



Come on, come all to the Renaissance Faire, PAGE 10

Peninsula KEY NEWS



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In this issue



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▲ Dedicated to service, Page 26

The Lorenz Road geoduck dilemma: One family's solution, one community's growing concern

Siblings Ona Reinke and Orrin Soeurs on the beach of the 30-acre property where each has a home. The family hopes to lease the tidelands to a geoduck farmer, which has caused controversy throughout the area.

Photo by Vic Renz



By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Owned since 1911, a 30-acre, 3,000-foot waterfront compound (including low tidelands) on Lorenz Road is the center of a local controversy. Across Mayo Cove from Penrose State Park, Reeder family descendants Jod Soeurs, his sister Ona Reinke with husband Cliff Reinke, all reside in the original farmhouse. Soeurs' brother, Orrin, and his wife, Therese, own a second home on the site. The eldest sister, Juel Erickson, lives in Seattle. Three siblings are retired with fixed incomes; the property is mortgage-free. They say that while

property tax payments are now doable, rising values are worrisome.

"We have protected and loved this land for nearly 100 years," says Ona Reinke. They figure easily within 10 years, possibly sooner, taxes will overwhelm their capacity to absorb them. Orrin Soeurs says previous generations paid their own taxes, and they would do the same.

"I don't feel right passing on a burden to the children," he says. "This land is irreplaceable. It's one of the last untouched places left along the penin-

(See **DILEMMA**, Page 19)

KPCCA marks 50 years of service to community

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

About 50 years ago, a group of Key Pen residents banded together to preserve a local piece of history and turn it into a community hub. They bought the old Vaughn Union High School, originally built in 1906, from the school district for \$8,100 and called themselves the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association.

Through the years, the community shared some good times at Key Peninsula Civic Center events ranging from the wildly popular Bingo in the 1970s to Pioneer Days and skate nights. The center holds many memories with love birds who hosted their wedding receptions there, VUHS alums who've trekked back for reunions, and countless residents who have celebrated milestones ranging from birthdays to wedding anniversaries.

The center, also home to the Key Peninsula News, has been the pulse of the Key Peninsula, serving as the host to local events ranging from outspoken community meetings and political forums, to arts showcases and livable community fairs.

(See **KPCCA**, Page 13)

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KPMPD president cleared at county auditor hearing

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District President Paula DeMoss appeared at a public hearing at the Pierce County Auditor's Office in July, following a "Voter Registration Challenge" filed by local resident Mike Salatino.

Salatino said he became concerned about the current residency of Paula DeMoss after learning from a previous article that she had moved and no current address for her could be located. He said DeMoss' general reluctance to provide information prompted him to investigate her whereabouts. Acting on information from an unnamed source, he set out to discover if she still lived

within the district. Her Peninsula Light bill was sent to a Gig Harbor address, and he observed her car at that address, so he assumed she must live there, in direct violation of residency requirements of the KPMPD.

When a registered voter moves from one residence to another, according to

(See **KPMPD**, Page 20)

St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor clears major road block

By Irene Torres
KP News

In July, a proposed hospital in Gig Harbor cleared some major hurdles that have caused major delays to the construction schedule.

Budd Wagner, vice president of marketing and communications for the Franciscan Health System that is building the facility, says, "We're very excited to at last get the Gig Harbor City Council's approval of our Comprehensive Plan Amendment. This is their first official action on St. Anthony Hospital since it was approved by the State of Washington Department of Health in May of 2004."

The amendment to the city's Comprehensive Land Use Plan allows about 15 acres of the site, located in Gig Harbor North, to be rezoned as "business park," the only zone within city limits that allows, as "conditional use," for a hospital to be built.

"Although the need for the hospital was confirmed by the Washington State Department of Health more than two years ago, the Gig Harbor City Council made its

first official decision regarding the hospital (July 10)," says hospital spokesman Gale Robinette. "This approval puts the hospital through its first major gate on the pathway toward getting a building permit. We are thrilled!"

The procedure for gaining approval for a new hospital has been an obstacle course, until recently stalled like traffic on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The city will hire a staff person, to be paid by FHS, to help guide the application through review. This is a common practice in small municipalities when dealing with large construction developments.

In August 2003, the cost of the project was estimated at \$94 million. Robinette says, "Given that the cost of construction materials and medical technology has increased the overall cost of the hospital by \$15 million as a result of delays, we are working hard to ensure that the rest of the approval phases go as smoothly as possible."

For more than a year, a community committee has been meeting regularly to address and resolve traffic concerns.

"Franciscan and the city have reached

contractual agreements which pertain to traffic improvements that will need to be built to open the hospital," says Gig Harbor City Administrator Mark Hoppen. "The St. Anthony Hospital project is ready to apply for a rezone and conditional use permit, and then to receive a building permit. Franciscan hopes to receive its building permit by the end of the year and the city hopes to provide it earlier than that. If we meet this objective, then St. Anthony should be serving Peninsula residents by early 2009."

St. Anthony Hospital will be an 80-bed state-of-the-art community hospital, located in the north area of Gig Harbor, just off Canterwood Boulevard near Burnham Drive at State Route 16.

Plans include 24-hour emergency services; medical, surgical and critical care units; inpatient and outpatient surgery; a heart catheterization laboratory; diagnostic services, including MRI, CT scans, ultrasound and mammography; and physical, occupational and speech therapies.

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership (www.zgf.com) was named architect for St. Anthony Hospital in June 2004. Sellen

Construction (www.sellen.com) has been selected as general contractor. Named after St. Anthony of Padua, a patron saint of sailors and fishermen, honoring the maritime tradition of the Peninsula communities, the new hospital will create about 450 family-wage jobs.

"I think the entire Peninsula community can celebrate the fact that the hospital project is at long-last moving forward," Wagner says.



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News brief

DNR confirms land sale

In a phone call July 17, Everett Challstedt of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirmed the formal appraisal, and subsequent sale, of 360 acres of state trust lands (referenced by DNR as "Horseshoe Lake property") to the KP Metro Parks District will most likely be delayed until late winter or early spring, 2007.

When the appraiser initially went out to the property in early summer, strata

indicating gravel beds were discovered. Since DNR is charged with assessing fair market value for lands sold under the public trust, the site now requires further geologic investigative work, Challstedt said. Strata indicates the presence of gravel of an undetermined quality and quantity; more details will be known when sample drilling occurs in the near future. Gravel, like any resource, can change the value of land. Likewise, the presence of wetlands changes the value of land. Challstedt ceded that to the extent wetlands subtract usable area, value is potentially compensated by gravel that can be

readily extracted under a reasonable permit, as yet an unknown.

Second, some state lands in the queue for sale in the 2005-2007 biennium lie at high mountain elevations, whose accesses are closed early in the fall season due to snow. The appraisal process for these properties has been shifted to summertime to accommodate weather, while properties at lower elevations, such as the 360 project, can be accomplished at any time of the year.

Challstedt expects the process for this parcel to be completed next for presentation during this biennium, which ends June 30, 2007.

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

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

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

News briefs

Commissioner spearheads anti-levy campaign

Fire District 16 Commissioner Allen Yanity plans to mount a campaign against a levy lid lift proposed by the district. Asked in mid-July who else is on the committee, he said, "I am the committee. I do have people helping me."

Yanity did not sign a Board of Commissioner resolution to take the levy proposal to the voters, although according to district officials he had not indicated those plans during the worksession.

Yanity told the KP News in late July that following a trip to a health conference he attended in Arizona with Local Union President Robert Bosch, they had agreed he would support the levy in exchange for the union entertaining his request of asking the Labor Management Committee "to work out the issue." However, he said after a July 26 board meeting that a letter written by Bosch describing the conversation was not what they agreed to.

"What we agreed in Arizona... was we could put a mandatory, nonpunitive

physical fitness program before a committee and discuss drug testing, and institute a policy," he said. "What the letter (said) was not what we agreed to... I won't back any increase in taxes until we have a program in place, and I believe the voters are behind me."

Bosch said Yanity read the letter he crafted at the airport and they discussed it.

"He reneged on it," he said. "Since he's reneged on it, we have no intention to discuss it (the policy) further."

KP Metro Parks District to begin planning for Comprehensive Park Plan

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District will start holding public meetings in late September to plan the park district's comprehensive park plan.

The purpose of the plan is to identify existing recreation resources, determine recreation needs of the residents of the Key Peninsula, and develop strategy for developing additional recreation opportunities for the residents of the Key Peninsula.

For information, contact the district at 884-9240.




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Editorial

Opinion page reflects readers' views

Key Peninsula News readers have noted that sometimes our Peninsula Views page is imbalanced. Usually that happens when guest editorials and letters to the editor reflect one side of an issue — often on controversial subjects — but the other side is not presented. Because of this imbalance, the newspaper appears biased in favor of one side or another.

The opinion page is unique and does not follow the same guidelines as our news coverage. The page is intended to be a forum for community views and opinions, and as such it reflects our readers' feedback. While in a news story we do our best to present all sides of an issue, and try to solicit comments from opposing views on important news topics, the opinion page has a different guideline.

Our policy for letters to the editor is simple — we consider all letters that are not anonymous, pertain to issues relevant to Key Peninsula readers, and do not contain personal attacks or libel. We accept letters endorsing political candidates or ballot measures; however, we limit those letters based on IRS guidelines for nonprofit publications. We don't publish letters based on whether they reflect our views and we do not endorse the submissions we publish.

We publish the majority of the letters we receive if they follow the above guidelines. When would a letter not make it to print? When it's too lengthy, serves a commercial interest, or does not meet our editorial philosophy and mission.

Likewise, we try to publish as many guest opinion columns as possible, but those submissions are competitive since we only publish one a month and some months we receive four or five. We give preference to topics that have not been previously covered, or reflect a view opposing a recently published guest op-ed or letter.

We appreciate our readers trying to keep us on our toes when it comes to unbiased reporting. We hope if you read a story with which you disagree, or if you have an opinion opposing previous letters, you would write us and let us know. The Peninsula Views page needs your views, popular or not!

If you have questions or comments, email us to news@keypennews.com or call us at 884-4699. We love to hear from our readers.

Credit wrongly taken for KPMPD creation

By Kip Clinton
Special to KP News

In an article in the July 19 issue of The Peninsula Gateway newspaper, Mike Salatino takes full credit for creating the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District — this is false and misleading.

KPPRD Commissioner Nancy Lind presented the option to the former park district after learning of a relatively recent legislative change in Washington State statute regarding metropolitan park districts. The revision (HB 2557) increased opportunities to create new metropolitan park districts statewide.

Nancy told KP Parks and Recreation District Commissioners Fred Ramsdell, Dick Granquist, Pat Medveckus, and Mike Salatino of this change. The successor KPPRD board (Nancy Lind, Jerry Schick, Ross Bischoff, Mike Salatino and John Glennon) established a citizens committee to create a new metropolitan park district because voters failed to pass a funding levy for the KPPRD — the district was facing the prospect of either closing or turning its assets over to Pierce County Parks.

Citizens appointed by KPPRD Chairman Mike Salatino to the formation committee were myself (secretary), John Biggs (legal), Irene Torres (financial), and Ben Thompson (chair); Mike Salatino did not serve as an official member of the committee. Ben drafted and submitted the Boundary Review Documents (minutes and campaign literature are stored in the Volunteer Park Annex).

Numerous people donated campaign money. All KPPRD commissioners attended the committee meetings; interested citizens included Jeff Harris and Ruth Bramhall. Key Peninsula Little League parents and youth petitioned the Pierce County Council. The creation of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District was the result of countless hours spent by a multitude of people of all ages — not just one individual. For Mike Salatino to assert or imply that he was the only person who was responsible for the formation of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District is just plain wrong!

Ben Thompson and Mike Salatino did speak to organizations and made promises. At the two presentations Ben and I made,

most people's concerns were, "will the creation of a new park district cost me anything," "will the park district impose a levy," and "what will happen to the old park district." Citizens were promised the old district would be dissolved and a new metropolitan park district would not result in new taxes.

I do not remember "commissioner compensation" being mentioned at the formation committee's public meetings. However, at the candidates' forums I promised I would not take compensation.

I find it offensive for Mike Salatino to malign and impugn the integrity and sincerity of the current commissioners — and by extension all park volunteers — who work tirelessly to improve the KPMPD. The district strives to provide facilities and programs for all recreational users on the Key Peninsula. We also envision the future park system as a major tourism asset for the Key Peninsula, providing revenue to businesses and good living wage jobs to our citizens. Please do not allow one discontented individual to undermine the progress that is being made toward a better future for our citizens, our children and our new park district.

Kip Clinton is a commissioner with the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District.

Letters to the Editor

Community is moving toward being elder-friendly

Thank you to everyone who took the time recently to fill out a Key Peninsula Elder Needs Assessment form. The responses are now being compiled, and we hope to share the results through this newspaper soon. Special thanks to the 13 businesses, civic organizations and churches that helped with the "second wave" effort to get the surveys distributed.

These include: Cost Less Pharmacy, the New Brookside Restaurant, the Key Center Library, Sunnycrest Nursery, the Angel Guild, the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center, the Key Peninsula Medical Center, the Key Peninsula Historical Society, Sound Credit Union, Lakebay Community Church, Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Longbranch Community Church, and Key Peninsula Community Services.

Your assistance made all the difference in the world!

Please mail any outstanding surveys to P.O. Box 233, Lakebay, WA 98349, so we can add your opinions to the results. It

takes a whole village to care for its elders, and I believe our community is moving in the right direction. Thank you all!

*Edie Morgan
The Mustard Seed Project: Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula*

harm our wildlife. For more information, visit the Mayo Cove Conservation Association at www.nogeoduckfarm.com.

*Richard Kuntz
Lakebay*

Geoduck farming has huge impacts

The hunt for geoduck commercial farming is hitting the Key Peninsula like a storm, with six permits pending with Pierce County. The physical and biological impact of high-intensity beach farming is huge.

Each acre of beach that is farmed results in: Geoduck biomass (excrement) equivalent to what would be produced by 286 cows weighing 600 pounds each; 12 miles of PVC pipe plus auxiliary steel, netting and other building materials.

We believe that the proposed commercial farm for Mayo Cove permit SD-15-06 across from the Penrose State Park may hurt the fragile eco-system as well as be unsightly for property owners and park guests. It will also interfere with water recreation in the bay. The nets may also

KPVI thanks residents

The members of the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute wish to thank all the residents of the Key Peninsula who patronized our Fourth of July fireworks stand at Lake Kathryn Village and made our yearly fund-raiser such a success.

The fireworks sale is our major fund-raiser of the year, and the proceeds from fireworks sale either go to support veterans of service to our country, or to projects that help residents right here on our Key Peninsula.

Due to your support again, we will be able to continue our programs of veteran and Key Peninsula support, and we invite all eligible veterans and their families to join with us by contacting one of our members and submitting an application.

*Keith Stiles, Publicity Chairperson
Key Peninsula Veteran's Institute*

Project aims to make Key Peninsula elder-friendly

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Edie Morgan has a vision: to help Key Peninsula residents "age in place." For the past few months, with the help of a steering committee, she has been working toward that vision a step at a time.

One of those steps, to solicit feedback from local seniors, is nearing completion. Morgan hopes to compile survey results soon. Next, she will convene a "council of elders" to discuss the survey results and the local needs, and eventually to share the information and brainstorm more ideas in a public forum.

"I envision a Key Peninsula that is elder-friendly, where the services and programs are available to meet the needs of the people as they age and as their needs change," said Morgan, the former director of the Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Community Resources whose background is in geriatric social work and long-term care. "You pull them (the elders) out of the fabric of this community and put them in (a place like) Tacoma, you leave a hole. I think we're capable of keeping our community intact."

"Aging in place" has been a buzzword in recent years used to describe people's ability to continue living in their community thanks to services available and affordable to support their changing needs.

With the aging of the baby boomer generation, it has become a focus for many organizations. On the Key Peninsula, only about 10 percent of the population was 65 and older in 2000, according to the U.S. Census, but by year 2020 as many as a third of local residents could reach that age.

"The demographics support a smaller scale (program). I'm all for 'small is beautiful,'" Morgan said.

Morgan acknowledges this is a big undertaking, but says once priorities are outlined, the shape of the project will become more clear. A nonprofit organization will likely be formed, and serve to coordinate services that currently are available, try to recruit new services, and maybe initiate some. Morgan is not looking at duplicating anything already available, such as programs and services provided by



MORGAN

the Key Pen Community Services and Food Bank.

"This affects the entire community, the future of the community and quality of life. It's a community-based approach to taking care of our elders," she said. "It requires a shift in thinking because we're in a culture of youth orientation — the entire country is."

Morgan has named her effort The Mustard Seed Project, after a Biblical parable that describes a small mustard seed

that grew into a tree used by birds to nest in its branches. She hopes just like the mustard seed, her idea will grow — and help Key Pen seniors remain in their homes or in their community as long as they want to, instead of moving away.

"I think I'm doing what I'm supposed to," she said. "I've learned from living in this community for 20-some years you can make incredible things happen with the help of your friends and neighbors if you're doing the right work."

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Old Timers' Day spotlight is on *Down Home Band*



The original Home Band Association, which the Down Home Band directed by Dr. Roes replicates.

Photo courtesy William Rose

By Danna Webster
KP News

The Down Home Band will be the feature entertainment at this year's Old Timers' Day on Aug. 19. The band will play traditional brass band music with hearts that love the traditions and heritage of times gone by on the Key Peninsula.

Since 1990, the Down Home Band has delighted KP residents from its first appearance in the Pioneer Day parades and year after year performing at Old Timers' Day. Just as Old Timers' Day honors the traditions and heritage of the peninsula, so, too, does the Down Home Band. The band replicates the original Home Band Association that played for dances on the peninsula about 100 years ago. The Down Home Band is a brass band of 15 to 20 musicians who play music that was popular with their predecessors.

"I wanted kids to have the opportunity to hear that music," says Dr. William Roes, director and founder of the Down Home Band. He believes it is important for today's audiences to hear and recognize Souza marches like "Stars and Stripes Forever." He thinks there is little opportunity for today's kids to hear that music.

Two doctors of the Key Peninsula started the first Down Home Band that played in a Pioneer Day parade. Dr. John Olsson, Key Center dentist, helped Dr. Roes organize some kids to march in the parade. They wore tie-dye shirts and played kazoos. By the second parade, the band acquired some older members and more traditional instruments. They built floats and changed their name occasionally to reflect the theme of their events. They have been known on occasion as the Down Home Slug Band, the Down Home Pirate Band and the Down Home Keep Clam Band.

Today, the band members include doctors, teachers, high school students and retired seniors. But a showcase

member of the band is its huge bass drum, modeled after the one featured in pictures of the original Home Band Association.

Having a large drum for the band was recognized as an essential ingredient by Tom and Edie Morgan, who happened to have such a drum serving as a coffee table in their living room. Because the drum was missing the part beat with the drum sticks, a band member traded her violin for some skins. Once the skins were in place, the band painted the name on its face, just like the old Home Band Association.

The Down Home Band is just one example of the musical entertainment at Old Timers' Day; others include the Key Singers and the High Plains Drifters. There will be music in the air, while loggers compete and demonstrate their skills felling trees and bucking up loads of wood. There will also be plenty of prizes to be won at the raffle, auctions and for kids at their games. The theme for the day is "down home fun with simple good food, good music and good times."

The proceeds from the event benefit the Key Peninsula Community Services, which provides a food bank and senior citizens' programs. Many of the seniors volunteer for this event. Executive Director Linda Hubbard says, "It is always a special time for us and for those who go there, too. The people that have been going to it over the years keep coming back. It has become a tradition for families."

Hubbard says each year they try to make interesting additions, but mostly people come to have an old-fashioned good time and to see their neighbors. "They come to see their doctor play a musical instrument," Hubbard says.

Old Timers' Day is Aug. 19 at the Longbranch Improvement Club. The event opens with the local veterans raising the flag at 10 a.m. The raffle drawing is at 4 p.m.

Key Peninsula Community Fair

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Deputy Superintendent Harris accepts new challenge

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

When Deputy Superintendent Marcia Harris leaves the Peninsula School District on Aug. 1, she will be a month into her 11th year with the organization, the longest she's ever stayed in one position. She is taking on a troubled school district — as deputy superintendent of the Shoreline School District — and says she looks forward to the new challenge.

In many ways this is a lateral move for her. She says her new duties “read like my resume in jobs I’ve done at other districts throughout my career.” Harris thinks Shoreline will be a good fit. It’s very much like PSD in many ways: The population is well-educated and involved, the students have the same test scores, and the schools face many of the same issues she originally found here.

Harris had told the previous PSD superintendent, Jim Coolican, last year that her intention was to either take another job elsewhere, or perhaps retire and create another career for herself. For the last two



Photo by Danna Webster

New PSD Superintendent Terry Bouk and outgoing Deputy Superintendent Marcia Harris during KP fair opening in July.

years, she says she has hired and intentionally cross-trained staff to step into her various duties. She made a conscious decision to focus on the district’s strategic plan, safety, and capital projects, and to put long-term people in place who could continue to make the district thrive.

Harris leaves the PSD in good financial shape; bond money has been used wisely with commitment to public accountability, a four-year levy was passed last year, and district buildings are in good repair. “The district is in good hands with an excellent staff and sound leadership,” she says.

New PSD Superintendent Terry Bouk started his new job in July. He and Harris have been coordinating a smooth transition. Bouk has been meeting individually with the present leadership, exploring a restructure, ideas, and ways to beneficially support the central administration.

“The more input I get, the better the decisions I can make in future recommendations to the board,” he said. Several administrative options have been discussed, but he has no plans to implement any changes for several months.

Harris plans to be a weekend commuter. She and her husband, Jeff, will stay on the Key Peninsula. “We love living here,” she says. “The Key Peninsula is not just a place; it’s a state of mind.”



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Community Fair celebrates Key Peninsula



Above, Heather Pearl from Portland, Ore., is quite masterful on her stilts, to the delight of fair-goers. Right, the judges have spoken: Clara Robert, 15, won first place in the Hershey's contest youth category with her "Contagiously Chocolate Cookies" and Cameron McMillan, 11, won second with "Absolutely Deep Dark Chocolate Cookies." *Photos by Hugh McMillan*



Photo by Danna Webster
Fred and Mary Ramsdell before the opening ceremony, which included a special presentation in their honor. The longtime residents, also known as Santa and Mrs. Santa, have been instrumental in many local organizations and among the fair's biggest supporters. Several community leaders took turns to talk about the contribution of this dynamo couple.



Photo by Kristen Pierce
The three-day event has all the staples of a fair, from rides and games to entertainment.



Top, Harpist Katharyn Shriner performs. *Photo by Frank Slater*



Top right, Gig Harbor's Bailey Damish, 3, enjoys the Dragon Ride. *Photo by Kristen Pierce*



Photo by Mindi LaRose
Fourth grader Tacoda Anker swings a ball in between carnival rides.



Photo by Hugh McMillan
Despite a record heat, crowds try to stay cool while enjoying the entertainment program.

Fun in the sun at the Key Peninsula Fair

By Kristen Pierce
KP News

Despite a record-breaking heat wave, the Key Peninsula fair was a great success. There were more volunteers this year, which meant more booths, rides, security, attractions, and more fun.

It was the volunteer spirit that helped bring a community fair out to the Key Peninsula in 2000. Since then, the fair gets bigger and better each year.

It was hard to miss the flushed faces of two particular girls at the Volunteer Vendors booth by the main entrance. Amy Olive and Haley McDoneld, Peninsula High School students, spent their weekend helping the vendors with their badges, bracelets, setting up booths, and answering questions. They had many friends there just hanging out with them. When asked if they had any comments, there was one common response, "It's hot!"

Friday night's opening ceremony exhibited a wonderful show of pride and patriotism as the VFW District No. 4 Honor Guards raised the American flag while Whitney Moore sang her beautiful version

of "The Star Spangled Banner." An emotional farewell to Fred and Mary Ramsdell, longtime citizens of the Key Peninsula, was part of the event. The couple has dedicated a lifetime of service to this area and are finally ready to retire and relax in Hawaii.

The petting zoo, run by the Sherman family, was a favorite attraction for all ages. The Shermans have been coming out to the fair for five years now with their animals. Parents Kris and Scott Sherman are very proud of their two young sons, 12-year-old Johnny and 9-year-old Robert. The boys take primary responsibility for the care of the animals. "It is their turn to show pride in what they've done all year," Kris Sherman said.

Besides a variety of agricultural booths with everything from Pigmy goats, dwarf ponies, chickens with fancy hairdos and cute little piglets, there was also a local resident showing off his collection of rare varieties of pigeons. Orrie Moore of Longbranch has been breeding and showing pigeons since 1946. Moore is one of only three other registered international pigeon judges in the world. He admits that



A group of friends hang out with Peninsula High School students Amy Olive and Haley McDoneld as the two teens volunteer to help fair vendors with badges, questions, etc.
Photo by Kristen Pierce

he loves all animals but raising pigeons is "the best hobby in the world."

At the other side of the fair, kids flocked around a fire truck to cool themselves from the squelching heat of the afternoon. One of the massive fire hoses had been turned into a giant sprinkler. Nearby bands played music, magicians mystified their audiences, and a variety of carnival rides created smiles, laughter, shrills and thrills from their riders. A group of teens did comment that they would have enjoyed a few more "bigger people" rides.

There were ample concession stands, which offered a large variety of foods and beverages. Candace Taylor of Port Orchard ran the Little O's Donut stand. With a flushed face and some disappointment in her voice, she said, "It's way too hot. Not as many people seemed to show up." Within the cooler walls of an actual building, Kristi Adams of Purdy ran Homerun Concessions. It was her first year at the fair. "It has been a lot of fun. I mainly started this for the Little League teams, which will end in August," she said.

Most folks didn't seem to mind the heat too much, as they knew it would not last long in this part of the state. Chris Morris, wife Dawn Morris, and their kids sat at a table enjoying their dinner. They have

lived in Port Orchard for five years and had never been to the KP Fair before. Even though it was hot, Chris Morris laughed and said, "The kids are excited to get on the rides and sample some fine fair cuisine!"

As night approached, aromas from delicious multicultural foods lingered in the air, music could still be heard in the distance, and the rides glistened in the beautiful summer sunset.

One would have to say that all in all, the weekend's KP Fair events fared really well this year!

More fair fun

This year's "Best in Show" AgriVision winner was Jamie Knouse for jam.

In the adult category of the first-ever Hershey's contest, Rose Naptaling took first place with her Dutch Marble Chocolate Cake; second place went to Diane Zook for a Black Forest Cheesecake and third to Sheri Ahlheim for a Bittersweet Truffle Tart.

For more photos of fun at the fair, visit the Photo Gallery on our Website at www.keypennews.com

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The spell of Renaissance is in the air!

By Christina Moore
KP News

The lifestyle of 16th century Europe becomes part of the Key Peninsula during the Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire in August. Organizer Ron Cleveland has been king of the faire since its takeoff nine years ago, when he took over from directing the Performance Circle of Gig Harbor. In creating the faire, he had two goals in mind: Everyone leaves with the thought, "That was great, let's do it again," and the vendors make money.

Why does this king continue to rule over his expanding realm year after year? Cleveland responds, "I do it because I really love it."

It takes nearly 300 people, most of them volunteers, to bring the medieval times to life. The event is set as a story line: The setting is a quiet Scottish town that suddenly finds itself with visiting nobility. You'll find nobles strolling

through the grounds, as well as merchants, peasants and even a town beggar or two. "It adds more color to it," says Dean Draeger, who has helped organize the event since its inception.

Entertainment is supplied for people of all ages and interests, making this faire the perfect family event. There are games specifically for children including puppet shows, magicians, and face painting. Musical performances range from dancers to bagpipers to choirs and individual singers. Fans of Shakespeare, or not, Shakespeare's Bloody Bits is one performance everyone can agree on. Beer gardens for the adults, horseback acrobatics, archery on horseback, and jousting for everyone young and old are some of the attractions.

While there, take a moment to view the fine wares of at least 50 merchants before you head off to an inn for refreshments. Handcrafted jewelry, leather goods, wooden toys, clothing, art, food, blades,

Visit the Faire!

The Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire will be held over three weekends in August, 5-6, 12-13, and 19-20, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Minter Creek Ranch off State Route 302. For details, see www.washingtonrenfaire.com or call 884-4210.

collectables... it's just something you have to see.

With only 15 acres dedicated to parking, which is begging for traffic nightmares with a faire of such stature, one option is to take the Pierce County Bus Plus shuttle from the Purdy Park and Ride. The shuttle is free, although tips are appreciated. Faire-goers can avoid the agony of long lines at the gate by purchasing tickets online or through mail order — and either way enjoy the added discount of buying tickets in advance.



Photo courtesy Cavallo Equestrian Arts
Olissio Zoppe will be one of the performers at the faire's Fratelli show.

The faire offers a program that allows the community to make donations, as more and more money is put into the event each year. There are special benefits for each level of donation, and the littlest contribution is much obliged.

An invitation to the Joust

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The Queen invites you to the Joust! Come and be Welcome in the lands of Minter along Road of State, numbered 302. The Queen's Champions will meet on the Field of Honor on August the 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th, and 20th in the Year of Our Lord 2006, at the Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire.

Knights Phil Smith, who has jousting with the Seattle Knights for over 20 years, and Bev Thompson (a Lady) from Poulsbo will joust at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily during the faire. At 2 p.m., between jousting tournaments, you will be pleased by the Fratelli show, a performance including acrobats, horse dancing, dressage, static work, Cossack (trick) riding, Roman riding, somersaulting from one moving horse to another, and juggling pins, swords, and fire while standing on the moving horses.

Fratelli is an Italian word for brother and is a circus-style gypsy performance. The Zoppe brothers, Matt, Ermes and Olissio, are eighth-generation circus performers. Kerry Silson and Krystyn Yates complete the core group, all of



Photo courtesy Cavallo Equestrian Arts

whom are professionals based in Florida.

A little bit of history: Jousting was an honorable competition, both a practice and exhibition of martial skills. Small trees were used as lances in an attempt to

evict a similarly armed and armored knight from his charging war horse, which weighed nearly 3,000 pounds.

For over 1,000 years, two sets of formal jousting rules existed in Western Europe.

Au Plaisance was a spirited competition for sport conducted with blunted lance tips with the intent to unhorse the other rider. Victors frequently claimed the losing knight's horse and armor, making jousting an early form of high-stakes gambling with fame and fortune, or destitution riding on the point of the lance.

Au Outrance was a serious combat "to the death" using sharpened lance tips, usually on the battlefield, but occasionally as a duel or means to settle legal arguments. In historic times, entire battles and wars were suspended as the armies (both sides) witnessed — and bet on — the outcome of a joust.

Did you know that jousting was adopted as the "state sport" of Maryland? The state seal depicts an armored knight on a charging horse!

Jousting is not only a faire form of entertainment. The Society for Creative Anachronism reenacts tournaments, and even entire battles, across the United States and abroad. Many of the Renaissance Faire crafts-persons are SCA members, producing wares in traditional fashion.

The Renaissance Faire tournaments are primarily for show and demonstration but, nonetheless, provide a very spirited competition.

Don't miss this fabulous event that can be seen nowhere else except on the Key Peninsula!

Key Pen commercial construction picks up pace

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Two commercially-zoned buildings occupying a half-acre lot are close to completion next to the New Brookside Restaurant near the intersection of State Route 302 and 118th. The larger two-story, 3,000-square-foot structure will potentially house a consortium of four health-care professionals. They have already signed a letter of intent and made a deposit, subject to completion of the building and notice of the official zoning change from residential to Rural Neighborhood Center, a process now taking place through the county and expected to be complete by year-end.

The smaller, one-story, 2,000-square-foot building has no prospective tenants at this time; the owner hopes to attract other members of the health-care community. Across the street between the Serenity Salon

building and Charboneau Excavating, a recently purchased 8-acre commercially zoned parcel is being readied for septic system installations. The owner has not indicated a specific use for the site.

Renovation of the old Wauna fire station is also nearly complete. This old building will see new life as a Seabeck Pizza establishment.

A commercial property at the intersection of SR-302 and Creviston remains unsold and unleased; plans for two potential fast-food drive-through restaurants and a coffee kiosk are still being negotiated, with no satisfactory resolution expected soon.

A 7-acre property on the corner of SR-302 and Wright-Bliss recently changed hands. The new owner has no immediate plans to begin construction and has not made a determination regarding its intended use, although potential for a gas station and convenience food store

has been mentioned as one possibility.

A McDonald's drive-through restaurant is looking at an undisclosed site on the Key Peninsula. The owner of the unnamed property specifically requested that the corporation be contacted regarding a potential purchase. After a wait of several months, McDonald's representatives responded, and are now conducting their own research on the viability of locating a franchise here. How close or far it would be from the existing Burger King is unknown at this time.

Event calendar posted online!
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'Sheriff Hardin' to watch out for 'offenders' at KPCCA celebration

By Ben Thompson
Special to KP News

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association will present one of the Key Peninsula's own residents as a feature attraction at its 50th anniversary celebration on Aug. 26. He has been known by many names in various movies: Lt. Schumacher in the "Battle of the Bulge," Ed Kraski in "The Chapman Report," and Bronco Layne in a Western television series. But to the residents of the Key Peninsula, he is known as neighbor and friend Ty Hardin.

Hardin is a modest person, which is why his career as a star of the silver screen and television is not well known. He has appeared in over 40 movies and is a well-known and respected member of the Screen Actors Guild. He was a special friend of Clint Walker, whom he replaced in the TV series "Cheyenne" at a time when Walker had a dispute with Warner Bros. When Walker returned to the show, Hardin was given his own series with the help from friend and fellow actor John Wayne. Hardin's new role was as Western hero Bronco Layne.

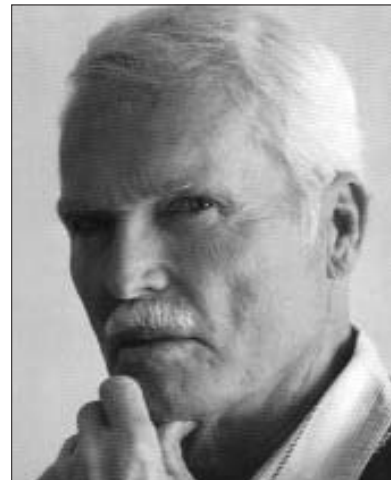
When asked about his favorite leading ladies, Hardin says he enjoyed working with all of them. However, he especially enjoyed working with Ann Margaret and Connie Stevens.

After retiring to the Key Peninsula, Ty and Judy Hardin have been living a quiet life. Ty enjoys working in his garden, playing golf and being an active member and supporter of the Key Peninsula Community Services, where he can be found several days a week.

Hardin was elected to be the "sheriff" at the Civic Center anniversary picnic, so organizers advise everyone to be on their best behavior — or they may end up in the Civic Center Jail, where they will either have to make a donation to Hardin's favorite charity or be punished. All good children will be able to have their picture taken with Sheriff Hardin (or Bronco Layne as he was known on TV).

The Civic Center anniversary celebration kicks off with a parade at noon in Key Center, followed by festivities at the center in Vaughn from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. (see related story on cover).

Ben Thompson is a member of the KPCCA Executive Committee.



Then and now...
Far left, Ty Hardin as Bronco Layne. Left, Hardin as a "retiree."

Photos courtesy Ty Hardin

'Sheriff' Hardin's other 'jobs'

Ty Hardin's movie and television roles include:

- Ens. Thom in "PT 109" (with Cliff Robertson)
- Lt. Schumacher in "Battle of the Bulge" (with Henry Fonda)
- Ed Kraski in "The Chapman Report" (with Jane Fonda)
- Doug Fortune in "Palm Springs Weekend" (with Robert Conrad)
- Lt. Stockton in "Merrill's Marauders" (with Jeff Chandler)
- Moss Andrews in Western TV series in 1969 (Australia)
- Bronco Layne in Western TV series in 1959-1962

To read more about Hardin's biography, filmography, and find out his real name, visit his official Website, www.tyhardin.com.

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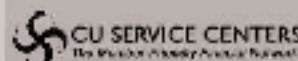


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(From KPCCA, Page 1)

The volunteers have been the cornerstone of the organization, struggling through some tough years to keep doors open, and making sure whatever needed doing — maintenance, repairs, fund-raising, cleanups — got done. Some volunteers are third generation.

Just as much as the community has relied on the Civic Center to provide services and activities, so has the Civic Center relied on the community for support. Generous donations and high attendance at fund-raising events have helped offset ever-increasing costs of running the facility.

In August, the KPCCA will hold a 50-year celebration with a community bash, trying to recreate the atmosphere of its Pioneer Days, including a parade and a popular fish tank. Several bands have been lined up for the occasion. A bicycle cart with ice-cream and popcorn along with cotton candy will be available — as it should be at any celebration intended to bring back some good memories. A dunk tank, square dancing, line dancing, pony rides, and a beer garden are on the agenda for the festivities, which kick off with a parade in Key Center at noon, followed by a 1 p.m. community “picnic” at the center.

“It’s a once in a lifetime event,” says Gloria Bowman, one of the organizers. “It’s about giving back to the community for the community support.”

Tim Kezele, the KP Lions Club 2005 Citizen of the Year who will be the parade’s grand marshal, recalls people lining up the streets in Key Center during the traditional Pioneer Days parade. “A lot of people have good memories about it,” he says. “It was a down home festival.”

The center has more to celebrate than its 50 years of service. In recent years, several upgrades have been made

including a new roof and paint, and a revamped gymnasium with a basketball court. It is in much better financial shape, and continues to look for opportunities to add programs, such as sports activities in collaboration with the park district.

Kezele, one of the founders of the Key Pen museum housed in the center and longtime president of the Key Peninsula Historical Society, says the center “was built on Bingo games and spaghetti feeds” and the anniversary is “a big deal.”

“It’s always been a holy piece of ground; the community always rallied around it,” he says.

Celebrate the Big 50!

The Civic Center community picnic will try to recreate the good ol’ Pioneer Days. A parade will wind its way from Key Center starting at noon. At the center, activities starting at 1 p.m. will include Bingo, music, cloggers, line and square dancing, a fish pond, a dunk tank, a beer garden and more. Be on the lookout for “Sheriff” Ty Hardin who will haul anyone who doesn’t behave to a makeshift “jail”— the only way to get out is by donating money that will go to a good cause! Hotdogs, ice cream and cotton candy will be for sale. There is no admission fee but some activities have a nominal charge. Hang out until dusk falls — and watch an outdoor movie, courtesy of the KP Metro Parks (admission is \$1 and a can of food for the food bank).

The fun is scheduled for Aug. 26. Floats and pre-1956 cars are wanted for the parade. For information, call the center at 884-3456.

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Beware paralytic shellfish poisoning

By Ray Hanowell
TPCHD Environmental Health Specialist

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) is a serious concern in South Puget Sound. It can be fatal. In 2000, nine people in the Gig Harbor area became ill after eating contaminated shellfish and five of the people required hospitalization. Fortunately, medical staff prevented any fatalities, but several people were gravely ill.

Common symptoms of PSP include tingly lips and tongue, which may begin within minutes of eating the shellfish, leading to a tingling in the fingers and toes. In severe cases, victims have difficulty breathing and require immediate hospitalization. If any symptoms are noted, it is important to induce vomiting and contact a doctor at once.

PSP is caused by eating shellfish containing a potent toxin that is produced by a naturally occurring plankton. When conditions are favorable, the plankton can reproduce rapidly to form a large population, referred to as a bloom. The toxin accumulates in shellfish such as clams, oysters, and mussels that filter their food from the water. The toxin does not hurt the shellfish. Unfortunately, the toxin is not destroyed by cooking or freezing.

Shellfish containing high concentrations of the toxin do not look or taste different than shellfish free of the toxin. The color of the water is not an

indication of toxicity. The only way to tell if toxins are present is to perform a laboratory test.

The Washington State Department of Health tests shellfish samples collected regularly throughout Puget Sound. In the Key Peninsula area, samples are collected at many locations, including Penrose Point State Park, Burley Lagoon, Filucy Bay, and the Vaughn Bay Sandspit. These test results are used to determine where it is safe to harvest shellfish. Signs are usually, but not always, posted at the larger public beaches where it is not safe to harvest shellfish.

Since conditions can change rapidly, it is extremely important to find out what areas are closed before collecting shellfish. For the latest information in the Puget Sound area, call the state Department of Health Biotoxin Hotline, (800) 562-5632. For the latest PSP information in Pierce County, call the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Shellfish Message Line at (253) 798-3767. Both these numbers are recorded messages.

To talk with a Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department staff person, call (253) 798-6470, extension 0, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Information is also posted on the Washington State Department of Health's Website, www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm.

Article provided by the Pierce County Shellfish Partners.

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Action taken against junk car storage on Key Peninsula

By Danna Webster
KP News

The Key Peninsula has its fair share of junk cars and other nuisances, and Pierce County officials say most county cleanup actions of zoning violations are a result of citizen complaints.

Two cleanup actions taken by the county last spring were initiated after citizen complaints, most of which go to the Pierce County Land Use office that deals with zoning, wetlands, shoreline, and sign code ordinances. Some zoning violations are reported by sheriff and state patrol officers.

Hulk haulers, tow trucks, and commercial dumpsters were hired by Pierce County to remove vehicles and solid waste from a Glen Cove property on April 27. According to Craig Swanson from the Pierce County Public Works and Utilities code enforcement department, the county was exercising a warrant of abatement, or cleanup, as a result of a court order. Swanson was involved with the case for only eight months but said the case had been ongoing for years and involved a number of appeals and regular monthly inspections of the property for compliance.

According to Yvonne Reed, county code enforcement supervisor, the county was obligated to do the cleanup once Public Works received an Executive Order to go ahead with the warrant of abatement. The county hired two private contractors for the work, one for vehicle removal and one for solid waste such as chain link fencing. Reed said that once the county determines the costs for the cleanup, the scrap may offset the cost of the removal. If the scrap value exceeds the county costs, that money will go to the property owner, Rick Sorrels.

On May 6, the county code enforcement officers were again involved in a junk car removal action near 78th Street and Wright-Bliss Road. Reed said this property

Pierce County 24-hour complaint hotline: 798-3737.

The online complaint application can be found at: www.co.pierce.wa.us. Click on Planning and Land Services and code enforcement. To contact Pierce County Responds call 798-INFO or email pcresponds@co.pierce.wa.us.

If a community is interested in a CAPE project, call Yvonne Reed at 798-4122.

had a large volume of cars that needed an inventory. Since Reed's department has experts in the junk vehicle area, they were called in to assist. State troopers, county sheriff officers and health department officials worked as partners to enforce a search warrant for an apparent illegal wrecking yard operation on property owned by James and Travis Mackmer.

According to County Code Enforcement Officer Mark Luppino, the search warrant became necessary when the property owners would not allow law enforcement officials access to perform their investigations. In an aerial survey, Luppino determined evidence of a possible illegal wrecking yard business.

Many armed law enforcement personnel assisted with this action. State Trooper Bill Ashcraft explained that, even though the investigation was for an illegal wrecking yard, a "lot of times a different activity turns up. Five acres is a lot of ground to cover. (Washington State Patrol and armed law officers) make sure the property is clear before sending in county health code enforcement (people). We didn't expect problems but we did one a year or so ago and were shot at."

"Everybody got in safely and out safely," Luppino said, crediting the agencies' cooperation. "We'd loved to have had voluntary compliance but that wasn't happening."



Photo by Frank Slater

Contractors hired by the county are exercising a court-ordered cleanup on a Glen Cove property earlier this year.

Both cases are overseen by Luppino's county code enforcement office. He has asked the prosecutor's office to file charges against the Mackmer property for R-10 zone noncompliance because of "utilizing a parcel of land as a storage facility; and for utilizing the land for motor vehicle repair and sale of vehicles." Other charges include allowing people to reside in recreational vehicles on the property without an RV park license and using the property for a towing company business.

Luppino affirms that the Mackmer property action was more intense than the abatement cleanup of the Sorrels property. It is a long process for the county to step in and do abatement cleanup. "We'd like people to do it voluntarily," Luppino said, "but people resist, so the process goes to a judicial decision."

The goal of county code department is to solve problems. "All zones allow certain amount of activity," Luppino said. Decisions about land use and commercial activity are dependent on specifics. Like whether the activity is exclusively indoors with no outside involvement, or whether a vehicle is disassembled for the benefit of

the property owner, or for sale of parts. If parts are sold or other vehicles are being built, then wrecking yard laws apply.

"If the activity is lawful, go through the permit process," he said. "Ultimately what we want is to see resolution."

Pierce County has developed programs that support the efforts of property owners who are doing their own cleanup. County officials encourage property owners to make use of resource programs like the Litter Credit program, Pierce County Responds and the Community Assistance and Public Education (CAPE) Program.

"The CAPE program tries to organize and encourage communities to do a community cleanup by first having a community meeting where resources and assistance that are available to them are explained," said Code Enforcement Supervisor Reed. "We are only able to do about six CAPE projects a year because communities don't like to do community cleanups in inclement weather so we are limited to the fair weather months."

CAPE projects are scheduled for this summer in Horse Shoe Lake Estates and Lake of the Woods.

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One family's gratitude



The Hancock family celebrates after they are handed the keys to their new home: Left to right, Ryan, David, Brandon and mom, Becki.

Story and photo by Mindi LaRose
KP News

If you've ever wondered how Habitat for Humanity affects children's lives, wonder no more. In a brilliant move by an innovative mom, Becki Hancock summoned and documented the thoughts of her children as they prepared to move into their new Habitat home in the Palmer Lake neighborhood. Habitat for Humanity partners with low-income families to help them build their own homes and make a better future for themselves.

At the July 9 dedication and celebration ceremony of the Becki Hancock Family Home built by Habitat for Humanity, the guests in attendance became privy to the thoughts of her three young boys. As the story was told by Bob Delaney of Habitat's Volunteer Committee, the Rotary Club was to pay a visit to the home, and mom Becki wanted to leave a token of her family's thanks to the club and to all volunteers who helped build her beautiful new 1,050-square-foot home. She asked her three sons, twins Brandon and Ryan (14) and her youngest, David (12), a series of questions, and documented their candid answers.

The touching "Thank You" card was read at the dedication, and is printed here by permission of its authors. It speaks from the hearts of children of the deep effects of having a home to call your own, volunteering, and even offers some comic relief from 12-year-old David (see David's last entry below).

In Becki Hancock's closing words of the "Thank You" card, she says it best when she says, in essence, that volunteers

'Thank you!'

By the Hancock Family

Becki: "Thank you for what?"

Brandon: "For our new home."

Becki: "What does a home mean to you?"

Ryan: "A home is where you don't have to move so you get to play with your friends for a long time."

David: "A home is where you get to stay in the same school every year. When you don't always have to start over, you can get better grades, go to college, and get a 'really good' job."

Brandon: "A home makes you feel safe and then you can be happy."

Becki: "Thank you to whom?"

Ryan: "You know, the volunteers."

Becki: "What do the volunteers mean to you?"

Brandon: "A volunteer cares about you even if you're a stranger."

David: "They give you time out of their real lives."

Ryan: "A volunteer makes you feel like a friend."

Brandon: "A volunteer is funny and makes you laugh a lot."

David: "A volunteer is what we want to be when we are old or have someone else to pay our bills so we don't have to work and have time to be one."

All: "Thank you for helping us have our home and a better life!"

"Thank you for showing my children the best humankind can offer, teaching them to dream, and allowing them to believe in a future they hadn't known existed before."

—Becki Hancock

Aug. 2, 16 – Community Planning Board

The next meetings for the Pierce County - Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are held at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Public Library. The Community Planning Board is working on policy development for the Key Peninsula Community Plan regarding facilities and services. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the meetings. For more information, see www.piercecountywa.org/landuse.

Aug. 3 – Fuchsia Society meeting

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Join the society's guest speaker, Jean Look-Krishna, to learn about wise watering techniques. For information, call Ginnie at 884-9744.

Aug. 5-6 – dog agility trials

Running a dog in an agility trial is the ultimate game for a handler and a dog and is one of the most exciting canine sports for spectators. In an agility trial, a

dog demonstrates its agile nature and versatility by following cues from the handler through a timed obstacle course of jumps, tunnels, weave poles and other objects, and has become the fastest growing dog sport in the United States. The Gig Harbor Kennel Club hosts American Kennel Club Trials on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 5 and 6 at Volunteer Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a free public event.

Aug. 10 – Seniors' picnic

The Key Peninsula Senior Society will have its annual picnic at noon on Aug. 10 at Penrose Point State Park. In case of rain, they'll meet at the Civic Center. Chicken will be the main dish, and folks are asked to bring a potluck offering. Members Irene Davis and Stella Brennan celebrated their 90th birthdays in July.

The group meets every Thursday at the Key Peninsula Civic Center for a potluck followed by card games. All interested seniors are invited to drop by any Thursday to meet this friendly group of people. For information, call 884-5052

Aug. 11 – KPVI picnic

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute holds its annual picnic at 6 p.m. Friday,



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Aug. 11, at Penrose Point State Park. Members assist veterans of service to this country, their families, and survivors, and also assist in various community projects on the Key Peninsula. Among the group's activities are the annual "Aisle of Honor" presentation at the Vaughn Cemetery, Memorial Day activities, and the gathering of gifts for hospitalized veterans in Pierce County. KPVI meets twice monthly at Community House in Home, and is actively seeking applications for new members.

Aug. 11 – KP Community Council candidate application deadline

The Key Peninsula Community Council is seeking candidates to fill seven positions on its 14-member board of directors. Directors are expected to attend one board meeting monthly and participate in one of several council committees. Those interested in applying must be 18 years or older and either own property or reside in one of the four council areas. The election will be held on Sept. 9, with candidate application forms due in the council office in Key Center by Aug. 11. Interested parties may contact the council office at 884-0557 for an application and information.

Aug. 12 – KP Historical Society picnic

The Key Peninsula Historical Society summer meeting and potluck picnic will be held on Saturday, Aug. 12, noon to 3 p.m., at the Davidson homestead, the home of Joe and Peggy Dervaes, located on Lackey Road. Call 884-3272.

Aug. 12 – TOPS #WA 1019 fund-raiser

TOPS is holding a fund-raiser/rummage sale Aug. 12 at the fire station across from the 76 gas station on Wright-Bliss and SR-302. The chapter recently welcomed back two former members, Donna Kopps and Doris Pyle. Member say the meetings have been a lot of fun under the direction of the new leader, Dolly G., with a special program every week including guest speakers, swim parties, and motivating videos, all related to weight loss. Men, women and kids 7 or older are encouraged to attend.

Aug. 14 - 18 – Skyhawks sports' camps at Volunteer Park

Teamwork, winning and losing, and sportsmanship are critical lessons for

athletics and life. Skyhawks is a nationwide organization whose goal is to teach children and young adults life skills through athletics. These programs are available for ages 4 to 14. Programs will run Aug. 14 to 18 and include soccer and "mini-Hawk." Each participant enrolled in a Skyhawks program receives a T-shirt, as well as a sport-specific ball for soccer, basketball, flag football, or volleyball, and Mini-Hawk multisport program. Camps are \$98 each. For more information and to register, go to www.skyhawks.com, call Key Peninsula Metro Park District at 884-9240 or visit www.keypeninsulaparks.com.

Aug. 17 – KPFRC meeting

The Key Peninsula Family Resource Center of Children's Home Society holds its quarterly Community Advisory meeting on Aug. 17 at 1 p.m. in the VFW Room of the Civic Center.

The focus will be on community services the KPFRC staff provides, especially the Programs of Partnership. The featured guest speaker will be Linda Miner, Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department's program coordinator of the Alternative Resource System. Anybody interested may attend. For more information or to RSVP, call 884-5433 by Aug. 11.

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Aug. 25 or 26 – Movie Night outdoors

Grab a blanket, a lawn chair, some favorite movie munchies, and enjoy an outdoor movie shown on the big screen at Volunteer Park on Friday, Aug. 25 or at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Saturday, Aug. 26. Title TBA. Movie will start at dusk. Suggested donation \$1 per person and one can of food for Key Peninsula Community Services. Check www.keypeninsulaparks.com for title information.

News from the Angel Guild

Angel Guild is looking for more Angels to join the group. Anyone interested will be contacted for training and meet some

great "old" Angels who welcome new members. The Angel Guild Thrift Shop is open Wednesday through Saturday 10 to 4. If you would like to be an Angel come in the shop and make your desire known.

If you're looking for inexpensive back to school items, look no further than Angel Guild.

Adult size jeans \$3, T-shirts and other shirts \$1.50 to \$2; and many children's items are available, all very gently used. For someone headed for college, you may find everything to help stock their dorm room or apartment: small appliances, dishes, cutlery, linens, lamps, blankets, pillows.

To list your community event, please email us a press release to news@keypennews.com and include your contact information in case we need verification.

Volunteer spotlight: Dean Draeger



Draeger in one of his new, nearly-finished structures that includes a stage on the top floor and ticket windows on the bottom.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson

It takes nearly 300 volunteers to make the Washington Fantasy Renaissance Faire in Wauna a success, and Dean Draeger is one of the most loyal long-timers.

Draeger hits about 200 volunteer hours just riding the mower to get the grounds ready, not to mention he has designed and built just about every structure used on the set. During the slow months of January and February, he spends about 10 hours per week on the faire, then around 30 hours by March, and June through October he's full time at least.

Draeger, who is also the company CFO and vice president, said this year he is part of the staff who, for the first time ever, will get paid for time spent during the event itself. During the faire, he is basically the "go to" guy, in charge of security, parking, sanitation, and administration.

"Dean has become the backbone and my strong right arm," organizer and CEO Ron Cleveland said. "He has spear-headed our construction and pre-faire

activities, allowing me to pursue the promotional and legal end of business. We could not get the faire off the ground each year if we didn't have Dean to fall back on."

Both Draeger and Cleveland are Key Pen residents. Draeger has been training his son, Christopher, to take over some day. He's taught him fencing, broad swords, axe fighting and other medieval arts starting at age 4, and now Christopher is starting to teach his 4-year-old daughter, Alexis. The entire family goes all out at the faire, including Draeger's mom, brothers, nieces and nephews; his late father loved it as well.

"I've always felt I was born in the wrong century," he said. "When everything's set up and people are in garb, I feel at home."

The faire is always looking for volunteers for tasks ranging from first aid to parking. Anyone who loves the Renaissance period should have a blast: All volunteers must be in costume and in character. Call 851-4114 for details or see www.washingtonrenfaire.com.

Local guitarist is LouieFest poster child



Photo courtesy M. Sutton

"Poster child" Peter Sutton plays with the Fabulous Wailers at Meeker Days in June.

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Peter Sutton, an eighth-grader at Key Peninsula Middle School, will be part of the LouieFest '06 attempt at a new Guinness World Record for most guitar players playing "Louie Louie" together.

"I used to watch guitar players on television, and thought it would be cool to play one," says Sutton. He begged for a guitar, and finally had his own two years ago, at age 11. He began lessons two weeks later and still takes them from Jho Blenis.

One day he was playing "San-Ho-Zay" by Freddie King in a guitar center, trying out a guitar. Buck Ormsby, bass player with the Fabulous Wailers of Tacoma, asked Sutton where he learned that song. Ormsby invited Sutton to play with them, and he's been playing guitar with them at various places for three months. At LouieFest, he'll play a couple of numbers with them on the main stage.

Sutton is the "poster child" for LouieFest, and will also be featured on the "Hero Stage" with great guitar players such as Nokie Edwards.

The Wailers Performing Arts Foundation, a nonprofit that presented the first two fests, provides scholarships and instruments for kids who can't afford

LouieFest '06

The family festival includes music, food, cars and bikes. Aug. 19, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., rain or shine, Sprinker Recreation Center, Pacific Avenue S. and Military Road, Spanaway. Admission free. See www.louiefest.com for details.

them, and Sutton thinks that's a neat deal. He will continue his music, but plans on college and some other vocation.

Right now, he looks forward to playing "Louie Louie" with perhaps 1,000 other guitarists in August at the LouieFest.

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(From **DILEMMA**, Page 1)

sula (aside from the parks). It's our family history; we will never sell any of it while any of us (four) are alive. Once we're gone, unless it's self-supporting, developers could move in as they have at Driftwood Point."

While exploring financial options, the siblings say, they came to believe geoduck aquaculture would be a source of ecologically viable income.

Bill Taylor, owner of Shelton-based Taylor Shellfish Farms, visited the family in summer 2005. According to the family, he said about one acre (200 or so linear front shoreline feet) would sustain cultivation. Taylor reportedly indicated theirs was the only suitable geoduck farming tract in Mayo Cove, due to sand and mud erosion as well as pollution. The application submitted Feb. 6 by Taylor Shellfish, an agent on Souers' behalf, and the Pierce County Planning and Land Services master application dated Feb. 2, give the site area about 5 acres "net developable, minus any... environmentally constrained lands." Documents from BioAquatics International, the company that did the site eelgrass/macroalgae survey in December 2005, state, "All the surveyed area, with the possible exclusion of southerly portions, lies within WDOH (Washington Department of Health) approved shellfish harvest area." No date for a required hearing has been set.

According to neighbors Cynthia Johnson-Kuntz and Richard Kuntz, a Souers family member called them about the family's intentions. After inquiring, they were satisfied the area Orrin pointed out to them accurately represented what he understood to be the potential farm. Owners of about 200 feet of nearby waterfront themselves, the two became curious and eventually visited Totten Inlet in Olympia, camera and notebook in hand, to see for themselves.

Cynthia Kuntz says they discovered 30 of the inlet's 33 miles of tidelands are now geoduck farms. The State Department of Natural Resources owns the second class tidelands; no permits for aquaculture were required. On the sunny afternoon they visited low-tide beaches, they reported observing no one enjoying the shore anywhere, as far as they could see. They did see workers — installing geoduck tubes, harvesting geoducks, laboring at various tasks along the beach.

Kuntz says, "We did not see one recreational boat; only boats to and from shellfish beds." They spoke with beachfront homeowners, took photographs, and chatted with a young workman who

KP News is exploring issues related to geoduck aquaculture farming, environmental implications, pros and cons of waterfront owners, and legislative efforts. If you have information regarding this subject, please send it to the KP News, PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394, or email to submissions@keypennews.com.

enthusiastically explained his harvesting duties until a superior in a boat saw him, docked, and sent him back to work.

Far removed from the vision described by the Soeurs, who received their information from Taylor, the Kuntzes said what they saw horrified them. They returned home and shared both their findings and their decision to oppose geoduck farming in Mayo Cove with the Soeurs. They created "No Geoduck Farm," a not-for-profit organization whose by-laws are pending. Kuntz says they genuinely like their neighbors. Both families agree their decisions to be on controversial opposite sides have created tension; both remain steadfast, however, in their opposing positions.

Kuntz says, "TSF sells themselves as stewards of the environment; that scared me. (Our association) was created for the purpose of stopping this farm... To us, it's all about property rights. Legally we're concerned about safety; it's also about the environment."

"We really had no idea this (opposition) would happen," Ona Reinke says. "We had only the best intentions. Pierce County planner Ty Booth walked the beach. And it's our land. (When) we began to receive some unkind commentary and email... we stopped (trying to explain)."

Her husband, Cliff, mentions property rights. "(Other people's) right to view our property does not supersede our right to use it." He says Taylor indicated the farming bed would be visible less than 5 percent of summer's long days and not in winter's short days at all. The Soeurs are convinced no harm will come to either their land or the surrounding area. "We are relying on science and Bill Taylor," Orrin says.

Just after the Fourth of July, signs saying "No Geoduck Farm. Keep Penrose Safe" started appearing. Anti-farming efforts from several local organizations continue with door-to-door canvassing. The Soeurs are aware the Mayo Cove Shoreline Association is actively seeking ways to halt the permit. Their brochure states the association is "committed to working together with state and local governments to stop the reckless commercialization (of) our pristine Puget Sound Beaches."

Orrin invited a member of "Save Our Shoreline," another local anti-aquaculture group, to come see for herself in early July; at press deadline he hadn't heard from her yet. At their visit to Totten Inlet, the Kuntzes met a waterfront owner willing to talk with the Soeurs about her experiences with geoduck farming. In an email to KP News on July 19, Kuntz stated the owner had contacted the Soeurs family and received no reply.

"We're short on sleep," Orrin says, "but not enough to change course. This is not an easy, overnight money scheme. We're in it for the harvest, and that won't come until the end of the six-year lease with TSF." He says they will "wait out" any permit delay. "If anything (appears to be) ruining any part of our land, we will address it immediately," he says.

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee acknowledges this new aquaculture's lack of science. He recently sponsored a resolution affecting both shellfish businesses and upland tideland owners, and is working with state Rep. Pat Lantz to initiate an intertidal programmatic environmental impact study during the upcoming legislative session. At a meeting with the Department of Natural Resources about a month ago, Lantz requested a halt to state tidelands aquaculture auctioning pending scientific

study. DNR declined; leases on 9 acres of Key Peninsula tidelands at four separate sites are scheduled to close on Aug. 4. DNR plans to auction 25 acres per year, up to 250 Puget Sound tideland acres over a 10-year period.

Dedicated to preservation of property rights, Lee is also "absolutely opposed to going in later and attempting to clean up damage" done to the environment as a result of unsound practices whose long-term effects are not yet known. Due to a pending lawsuit concerning a permit on Bainbridge Island, the county prosecuting attorney advised Lee that a moratorium on geoduck farming until baseline science can be obtained. His office has requested documents from Island County, where aquaculture is also being established.

Geoduck farming is a burgeoning industry, changing the way residents of, and visitors to, the Pacific Northwest enjoy and use salt waterfront, both public and private. According to Lee, the next aquaculture challenge to waterfront will be commercial mussel farming, a related form of aquaculture his office is following. Lee's office is attempting to work with the appropriate agencies to introduce legislation and guidelines that allow economic growth, and also protect the shorelines.

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(From **KPMPD**, Page 1)

Pierce County Elections Manager Lori Augino, he or she has a responsibility to notify the county so voter records can be updated. Elected officials required to live in the districts they represent are held to the same standard, with potential recall consequences attached if they move out of their districts.

At a video-taped KPMPD meeting on July 10 preceding the voter registration challenge, during the time allotted for citizen comment, Salatino made two requests. He wanted the alternate resolution he and Ben Thompson had submitted a month earlier regarding commissioner compensation waivers to be considered, saying, "We have not heard from any of the commissioners and would like that resolution considered." DeMoss said she would address the resolution in her president's report to follow.

Second, he said, "It has been brought to our attention that your president does not live in the confines of the boundaries of the Key Peninsula, and without going into details, we feel it is inappropriate that she remain as president." DeMoss replied she did live on the Peninsula and that according to state law she was not required to own property. She stated her husband and children lived at the Gig Harbor residence and that "my personal situation is not a public issue nor does it affect my ability to be a member of this board." She indicated she was living in her trailer on a friend's land, and asked if he was inferring if that meant she could not be on the board. He said he had not been given that information.

Salatino's "Voter Registration Challenge" affidavit regarding DeMoss' residency, filed the next day, was then followed by a letter from the auditor's office, addressed to DeMoss at the Gig Harbor address, with copies to Salatino and the prosecuting attorney. The letter was notification of a challenge hearing

set for July 19, and offered an alternative: an enclosed blank declaration form to simply update her voter registration.

On July 19 at 10 a.m., DeMoss, Commissioner Ross Bischoff, KPMPD Director Scott Gallacher, Salatino, Thompson, and Peninsula Light CEO Rob Orton met in a public hearing at the Pierce County Auditor's office in Tacoma. During the hearing, DeMoss said she had acquired a post office box on the Key Peninsula after the sale of her home, assuming that would suffice, since her trailer could be moved at will.

"It was not an intentional mistake," she said. Recently, the person on whose land she had been parked asked her to relocate after reports of Salatino "looking for me," she said. Some concern exists that DeMoss' privacy had been compromised by Peninsula Light disclosures of her Gig Harbor address. Orton asked Salatino if he would name the person who gave that information. Salatino refused, saying, "No. No need to." In a later telephone interview with the KP News, Salatino stated his information had not come from Peninsula Light.

Orton concurred in an interview that, after having attending the hearing and viewing the KPMPD meeting video, he could not conclude the address leak came from the utility. He noted that Salatino did not, at either meeting, say he obtained the information from them. Orton said that accusation has come from other sources, and if it proves to be true, he will "deal with it." Peninsula Light is currently treating the issue "as a complaint from DeMoss" and at press time was waiting to hear from her. With public concern over identity theft and privacy, Orton said the stewardship of the shareholders' trust is of primary concern.

At the hearing, Thompson suggested the entire issue of residency could be resolved if DeMoss simply signed an affidavit under risk of perjury that she lived in the district. Auditor Pat McCarthy

replied the county takes voter registration information at face value. "We have no investigative powers," she said, referring to DeMoss' declaration of current address. According to her statement, and a statement in writing submitted by Bischoff, DeMoss is living in her trailer on his land in Lakebay.

Regarding Salatino's request at the parks meeting for consideration on the compensation issue, in her president's report, DeMoss said, in part, "The resolution (regarding commissioner compensation) will stay as stands... The formation committee of KPMPD directly stated the commissioners would not exercise their rights to compensation. By Washington state law, commissioners elected to a metropolitan park district have this right... The formation committee may have effectively failed to inform the community or the community failed to understand the rights and legal choices that the commissioners have."

Commissioner Jerry Schick, who was a member of the previous park board, originally introduced the compensation resolution, and at the meeting defended his decision to retain the choice to receive payment. He stated he made a pre-campaign promise to waive compensation, but has discovered the commis-

sioner workload to be substantial, and having an impact on his personal life. He said he felt the commissioners were justified in taking compensation for the work they did; it was a personal issue. He apologized to his constituents if they felt betrayed. "It's a very small (controlled) compensation (about 30 percent of the allowable amount)," he said.

Bischoff, also a member of the previous park board, pointed out that during the pre-election, none of the candidates adhered to any time limit on the compensation issue. He noted those in objection, Salatino and Thompson specifically, were not the only ones who put time, effort or money into the formation of the KPMPD.

Commissioner Kip Clinton, unofficial secretary of the former park board, said, "Metro (KPMPD) is a level above KPPRD (the old parks board), in regard to legal obligations. It does require more work than the old park district did." In an earlier interview, prior to introduction of the compensation resolution, Clinton suggested that perhaps the community would eventually need to be asked to authorize additional funding, as the district matured. She and DeMoss are the only two commissioners who chose to formally waive their right to compensation.



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From Pioneer Stock Nancy Rodman lives in two worlds

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Nancy Rodman has a home next door to the original house her Rodman grandparents built when they came to Vaughn in 1900. She doesn't know how much land her grandparents owned, but says, "I think it was half of this side of the (Vaughn) Bay!"

Her grandfather died within a few years of his arrival, leaving his wife, Clara, with four young children to raise.

"She was a staunch German. She died when I was 7. I can't remember her face, but she was a love of a woman," says Rodman.

"She cooked on an old wood stove, used heated flat-irons to iron, and made just wonderful food," including bread puddings, breads and cookies. Grandma Clara had an orchard of apples and cherries, a big garden, and a large apple cellar.

The bulk of the property was sold, piece by piece. Many local landowners on the south side of the bay have Clara Rodman's name on their deed to tide-lands.

Nancy Rodman, daughter of Fredrick Howard Rodman, better known as Howard, spent her early years in Tacoma. Every summer, they stayed with her grandmother. Once Rodman and her brother, Howard, graduated from high school, her father moved to Vaughn. F. Howard had a huckleberry business in Tacoma for many years, and invented a berry-stripping machine.

Helen, the oldest child of Clara, lived in Tacoma with her husband, Ernie Miller. Marjorie, child No. 3 (affectionately called Mudge), and her husband,

Charlie Powell, lived on the other side of Nancy's current home for many years. Dewey, the youngest, lived most of his life in Vaughn.

"Uncle Dewey was the fun one," Rodman says, noting the rest of the family was quite serious. They did enjoy family gatherings and singing together. There was a lot of musical talent in the family.

Rodman's former husband, Mario, a noted musician, composed "The Icy Mountains" at the old piano in the original Rodman home.

When Rodman's father died at the age of 82, she and her brother split the property on Vaughn Bay. He got the old house, now owned by his adult children. She had her piece cleared, moved in a manufactured home, and immediately set about to change it, inside and out, into a comfortable place with her own imprint on it.

"I come here and spend my vacation working," Rodman says, with an obvious pride in what she's accomplished. Shrubs, including roses and hydrangeas, and many flowering plants adorn the multiple decks and grounds.

A gazebo on the deck nearest the water is her place to relax with a good book. For many years, she had a local companion whenever she went down there. A large seal flopped onto the deck, rocked on his tummy, and barked at her. Rodman approached, and barked in return. She called him Sammy. When she stood up to leave, he returned to the water. Sammy hasn't been around for several years now.

Rodman, a former film and television actress, is now an agent in Mexico City. Her clients include some of the top Mexican film stars.



Photo courtesy Nancy Rodman

Nancy Rodman with her father, F. Howard Rodman, in 1972.

She never had children of her own, but raised Pedro, a foster son, from birth. His daughter, a large-eyed beauty, is, of course, the prettiest and most special grandchild there ever was.

Fourth of July picnics, as well as other family gatherings, were standard procedure, even before Rodman was born. She continues the tradition, and this

year, had about 100 Rodman relatives enjoying her decks and gardens. She takes lots of pictures, and loves watching and snapping the youngest members of the clan.

Rodman may not spend a lot of time at Vaughn, but it's the home with ties to her family and her roots, both important to her.

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Kayaking the Sound: Key Pen resident reflects on beautiful journey

By Danna Webster
KP News

About this time last year, Key Peninsula resident Voski Sprague was over halfway to achieving a major personal goal. A year later, she still marvels at the memories of that journey.

She planned to kayak Puget Sound from the Foss Waterway in Tacoma to North Bay above Vaughn. Sprague aimed to paddle 178 miles of shoreline in a beautiful natural wood Pigmy kayak, named "my turn," which she and her husband, Robert, built.

When asked why she set this goal, she answers, "Why not? I absolutely love the waters of South Sound and wondered just how much access I would have, using designated public access to get in and out of the water. There was neither timeline nor race except that I wanted to complete this before my next birthday."

The journey began May 25 and finished Sept. 11, before her birthday.

Questions about public access were



Photo courtesy of Sprague family

Voski Sprague in her kayak, named "my turn."

partially answered by the 10th trip on the water. At that time, she resorted to using Robert's powerboat for transport to the start and stop locations because normal launching and haul-out maneuvers required a lot of trespassing otherwise.

She paddled a total of 56 hours and 45 minutes on 23 different trips around 11 islands and under 11 bridges. "Of course an exciting one was swiftly moving along the east side of the (Tacoma) Narrows when they were stringing the first cable up

to the east tower," she says. Each trip varied in time and distance. The shortest was one mile and the longest 14 miles. Her time on the water ranged from 20 minutes to four and a half hours.

Before setting out on the actual quest, Sprague took a trial trip and studied many charts, maps and Websites.

"First, I had determined, by taking a trial paddle trip, that I averaged a comfortable 3 mph... That determined how long it would take me to reach my destination so

that I could be met." The piece of raffia she used to measure distances is kept in the journal along with the notes and records she kept. "After each trip, I recorded actual information and wrote anecdotal notes, things I saw, features of the landscape, issues, lessons, things I want to visit, questions I have," she says.

One of her questions asks, "Could the Mosquito Fleet landing sites be identified and marked to note the rich history of our South Sound?"

Another question wondered if communities could band together and make a difference about the problems of too little public access to the Puget Sound waterways in Pierce County.

Along the way, Sprague found wonderful sea life and special places that caused her to wish that more kids could get out on the water and appreciate the wonders she saw. She formed serious concerns over her observations of large drains emptying into the Sound, and the speed of powerboats at the mouth of Foss Waterway.

The realization of her goal and meeting the challenges of the journey with strength and resolve inspired this lesson from her meditations, "A pledge: I am blessed to be on our South Puget Sound waters! I will care and nurture it so that my grandchildren might have such adventures."

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Keeping a watch out for vandals

The kiosk at Rocky Creek Conservation Area bears the brunt of ongoing vandalism, along with rustic fences maintained by the Key Peninsula Metro Parks District.

Scott Gallacher, KPMPD director, said Metro personnel and Pierce County Public Works staff travel the crew road often, "but we can patrol one minute and the problem can occur right after we leave.

"We encourage the public to contact Key Peninsula Metro Park District staff (at 884-9240) if they see any illegal dumping or vandalism, as the area has been a known dump site," he said. These destructive and illegal activities divert park district resources, and are forcing the district to consider a different style of fencing due to the remote, off-road location.



Photo courtesy Vernon Young/EnviroCorps

Recent damage to the Rocky Creek Conservation area kiosk is one of many examples of vandalism at the park, owned and maintained by the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District.

Wauna couple spend 'retirement' serving others

By Linda Anderson
KP News

With a long history on the Peninsula and surrounding area, Ron and Jan Coen are retired, yet still serving their community. The Wauna couple are quite familiar to people in the Gig Harbor area, where they are among the biggest supporters of the F.I.S.H. food bank.

Born in Indiana, Ron moved to the Minter area with his family when his father took a job at the Navy shipyard in Bremerton. After graduating, Ron joined the Navy, in which he served for 26 years. His assignments included the aircraft carriers Constellation, America and the Kitty Hawk. He served during the Viet Nam conflict, with his ship based in Japan. Jan Coen remembers many interesting tidbits of information, such as when airplanes needed repair, the Navy utilized a Japanese manufacturing plant to produce needed parts, which would have otherwise taken valuable time to be sent front the States. Ron retired from the Navy and became a bishop's assistant in the Lutheran Church. During a reorganizing process, he became a regional coordinator, covering Washington, Oregon,

Idaho and Alaska. He currently works for the Lutheran Insurance Co., which is a fraternal organization serving widows and orphans. Ron's job involves deciding the best allocation of money for nonprofit use to help others.

While living in San Diego in the early '70s, where her husband was stationed with the Navy, Jan served as the social concerns chairman of her church. One of her opportunities was to work with other churches in the area to provide help for those in need.

Jan's uncle was the original owner of the former Pearl's Restaurant in Purdy, where The Beach House is now located. Her father worked at the Navy shipyard until the Depression, and then logged in Seabeck. Jan remembers an obstinate donkey that was used to pull the logs out. The donkey took advantage of every opportunity to walk away from the job site and return home. Later on, Jan's father bought the Standard Station, which is now Chevron and located below the Peninsula High School. Her mother's family came from Illinois, through Canada, and settled into farming near Pt. Defiance.

Jan says that with family history in the area, there are endless stories of interest



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Ron and Jan Coen have been instrumental in the success of F.I.S.H. food bank.

and enjoyment. "We could fill a book," she said.

Of her travels with her husband, Jan says her favorite foreign assignment was Japan, where they spent four years and where their son was born. Ron's love for history enamored him with such places as Turkey, particularly Istanbul.

While her husband served his country, Jan enjoyed her role as homemaker and mother of four: three girls and a boy. Both Jan and Ron now consider themselves professional grandparents, enjoying nine grandchildren, only two of which are boys.

In 1975, the Coens returned to the Peninsula. With her experience and heart for helping others, Jan began seeking out organizations and ministries in the area with the resources to accomplish her mission. Research revealed that the greatest need at the time was transportation. So, organizing such established groups as Associated Ministries, police and fire departments, and local churches, Jan made transportation available for

appointments, shopping, translation and other services, and supported the Wauna Food Bank, until it moved off the Peninsula in the late '70s.

Jan first became acquainted with F.I.S.H., an international help organization, when she came across a brochure while in Japan with her husband. Jan was able to start a F.I.S.H. group here. The familiar help organization, which serves both Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula residents, is now housed in Gig Harbor. Jan serves as president of the board and runs the food bank. She expresses that she is both thrilled and grateful for the "high caliber of people who volunteer." The couple have been instrumental in the organization's growth, working extra hard to find its current location after outgrowing the previous one.

Neither Ron nor Jan have any immediate plans of giving up their work in serving their community, and say they find great pleasure and satisfaction in helping others.

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Key Pen Lutherans a 'can do' bunch

By Colleen Slater
KP News

The Peninsula Lutheran Church in Gig Harbor started a "mission church" in 1977, sending Richard Wagner, a retired pastor, to canvas the Key Peninsula for prospective members. He knocked on many doors, and gathered about 80 families to a meeting at the Key Pen Civic Center.

He later told the congregation, "If you want a church, go ahead and build it."

The building committee included Ernie Jorgensen, Al Jacobs, Kirk Torgerson, Del Leaf, and Len Ceder — all retirees.

Lifetime Lutherans Del Leaf and Nona Jorgensen, with her three children, recently shared stories of those early days.

Jorgensen's daughter, Ramona George, had vacationed and camped at Kopachuck and Penrose state parks, liked the area, and moved from California in 1970. Her sister, Lynda Wickline, visited, and after a few years moved as well.

Nona and Ernie were raised on Minnesota farms, and upon retirement were eager to exchange their city living for a farm in the country.



Breaking ground for the new church in 1982, left to right: Al Jacobs, Ross Bischoff, Kirk Torgerson, Ernie Jorgensen, Pastor Wagner with shovel, Tor Johannessen, Del Leaf, Carmi Swanson, Len Ceder.

Photo courtesy of Jorgensen family

Lynda knew "Little Sweden," the former John Nordquist acreage on Roberts Road, would be perfect for her parents. Their home is now "Little Norway," but they have firm links to the Nordquist family through the KP Lutheran Church — Marianne (Nordquist) and Philip McColley, for whom McColley Hall is named.

Ramona George has been church pianist since the local church was started, and the McColleys were choir members and active in the church after they retired in Home.

"Building the church was a community effort," Leaf says. They did it without a loan from their governing church body, starting with volunteer labor and whatever tools

were available. Community members showed up to help along with church members. One man asked only for "a case of beer and no religion." Land was cleared by Rhys Wood, and trees were cut, trucked to Ceder's Mill by Burley Logging, all at below cost.

"We started with handsaws and chainsaws," Leaf says.

Church women brought lunch on every day a crew worked on the building: 110 kettles of soup, the records say. They held bake sales to provide money for nails and other needs.

"I hauled 25 kegs of nails," says Leaf with a grin, "a whole pickup load."

The Jorgensens and the Leafs moved into a community where neighbors helped neighbors. A man drove in one day and offered to cut a large tree leaning toward Jorgensen's barn. "He cut it down, and limbed it and sawed it up," she says, "then he left. We never did find out his name."

When her husband was ill, Jorgensen did all the gardening, and neighbors driving by often stopped to help.

"We did that, too, once," she says. A neighbor had his hay cut, but not in, and it started to rain. Jorgensens took their van to the field and loaded it with hay to move it inside. They still feel that's the kind of community and church they have.

The church was built as a multipurpose building, to be used as a community center. The construction of McColley Hall was an extension of that goal — a place for meetings and celebrations. The current congregation serves some meals in McColley Hall, not asking for payment, but takes donations. It's still a giving congregation, and a giving community.

Brother David Jorgensen was a driving force to make the hall an approved Red Cross emergency center. His daughter, Lyndsey, is "the" church acolyte.

"It's all about the legacy," says Wickline, facility coordinator of McColley Hall.



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"We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors...but they all exist very nicely in the same box." (author unknown)

Jazz Musette has community roots

By Jerry Libstaff

The Jazz Musette with Loraine Hart exemplifies the persona of the Key Peninsula. Though the Key Pen is beginning to grow and develop, the group embodies the roots of the community.

The group's Mark Runions and his wife were drawn to the quiet of the Key Peninsula in the '70s. He brought a lifetime of music with him and over the years has become part of the foundation of the area.

Runions grew up in Tacoma, where music was a huge part of his youth. He loved to play so much, he "cut Little League to practice piano." He says, "I had a wonderful teacher in South Tacoma who taught me how to improvise when I was 10 years old." Rather than teach standard, rote music lessons, he "taught professional tricks of the trade, relationships between notes and cords, the physics of music."

Runions' father was a radio personality

and host of the show "Mailbag" on Armed Forces Radio. He did interviews with greats such as Duke Ellington. Runions was introduced to the best of jazz, and one of his early favorites was pianist Oscar Peterson.

In seventh grade he found other young musicians and put together a combo. Eventually, Runions became an English teacher. With a degree in international relations, he worked with the Teacher Corps through Vista in Harlem in 1968 and '69. After experiencing the New York lifestyle, Runions decided to return to the Northwest, where he settled in Longbranch. During their early years here, Runions and his wife provided living space to a family from Kansas who found themselves in hard times in the Northwest. In return, the family offered a wonderful philosophy of life and the man provided hands-on experience in the building trades, "a side of myself I hadn't pursued before." Runions has since worked on remodels and built a couple of houses.

Jazz Musette came into existence in 1991 with the core trio of a bass, sax and piano. They later added a drummer and eight years ago found vocalist Loraine Hart. Her father was a member of the British Royal



The Genuine
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The Jazz Musette with Loraine Hart during one of its many local appearances.

Photo by Jerry Libstaff

Air Force. She was raised in South East Asia, but ended up in British Columbia. She moved to New York in '79 to pursue a career in music. She worked with the likes of Joe Cocker and Wings and recorded backup vocals on a series of karaoke tapes for international distribution. During her time in New York, Hart wrote a song, "Three Good Reasons," that rose to No. 7 on the Cashbox Indie Charts.

Living in New York, Hart missed the Pacific Northwest. She had worked on the Key Peninsula when she lived in B.C., and decided this would be her destination. She met Runions and the Jazz Musette and was encouraged to join the group. Jazz was new to her but she quickly learned to love the music and the group. They have been associated ever since.

They feel their group is "one of the best-kept secrets on the Peninsula"; however, everywhere they play, they draw huge crowds. They have enhanced the Artists Studio Tour the past two years, played TWAA's Spring Fling, and drawn crowds to several programs in Longbranch and at the Civic Center.

Tom Hume II and Tom Hume III fill out the group, with appearances by Tom Morgan. If you want to know the soul of the Key Peninsula, you have to listen to Jazz Musette.

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

For more information about the group, bios and three short music downloads, visit www.jazzmusette.com.

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Obituaries

Ethel Phyllis Anker

Dec. 2, 1924 - June 29, 2006

Ethel Phyllis Olson was born at home to Elmer and Elsie Olson of Vaughn on Dec. 2, 1924. She died on June 29, 2006, at the home of her daughter Marcia Michaelson, following a valiant fight against cancer.



ANKER

As a child, she helped her parents on their farm, which had the only chick hatchery around. She learned to pack eggs, milk cows, and do other farm chores, but also enjoyed country living with her four siblings and numerous cousins and friends.

Anker went to Glencove School through eighth grade and graduated from Vaughn Union High School as Salutatorian, and attended the University of Washington for a year prior to her marriage in 1943 to Harry Anker.

In 1946, Phyllis and Harry started the Key Center Café in her parents' huckle-

berry shed, which is now The Huckleberry Inn.

She was an avid Mariners fan, loved to garden, read, travel, and spent time each winter in Arizona.

She was a charter member of Vaughn Community Church, and of Historic Vaughn Bay Church, held offices in Vaughn PTA, Vaughn Bay Garden Club, and Key Peninsula Health and Professional Board. She belonged to Vaughn Bay Cemetery Association, Key Peninsula Historic Society, and Peninsula Rhododendron Society.

She is survived by sons Harry Anker, David (Janet) Anker, Donald Anker, and daughter Marcia (Ric) Michaelson, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; brother Don (Shirl) Olson, and sisters, Joyce Niemann and Gail Sparks. She was preceded in death by her husband Harry Anker, her parents, and brother Edmund Olson.

Memorials may be sent to Multicare Hospice, PO Box 5299, Tacoma, WA 98415-0299, Historic Vaughn Bay Church, P.O. Box 1074, Port Orchard, WA 98366, Key Peninsula Historical Society, P.O. box 577, Vaughn, WA 98394, Vaughn Bay Cemetery Association, 15820 Olson Rd. KPN, Lakebay, WA 98394.

Harold Witherbee

May 11, 1924 - June 4, 2006



WITHERBEE

Longtime physician and resident of Claremont, Calif., Harold (Hal) R. Witherbee passed away on June 4, 2006, at his home at Vaughn Bay.

Witherbee was born on May 11, 1924 in Los Angeles. He enlisted in the Army in 1942, and after completing his first year at Pomona College, was sent to Camp Roberts. He was selected for the Army Specialized Training Program and later assigned to the 309th Infantry, 78th "Lightening" Division. Witherbee returned to Pomona College to complete his undergraduate work and then entered Stanford University School of Medicine. He practiced in internal medicine and

neurology in Claremont. He was affiliated with the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center since July 24, 1958. He was the fourth generation of Witherbees to practice medicine.

Family members include wife, Gail Olson Sparks; children, Bonny Omara, Dianne Witherbee (Robert Wickenden), Tom Witherbee (Cathy), Jim Witherbee, and Jennie Peters (Frank); stepchildren, Stevenson Sparks (Cassandra), and Jay Sparks (Lorraine); sister, Ann Seibert; brother-in-law, Donald Olson (Shirley), sister-in-law, Joyce Neimann; grandchildren, stepgrandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Historic Vaughn Bay Church, P.O. Box 1074, Port Orchard, WA 98366 or Vaughn Bay Cemetery Association, 15820 Olson Road KPN, Lakebay, WA 98394.

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Out & About



The Lansberger family of the Key Peninsula at their Habitat for Humanity home's ground blessing and groundbreaking ceremony in July. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Left, MDA camp counselor Eric Jensen is seen with Jacob Baxley at the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association camp at the YMCA's Camp Seymour on the Key Peninsula in late June, and, behind them, counselor Jon Yousling. Below left and far left, Good neighbors from the KP Fire Department provide relief from the heat at the KP fair by tossing skyward a double barreled spray of cool water. On the far left are 5-year-old Ella, and her sister Carly, 6; on the left are Andrew, 7, and brother Jared, 4, Pincinich and their friend Dustin Binion, 7.

Photos by Hugh McMillan



Right, A weeklong Key Peninsula Cheer Camp ends with a performance of 15 cheers and motions learned by energetic campers, ages 5-9. Kate Grieve and her student helpers from South Kitsap High School led the group.

Top, "Hey, I can do that!" Too young for the camp, baby sister Gabriella doesn't just watch big sis, Kaitlynn, perform on stage — she joins right in, stage or not.

Photos by Mindi LaRose



Top, The Joemma Beach State Park on a busy summer day. Parking fees are no longer required at state parks, thanks to new legislation enacted earlier this year cancelling the fees. Left, kids cool off on a hot summer day by jumping into the water off the Allyn dock. *Photos by Mindi LaRose*



To see more Out & About photos, visit our Website at www.keypennews.com and follow the Photo Gallery link. See more of your neighbors out and about, Key Peninsula scenes and happenings. The online gallery features only Website exclusive photos!

