets, whose remarkable organizational skills put it all together. Thanks to the committees who helped: Kim Bauer, Lloyd Miller, Ruth Bramhall, Joe Rudolph, Bill Macaras with Boy Scout Troop #220, and Phil Bauer.

Volunteers are needed for the Civic Center Board. New board members with different ideas and perspectives are needed. Many, many youth at the center are served; parents - get involved. Your help is needed! The time commitment is only 3-4 hours per month.

Remember the ongoing classes: karate; tennis; ballet; dance; clogging and Friday night skating, (last skate of season on June 16). Civic Center also hosts church services, Minter Mutts 4-H group, KP Medicine Wheel, and Scouts. If you are interested in any of the above call the office Monday – Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 884-3456.

—By Phil Bauer, President

June 7 – Community Planning Board

The next public meetings for the Pierce County-Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are Wednesday, June 7 and Wednesday, June 21, 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library. The board is currently working on policy development regarding Parks, Recreation, and Open Space. Information at www.piercecountywa.org/landuse.

June 10 — Vaughn Union High reunion

A reminder to all of the classmates who attended Vaughn Union High — there will be a reunion on Saturday, June 10, at the old school. The time to come and share some of those old memories will start at 2 p.m. Catered dinner at 4 p.m.

The museum, located in what used to be the library, will be open and there is a World War II display of items saved since the war years. The class pictures and old Tattlers are also there for viewing. The last year it was used as a high school was 1947.

For more information, call 884-9123.

June 10 – Horsemanship series

The Natural Horsemanship series continues Saturday, June 10. Cost is \$10 per person. Chuck Kraft will address horse psychology, handling safety, ground manners, trailer loading, round penning, desensitizing, and preparation for trail riding. This “Nature of the Horse” event will be held at the Sweetwater Corral near Carney Lake. The address is 14621 180th Ave. KPN. Kraft says, “It’s like a pre-flight check for the horse, with a diagnostic system in place to assure safety through psychology and understanding, rather than through fear, intimidation and mechanical devices.” Hors d’oeuvres at 12:30 p.m.; live demonstration 1 to 3 p.m., rain or shine. Information & directions at 884-4408.

June 11 — KPLC fund-raising auction

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church will hold its annual “Chocolate Sunday” on June 11 at 1 p.m. at McColley Hall, 4213 Lackey Road in Lakebay. The event is a live and silent auction by church members, with proceeds to support community outreach efforts. The auction is supported by donated items from church members as well as local businesses and residents. Items range from baked goods and crafts to services and art.

Complimentary light lunch with a chocolate sundae will be served. All community members are invited. For information call 884-9606.

June 15 — KPLL annual dinner and auction

The Key Peninsula Little League is holding its Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on June 15. This fund-raiser is open to the public. The community is invited to join KPLL in raising much needed funds. The event is from 6 to 9 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club. Price is \$8 for 10-year-olds and up, \$6 for 9-year-olds and under, and 65 and older; \$25 for immediate family. Pre-sale tickets at Sunnycrest Nursery until June 9. For questions email askkpll@hotmail.com.

June 17 – Reptile roundup for kids

Marty Marcus, Pacific Northwest Herpetological Society, will share live reptiles at the Key Center Library June 17, at 11 a.m. ages 6 and up and at 2 p.m. at the Peninsula Library.

Adult coed softball registration due June 20

Key Peninsula Metro Park District (KPMPD) is registering teams for week-night coed softball. Teams play a 10 game season plus a double elimination end-of-season tournament. Games start July 5, and will take place Monday – Thursday with the tournament played on Saturday and Sunday in September. Individuals without a team may contact KPMPD and request to be put on a player-availability list. Cost of the league and tournament is \$575. Team registrations and rosters are due by June 20. For more information visit www.keypeninsulaparks.com or contact KPMPD @ 884-9240 or info@keypeninsulaparks.com.

June 20 – Aug. 4, Pierce County library programs

The 17 Pierce County libraries will present fun, free programs and reading rewards from June 20 to Aug. 4 at all county libraries. The theme for kids and their families is “Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales!” Six county libraries offer a teen theme program, “Creature Feature.” Registration may be required for some programs, so call branches for details. www.pcl.lib.wa.us; 536-6500. (Please bring cans of dog and/or cat food to a Pierce County library to help older adults feed their pets.)

June 21 – Community training

Children’s Home Society of Washington’s Key Peninsula Family Resource Center is sponsoring free community training June 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church (McColley Hall). The training focus is on early brain development and fathering. Featured speaker will be Mr. Tim Gahm, director of early childhood development programs. Organization representatives are asked to donate \$20, general public welcome. Light refreshments will be served. Free childcare is provided, but space is limited. For childcare or attendance reservations, call 884-5433 before 4 p.m. on June 16.

June 22 – Frog lecture at library

The Friends of the Key Center Library are sponsoring a presentation by internationally-respected herpetologist and author Ellin Beltz on Thursday, June 22, at 7 p.m. Beltz is a lifelong student of nature, with degrees in biology and geology.

Herpetology, the study of amphibians and reptiles, is her specialty. Her slideshow/lecture, “Frogs: Inside Their Remarkable World,” provides a compelling picture of an extraordinary and enormously diverse creature: its history, anatomical makeup, courtship rituals and protective strategies, its place in the natural world, and the threats seriously reducing its numbers. Beltz’ latest book, featuring stunning photographs, will be available for sale. Library copies are available for check out. For information call 884-2242.

June 24 – ‘Wolf Café’ at library

Wolf Haven International will present “Wolf Café” to ‘twens and teens, ages 11-18, at the Key Peninsula Library on June 14 beginning at 2 p.m. The discussion includes what’s on the menu for wolves and explores the roles of predator and prey and how they adapt to survive.

June 24 — Dorothy and Phil Rome Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life for Dorothy and Phil Rome will be held at the Longbranch Community Church on June 24 at 2 p.m. Dorothy and Phil have spent a great deal of their lives dedicated to their community, and will be dearly missed. Community members are invited to come share their memories.

Grief support group adds extra meeting

A grief support group now offers evening as well as morning meetings. The group meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Key Center fire station, and every Thursday morning, 10 a.m. at the Fire Station No. 5 building, near the Wright/Bliss and SR-302 intersection. For information, contact Claudia at 884-2054.

TOPS news

TOPS- WA#1019, Vaughn, WA meets at the Wright Bliss fire station on Mondays. Weigh-in starts at 6:30 p.m.; program begins at 7 p.m. Join TOPS for informative weight loss ideas and fun games.

Key Peninsula Seniors ongoing meetings

The Key Peninsula Senior Society meets every Thursday at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S Vaughn Rd., for a potluck lunch at noon,

followed by card games and monthly Bingo. Dads will be honored on June 15. You don't have to be a dad to join and get acquainted, so please attend. For information, call 884-5052 or 884-4981.

Angel Guild news

Angel Guild has some small furniture pieces, kitchen supplies, linens and lamps. Visit the "guys' area," featuring items used to repair or build something, audio systems and anything else we don't know what to do with. Our book selection is extensive and includes low-priced cook-books, self-improvement books and videos. The jewelry counter displays lovely watches, pins, necklaces and earrings.

We are starting a small retro/vintage

clothing section; some styles will take you back to yesteryear. We also stock collectible items and antiques on occasion.

If you have time to volunteer and want to meet some interesting people, stop by the shop or call our coordinator, Bonnie, at 884-5983, for more information.

—By Betty Barkubein

Summer sport camps for kids

Key Peninsula Metro Park District is partnering with Skyhawks Sports to offer a variety of recreational Sport Camps at various locations on the Key Peninsula for ages 4-14. Baseball for ages 7 to 14 will be held at Volunteer Park from 9-12 a.m., June 26-30. Basketball for ages 6 to 12 will

be held at the Civic Center from 9-12 a.m., July 10-14. Cheer camp for ages 5 to 12 will be offered at the Civic Center from 1-3:30 p.m., July 10-14. Soccer camp for ages 7 to 14 will be offered at Minter Creek Elementary from 9-12 a.m., July 17-21. Another soccer camp for ages 7 to 14 will be offered at Volunteer Park from 9-12 a.m., Aug. 14-18. A mini-hawks camp for ages 4 to 6 will be held at the Civic Center from 9-12 a.m., Aug. 14-18. The fee for each camp is \$98/person, except the basketball and cheer camps at \$79/person.

All camp participants will receive a t-shirt, camp-specific ball or pompoms, and great instruction. More information at www.keypeninsulaparks.com or www.skyhawks.com

Obituaries

Alda J. Prichard

Alda J. Prichard, born Aug. 16, 1918 in Toledo, Ohio, died April 17, 2006. She had been a resident of Vaughn for 34 years and was a member of Harbor Covenant Church. She has been an active volunteer with Young Life in Tacoma and Gig Harbor for more than 50 years.



PRICHARD

Alda was an outstanding cook and always extended her hospitality. She used much of her time and energy loving and supporting her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Bob; sons Gary Prichard of Tacoma, Dennis Prichard of Eugene, Ore.; daughters Christie Fevegeon of Ellensburg, Diane Prichard of Eugene, Ore., and Robin Prichard of Seattle; 15 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

A celebration of life was held April 22 at University Place Presbyterian Church. Interment at Vaughn Bay Cemetery. Arrangements by Haven of Rest. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to send teens to camp through Young Life, "Bob and Alda Prichard Scholarship Fund."

Key Peninsula News - June 2006

Samuel Stewart

Samuel Damek Stewart was born at home in Longbranch on Dec. 5, 1991.

Wind, sun and rain in his face, earth under his feet and the uncontrollable shared laugh all nourished his soul. His joy was found in his love for his family and



STEWART

his deep, clear connection to Spirit. Reading, dreaming and listening carefully to nature were some of his passions.

He honored his parents, Mac and Donna Stewart, and his beloved brother, Joe, with 14 precious years.

A life celebration memorial is planned on June 4 at Camp Colman at 2:30 p.m. Please ride share!

Key Peninsula News - June 2006

Pitch, hit, run results

As many as 60 participants competed in the "Pitch, Hit, Run" Competition hosted by Key Peninsula Metro Park District and Key Peninsula Little League on May 1, at Key Peninsula Sports Complex and Fairgrounds (Volunteer Park). "Pitch, Hit, Run" is a baseball skills' competition that allows youngsters to showcase their talents in pitching, hitting, and running, with scores determined by individual performances in each skills' event.

These participants won first place honors in their respective age groups (listed to the right).

The winners competed in the sectional competition, held at Cheney Stadium on May 27. Sectional All-Around Champions become eligible to qualify for the Team Championship, to be held at Safeco Field. For questions contact Scott Gallacher, 884-9240.

Boys & Girls

Age 7/8 Overall champ

Pitch champion

Hit champion

Run champion

Age 9/10 Overall champ

Pitch champion

Hit champion

Run champion

Age 11/12 Overall champ

Pitch champion

Hit champion

Run champion

Age 13/14 Overall champ

Pitch champion

Hit champion

Run champion

Name

RJ Green

Jimmy Ritchie

RJ Green

RJ Green

Josh Keough

Tad Rustad

Tad Rustad

Tad Rustad

Nicholas Verfaillie

Doug Kanouse

Matt Burkey

Andrew Burggraaf

Doug Kanouse

Eric Johnson

Eric Johnson

Spencer Adams

Zak Wilcox

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Gig Harbor

Lakebay

Gig Harbor

Gig Harbor

Gig Harbor

Gig Harbor

Gig Harbor

Gig Harbor

Lakebay

Vaughn

Allyn

Lakebay

Gig Harbor

Gig Harbor

Gig Harbor

Gig Harbor

Score

533 pts

150 pts

150 pts

200 pts

260 pts

770 pts

300 pts

240 pts

279 pts

762 pts

300 pts

324 pts

762 pts

861 pts

375 pts

286 pts

320 pts

Volunteer spotlight: Randy Viers

Photo and story by Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Any 1960's rock n' roll devotee will recognize the solid Routers hit "Let's Go." Randy Viers was the band drummer, and, except for a brief hiatus, still plays drums, writes and sings songs.



VIERIS

A peninsula resident for 32 years, Viers is publicity chairman for the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club on Jackson Lake Road. A vibrant man, he speaks earnestly about the need to build club membership, now dwindled to 44.

The historic building housing the organization immediately conjures up memories of mountain lodges and old Bing Crosby movies; it's all cedar and knotty pine, with a huge fireplace, open kitchen, and front porch looking out over lawns ending at lakeside.

Viers' interest in volunteer work stems from his appreciation for the "wonderful history" of the Key Peninsula.

"The Sportsmen's Club is part of that," he says, "and if young people don't step up and participate, the nonprofit club will die." By young, Viers means people reaching a minimum age of 40. They must be sponsored to join. The club recently held its annual Sportsmen's Breakfast, where about 340 meals were served.

Viers is a remarkable example of what perseverance, guts, and common sense can accomplish. A high school dropout, he joined a band, living a musician's life "on the road" for years, closely

acquainted with drugs and booze. When he knew he was "in trouble," he sought help. In January, 1992, he checked into a treatment center. "I did everything I was told," he says.

To avoid relapse, "They told me to call and quit the band. And I did — ended up not playing for a year." Out of recovery with his career gone, he did odd jobs and worked in a music store. And, beginning as a volunteer, while earning a bachelor degree and then a master's, he became a respected leader in the chemical dependence recovery field.

Today, Viers is director of the Olalla Recovery Center and Gig Harbor Counseling. He plays drums in a '60's band named "Deluxe Reverbs" (after the popular '60's Fender amplifier). On June 9-11 the Reverbs are playing at the Meeker Days celebration in Kent. Viers will be celebrating at the back of the stage, playing drums; years ago he took a chance on himself, and won.

From Pioneer Stock

Ed Edwards lives on his former playground

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Elvin "Ed" Edwards arrived in Victor from West Virginia as a 6-year-old. The one-room eight-grade Victor School was behind a fence and across the playfield from his new home.

His stepdad, Otto Bemp, lived at Victor from about age 17. Bemp was a logger, then worked at the Navy shipyard in Bremerton, and spent holidays traveling across the country by bus. One trip took him to a boarding house in Coaltown, West Va., where Edwards' mother helped her sister.

Edwards lived his first years on his grandfather's farm in Virginia, with six uncles, three aunts, and a lot of cousins in one house. Several uncles worked in the mines in Coaltown, where they stayed all week.

Edwards recalls "riding the rails" as a 6-year-old with his two cousins. The boarding house was about three-quarters of mile away from the station where they'd grab the train railing, jump off at their home when the train was going four or five mph,



Photo courtesy Ed Edwards

Students at Victor School, 1938, back row, Donn Dahl, Russ and Ron Schillinger, Ed Edwards, Keith Archer, Kenneth Archer; front row – Kenneth Esler, Tom Archer, Elvie Morgan and Noel Dahl.

and tumble down the bank.

Edwards said being in a one-room school, with seven to 17 students, one learned by osmosis from the teacher working with other grades. At least one year, there was only one girl in a roomful of boys.

One teacher, Miss (Pearl) Aires, went to the Shelton library every two weeks and brought back 14 books for the students to

read. Edwards read every book before her next trip to get new ones. "I became a speed reader, self-taught," he says.

Sometimes during school, older boys tossed .22-caliber shells into the fire of the pot-bellied stove. On occasion, a couple of big boys jumped up from their seats by the window, retrieved a shotgun from the woodshed, shot at crows on posts, and returned to the classroom.

"We were all from poor families, and never had any extra money," says Edwards.

Joe Smith, son of a fisherman, did have money. He wore hip boots to school and in them carried candy bars he'd bought from the nearby store. He enjoyed pulling out his snacks in front of envious classmates and, once in awhile, shared a bite.

Edwards and friends swam, fished, rowed boats, and peeled cascara for a little spending money. By high school, he did commercial fishing.

At Vaughn, he arranged classes so he was through by 2 o'clock each day. His boss, with Edwards' lunch, hip boots, and rain gear, picked him up, and drove to Longbranch to fish. He earned more than the teachers his junior year. He stopped fishing and drove a school bus from Victor to Vaughn his senior year.

Edwards started as an apprentice at the Navy yard, but joined the Air Force at 18.

He attended Cal Aero Tech in California, and was stationed for a year in Paris as a mechanic.

He returned to Victor and the shipyard after his service, and worked his way up to group superintendent in electrical electronics before he retired.

The Victor school was on waterfront land donated by Mr. Bell, with the agreement that when the school no longer existed, the property reverted to the family.

Edwards wanted to buy the land from Mrs. Bell to build his own home in the early 1950s. She required him to get written confirmation from the last school board members that the school was dissolved. It hadn't been used as a school for many years. He obtained neighbor Henry Dahl's signature easily, but had to track down the other board members in New York and Florida. It took about a year before he had the paperwork, so Mrs. Bell would accept earnest money.

Edwards used the old schoolhouse for forms and inner siding for his home. There was a double fir floor, and although the top floor had worn down between the desks, the lower one was almost like new. The original flagpole base still stands, and two outhouse cement bases are part of his yard hardscape now, reminders of memorable school days in Victor.

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Civic Center hosts Spring Tea & Fashion Show

By Colleen Slater
KP News

"A Day of Spring Fashion Fantasy" at the end of April at the Key Peninsula Civic Center welcomed and entertained over 100 women, a few men and children.

The evening was a longtime vision of Claudia Loy. She and friends Lynn Reaves, Marilyn Clapper, Lulu Smith and Kari Cain made the fund-raising event a successful reality.

Fourteen tables seating eight people each were decorated by hostesses using their own tablecloths, dishes, centerpieces and other items. Each hostess invited family and friends to fill her table, and attendees voted on their favorite of the many varied tables. The Angel Guild won the vote with a table decorated with items from their shop.

Two Red Hat Society groups created decorations to reflect their colors of red and purple. Key Fitness Center provided large exercise balls for half of their table seating. Some tables had special place-cards, others eye-catching centerpieces.

A variety of raffle items from local businesses was included. The luncheon was furnished by Reaves, Smith, Cain and Lisa Marshall. A "wedding cake" dessert was provided by Sweet Divas Catering.

Fashions were from LL's Formal Occasions from Gig Harbor and Classic Kids from Port Orchard. An MC, Suzie Swazette of Musical Journeys commented on the clothing, from casual wear to weddings, as the models, from Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor, and Port Orchard, descended the steps and walked the red carpet runway.

Loy said she was pleased and hopes to



Photo by Colleen Slater

Elsie Campello models an evening gown at the fashion show.

make this an annual event. Attendees were delighted with the occasion, and plan to return if another tea and fashion show occurs next year.

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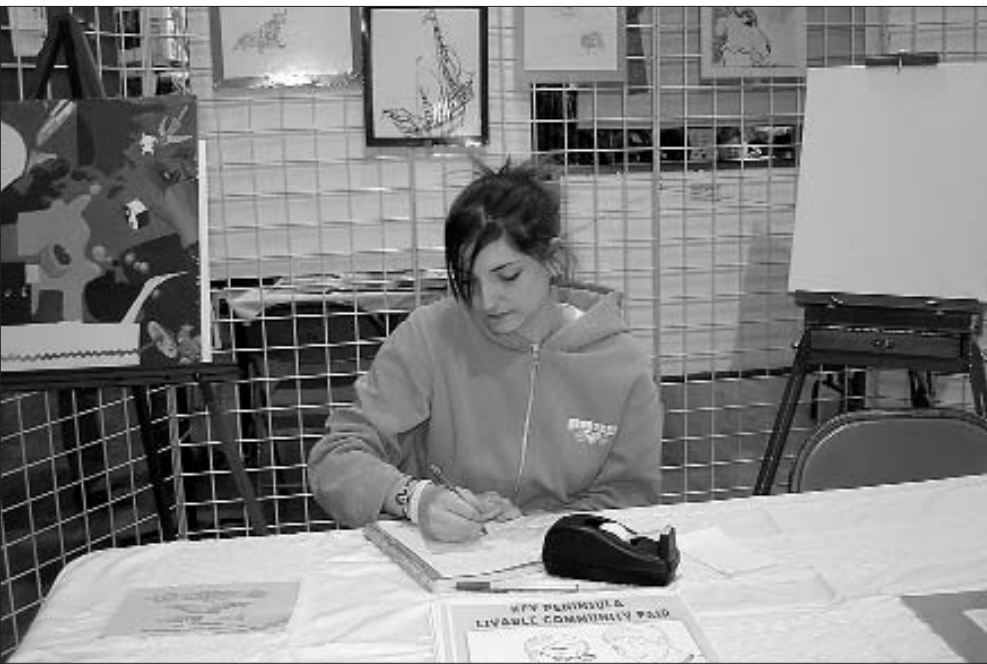


Photo by Colleen Slater

Amber Still displays her art at the Livable Community Fair in May at the Civic Center.

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Amber Still from Longbranch had her first "commercial" show and sale at the Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair in May.

A junior at Peninsula High School, Amber has been drawing since she was small, but only recently began painting. She likes to start a painting by doing a background, then add figures or objects on top. Painting is fun, she says, but sketching is her real love.

She won fourth place in an art contest entered when she was in fourth grade in Nevada, and recently won third place in the Gig Harbor Arts Festival Poster Contest.

Amber has the distinction of being the only girl on the PHS baseball team this year, although a friend did go to

tryouts with her. She loves playing water polo, too.

She participates every Tuesday afternoon in the Little Buddies program with the Children's Home Society. This is her second year working with the children. She enjoys playing games and doing activities, including art, with them.

Amber will take lots of art classes her senior year, and plans to attend the Art Institute of Seattle.

She pays more attention to detail in her sketches now, with the ultimate goal of fashion design. Her immediate goal, she says with a smile, is to learn to drive, so she can take herself to her many activities.

Amber was pleased to have the opportunity to show her work. She signed posters and sold some of her art, a plus for her first public showing.

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Community center 'Rolls Out The Barrel' for Dottie and George



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Dottie Luedke, a volunteer organist, with the organ nicknamed "George," plays for the senior Easter lunch at the KP Community Center.

By Kristen Pierce
KP News

Dottie Luedke and George have been best of pals since 1989. Her husband, Vern, doesn't seem to mind much — since George is actually an organ.

George resides at the Key Peninsula Community Center in Home and is quite well known in these parts, and even as far away as Idaho, California, and Alaska. His counterpart Dottie, originally from Auburn, has an extensive musical background. As a child, she played the fiddle or piano with her mother while her grandmother played the violin. Her whole family enjoyed music, as she recalls.

Anyone who has met these two is probably aware of the interesting story of how they met and the fate of how an old beat-up organ from the Elks Lodge in Auburn made its way out to the remote town of Home on the Key Peninsula. This has been an ongoing question for the many lucky folks who have had the pleasure to meet George.

Well, this is how the story goes:

Sixteen years ago in 1989, Dottie first met George (nameless at the time.) It may not have been love at first sight but the bond grew with time. Together they entertained many people at various functions held at the Elks Lodge in Auburn. The two established quite a reputation as a great musical duo, until one sad day the lodge had to move to a new building and no longer had room for the old organ. The group members decided to put George up for sale.

He sat outside in the rain for some time but no one wanted to buy him. They eventually lowered the price and still no takers. Finally, the organization decided to donate George for a good cause, so Dottie and Vern came to his rescue, loaded him into their truck and brought him to the only place they thought he would find happiness, a place close to their home where Dottie and her pal could entertain once again, somewhere close to their home. The KP Community Center seemed the perfect place. They even set up a jar for donations toward repairs. Fortunately, he only needed some oiling. After enough "tips," they sent for a repairman to quench George's thirst.

So, for past the two years now, George and Dottie are doing what they enjoy most, putting smiles on people's faces. Dottie particularly enjoys watching everyone's feet tap to the music. She also tries to personalize the songs she plays.

Visit Dottie and George

You can enjoy George and Dottie's music at the Key Peninsula Community Center, located right off Key Peninsula Highway past the Home Bridge. Senior luncheons are held every Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 884-4440 for details.

"I want them to be recognized, understood, and respected, and a lot of the elderly are not."

-Dottie Luedke

For example, Audrey and Stanley Paul have their very own song.

"As we leave, Dottie always plays 'Roll Out The Barrel' for us. It's one of our favorites," says Audrey between sips of coffee. The couple has been coming to hear the duo for over eight years. Paul, who was born on McNeil Island, actually went to school in the building that is now the community center.

One of Dottie's favorite memories with George is the time when she watched a woman come into the center using crutches. The woman loved the old song "Yankee Doodle" and requested to hear it. As she was finished with her meal and was about to leave, Dottie played the song for her. The woman was so excited, she started to dance. That was the day someone had to run out to the parking lot and give the woman her crutches back, as she [had] left them at the door while dancing to the song!

Another piece of George trivia is that folks like to give him a tap for good luck as they head out. "People even ask about him when they are in the hospital," Dottie says with a giggle. She likes to admit that the only time she gets any complaints about her music is when George is not making any noise.

When asked why she dedicates so much of her time to playing music with her old friend, Dottie responds with sincerity in her voice and says her purpose is for the community center and for the people who come here.

"I want them to be recognized, understood, and respected, and a lot of the elderly are not," she says with teary eyes. "This place makes it possible for that to happen."

Another member of the center, Joe McAllister, said, "(Dottie) makes the whole luncheon interesting and refreshing for us, though a lot of people come just to hear George."



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Key Pen citizens kept air raid watch throughout WWII



Photo courtesy of Peggy Dervaes

World War II Watch Tower on the Davidson property in Vaughn, circa 1940s, with Bertha Davidson.

By Keith Stiles
Special to KP News

This May, the Key Peninsula remembered the times of World War II with a special exhibit at the Historical Museum and with a special tribute to the veterans of World War II at "The Aisle of Honor" at Vaughn Cemetery on May 28.

During the war, while there were special "Service Stars" in the windows of Key Peninsula homes — blue, silver, and gold, marking a family member in the service, wounded in action, or killed in that conflict — there were also very close-to-home activities in Vaughn, Home, and in Longbranch, keeping a watch for enemy (probably Japanese) planes that might be on bombing missions over Puget Sound.

For that aircraft watching activity, towers were constructed in Vaughn on the Davidson property on Lackey Road, also near the old baseball field in Home at

about Seventh and C streets, and directly in front of the current Longbranch Improvement Club. Each of the three communities formed "duty groups" for round-the-clock aircraft watching, with women and girls handling the daytime duties and men taking the night shifts. Community meetings were held for the purpose of instructing observers in their duties, including that of aircraft recognition of the various planes, American and Japanese, that might be seen.

Each of the "posts" had a wall-mounted "crank-type" telephone to report aircraft sightings into a central (probably U.S. Army) command post, but there were also reports that the observers had some conversations of their own when there were no aircraft to report.

While the more than three years of WWII passed slowly, the three citizen groups kept a faithful 24-hour, seven-days per week watch on the Key Peninsula skies, even

though there were no reported sightings of any Japanese planes. Many of those who recalled their duties on the towers remembered the two-engine Lockheed P-38 aircraft best, as it had a unique shape and made an excellent war record.

All three observation towers were dismantled soon after the end of the conflict in 1945.

Credit for the recently unearthed historic picture of the observation tower on the Davidson property in Vaughn is due to Peggy Dervaes. Much of the surviving detail information on the construction of the tower and the training of the observers comes from a Sept. 8, 1942 story written by Chief Observer Joe W. Parker, who, at one time, operated a barber shop in Vaughn. Perhaps the greatest credit is due to those faithfully serving the war cause, through the wet and cold winters, long nights, and, for some, long walking trips to and from their duty posts.

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New pastor serves Lakebay Community Church

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Dan Whitmarsh arrived on the peninsula in mid-April for his first senior pastorate.

Born in Seattle, he headed south to attend college in California and major in music.

During his senior year at Azusa Pacific University, he directed a youth choir in a local church, and stayed on to become youth leader there. He plays trumpet, piano, guitar, mandolin, and is learning the autoharp. This is a special 100-year-old autoharp, in his family for at least three generations.

In Turlock, Calif., he began as worship leader, and moved through youth pastor to associate pastor, a position he held for five years.

He received his master of divinity from the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary in Fresno a year ago. In the Covenant Church, a pastor may be licensed before receiving that degree. Whitmarsh spent five years working



Photo courtesy Dan Whitmarsh

Dan Whitmarsh with wife, Karina, daughters Olivia (right) and Clara.

toward his.

He and wife Karina will be married nine years this August, and have two daughters, Olivia and Clara. Whitmarsh says Karina has the gift of hospitality and is a gourmet cook.

It was quite a change for the family to come from Turlock to the Key Peninsula,

"The people here are very real, very open, honest."

-Pastor Dan Whitmarsh

but they are finding much here they like. They enjoy camping, hiking, walking, and just being outdoors.

"The people here are very real, very open, honest," says Whitmarsh of the Lakebay Community Church congregation. He notes many have suffered a lot, but they are moving out to minister to the community. "When people walk into the church, the healing hand of Christ becomes felt here," he states. He sees a lot of potential in their hunger to grow and learn.

The church has multiple layers of ministry, including youth. They all work together in the community.

Whitmarsh sees part of his calling to be helping his congregation recognize and release their gifts to have positive impact in the peninsula area. He is glad to be here, and is beginning to feel at

home.

Whitmarsh refers to a line of Scripture, from Esther 4:14, about perhaps being placed in a situation "for such a time as this." There are troubling issues, serious pain, financial problems, but the church has a vision in place, and the congregation has gifts and abilities to move forward to that vision.

Whitmarsh's parents, Phil and Barbara, were missionaries in Thailand for several years before they had children. Phil lived in Purdy for about a year and attended Peninsula High School as a freshman. He loved to tell about jumping off the Purdy bridge with friends to go swimming.

Pastor Dan and family are excited about making memories of their own at their new church and in the Key Peninsula community.

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Aspiring local actress follows her dreams

By Jerry Libstaff
Special to KP News

Kim Gebhardt always fantasized about being a performer. As a youngster, she acted along with movies on television. An avid fan of the Oscars, she loved the process but never imagined she would step into the role.

A few years ago, Longbranch Improvement Club advertised auditions for the play "Sylvia." Gebhardt considered reading but had reservations. She had been "a shy kid who always wondered what it would be like to be the center of attention." The final day of auditions, she made a last-minute decision and forced herself to jump in and audition. She read for several parts

and left that afternoon with hope that she could, at least, win a walk-on.

She was contacted a short time later and informed she had been chosen to play the lead. Gebhardt was thrilled and became fully immersed in the role. Her children helped her practice, reading with her while she learned the part. When show time came, she says, "It was like riding a rollercoaster. I was excited and scared to death at the same time."

Everything worked. The experience turned out to be "everything I ever dreamed it would be."

Gebhardt auditioned for the next year's play at LIC, "Don't Dress For Dinner," and won another lead role. She watches for audition calls in the paper but says, "I wouldn't want to act for a living; I don't want it to become work. Now, it's something to look forward to; a time each year I can



GEBHARDT



The Genuine
ARTicle

become someone else and take a vacation from the real world."

Gebhardt says she realized, if she could do this, she could do anything. She feels her acting is a great example for her kids: It shows them they can live their wishes and their dreams. She's looking forward to her 25th school reunion this summer because her stage work has given her an improved outlook and a confidence she might not have had in high school.

Gebhardt and her husband fell in love with the Key Peninsula in 1998, bought property and moved here. He's an electrician and she works at Evergreen Elementary School. Working in and on the stage plays at the LIC is something she has truly come to enjoy. She encourages anyone who has the desire to try the experience.

"You can become someone entirely different and do things you would never normally do. All without any guilt. I stepped out of my security box and I'm truly thrilled that I did."

She still gets nervous prior to a show.

"Every audience is different. It's fun to stand back stage while you wait for your cue and listen to the audience reaction and match that to your anticipation," she says. "Each audience reacts separately. Some laugh at the right places and others laugh when it's not expected. Sometimes it messes up the cadence of the actors, but that's the fun part."

Gebhardt moved into production work with the one-man play "Bully" last fall. She says the process of creating a play takes several months.

Gebhardt would like to see involvement expand throughout the Key Peninsula. Key Peninsula resident David Starkweather, who has produced several plays at LIC, is developing an actors group involving several local organizations. Gebhardt would like to see people from Purdy to Longbranch follow her lead and experience the thrills she has come to know.

Jerry Libstaff, a writer who lives in Vaughn, is president of Two Waters Arts Alliance.

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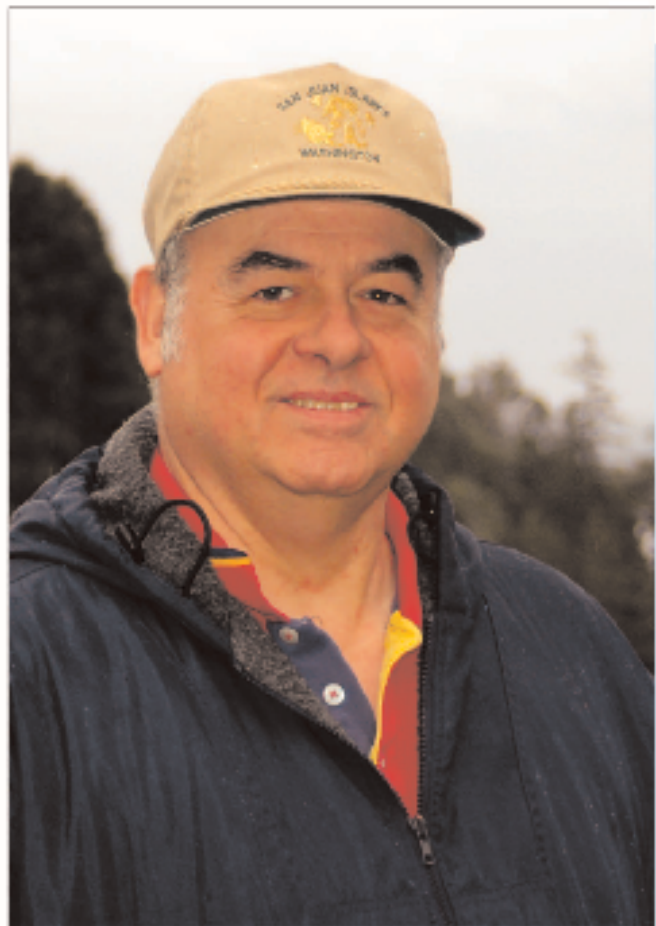
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Milestones

Kilmer, Tollefson welcome new family additions

The local political and newspaper teams added new "helpers" to their rosters in March and April, when their leaders welcomed new members to their families.

Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-Gig Harbor) and his wife, Jennifer, became first-time parents with the birth of daughter Sophie Drew on April 4. Kilmer said, "Jen and I are doing really well. I've never been more happy or more exhausted in my life. Sophie is a real blessing, and we are so happy to have her as a part of our family."

Kilmer said being a working parent is challenging and "a reality that we all have to face," but the family enjoys the support of friends, family, and employers.

Key Peninsula News Executive Editor Rodika Tollefson and her husband, Darrin, welcomed son Kristian Jayden on March 12. The couple's two other sons, Alex, 11, and Nick, 9, enjoy being "big brothers."

Tollefson took partial leave from her newspaper position for two months. "I'm delighted to have a strong and very supportive team who allowed me to spend some time adjusting to my additional role," she said.



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| 12. 3908 140th Ave KPS, Driftwood Point | \$514,000 |
| 13. 6313 Yezell Road, Longbranch | \$535,000 |
| 14. 19514 Rocky Bay Point Road | \$615,000 |

These are a sample of the sales that occurred in your neighborhood during the past six weeks. As you can see, we are still experiencing strong activity and good prices.



LONGBRANCH \$165,000
Comfy Top of the Line Liberty model mfg. home, with generous sized rooms, certified wood stove and large deck leading to front door. This home was remodeled in 2005 with new roof, windows, toilets and plumbing. The 1.26 acres is flat, all usable, has a storage shed, a nice dog run and is partially fenced and private. MLS 20056540.



LAKEBAY \$174,500
Unique building! Enough room for all your toys and space to work on your projects as well. This 3,400 sq. ft. shop has 1-16x11 door, 2-11x12 and 1-11x8 bay doors, 3-phase power, septic system, new drain field and private well. Seller has floor plans for home on property or you can bring in a mobile or modular. Great opportunity! MLS 25102998



LONGBRANCH WATERFRONT \$574,500
Breathtaking views of the Sound, 1.17 acres of land, plus 180 feet of pebble beach and you'll own the tidelands also! Three bedroom home has open concept, unique wrap-around fireplace and massive open beam ceilings. You'll enjoy the magnificent view from your patio while you barbeque clams, oysters and mussels from the beach or you can pick fresh fruit from the trees and relax in the gazebo or walk the gentle slope to the beach where you'll find a canoe/lap shed and buoy for your boat. MLS 20070608



HERRON ISLAND \$229,000
This island home is perfect for weekend getaways or year round living. Home features open floor plan, Mediterranean tile floors, vaulted ceilings, woodstove and tile bath w/ jetted tub. Entertain your friends and family on the expansive wrap around deck. Enjoy the community saltwater beach and all that Herron Island offers. Private ferry to island. MLS 20062069



LONGBRANCH ACREAGE \$149,950
12.76 acres, partially fenced, was cleared years ago by previous owner who had horses. Great western exposure with lots of sun and possible view of the Olympics. Cleared building site and perk holes already dug. Call now, don't miss out on this opportunity to own some land. MLS 20020401



HERRON ISLAND RETREAT \$75,000
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(From **EVERGREEN**, Page 1)

after the incident, but no arrests have been made. "I tend to think it's somebody within the area," she said.

As the school term draws to an end, Berg is concerned about the safety of children during summer vacation. Summer is a time to be extra careful, she warns, and points out that this rural community has lots of woods and remote areas that can be dangerous. People on the Key Peninsula should keep the incident at Evergreen in their thoughts, she said: "I don't want people freaked out or panicked but we must always watch over the kids; even the kids who are not ours."

Berg investigated the scene of the incident, which was in the woods near the school. She found the boy's personal property including his backpack and library book "tossed and thrown and scattered."

"We are blessed that he came back," she said. Berg was impressed with the details and description the boy was able to provide. "Frankly, he is better than most adults," she said.

When asked whether this incident could be a false alarm, Berg said law enforcement agents are "skeptical kind of folks" but that she has "no reason to doubt this kid," referring to the Evergreen victim.

"He's a good kid. I believe him. There is no reason not to believe him," she said.

Evergreen Principal Jacque Crisman said the experience was scary for the family and for the staff. When the child's mother called to report he had not gotten off the bus, Crisman followed an established procedure. On matters of safety, the school has "a lot of things in place already," she said.

Phone calls were made to the district transportation office and to friends of the student. The staff immediately checked buildings — classrooms and bathrooms — and did a sweep of the park and the playfields. The parents came to the school, the sheriff was called, and within about a two-hour timeframe the boy walked back onto the campus. Berg sent him to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma for examination, and he was treated for facial and head injuries. Police dogs were brought in to search the area for traces of the suspect.

Safety procedures are the first priority for Peninsula School District, according to Superintendent Jim Coolican. He says parents expect an education for their child but first and foremost, there is an expectation of safety. After the recent events that have threatened the safety of the district's students, principals, administrators, and law enforcement agencies have met together to go over safety procedures from



A sketch of a suspect wanted in connection with the abduction incident at Evergreen Elementary School on May 8. The suspect is described as a white male, approximately six feet tall with a thin build. He has dark hair with spots of gray and a bushy mustache. The suspect was dirty in appearance, wore a torn black coat, dark jeans with holes in the knees and dark shoes. A reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and charges filed for this suspect. The public is warned not to make any attempt to contact the suspect, but instead call the Peninsula Detachment at 798-4940 or CrimeStoppers at 591-5959.

Illustration courtesy of CrimeStoppers

"top to bottom." Coolican says safety is a dynamic factor and no single set of strategies can guarantee absolute safety. The goal of these meetings is to find out what else can be done and determine the best strategies.

Many parents have their own strategy in mind. After both the Evergreen incident and the recent KPMS event, parents showed up at the schools offering reinforcement. PSD Deputy Superintendent Marcia Harris was at Evergreen the day after the alleged abduction and observed

the additional parent help in the building.

"What an incredible community we have," she said. Harris assisted with a staff meeting that morning, outlining a common message to be given in each classroom appropriate to age level. The message included rules about "Stranger Danger" and stressed using the buddy system and saying "no" to strangers.

Crisman believes that safety must be important in the school and at home. "The most important thing for us to remember is that we want to keep our kids safe and that we are always looking for ways to make it safer for our kids here at school," she said. "We also want families to know how to help kids keep safe at home as well. This incident reminds us how vigilant we need to be when it comes to safety."

Tips for parents

'Stranger Danger' safety rules:

Use the buddy system when you are going places or playing outside.

Check in with your parents; let them know where you are at all times.

Do not talk to strangers, even if the stranger is "a neighbor."

Always check with parents before accepting any type of gift, money, candy or other items.

Say "no" to anyone who tries to touch you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Report incidents of anyone asking you to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Never open the door when you are home alone. Make sure that you have a neighbor's phone number in case someone tries to get inside the house.

Parents and children can agree on a "secret code word" parents can give someone they ask to pick up the children. If the person doesn't know the word, the students know not to go with him or her.

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New levy helps support educational excellence

The Peninsula School District is committed to educational excellence, which is the focus of the eight Board Goals adopted in 2004 based on the community input. Thanks to the 2006-09 levy approved by voters last year, PSD has additional resources to enhance student learning.

The levy spending plan reflects the unmet needs of school district programs, and helps ensure that all PSD students receive quality education in a safe and supportive environment.

The new levy collection began this spring. Thanks to community support, the district will be able to maintain its level of services while improving student support through new curricular programs. One of the target areas is the addition of intervention programs for struggling students, which will help guarantee the success of every child, as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

“We are fortunate to live in a community that values and supports high quality education for all children.”

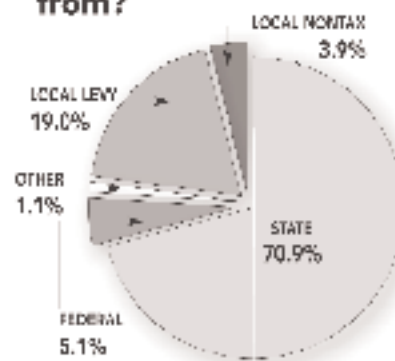
—Geoff Baillie, President
PSD Board of Directors

“The levy makes a critical difference in the quality of the educational programs afforded our students,” says Deputy Superintendent Marcia Harris. “It provides essential resources in the areas of curriculum, technology, professional development, co-curricular activities, and operational support; areas that are inadequately funded by the state.”

The 2006-09 Maintenance and Operations Levy provides 19 percent of the operating budget dollars. Some of the funds will pay for before and after school programs, facilities maintenance, safety preparedness, K-12 staffing, and classroom supplies.

“We are fortunate to live in a community that values and supports high quality education for all children,” says PSD Board of Directors President Geoff Baillie. “The Board is held accountable by the community for each and every expenditure.”

Where do General Fund Monies come from?



2005-2006 Levy Spending Plan



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High School Credit Recovery Classes

High School classes are designed for students who will be in the ninth grade or beyond during the 2006-2007 school year. Classes will be held July 5-7, 10-13, 17-20, 24-27.

Jump Start Summer Program

Students must be nominated for participation in Jump Start. Jump Start classes are designed for students who will be in

grades 1 through 8 during the 2006-2007 school year. Classes will be held July 31-August 17.

By The Numbers

120 Square miles the Peninsula School District encompasses
6,000 Students transported on 154 runs each day
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To board or not to board? Tips for pet owners planning a vacation

By Robert McCrossin
Special to KP News

There are important considerations to make in choosing between the options of kennel boarding or finding a home sitter for your animals. Each option has its benefits.

The first thing to consider is the overall health and age of your animals. A younger dog, for example, is an excellent candidate to board at a reputable kennel, but is not a great candidate to stay home alone and wait for the pet sitter to come by for the daily walks and feeding. The younger and more social dogs are, the better a boarding situation can be for them. There will be social opportunities with other dogs and plenty of human contact. These dogs tend to stress out more left alone at home than in a boisterous kennel environment.

A dog that is highly stressed by noises, other animals or even different people is a better candidate for a home sitter. The dog may be lonely during times the sitter is not there but is much less likely to get sick or overly stressed if the right precautions are taken. These include plenty of water, a radio or television played softly, plenty of favorite toys and regularly scheduled visits from the sitter. Dogs are smart and will quickly figure out when someone is supposed to be there and will start to look forward to those visits.

Dogs on medications are tricky. In most cases a kennel situation with proper medication controls will be the best answer, as those medications will be given on time and with the proper precautions. Some kennels charge extra for this service, but the question to ask is how

If a dog is a high-stress dog and is on medications, a home sitter may again be the best choice. The less stress an animal can be exposed to when on medications, the better.

well the process is managed. A home sitter is more likely to accidentally forget a medication or give the wrong one at the wrong time. If a dog is a high-stress dog and is on medications, a home sitter may again be the best choice. The less stress an animal can be exposed to when on medications, the better.

An older dog is another tricky one. If the dog has been regularly kenneled and the kennel is comfortable boarding him or her, it's usually best to board an older dog so that he can be monitored throughout the day. However, if the older dog is more high-stress and/or has never been boarded before, the home sitter may be the best way to go.

Cats are a lot simpler and can adapt much easier to being boarded. They also do pretty well left at home with regular checks for feeding and cleaning up any messes. Short stays are better at home, long stays are better at a reputable cat boarding facility.

Write down some questions before you meet with anybody and ask as many as you may have of either the home sitter or the kennel operator. These are members of your family you need taken care of and it is absolutely all right for you to be concerned about their well-being before you leave on that long-awaited trip to Tahiti!

Robert McCrossin is the owner of Bayside Animal Lodge on the Key Peninsula.

arts alive on Key Peninsula

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CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

(From ROLFZEN, Page 1)

but she realized she craved the hands-on part of the job.

"I am not an office person, I have to do physical labor," she says. "I like to work hard. After a day at the office I couldn't wait to get home, put on my jeans, jump into my truck and drive off to the job site. That is when I began working with my dad, with him teaching me." Her time as a helper then transitioned into an apprenticeship.

Rolfzen is not only a good roofer, she is also a single mom with two children. Vanessa is 17 years old and Joseph is 11. Between work and her kids, Rolfzen has her hands full.

"I come home sometimes and can hardly move after doing a tear-off, but I love the work," she says with a smile.

She is also in the process of learning how to bid the jobs. To bid correctly takes many years of experience and can be a perplexing task. It requires much knowledge of the various types of roofs, materials, and labor involved. Rolfzen estimates it may take another five years before her father will retire, and then she can completely take over Lakebay Roofing. In the meantime, the small company works diligently for clients. Meeting their deadlines can be tough at times because there is only one other employee besides Chantel and her father. "It is difficult to find good workers," she explains. They are still looking for one more reliable and experienced person. Though it is hard work, they find it very rewarding and exciting to climb off the roof, step back, and admire the job they have done.

'Safe and Sane' fireworks for Independence Day

Fireworks are a tradition of 4th of July celebrations, and the regular booths will be set up on the Key Peninsula starting at noon on June 28. Hours are from 10 a.m. (after opening day) until 10 p.m. on July 4, unless they sell out before that.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA) stand will be at Key Center, and the Key Peninsula Veterans' Institute (KPVI) stand will open at Lake Kathryn Village. Watch for coupons in the mail for money off on purchases under certain terms and conditions.

Proceeds from the KPCCA are to help maintain their facilities. All funds raised at the KPVI fireworks stand will be used on the Key Peninsula to benefit local residents and local service programs.

Pee Wee Baseball League will have a stand in Allyn, across State Route 3 from the chainsaw shop.

KP Fire District Division Chief Paul Bosch asks citizens to "celebrate safely": Purchase only legal fireworks at approved stands. Use only outdoors, away from burnable items. Be prepared with a bucket of water, hose or fire extinguisher and basic first aid. Have a designated adult light all fireworks, one at a time, move away quickly, and keep everyone a safe distance away until the display is finished. If a device doesn't light, wait at least five minutes, approach carefully, then soak it in water.

"Independence Day is a time to celebrate our freedoms," notes the KPFD flyer. "With this comes a shared responsibility to respect the property and lives of others." — Colleen Slater

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Out & About

Swimmers during a class at Easter Seals Camp in Vaughn. Groups participate in aerobic and open swim classes from September through May. For information contact Laurie Hall, at 884-2722 or email lhall@wa.easterseals.com.

Photo by Danna Webster



Brad Gilbert of Lake of the Woods shows off his mother Virginia Gallyer's mint-condition 1934 Ford convertible roadster at the annual weekend "Spring into Summer Fair" at the Harvest Time Country Store in Wauna. It was part of the annual vintage car show that accompanies live music, "fair food," and a variety of booths selling all sorts of "treasures." *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Filling up with gas is an expensive affair for Key Peninsula commuters, as the prices passed the \$3 per gallon mark this spring.



Left, Arnold and Christine Gilbert of Longbranch fill a wagon full of flowers at the Lakebay Fuchsia Society's annual plant sale. The couple plans to "make several hanging baskets."

Photo by Mindi LaRose

Below, Key Peninsula's Barb Shoos talks with Pierce County Works and Utilities Department official, Erich Hertzog, with Gary Koden, PC Maintenance and Engineering, in the background, at the KP Livable Community Fair in May.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Key Peninsula firefighters attack a rapidly moving fire at Palmer Lake in May. There were no injuries or fatalities to humans as the older model mobile was rapidly destroyed, but nine adult dogs, six puppies and five cats locked in the building perished. The occupants of the building were not at home. KP Fire's Division Chief for Operations Guy Allen said the fire is under investigation by the Pierce County Fire Marshal's office.

Photo by Hugh McMillan