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Fair time arrives on the *Key Peninsula*



Judges and jugglers, knights and lumberjacks are all headed for the Key Peninsula in August.

Wander through the days of knights and maidens and tarry awhile with the merry citizens of the Renaissance. Step back in time to hear the call of "Timber" once again in Longbranch. Go play on the carnival rides at the Key Pen Fair and enjoy a full house of entertainment, the camp of the mighty oxen and the fast action of chainsaw carvers. Marvelous merchants and food galore will be at your beck and call at each of the three August fairs.

See stories on the Key Pen Fair, Old Timers' Day and the Renaissance Fair in the special August fair section on pages 10-12.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Photo courtesy of Rhonda Napoleon

Protecting our resources Team looks out for water quality, habitat

By Irene Torres
KP News

Every month, Don Melvin goes boating—but not for pleasure. He is taking samples of water to send to the state Department of Health's Office of Food Safety and Shellfish program.

Melvin, a state environmental specialist, works with other county and state offices, landowners, government agencies, tribes, and residents to protect and restore water quality, to identify contamination sources and repair damage.

One recent day, he and Stephanie Kenny from Mason County Health Services spoke with the KP News about their work, as they wrapped up a morning of water quality monitoring at the Allyn Dock.

Their main focus is certification of shellfish growing areas, harvesting and processing. Shellfish beds are subject to a federal classification scheme assigned by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Areas are classified as approved (open to harvest any time) or conditionally approved (harvest can be closed for a

(See **WATER**, Page 19)

One country's surplus is another's treasure

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

On a piece of land two-thirds the size of Washington state, the bomberos of Guatemala make sacrifices that no doubt defy logic for their American counterparts. The bomberos — firefighters — often go into raging fires without basic gear

and breathing apparatus. In Guatemala, until a few years ago, ambulances were made of pickups with canopies and "emergency care" hardly fit the description. Only 30 of the country's 130 fire stations have fire engines. The rest make do. And 90 percent of those risking their lives

(See **ENGINES**, Page 13)



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The two fire chiefs don't need a translator while shaking hands after affixing with care new decals on the former Key Pen fire engines.

SR-302 receives makeover

By Danna Webster
KP News

It took 28 minutes to drive through Victor — a 2.5-mile stretch — on a sunny July day. Nice view. State Route 302 is being resurfaced from the North Bay Road to the Key Peninsula Highway.

According to an official Washington State Department of Transportation announcement, this is “a \$1.6 million project to resurface over nine miles of SR-302 from the Coulter Creek Bridge in Mason County to the Key Peninsula Highway North in Pierce County (mileposts 1.26 – 10.57).” Most times, traffic waits between 10-15 minutes.

WSDOT reports, “Minor delays resulting from daytime shoulder and lane closures using piloted traffic control can

be expected for the life of the project.” Results were being evaluated and reported each week and at press time, but the road was expected to be near completion by the end of July.

Other SR-302 improvements are scheduled for year 2005: the construction of a roundabout at Elgin-Clifton, and slope stabilization in the Victor rock slide area. The areas near Creviston Drive and 94th Avenue are also on the books for later work.

Most vehicles wait in a line, with about 30 others, for the pilot car on an ordinary “construction day” in July. Only the car from the post office is granted special privileges. It can weave in and out at its own risk. The pilot car stops the traffic line about three times before it pulls off to let drivers go on their way.

Many Key Pen residents have found back roads after one or two waits in line. Those less fortunate are creative about the time spent. Some contemplate writing letters of complaint to the powers that be, lucky ones count their blessings if they have stopped out of the sun, some take short walks, some do upper body exercises and wish for bottled water, one group has even been spotted playing a game of volleyball outside their car.

This is a labor-intensive project. Sixteen men and women work on the road crew and 23 truck and trailer rigs haul asphalt. They make about 70 trips and drop resurfacing for nearly 2 miles each day. Once the asphalt work is complete, crews will return to do the fog lines, centerlines, and to finish the junctions at intersections and driveways.



Photo by Danna Webster

The roadwork crew, and their machines, are taking a break off State Route 302.

Once all the trucks and tractors park and the crew leaves for the day, the night staff show up. Mechanics, called “oilers,” check machinery and make any necessary repairs. By morning, all the equipment is ready for duty. WSDOT says paving operation hours are from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. but some rigs start the morning at 3:30. They must be as anxious to get the job done as the commuters are.

Proposed hospital clears major roadblocks

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

There was much to celebrate for Franciscan Health System in July, after a late June deadline for appealing the Certificate of Need for a proposed Gig Harbor Hospital had come and gone, with no new objections from any of the organizations that opposed the project earlier in the year.

At a community meeting at the Key Pen Civic Center, representatives from Franciscan and the hospital's architect firm shared the good news. Hospital representatives said earlier that the appeals could cost millions of dollars and delay the hospital for years. Since no appeals were made, plans to bring the state-of-the-art facility to the area will

“It is very important to us that we understand the community values, and the architecture that results reflects the community.”

-Brad Hinthorne, ZGF principal

proceed on schedule.

The state approved the Certificate of Need in May, much sooner than expected. About 700 residents wrote letters to the state in support of the hospital, named St. Anthony's. Franciscan representatives believe the prompt approval was due in part to overwhelming community support. “Our evaluation shows this (hospital) is needed, and the people who live there

told us loud and clear that they want local access to care,” said Laurie Jenkins, acting assistant secretary of Health Professions Quality Assurance Division of the Department of Health in announcing the state decision.

The state approved only 80 of the 112 beds requested, but FHS representatives said they would continue to work with the state to make sure the facility will accommodate future growth. Renowned architect firm Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership will design the 197,000-square-foot complex, estimated to cost \$100 million.

ZGF's projects include such area landmarks as Microsoft's Redmond campus, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's Public Health Sciences Building, and Seattle's World Trade

Center. The award-winning firm, with four offices in the country including one in Seattle, has designed for high-profile customers including hospitals, governments and big corporations.

“It is very important to us that we understand the community values, and the architecture that results reflects the community,” the firm's Principal Brad Hinthorne, AIA, said at the July meeting.

There is much to be done before the anticipated groundbreaking in 2005, including obtaining a variety of permits from the city of Gig Harbor and design approvals. Officials have already been working with the city and other involved parties. The hospital's opening is planned for 2007 or 2008, and will include a medical building. As many as 450 family-wage jobs will be created, and many Franciscan employees who live in the Gig Harbor area may be interested in joining the facility.

Franciscan was named on the state's 52 best employers this year in a survey by Washington CEO magazine. Two Franciscan hospitals, St. Francis in Federal Way and St. Clare in Lakewood, were also recently recognized among the country's best 100, the fifth year in a row for an FHS hospital to make the list.

The hospital will not begin a hiring campaign until a year before opening but anyone interested can visit www.fhshealth.org to obtain regular updates.

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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

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

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Changes ahead for Key Peninsula News

By Colleen Slater, Irene Torres & Danna Webster
KP News

The presses are rolling, and the voice of the Key Peninsula can still be heard, thanks to some fast action taken by the newspaper staff and the board of the Key Peninsula Civic Center (KPCCA). The executive committee and the newspaper staff engineered a summit meeting July 15, in response to the resignation of the Executive Editor Rodika Tollefson.



TOLLEFSON

Tollefson's resignation followed on the heels of Publishing Committee Chairman Bill Trandum's. Trandum had been instrumental in the rebirth of the newspaper in February of 2003, after the KPCCA shut it down for five months due to financial losses. The newspaper has since "proven itself to be economically viable" and "has assembled a cadre of dedicated and public-spirited journa-

lists," Trandum said. The nonprofit newspaper is produced by three part-time paid staff and a small group of volunteers. A fourth paid position, assistant editor, was added in July.

At the July 15 meeting, the staff aired several concerns to committee members, including that editorial control was the issue leading to the resignation of Tollefson, Trandum and a longtime staff writer.

"While past and present members of the Civic Center board deserve a great deal of credit for founding and sponsoring the community news bulletin that eventually became today's Key Pen News, the editorial controls that they insist on prevent staff from reporting on subjects the board considers to be inappropriate, divisive, or controversial," Tollefson said in a statement prior to the July 15 meeting. "I did not feel that as a journalist I could lead a paper where I am not fully allowed to use my professional judgment...It would be my hope that the board will see the value of an independent voice. I think the

"The paper as it has become, is what people in the community want."

-Lloyd Miller, executive committee vice president

community deserves that."

Apparently, that is exactly what the executive committee heard and believed. A special meeting of the KPCCA board was called July 18, and the board voted to accept a revision to the policy language concerning the organization of the newspaper. The revision moved the publishing responsibility of Key Peninsula News from the executive committee to a board of directors comprised of three staff members and two executive committee members.

The KPCCA will maintain ownership of the newspaper, which will continue to serve its goal of community building, but individuals who actually produce the Key Peninsula News will oversee its operations and policies.

KPCCA Executive Committee Vice President Loyd Miller said the KPCCA vote to approve the revision was unanimous. "We still have to have an editor, and I hope the people on the staff will stay with us," he said. Tollefson expressed her belief earlier that the staff would remain on board if the revision were approved.

Tollefson said part of her decision to leave was due to the time commitment the paper has required and that after 18 months of many volunteer hours she needed to focus on other priorities. She said her original goals for the reborn paper were accomplished and she felt it was time to find a new leader. But she stated she would "gladly remain in a limited capacity" such as a volunteer writer if "the Key Peninsula News is allowed to become a truly independent voice without the political pull of various groups."

Both Trandum and Tollefson offered to assist the Civic Center in making a smooth transition to new leadership.

The executive committee is sorry to see Tollefson leave, according to Miller.

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Editorial

KP News changes structure

July marked an unprecedented milestone for the Key Peninsula News. For the first time, the newspaper will be governed by an independent board of five directors, three of whom are staff representatives. Though still owned by the KP Civic Center Association, the newspaper will be published by a newly created Key Peninsula News Publishing Board that will set and carry out its own policies and budgets.

Why would that make a difference to our readers? Because the reorganization ensures that news coverage can be done without the influence of any interest groups. An independent voice will function in the interest of the community, under the continuing umbrella of the KPCCA.

But the change did not come without rough spots. Publishing Committee Chairman Bill Trandum, who helped the paper start from scratch after a shutdown in 2003, and Executive Editor Rodika Tollefson have resigned. The resignations had a silver lining: They set into motion discussions between the volunteer staff and the KPCCA Executive Board on the need for the creation of an independent body, a change advocated by Trandum and Tollefson before they resigned.

The staff of the newspaper would like to recognize and thank the executive board and subsequently the entire board of the KPCCA for making the right decision for the community, a decision that took courage, vision and trust in the staff. We also thank all those community members who expressed their support during the brief time of uncertainty.

Use your basic right: Vote

By Irene Torres

If you aren't yet registered to vote, now is the time to let your voice be heard, and a basic freedom ring loudly across the land.

This is a presidential election year, a one-in-four year opportunity to show confidence in the candidate of your choice. There will likely be issues on the ballot that affect you. Voting is the best way to speak for yourself and to uphold and protect your rights.

State and federal House and Senate



You don't have to cross the bridge (or even the spit) to register to vote. Just download a form from www.secstate.wa.gov/Elections/voter, ask at the local library or a local school. Or visit the Pierce County auditor's office, located in the Pierce County Public Services building (the Annex) at 2401 South 35th Street, Room 200, in Tacoma, and the staff will help you register to vote. Call 253-798-7427 for information or directions.

seats are on the ballot. Gov. Locke's mansion is ready for a new tenant. We're looking at competition for the positions of state attorney general, secretary of state, and even the superintendent of public instruction.

If you don't like them, vote them out! If you like them, vote them in!

It is sad to hear people say one party or person "stole" the last election when

only 76 percent of eligible voters were even registered — and the voter turnout was only 75 percent of them. That means only about 57 percent of the population decided the outcome. Unless you register and vote, don't complain.

Irene Torres is a Key Pen News staff writer.

The mystery of elusive Lake Kathryn solved: 'Oh it's out there'

By Connie Nelson Gossman
Special to KP News

Back before it was called Lake Kathryn,
Back before "the Mall,"

When Purdy Drug Store was in Purdy and the Wauna Post Office was "down" in Wauna

My five children and I spent many a fall and spring afternoon splashing along the shore of Lake Kathryn.

Back before renamed 97th Avenue NW, when we lived on Greentree Drive NW. We used to don rubber boots, grab

buckets and set off to explore our surroundings.

Back before when the motorcycle trails were animal trails and footpaths all through these woods.

We set out for adventure and found it. We saw deer, raccoons, and a red fox with her kits!

We strolled along, picking wild black and salmon berries, flowers and ferns.

One day, we discovered Lake Kathryn! (Which we lovingly called the ol' frog pond). A seasonal marsh full of tadpoles, bullfrogs and marsh grasses. We played

and splashed, caught frogs, and had picnics.

As the years went on...Walt's was built. Purdy Costless moved up the hill, my children grew up—

Back before Peninsula Market, there was a seasonal frog pond named Lake Kathryn—

Way back in the woods—Only Don Zimmerman knows for sure if it's still there.

But it was!

"Back before," back in the good ol' days.

Letters to the Editor

KPVI thanks contributors

To all who made our fireworks sale at Lake Kathryn such a success, starting with Ron and Kathy Collier who took charge from start to finish. To all who volunteered to work at the stand, to the merchants who gave us the location and the business that gave us free advertising—we sincerely thank each and everyone. But the applause has to go to a very young man (approximately 6) who after purchasing his fireworks (under the supervision of his Dad) from a fist full of quarters, opened the hand with his remaining 26 cents and requested that it be given to a veteran!

He was assured that it would indeed help buy a veteran a Christmas present—he walked away satisfied under the eye of a very proud parent and hope for our future generation.

All aches and pains of a long day just disappear with incidents like that and make our work for veterans and our community well worthwhile. Thank you all.

*Floyd Sanders
KPVI*

Reader makes suggestions on post office

I have some suggestions to solve the controversy surrounding the Old Wauna Post Office (*Key Peninsula News July 2004*

article).

In regards to the traffic problems: I lived off Danforth Road back in the '80s and actually used this post office. It was difficult to pull in and park at that time and building and progress has only hugely increased those problems in the 20 years since. Having any kind of "tourist attraction" in that particular place is a no-brainer. Absolutely not!

I am all for preserving history, I personally love museums, artifacts and so forth, but let's face it, even my house will be considered antique in 50-80 years. How valuable is this particular "landmark" in the big scheme of things?

If it is something the majority wants to keep, why not move it to the Key Peninsula Museum talked about on the

very next page of this newspaper's July issue. The museum is expanding and having historical structures would make it considerably more interesting. My out of town visitors have always loved visiting Old Fort Nisqually and those buildings were either moved there or restored to resemble old structures.

I think Nancy Lind should resign from this particular issue. Her comments indicate that she is completely unwilling to be reasonable or even listen to any compromises. She appears to be determined to do it her way, period. This is not how leaders with the good of the community in mind and still preserve history operate.

*Sue Tebeau
Wauna*

Community Council election results

On June 26, one journey ended and another began for the newly formed Key Peninsula Community Council. Fourteen people were elected as directors, who will begin their work after an orientation Aug. 11.

Dennis Taylor of the Safe Streets Campaign, who helped create the council along with a group of other community members, said, "New leadership has been brought into the civic life of the Key Peninsula. This is why we supported the initiative from the beginning."

Finding themselves without access to the Key Peninsula Middle School library, the newly elected directors held their first meeting, July 27, with the interim board members outdoors in front of the school. After introductions, former President and interim Chairman Jeff Harris welcomed the new members with words of congratulations and encouragement. Closing committee reports were given; then election supervisor Dexter Reuhl certified the election results. After finishing the

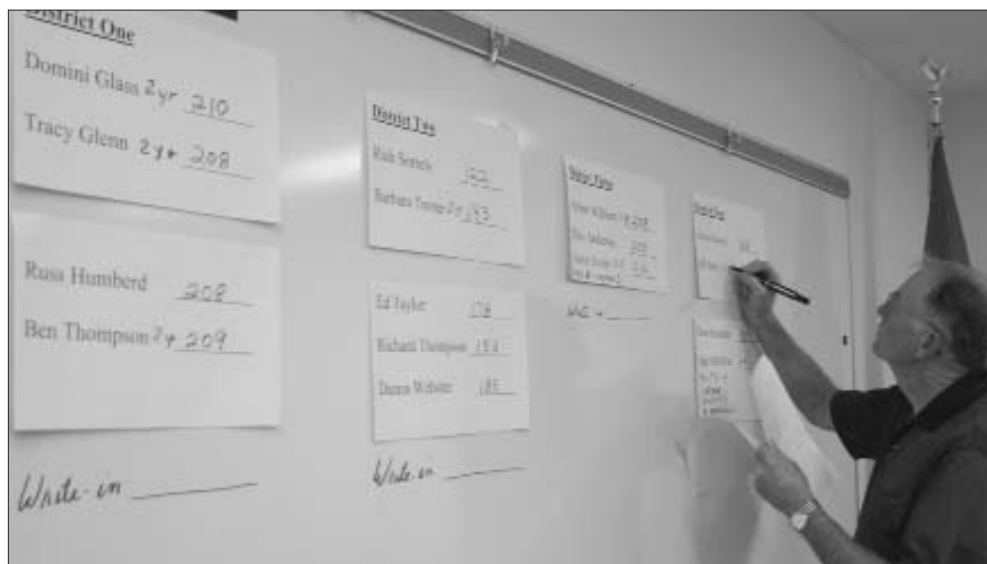


Photo by Hugh McMillan

At the headquarters of the KP Fire District in Key Center June 26, Gig Harbor resident Ron Roberts writes counted votes for the Community Council election earlier that day. Roberts was one of two election supervisors, the other being Dexter Reuhl of Gig Harbor. Supervisors were required to be nonresident and nonvoters of the Key Pen.

business on the interim board agenda, Harris entertained a motion to dissolve the interim board. Taylor is coordinating a formal orientation for

the new directors. Election of officers will take place at the Aug. 24 meeting at the Key Peninsula Middle School library. The meeting is open to the public.

Election results (* indicates who was elected)

District One (NE KP)

*Domini Glass 210
*Ben Thompson 209
*Tracy Glenn 208
*Russ Humberd 208

District Two (NW KP)

*Barb Trotter 193
*Danna Webster 183
*Ed Taylor 178
*Richard Thompson 153
Rick Sorrels 122

District Three (Central KP)

*Joyce Tovey 216
*Arlene Williams 208
*Dani Anderson 203
Kyle Chapman 3

District Four (SO KP)

*Jeff Harris 171
*Denise Carron 168
*Hugh McMillan 162
Allen Yanity 4
Cristi Watson 1
Ross Bischoff 3
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Tragedy strikes KPFD

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Capt. Chuck West, a 20-year veteran of the Key Peninsula Fire Department, was pulling out of his driveway on a Sunday in July when Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy Roger Ward pulled up with tragic news. The kind no one ever wants to hear. His eldest son, Zechariah Curtis West, and wife of less than three weeks, Adrienne (Anderson) West, had been snatched from life. Zech, as he was known to friends, was showing his Midwestern bride the Washington mountains he so loved when their vehicle plunged off a 300-foot cliff into the Cle Elum River.

They did not survive the fall.

"Zech was a wonderful son and brother," said his mom, Sandee. "He enjoyed snorkeling and being in the woods and mountains. We all were very proud of his decision to join the Navy. Right out of boot camp, he met Adrienne, the love of his life. They had



Photo courtesy of the West family
Zech and Adrienne West at their wedding.

the perfect fairytale wedding and a wonderful time honeymooning in Hawaii."

Chuck's wife, Sharon, said the outpouring of love and support for the family from fire personnel, family, friends, and utter strangers has been overwhelmingly "wonderful."

Fire Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen said,

Skate park fund

A few years ago, the Wests were in Idaho where Zech saw a well developed skate park and prevailed upon his dad to try to establish one on the Key Peninsula. Dad did. In Volunteer Park (now called KP Sports Center and Fairgrounds). All his friends and other kids were excited and loved the thing but, for safety reasons, it had to be taken down. In lieu of flowers a fund has been set up at Sound Credit Union in the couple's name for a permanent skate park to be erected by his dad and friends on the Key Peninsula, for the use of all who shared Zech's passion for the sport.

"As his chief and his friend I am proud of how many firefighters and citizens have rallied to support and help Chuck and his family at this devastating time. The fact that we are a smaller department and know each other and our families personally makes this tragedy even more difficult."

Sharon said, "Chief Eric was over here ... and asked what he could do to help. He brought dinner. We mentioned that we hadn't gotten the garden ready for the farewell party we'd planned for the kids. The next day more than a dozen people showed up. I never got a final count but the driveway was full. Fred (Ramsdell) brought his riding lawnmower, there were several weed-whackers, and at one point there were nine people painting my gazebo, a chore we'd not finished since

our own wedding. We both had tears in our eyes with the people swarming around here...The whole effort was coordinated by Paul Bosch and Chief Nelsen, who remained well after dark."

Nelsen said, "As firefighters and emergency responders we respond and see tragedies often, but when it happens so close to home it seems surreal and unbelievable. This tragedy has brought our firefighter brothers and sisters together because when a tragedy happens to a firefighter, we take care of each other."

A celebration of the couple's love and life for all their friends and relatives was held July 14 at the West home. It was originally planned to be a send off party. Zech West was to return to duty with the U.S. Navy in La Mada, Italy, on July 20.

News briefs

KP Metropolitan Parks sets meeting schedule

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will hold its regular public meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the KP Sports Center (Volunteer Park) Annex, commencing July 20.

Joint meetings with the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District are being held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the annex at 7 p.m.

All citizens interested in any park and recreation issue are invited to attend and voice their opinions and concerns.

The KPMD board selected officers in July as follows: Paula DeMoss, president; Jerry Schick, vice president; Kip Clinton, secretary/treasurer; Caril Ridley, communications; Ross Bischoff, at-large.

Recycle electronics for free

If you have old electronics in your home, waiting to be recycled, until Sept. 6 you can do so at Office Depot stores for free. The nationwide electronics recycling program sponsored by Office

Depot and HP accepts electronic items (any manufacturer) such as computers, monitors, printers, scanners, mice, keyboards, TVs (27" or smaller, no consoles), TV/VCR combinations, fax machines, digital cameras, and cell phones.

All products will be recycled at HP's recycling facilities in Roseville, Calif., or Nashville, Tenn. The offer is limited to one "product solution," such as a PC, monitor, mouse and keyboard or one individual product, such as a TV, per customer per day. No VCRs, DVD players, furniture, laptop batteries, rechargeable batteries or electric appliances.

Find complete program details at www.officedepot.com/recycle.

The nearest Office Depot is located in Gig Harbor North, about 10 minutes from the Purdy Bridge.

Electronics contain hazardous material, such as lead, mercury and cadmium and need to be handled properly to protect the environment and human health. Recycling the metals, plastics and glass in electronics conserves natural resources, saves energy and reduces or eliminates the pollution created when these components are made from virgin materials.

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High school students get a taste of business world

By Christina Moore
KP News

Peninsula High School juniors were in for a unique experience at the end of June. It was Washington Business Week. Approximately 254 students formed 22 companies. They were expected to run a successful business, sell portable DVD players, and create an original product to sell.

I was a member of company No. 9, or eLITE, with Andra Spencer of Tacoma Community College as the company adviser. Her role was to guide us in decision-making and to offer assistance in any problem. She said the best part for her was interacting with the students.

"It was great to see the identity of 'eLITE' develop, and the group took interest in their decisions as to what it meant for them as a company," she said. When asked if she would do it all again, she replied, "Absolutely — I would love to be a company adviser for future programs. It's a fabulous opportunity to tap into the energy, creativity, and thinking skills of the students, who in the end will be better (more informed) consumers and have a good start to understanding business issues."

When PHS students were told of Business Week, thoughts of sitting through meetings and being lectured on how businesses work plagued them. But as one participant said, "As soon as it started, I learned a lot and had fun. We were able to have hands-on experience about what it's like out in the real world and in businesses."

As the week progressed, we became engaged in mini-case scenarios, guest speakers and videos. In one scenario simulation, the student CEO engaged the

"We were able to have hands-on experience about what it's like out in the real world and in businesses."

company in an "inventory and production analysis." Everything was computed, from units to be produced, to how much to spend on advertising. These activities were called BizSim, or Business Simulation. Twice a day the results were calculated and feedback was distributed to each company to report progress and to determine which of the nine companies was most successful.

Most students enjoyed the trade show the best. They could show their product to teachers, staff, other companies, and members of the community who acted as investors. Each student could find a job — whether to design the booth, tell investors about the product, or recruit people.

When I walked into my first company meeting, I felt judgmental of some peers I would not normally interact with. But by the end of the week I was surprised how everyone worked together and accepted each other. If I were asked to participate in Washington Business Week again, I would love to.

We appreciated sponsors such as Safe Way, United States Postal Service, Rainer Pacific Foundation, Mid-Day Rotary Club and Gig Harbor Rotary Club, and the various members of the community who volunteered their time to give us a taste of the business world and real-life challenges.

Christina Moore is a Peninsula High School senior and KP News staff writer.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Peninsula High School students met the last full week of the school year for an intensive, hands-on look at the world of corporations and business management.

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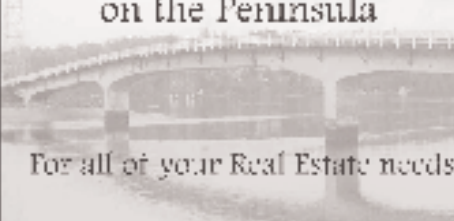
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Key Medical Center receives grant

A \$10,000 Rural Health Viability Grant from the Washington Health Foundation will help Key Medical Center update office technology and bring in a new primary care provider.

Dr. William Roes, sole physician to the Key Peninsula since 1981, operates the Lakebay Key Medical Center with a continuing commitment to care for the community. He offers a sliding fee scale to help low-income patients, and provides well child clinics, flu shots and other services. With half of the grant, Dr. Roes has hired Gig Harbor native Dr. Paul Schmidt, a recent graduate of Tacoma Family Medicine. The other half of the funds will update the office computers with an Internet connection, allowing online access to useful medical information and better interaction with Tacoma Family Medicine and the University of Washington on innovative patient care projects. Dr. Roes says, "I look at this grant as an opportunity to help serve our community."

"Sustainability of our rural health systems depends on regular investments to improve health and build community-based, high-quality health services," says Lorna Stone, senior officer of grantmaking for the Washington Health Foundation. "Our grants will help keep health services in the rural communities," where vulnerable populations, financial pressures, and fragmentation all contribute to the difficulties in maintaining health care systems.

The nonprofit Washington Health Foundation believes that a major part of "righting" the health care system's problems lies in encouraging and supporting the creativity and energy of communities and providers.

As part of its continuing dedication to improving rural health, the foundation has awarded over \$4.3 million to Washington's struggling rural health providers, part of more than 200 health improvement grants totaling \$8.5 million over the last five years.

For more information on the Washington Health Foundation and its grant programs, visit www.whf.org or call 206-216-2529.

Sawdust in the air for the Key Pen Fair

By Danna Webster
KP News

One special Key Peninsula Community Fair event this month will feature tree trunks, chainsaws, and carvers creating wooden creatures on the spot. The fair will have ongoing carving shows and auctions of the work produced. Proceeds from the auctions will go to support the four nonprofit sponsors of the fair.

Watching the carvers will give you a good idea of the kind of action you can see at Kenny's Northwest Experience in Allyn, where carving demonstrations and chainsaw carving classes are regular occurrences.

Michael Walsh may try his hand at demonstrating his new skills at the fair. He lives on the Key Pen near Vaughn and is a July "graduate." His fellow graduate, Julie Marie, may also make an appearance. Both are admirers of Lance Rigby, who has gone from being a shop graduate into gaining full-time employment as a carver. A few months ago, Rigby took second place in his

division at the state championships in Oregon. George Kenny, who won the 2002 Oregon State Chainsaw Carving championship, says Rigby is the poster child for the carving school.

Watching the carving class gives you a good understanding of why the students do well. After meeting in a

"We're the biggest player in this industry in the whole country."

-Frank Kenny

modern mobile classroom complete with books and videos, they suit up in chainsaw chaps, put on their safety glasses and headphones, and grab their new chainsaw (included in class fees). First, Kenny demonstrates how to find the bear's chin on his block of wood. He explains the angle and marks the blade for the right depth. The students go to their stations, stand on carpets of sawdust, arch their bodies and imitate the cut on their own wood. Kenny moves between the students examining their work and encouraging their effort. He helps them smooth over errors.

Julie Marie has worked with some power tools but never a chainsaw before. Walsh has some experience cutting metal. Their concentration is as intense as their muscles are tense. At last, Kenny announces the "bear is secure." Students and the instructor have sculpted a bear waving hello. They will continue through the six-hour day making their bears come alive.

Inside the store is the domain of Frank Kenny. "I'm the business guy," he

says. "George is the creative one." The business started 10 years ago when the brothers drove from their home near Detroit to their sister's wedding. She told them there was a vacant building they just had to see, and the business dream began to take shape. Their sister was going to share the building but wound up with a place across the street, at Lois' Barber Shoppe.

The Northwest Experience evolved into a successful business selling the works of local Northwest artists only. They take pride in their good reputation built from fair treatment of the artists and quality business management. Frank says, "We're the biggest player in this industry in the whole country." The store is bursting with artwork, jewelry, gifts, and carvings all featuring subjects of the Northwest.

Frank is pleased that men, women and children enjoy the store. "The shop is owned by guys so it's a place where guys feel comfortable," he explains, then adds that both managers are women and they give the womanly advice. The kids of all ages like the ice cream. Frank credits trial-and-error learning with helping them get a little smarter every year. He thinks that "maybe riding a trend of people caring about nature" is the secret to their success.

Kenny's Northwest Experience does chainsaw-carving shows at about four major events a year. This is the first time for the Key Peninsula. It will be a real treat when those chainsaws start droning, the sawdust starts flying and the carvers start finding all those bears in the wood for the Key Peninsula Fair. Top that with the million other things to do and people to see there, and there is no excuse for you not to stop by.



Photo by Danna Webster

George Kenny, co-owner of Kenny's Northwest Experience.

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Chainsaws and tractors and good times, oh my!

By Danna Webster
KP News

"Apples and Berries and Pies, oh my!" The now-familiar phrase and its accompanying smiley-faced fruit will once again set the mood for this area's biggest party, the Key Peninsula Community Fair.

But the fun starts a week early. This year a camp for young bull whackers is offered. There are oxen to tend. Pioneer kids' Wagon Camp lets kids of all ages experience life in the 1800s. The campers will participate in cooking skills, churning butter, pioneer games, and learning to groom and work with 7,000-pound oxen.

Bull Whackin' Kass will bring pioneer trail diaries to life on the Saturday before the KP Fair. That's Saturday, Aug. 14. Have Bull Whackin' Kass answer your questions and invite you to camp by calling 509-826-0821.

The Key Peninsula Fair official opening is at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 20. Boy Scout Troop 222 will present the colors and Jocelyn Roberts will sing the



Entertainment at the fair includes comic-magician Ruben Barron, last year's popular juggler/singer/ comedienne Linda Severt, The Rick Allyn Band and more.

Don't miss out! Mark your calendars for Aug. 20-22. There's more information online at www.keyfair.com or call 253-884-4FUN.

national anthem. Opening times remain the same every day. The Tractor Show opens Saturday and the Blues Passage Band opens Sunday. Featured all three days will be the Old World Oxen Living

History Co., woodcarving demonstrations and auctions, the Grey Eagle Veterans drum, exhibit judging, pony rides, petting zoo, and a stocked fish tank. The Antique Tractor Show and tractor pulls will be featured at 2 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday. Different exhibits will be judged each day. The schedule is: Friday, sewing and photography; Saturday, floral, vegetables and food art; and, Sunday, dogs, reptiles and herpetological entries.

The entertainment lineup is packed with musicians, jugglers, clowns, performing pigs, magicians and comedy acts.

Many favorites are returning to please the crowd and lots of new acts have been added.

There will be plenty of food and treats offered to put in your stomach before you get on those carnival rides. Even the carnival is bigger and better than ever, organizers said. When you are ready to stop and rest a while, there are tables and chairs where the family can sit and enjoy refreshments and a beer garden where the over-21 crowd can relax.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Carnival rides, food, music, information, competitions, shows and much more will make sure citizens of the Key Peninsula and visitors from afar will have a good time.

EDITOR WANTED

Peninsula KEY NEWS

Editor wanted

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association is hiring for the position of executive editor of *Key Peninsula News*. The ideal applicant should have newspaper writing and/or editing experience, supervising skills, ability to work with volunteer writers, and general knowledge of newspaper operations and management. Pagination experience or knowledge a plus.

Part-time, contract position

The *Key Peninsula News* is a nonprofit newspaper operated largely by volunteers and published monthly by the KP Civic Center Association.

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Renaissance Faire brings knights, wares, fun

By Karen Hale
KP News

The seventh annual Washington Renaissance Faire is once again coming to the Key Peninsula, with this year's dates Aug. 7-8, 14-15 and 21-22.

The faire, the brainchild of local resident Ron Cleveland, was first started in 1998. According to Cleveland, that year's attendance was 1,200. In 2003, there were over 50,000 faire-goers! The faire is hugely popular and organizers want to make it a permanent fixture on the Peninsula.

Cleveland has been in discussions with the Department of Natural Resources and the Key Pen Metropolitan Park District regarding a permanent site for the faire where it could leave some structures year-round. Other discussions include running the faire for four weekends in the future.

Producing the event is a huge endeavor, which requires over 200 volunteers. According to Cleveland, the event costs upward of \$250,000, so dollars have to be squeezed to make it work — especially with state and county requirements for potable water, traffic control and sewage disposal. The rules get tighter and stricter every year, driving up expenses.

Cleveland is required to hire state-certified flaggers for the traffic-controlled areas, and last year there were no major backups because of the controlled flow of traffic, he said. The people who set up tents along the highway to sell wares are not part of the Renaissance Faire, Cleveland emphasizes.

The faire has something to enjoy for everyone. Folks from every class of society are represented, from a beggar lady to a queen, period musicians, goldsmith, silversmith and blacksmith (they each

create completely different items) and if you want to be part of it, you can go to the costume rental and get something to wear.

Wander around and see the jugglers, hear the musicians, watch for fairies, unicorns, dragons and trolls. Take the kids to juggling school or the First Knight Academy where they will train with foam swords. They can walk through a maze, or watch a magician or puppet show. They can eat different foods while hearing a story. Go get a turkey leg or fish and chips, shaved ice or ice cream, there is much to offer in victuals.

All can watch The Seattle Knights perform jousting and have sword fights — swordplay or team sword fighting. Heather Alexander, a well-known Celtic folk singer, will be on hand to perform as well.

There are eight stages total, and folks who like Shakespeare can watch a play, a fire performer, bagpipes, dancers and magicians. Watch a combat demonstration, how wool is spun or other demonstrations of period crafts.

Cleveland considers safety a major issue during the event. "People should understand it is safe to consider slowing down at Charboneau's to the south, and 94th to the north, and just prepare to be ready for slow-moving traffic during faire time," he said. Aside from that — just stop in and enjoy. Fun, food, entertainment, knights in shining armor and ladies in waiting — sounds like a grand time at the castle!

If you want to volunteer, or for more information, call 1-800-359-5948 or see www.washingtonrenfaire.com.



Be Watchful, Be Mindful, & shout "Huzzah"



An invitation by Sahaja, The Apple Tree Diva

The citizens of Holy Glen Shire bid thee welcome to our carouse, the Renaissance Fantasy Faire, this year of 2004. The castle gates open at 10 a.m. Thee art welcome to tarry with us on to the hour of 6 p.m. During our celebration, thou shalt see many wondrous mythological creatures, magnificent war-horses, and grand characters. Who am I to tell thee which art who or who art which? I, Sahaja, the Apple Tree Diva, have seen it.

Prithee take tyme to become well-aquatinted with the Shire's captivating inhabitants. There be wandering minstrels, storytellers, magicians, puppeteers, and jesters as thou partake of all the events and vendors' tents. Their Queen's Guard shall of course protect the Royal Court of Mary and Elizabeth, and all nobles shall be most pleased to introduce themselves and speak quite grandly of their life and tymes. Be mindful of thy etiquette.

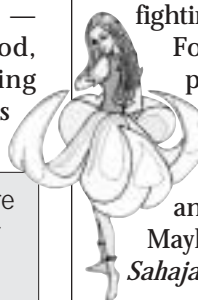
Many thou shall meet at our gathering art mere mortals as thyself. However, perchance if thou art blessed with faerie sight, then thou shalt see marvelous Faeries scurrying about. Be watchful.

Faeries abound at the faire, especially in the Faerie Glen. Many, for thy pleasure, have stepped out from the pages of *Midsummer Nights Dream* and *Spencer's Faerie Queen*. But, me lords and ladies, my personal faerie favorites, and I hope thyne, art the Ancient Seelie Fae of whom I am one. Be glad of heart and thou shalt see delightful woodland faeries, unicorns, good dragons, magicians, and perchance more. But, alas, not all is beautiful in the realm. Beware. Lurking about shall be marauding bans of the Unseelie — banshees, trolls, evil wizards, and red-eyed beasts. If per chance they unduly harass ye, good citizens, pray ye call for Faerie Seelie protection. We Seelie have means to be rid of the Unseelie. Be ever vigilant.

Shout "Huzzah" for the venerated Grand Knights from the City of Emeralds. They shall continue to astound thee, as in years past, with grand equestrian events, sword fighting, and jousting throughout the day. Come ye all to support thy colors!

For quieter encounters, experience our Shakespearean actors. Grand performances by Shakespeare on the Green can be seen in the Glen just over the footbridge. And faeries also fancy to read delightful tales about themselves to the wee people. Throughout the day in the Faerie Glen, ye can gather around the faerie circle beneath the shade of the dryads and hark to faerie tale adventures.

Mayhap we wilt see thee at the faire. There be fun for all. Our citizens await. *Sahaja is also known as Carolyn Willis, a writer who lives on the Key Peninsula.*



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Old Timers' Day fest greets the old, young

By Marlies Van Cise
Special to KP News

Have you ever dreamed of being in a real television studio and perhaps see yourself televised? Here is your chance to be in the audience when "Northwest Afternoon" will be aired on Channel 4 (KOMO) on Aug. 9.

Cristi Watson, executive director of Key Peninsula Community Services and Food Bank, will give a short public service announcement about the "Old Timers' Day" organized by KPCA. She is looking for people who might enjoy this outing. Anyone interested to cheer on for the community event should arrive at the Community House in Lakebay before noon to catch a ride.

The Old Timer's Day is Aug. 21, so mark your calendars for this great street party. As always, it will be at the Longbranch Improvement Club and many special activities are planned.

"A traditional Key Peninsula event, Old Timers' Day has fun for the entire family, lots of kids' games, our traditional old-

Old Timers' Day

If you have questions about the Public Service Announcement trip or about the Old Timers' Day, call the Community House at 884-4440.

time logging show complete with hot saws and steam donkeys, our country fair, antique cars, and antique logging machinery," Watson said. "Indoors we have music, cloggers, and assorted other entertainment. And there's food, indoors and outdoors. So many ways to enjoy a lovely day on the Key Peninsula and it's all free ...no admission ...no parking fees. You only pay for your food and drink choices, with all proceeds going to benefit the KPCS/Foodbank and Senior Center."

You don't have to be old and not even an old timer to have a great time, and judging by last year's crowd, all ages, shapes and sizes were represented.

This year's event will be sponsored by the Geneva Foundation, which has

generously contributed to other local groups.

The day starts out with a hearty breakfast (from 7 - 9 a.m.), and for only \$3.50 per person you will get eggs, sausages, biscuits and gravy, fresh fruit, coffee, juice and milk. Yum!

The festivities start at 10 a.m., with opening ceremonies, flag raising and the Key Singers adding a nice touch.

Then the real fun starts:

- A country fair with breads, cakes, jam, arts and crafts, as well as plants, which will be judged by celebrity judges John and Shirley Nederlee and Wanda and Larry Kamahale from the Geneva Foundation

- Live music provided by "Spoon Man," "Harmonica Kids," "Blues Kids," "Down Home Keep Clam Band" and more

- Rhythm-n-Shoes Cloggers
- The magic of a real spinning wheel
- Kids' activities and much more

The highlight of the whole event is, as always, the Logging Competition Show with several of the world's fastest

chain saws. This is truly a spectacular feat that takes place at 11 a.m.

But... there is more: Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 each for a chance to win one of three main prizes: \$500 cash, a \$200 "mystery shopping spree" or a handmade quilt by Tina Zeller.

And if that's not enough, you'll have the opportunity to walk through the new dental van that the Community House will have available two days a week for those who need dental care — as well as many other vendors on hand to sell their wares.

How can all these activities fit into one day? They do, but you have to come early because there is much to see and do.

Wanna get the KP News but live outside delivery area?

Get your copy in Purdy at Pen Light, SAVE thrift store, Westwynd, or Bayside Cutters; in Gig Harbor at the library or the airport; at the Allyn gas station, Belfair airport, KP grocery stores or library. OR subscribe and for \$20 it's delivered to your door!

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(From **ENGINES**, Page 1)

in the course of duty do so without being paid a penny.

Understanding the thrill of receiving two donated "beat-up" fire trucks can perhaps best be compared to a child's joy of getting a much-anticipated Christmas present. When a couple of bomberos in July got to proudly affix new decals with the words "bomberos voluntarios" on two surplus KP Fire District engines, a small but emotional ceremony was filled with good deeds and humble talk. One only had to listen to the story of the country's fire chief to understand why two hand-me-downs with enough wear and tear to give a mechanic lifetime job security were such a big deal.

"In Guatemala, we don't have enough money to purchase equipment in the volunteer fire department, and for us to buy one of these engines, we would have to make a lot of sacrifices," Cesar Gonzalez, the country's fire chief, said through a translator. "These engines will save a lot of lives back home."

Gonzalez and seven fellow bomberos traveled to Washington state in July to accept the engines, packed with various equipment and gear, along with a container filled with medical equipment donations. The KPFDD ceremony was hardly

"The villages had no electricity and medical care; they live off what they grow."

-Jen Cameron

finished when in the middle of a group photo session a truck pulled up. Laura Cameron from Dr. Roes' office and her daughter Jen started unloading equipment donated by the doc — cardiac monitors, oxygen equipment and lots more — along with blankets, walkers and other items.

Cameron had somewhat of a personal interest in helping: She had visited Guatemala on a mission trip and was planning another one in the near future. "The villages had no electricity and medical care; they live off what they grow," she recalled. "It was an eye opening experience."

Dr. Roes had already unloaded donations previously but obviously that wasn't enough, thus Cameron was dispatched at the last minute. That is the sort of generosity that Pierce County agencies and residents have shown ever since word came down that the bomberos were coming.

But this trip is but a small touch. For several years, area rescue personnel have been making regular trips to Guatemala to

bring supplies and much-needed training. Key Pen resident Ron Quinsey, a paramedic with the Lakewood fire department and a state EMT instructor, is among those helping build the Guatemalan EMS system from the ground up. Using their own money and time, Quinsey and other colleagues visit the country for a couple of weeks at a time every year — and since they became involved, many of the makeshift ambulances have been replaced with real ones, the paramedics received modern equipment, and lives have been saved.

"Ron Quinsey helped us build the EMS services with training and supplies. They are so concerned about it that they spend their own money to help us," Gonzalez said.

The Good Samaritans have plenty of help too. Donations from several Rotary clubs and other organizations are making sure the Guatemalan medics slowly get what they need. The Parkland-Spanaway Rotary leads a nationwide drive to raise money for the project. Initially, \$25,000

was spent, then another \$50,000 and recently a \$160,000 grant was approved that will provide airway trauma kits and other basic equipment for every station, along with training.

"They are much better off than they were a few years ago... They take so much pride in their work," said Paul Embleton, a captain with Central Pierce Fire and Rescue who has made 24 trips in seven years to help train the Guatemalans, starting with a pilot program that continued to grow.

By the time T-shirts and other memorabilia were exchanged between the two fire districts at the Wauna fire station, Gonzalez said the members of the two departments were like brothers. For the Key Pen fire fighters, perhaps all that will be left are the warm memories, a plaque and the vague recollection of the occasional embarrassments posed by the two engines, bought at the bargain price of \$11,000 for the set, when they would quit in the middle of a service call. But for the bomberos whose government spends less than a half-million dollars for the entire country's emergency response system, those two little engines and the generosity of so many strangers cannot be measured in currency or worn out parts. This is the human spirit at its best.

Summer brings hazy days, burn ban to several counties

Summer on the Key Peninsula officially arrived on July 10 with the declaration of a burn ban by Pierce County Fire Marshal Wayne Wienholz. The outdoor burn ban, due to high risk of fire danger, was a joint decision of five fire jurisdictions to adopt extra fire safety measures, in cooperation with the Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association and the Department of Natural Resources.

Burning restrictions apply to all private and state-owned forestland and to state

wildlife reserves managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Burn bans are in effect in all urban and suburban areas; but do not apply to federal forests or national parks, though similar restrictions may be imposed in those areas.

Recreational campfires in approved metal- or concrete-lined fire pits, such as those located in designated campgrounds, are allowed. Campfires on private land are allowed with the landowner's permission, subject to these conditions: built in a metal or concrete fire pit allowed to grow no larger than

three feet across located in a clear spot, at least 10 feet away from vegetation, with a 20-foot vertical clearance from overhanging branches attended at all times by an alert individual with immediate access to a shovel and five gallons of water or a connected and charged water hose.

Contact Wayne A. Wienholz, fire marshal, 798-7183 or Jody Woodcock, public information officer, 798-7021. Approved DNR burn permit holders may call 1-800-323-BURN.

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Down Home Band practice and performance

The Down Home Band will be playing at Old Timers' Day on Aug. 21 at 1 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club. The next practice for the band will be Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Key Medical Center, 15610 89th St. in downtown Key Center. If you play a band instrument and are interested in joining, show up at the practice or call Dr. Roes at 884-9221.

KPVI installs new officers

On June 21, Key Peninsula Veterans Institute installed Roxyanne Wooldridge as its president for 2004-05. Other officers are as follows: Sr. Vice President Jean Christoffersen, Secretary Eileen Young, Treasurer Frances Myers, Chaplain Marguerite Bussard, Parliamentarian Cy Young, 3rd Year Trustee Kathy Patterson.

KPVI meets at the Community House Food Bank at 7 p.m., the first and third Monday of every month. For information on becoming a member call 884-4407 or 884-4551.

For help with any service connected problem, please call Cy Young, 884-4551.

The Bayshore Garden Club hosts potluck

The Bayshore Garden Club will have its Annual Potluck Picnic at noon on Aug. 6 at the home of Delores Argabright, 14615 32nd, Lakebay. Her phone number is 884-2620. For more information call Sylvia Retherford 884-2487.

Angel Guild news

The Angels have been busy as always. Not only do we stock the store daily with fantastic buys of gently used items, but we also lose dear friends and dedicated workers. Nell Blanchard has been an "I can do that" member from the first day. She is moving and while we wish her family a good move, we will tremendously miss her.

We had requests from four different groups last month totaling more than \$9,000.

We do thank the community for their wonderful donations that are in good condition. We could not function without you.

If you are new to our community or haven't visited us yet, come in and see what we have to offer — and tell your friends!

—By Betty Barkubein

Kids learn to sew with 4H

Story and photo by Hugh McMillan
KP News

The week of June 28, the second annual Key Peninsula 4H Summer Sewing School was held in the Key Peninsula Fire Department's headquarters station in Key Center. Ten youngsters, Brooklyn Chaney, 10, Stephen Chaney, 7, Evelyn Lafferty, 8, Gabrielle Lafferty, 9, Aaron Lafferty, 9, Rachel Clark, 11, Keanan Lewellen, 10, Dylan Lewellen, 12, Sawyer Lewellen, 7 and Brianna Lewis, 7, made up the student body.

Volunteer Sueko Eriksen, a Pierce County-Washington State University Extension Clothing and Textile adviser, recognized a need in her community for sewing and wanted to share her love and knowledge of the art with others. She approached the extension office in Tacoma with her idea and worked with Ann Sagawa, extension coordinator, to make her dream a reality.

Aided by Jeanie Thomas, a Key Peninsula resident, and CTA's Sam Brandt, Barb Lewis, Martha Brown, Donna Deskin, and Lily Meyer, the 2004 sewing school provided an opportunity for local youth to construct several items: a pair of shorts, and two book bags - one to keep



and one to donate to a library. Sagawa noted, "Sewing, currently not taught in most school districts, contains many hidden benefits for youth. Besides constructing a garment or accessory by the end of the classes, students improve their hand-eye coordination, increase sequential and abstract thinking, experience an increase in self-esteem and confidence, and develop transferable skills, all of which enhance learning in the regular classroom."

She expressed her gratitude to the

staff at KPFD for use of its facility, to the WSU Clothing and Textile advisers of Pierce County for sharing their expertise and time and to CTA's Sandi Munson, 4H summer intern, and others from the Pierce County community for donations of materials provided to students who could not afford to buy them.

For information on the Clothing and Textile Advisor Program or the 4H Program, contact the WSU Extension in Pierce County at 798-7180 or online at www.pierce.wsu.edu.

'Latigo Lace' band coming for Labor Day

The Longbranch Improvement Club will bring a band not heard before on the Peninsula to the annual Labor Day Dance, Saturday, Sept. 4. Doors will open at 8 p.m. Tickets will be \$15 at the door and \$12 in advance, on sale at the Longbranch Marina and Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, as well as at the Improvement Club booth at the Key Peninsula Community Fair. An open cash bar will provide refreshments at the dance.

The KP Community Services will provide van service from the Filucy Bay marina.

This holiday dance, a long standing tradition in the South Sound area from even the days of the Steilacoom to Longbranch ferry before the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, will have an exciting

new band for dancers this year.

The group Latigo Lace, a versatile show band with vocalists and musicians, does country and classic country music as well as vintage rock, R & B, swing and dance tunes. The LIC events chair, Linda Leblanc, urges people to take

advantage of the advance sale price and get their tickets early.

— Mary Mazur

To submit your announcement, email to news@keypennews.com or fax to 884-4053. September deadline is Aug. 17.



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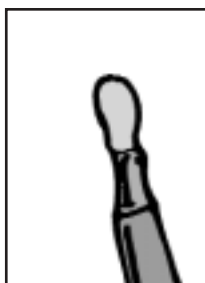
Summer arts make music, poetry and more

By L. Brudvik Lindner

This summer's creative and cultural events proudly brought to you by the Two Waters Arts Alliance include felting, beach sculpture, mosaic and scarecrow making.

And there is more on the way in August — music, poetry, painting and art for the woman's soul.

Music in the meadow will play at the Art Barn on Sept. 18, 3-7 p.m. Mark Runion's band, Quartet Musette with Lorraine Hart, along with a string quartet will kick off TWAA's first outdoor concert that is planned to become an annual event. Gather your picnic dinner, your blanket, family and friends, and enjoy the talents of local artists. Come early and tour Beverly Petersen's colorful art studio, which is also on the Gig Harbor Peninsula Art Studio Tour Sept. 18-19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Art Barn is at 1516



The Genuine
ARTicle

84th St KPN in Lakebay. Call 884-2149.

Poetry graces the month of August as local poet Debra McElroy will share her enthusiasm for poetry Aug. 9, 11 and 13 at the Key Pen Civic Center. If you are between the ages of 12 and 112 and have a desire to share your passion, fears and dreams, join the Poetry Writing Camp. Bring a sack lunch.

Calling all women! Treat yourself to a day of artistic indulgence at the Art Barn Saturday, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The day will begin with creating jewelry, lead to a sinful boxed lunch, and end with making bath teas.

Another August treat is plein-air painting with Tweed Meyer, who uses ground paper and colorful mixed mediums. Aug 14 and 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., KP Civic Center.

Sunnycrest Nursery was the shop and showcase of the fruits of the Third Annual Scarecrow Event in July. Shirts were stuffed, heads were glued, bodies were wired and scarecrows were built, as children, parents and volunteers created garden art.

Beach Walk and Clay Day at Camp Seymour brought together participants



Mathew and Roger Kaffer, Shelby Bottiger at the July 17 Clay Day and Beach Walk with Two Waters. *Photo courtesy of TWAA*

ages 6-65, who explored the beaches, collected materials, created pots and designed sculptures from natural objects.

Be sure to visit TWAA at the Key Peninsula Community Fair Aug. 20-22. Kids can create their own work of art or watch local artists demonstrate their skills, free with paid admission to the fair.

To learn more about TWAA programs or how you can support the mission of keeping arts alive on the Key Peninsula, call 884-3407 or visit www.twowaters.org.

KP News volunteer promoted to new job

Key Peninsula News volunteer writer Danna Webster was promoted in July to the newly created part-time position of assistant editor. Webster, a Colorado transplant to the Key Peninsula since 2001, has been writing for the newspaper for about a year.



WEBSTER

She was elected to the KP Community Council and has been involved in various community activities, including as a member of the KP Historical Society, a volunteer for local trails and parks events, and contributor to two KP writers groups. If that's not enough to keep the retired teacher busy, in July she joined the Belfair chapter of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Webster's writing includes nonfiction and two unpublished children's novels.

"Danna has been an outstanding contributor to our team and everyone on the staff is excited about her new role," said Executive Editor Rodika Tollefson.

Volunteer Spotlight: Dave Nordberg

Volunteer bread van driver Dave Nordberg has helped Key Peninsula Community Services since Hank Ramsdell asked him to go over to the place and check it out. Nordberg, formerly known as Barber Dave, takes the Tuesday and Thursday van routes. The bread van picks up food donations six days a week.

"QFC ...and Fred Meyer are so good to us," he said. "It's amazing what they will donate to us...One time they had bacon, 16 packages in a box and 11 or 12 boxes...gave it to us."

Dave was reluctant to be in the "Volunteer Spotlight," because there are many volunteers to appreciate. "If it helps the center, fine..." he said, "talk about the center."

It's a busy business and volunteers are always needed. It is volunteer effort, energy and dependability that make the food bank happen. Dave Nordberg is one of those dependable volunteers.

Executive Director Cristi Watson describes him as "very conscientious, very spiritual and he shows it with everything he does."



Photo by Danna Webster

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer opportunities

Communities in Schools of Peninsula

Adult mentors for elementary age children for after school reading and/or homework help. Spend two to four hours a week with a student helping them be more successful in school. Contact Colleen Speer at 884-5733.

Key Peninsula Community Services

Six bread run volunteers needed to drive the KPCS bread van to pick up bread at various locations 6 days per week, approximately 2 to 6 hours weekly. Also need 1 assistant volunteer coordinator to help with program volunteer efforts and RSVP. Contact Cristi Watson, 884-4440.

Peninsula Adult Basic Education Program

Key Peninsula Outreach needs to recruit tutors to help adults (16 and up) pass GED tests and/or build

basic skills in reading, writing, and math. Training is provided. Contact Tacoma Community College at 851-2424.

Washington State University Pierce County Extension 4-H Youth Development

4-H needs responsible, caring adults to mentor youth, teach life skills, and have fun. The current need is for project (interest) leaders and main club leaders. All adults are screened through the Washington State Patrol. Contact Nancy Baskett, 253-798-3258.

Living sustainably on the Key Peninsula

Yurts...and other eco-friendly building methods

By Karen Hale
KP News

Northwest Solar Group member Ed Bressette could be viewed as the local expert on conservation and other methods of living sustainably. That doesn't mean just conserving, but creating energy and stretching it through housing design, usage of gravity, passive heating by using brick flooring, reusing materials, and much more. One of those more creative living ideas is building a yurt—and Bressette and his like-minded solar group friends have done just that.

This particular yurt belongs to Aaron Gould, another member of the group, who lives in the yurt with his young family on Fox Island. There are also yurts on the Key Pen: canvas one-room ones at Camp Seymour, and one at Frog Creek Lodge that can be rented for use. The lodge owner, Suzanne Dirks, also lives in the wooden yurt from time to time.

The main two reasons to live in a yurt, according to Gould, are safety and health as well as low cost. His 500-square-foot building, which will be a safe environment for his two young children, will cost approximately \$20,000-\$25,000 (including all setups) when completed. The exterior is an architectural fabric imported from Germany and is waterproof. The term used in the conservational building trade for this type of nonfibrous house covering is "hydrophobic." Yes, just like "fear of water."

Gould, a house builder specializing in

nontoxic methods, built his yurt mostly by himself. His company, Bio Integra, uses materials that are considered nontoxic: They don't leach or emit gases into the atmosphere of the house. Conservational builders try to use the most natural materials that have enough strength to do the job. Gould, for example, uses strawboard — it is like particleboard, but is recycled harvest leftovers, which has a natural binder in it and no glues like particleboard and plywood. He doesn't use vinyl windows made of PVC (polyvinyl chloride), because "it releases chlorine gas when burned."

"It releases chemicals that affect the nerves and the manufacturing process is unhealthy as well," Gould said. The best windows to use are fiberglass/wood because the fiberglass portion of the window is on the outside and doesn't leach like other materials.

Other ideas from Bressette, Gould and group members include using recycled materials in building, as the old lumber is the safest, nontoxic, and strong. The Re-Harvest Center in Tacoma and the Environmental Home Center in Seattle are among the businesses that sell recycled and other eco-friendly materials.

Many companies cater to folks who want to be able to heat a house and cook without having to build a campfire, like Imagine Energy on Bainbridge Island that offers systems for running heaters and cooking appliances on diesel, biodiesel or kerosene.

Plumbing is another issue. The Gould yurt uses a water-free plumbing system Bressette helped install. When using a nonwater system, the waste is pulled into a gray water system that is irrigated to the



Photo by Karen Hale

A three-room yurt at Frog Creek Lodge in Lakebay, complete with furniture and a bathroom.

Material Sources:

Rainier Yurts, Seattle, 1-866-839-8787, www.rainierindustries.com

Clivus Multrum, 1-800-425-4887, Lawrence, MA, www.clivusmultrum.com (water systems)

Energy Exteriors, Tacoma, 253-476-4630

The Reharvest Center, Tacoma, 253-537-3224

Environmental Home Center, Seattle, 1-800-281-9785,

www.environmentalhomecenter.com

Imagine Energy, Bainbridge Island, 206-963-3835, www.imagine-energy.com, info@imagine-energy.com

For more information on alternative energy: Northwest Solar Group, www.nwsolargroup.org.

plants beyond the lawns, and the waste itself is stored like compost. After a year, the waste/compost is usable for gardening. The system recycles itself constantly, so there is no need for service like a septic tank that needs to be pumped routinely.

Other elements that impact the efficiency of the home:

- Using LED lights: 300 LEDs take 12 watts of electricity, lowering cost.
- Rainwater harvesting systems from copper and stainless steel help keep

roof runoff water clean. The water is stored in cisterns.

- Room placement: Keep the air flowing for cooling and heating. Walled-off rooms can be used in a yurt or other nontraditional house, but airflow must be maintained.

Building a traditional or non-traditional house is a lot of work, but doesn't have to be a lot of money and can be as environmentally friendly as possible, Bressette said. Just ask the right folks.

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Summer Programming Preview - August

Poetry Writing Camp with Deborah Medley - Ages 10-13! Learn to share your passions, fears, dreams and have fun read aloud for the exhilaration of poetry through practice and reading. Become familiar with many different styles and forms. Bring a book lunch. Mon, Wed, & Friday, August 9, 11 & 13, 11 am to 3 pm
Mini-art Painting with Tweed Meyer - learn how to capture expression of life in the now. Using a variety of ground paper and mixed media to capture a scene. Learn to discover how colorful life is around you. Art play and spontaneity into your art! Sat/Sun, August 14 and/or 21, 11 am to 1 pm
The Key Peninsula Community Fair - Be sure to visit the Waters Arts Alliance at the fair this summer, August 30, 31 & 31. Kids can create their own work of art or watch local artists demonstrate their skills. Free with paid admission to the fair.

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

Art for the Woman's Soul - Sat., Aug. 7
Poetry Writing Camp - Aug. 9, 11 & 13
Mini-art Painting - Saturdays, Aug. 14 and/or 21
The Key Peninsula Community Fair - August 30, 31 & 31

Mark your calendar now for the Two Waters Arts Alliance first annual "Picnic Concert in the Meadow." Sponsored by the Annapolis Guild. Sat., Sept. 18. Watch for more information!

From pioneer stock Martha Jolley: Young at Heart

By Colleen Slater
KP News

"I've always loved to dance," says Martha Jolley, oldest of three remaining Stock children raised at Rocky Bay. She paints, quilts, plays violin, and dances often, which may be why she appears younger than 87.

Her parents and brother Bill emigrated from Germany to Michigan in 1904. On their way to Montana by train, a fellow passenger said Montana was too cold in winter, and they should go to Washington.

From Tacoma, they moved to Victor, on Rocky Bay.

Martha started school at Vaughn with brother Julius, a year older. Her parents thought it better that two children begin at the same time.

Martha recalls doing lots of walking to spend time with friends. Baseball games were played with three or four to a team.

The family of 10 surviving children grew, and their father built a big home on the hill. When Martha was in eighth grade, that house burned down. They had no clothes left. The fire was caused from Stock's overheated stills.

Another house was built, and still stands on that hill above Rocky Bay.

Brother Bill was a genius, Martha says. He could do almost anything, and set up running water for the house. Mr. Stock fattened beef and hogs to butcher and sell. The family "picked" and sold huckleberries, beating the bushes with sticks.

In 1935, the Stocks started a winery, buying grapes from Longbranch and other nearby places. Their wines were sold in Washington only, usually to taverns. The brothers and Martha's



Photo courtesy of Martha Jolley

Martha Jolley as a Vaughn Union High School student.

husband made sales and deliveries.

The Stock winery existed for about 10 years. Martha thinks the men got tired of all the paperwork required by the state.

Martha graduated from Vaughn Union High School, and worked at Woolworth's in Olympia, spending weekends at her sister's in Yelm.

One night Frank Jolley asked to take her home from a dance. She said only if he could find an escort for the friend she'd come with. He did. He'd told a friend that evening, "That's the girl I'm going to marry."

After assorted other business ventures, Frank and Martha bought her brother Fred's store in Allyn (where the port office is now). Martha ran the store until they were on their feet, then Frank quit his job with a Shelton dairy to help.

The house had only two bedrooms, so

they put in a trailer for the girls, ages 13 and 17. They built onto the building for more store space, another living room and a bedroom.

When a man wanted to buy the store, they sold it and Frank started working for Mason County's road department.

Frank built a cabin on Coulter Creek for a getaway. A woman wanted to buy it, so they had a three-way move: The woman moved into the cabin, the new owner moved to the store, and the Jolleys bought a house on the hill. Martha always wanted to live there, overlooking the water, and has done so for 44 years. The couple celebrated 59 years together before Frank died.

A neighbor's daughter asked if Martha, a talented artist, would paint a picture for a new pasta company label. Tavolata pasta, sold by Sam's Club, now sports her painting of an Italian scene.

A granddaughter, a California film producer, recently interviewed relatives in Martha's sunroom, where many of her oil paintings hang. She plans a documentary on Martha, "probably about 10 minutes long."

Martha laughs about her bits of "fame" and continues to keep busy with her various projects and dancing that keep her young at heart.

KP Fair and KeyBank team up for scholarship


The Key Peninsula Community Fair has teamed up with KeyBank to offer a \$500 scholarship for students entering grades nine through 12. Interested students will be required to write an essay, 500 words or less, about the steps they are taking to save for college and what lifelong habits they will need to establish financial independence.

The winner will receive a Certificate of Deposit from KeyBank in Purdy, and the name will be announced at 2:15 p.m. on the main fair state Sunday, Aug. 22. The winner will also receive a letter of recognition for the outstanding essay.

If the winner is present at the fair when the name is announced, the scholarship amount doubles, to \$1,000.

The essays will be judged in several categories including presentation and originality, and must be accompanied by an entry form. Forms are available at the Purdy branch of KeyBank or online at www.keyfair.com, or by calling 884-4FUN.

Applications must be postmarked by Aug. 16 and the judges' decision is final. The KP Fair Association and KeyBank reserve the rights to the winning essay for future publication and promotion.



The mission of the Key Peninsula Health & Professional Center is to make available auxiliary health, business, social and professional services to the community. The KP HPC is a non-profit organization managed by a volunteer Board of Directors founded in 1993.

Key Peninsula Health & Professional Center

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10210 Minterwood Dr	Lake Minterwood	\$179,900
13706 Thomas Rd	Waterfront Cabin & Acreage	\$451,000

Community Service Day

On Friday, June 18 the agents of Windermere/Key Realty spent the morning at Evergreen Elementary School. As we do every year, we were giving back to the community by contributing our time and effort to improving the area where we live. This year we brought hoes, shovels and a wheelbarrow and cleaned up the front of Evergreen Elementary School-weeding and spreading bark dust in all the flowerbeds. After a hot,



HORSESHOE LAKE ESTATES \$90,000
Quaint Buckingham home sited high above the neighbors. Property has terraced rock walls and fenced yard. Vaulted ceilings create a spacious liv/din/kitchen area w/built in buffet and woodstove.

Come and see this affordable home. MLS #24096297



SALTWATER BEACH ACCESS \$125,000
You will enjoy this cozy immaculate home and gated community. You will have just a short walk to the beach w/boat ramp and one of the nicest pebble beaches around. You can make this a vacation retreat or year-around home. This one won't last long! MLS #24093814



ALMOST 5 ACRES \$324,900
If you are seeking land in a park like setting and a large beautiful home within 12-13 min drive to Hwy 16, look no further - this is it! The skylights in this home make it bright and cheery even on the darkest day. The acreage is covered in fir trees and salal and area suitable for fencing for horses or livestock. A wired greenhouse and elevated garden are ready for the green thumb. MLS #24097605



HORSES AND FOREST! \$175,000
Enjoy the best of both at this spacious home on 5 acres. Excellent open floor plan and beautiful decorator colors. Gorgeous landscaping. Huge 3-car garage w/loft storage plus 3 horse stalls. Quiet country setting offers extreme privacy. Fenced for horses. Various outbuildings. MLS #24090984

Bring Pencils & Paper to the Fair August 20-22

Once again, Windermere/Key Realty will have a booth at the fair. This year in addition to our display of homes we will be collecting school supplies for the Salvation Army's Back to School program. The Salvation Army supplies backpacks and Windermere is collecting school supplies to fill the backpacks. Mike Maroney, an agent in our office, is an Advisory Board member for the Salvation Army and will see that these items go directly to children in our area. So bring your checks made out to the Salvation Army or Windermere Foundation or school supplies such as paper, pens, pencils, erasers, etc and fill our bin at the fair. See you there!

Or bring your donations by the Windermere/Key Realty Office anytime and we'll see that the supplies get to the Salvation Army. The bin will be available in our Key Center Office from August 7, 2004 until the fair.



BREATHTAKING VIEW! \$179,000
Enjoy the view so So. Sound with beach rights and easy access to beach and boat launch. Would be a wonderful get-away or year-round living. Also has covered patio, carport and 1 car garage w/storage for boat. Located in a private gated community in a rare setting w/ nothing between you and the view! MLS #24089443



BEAUTIFUL WATERFRONT - \$299,900
The absolute perfect place to enjoy expansive views of Carr Inlet and Mt. Rainier. This cozy 2-bedroom cabin has many upgrades and also wood stove. Property has outdoor hot tub, detached garage, stairs to beach and new granite bulkhead. MLS #24059733



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(From **WATER**, Page 1)

predictable period of time due to pre-determined conditions). Melvin cited one example, "Any time there is over half-inch of rainfall, the area will be closed for five days." If contamination exceeds standards, an area can be designated as restricted or prohibited from harvesting activities.

The most common causes of contamination are on-site domestic sewage systems, stormwater runoff, especially from impervious (paved) surfaces in developed areas, agricultural runoff, and livestock kept adjacent to creeks. "Nonpoint" pollution sources — those that cannot be easily identified — are also areas of concern. "Ultimately, the solution to water quality problems comes down to the residents," said Melvin.

"The residents of the town of Allyn have done an incredible job to identify contamination from stormwater runoff — which was being piped directly to the beach— by constructing a community sewer system to reduce high bacteria counts. As a result, North Bay has been moved up from conditional to approved," as a shellfish harvest area, said Melvin. "Some areas are being upgraded. Others are getting worse," he added.

A typical day finds Melvin and Kenny aboard a boat, monitoring shoreline conditions, and taking water samples by hand from Vaughn Bay, Rocky Bay and North Bay. The samples are placed into



Photo by Irene Torres

Don Melvin, environmental specialist with the state, has the job of protecting our resources.

120-milliliter vials as the two record time, tidal phase, water temperature and salinity. The samples are transported via a Greyhound bus to the state laboratory in Seattle, where they are tested for fecal coliform bacteria per FDA water-quality standards.

The team consists of about 30 people and four boats. Melvin's area of responsibility covers Drayton Harbor to Willapa Bay (open coast), and encompasses 96 certified commercial shellfish growing areas, 22 of which are now listed by the Department of Health as threatened with closure or harvest

restrictions. His office provides information to landowners about farm management techniques, "with an eye toward being the best stewards of marine water quality," said Melvin.

Educated as a high school biology teacher, Melvin taught school "long enough to realize I wasn't cut out for it." Eighteen years ago, the father of a former student told him about a job opportunity with the state, "and I woke up one morning realizing I'd made a career out of it," he said. "It's been a good job."

Kenny, on the other hand, set out to make this her career with a degree in environmental health from the University of Washington. She has been with Mason County for six years.

While most of his boat trips are uneventful, Melvin recalled one memorable incident near Key Peninsula. "I was working for DNR (Department of Natural Resources) on an aquaculture project near McNeil Island...Two of us were working on some gear off Wyckoff Shoal, standing in about two feet of water not far from our anchored boat, when a guy in a large powerboat came cruising down Pitt Passage and ran aground on the shoal not far from where we were standing. Fortunately, he didn't open the boat's hull but he did have to sit on the shoal for several hours until the tide came back in," said Melvin. "I don't know what he thought we were standing on."

During a major storm back in the '70s,

For more information about shellfish protection, visit the Puget Sound Action Team at www.psat.wa.gov/Programs/Shellfish.htm or call Don Melvin at 360-236-3320.

A map of threatened shellfish areas is posted on the Department of Health's Website at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/Threatareas04.pdf

Melvin aided a couple who had capsized in a small sail boat. "The next day we helped a number of folks retrieve boats that had broken their moorings," he said.

Melvin, who lives on Oyster Bay at the end of Totten Inlet, is now in the lead position for the state's shellfish restoration programs. He spends more of his time working with local governments, drafting reports that form the basis for classification decisions. Other responsibilities of his department include restaurant safety and foodborne illness outbreaks.

He expresses a degree of frustration because it is sometimes difficult to find people willing to brave rainy winters aboard a boat and to take on the challenges of weather and tides. "The crews pay close attention to weather forecasts and water conditions. If conditions worsen, their runs are cut short," Melvin said.

"Summer is our reward," explained Kenny.

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Conserving resources: Farm, property owners receive free advice

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Jennifer McKenna loves her Longbranch farm, the trees and the proximity to the water. But as the owner of several horses, she says she wants to take responsibility for her farm and find ways that minimize impact on resources. When she learned about the Pierce Conservation District, a nonregulatory program that helps property owners for free, it was exactly the kind of support she was needing.

McKenna called the organization to learn about eradicating Tansy. Instead, by the time her work with them was complete, she learned how to use her farm's resources better, and what she can do for an environmentally conscious approach.

"They (the staff) are really good and they provide you all kinds of support. I did almost everything they recommended," she said. That included

pasture rotation, cross-fencing, improved runoff drainage and other suggestions.

The conservation agency is nonregulatory, and much of their work is based on educating the farm owners. The owners do not have to implement the plans; however, the work of the agency is based on the cooperation with the clients. The focus is primarily on farms — defined as property with at least one animal — but property owners who may impact other resources such as streams and lakes can also receive assistance. Recently, a full-time farm program planner was hired just for Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula, to help address some of the backlog in the area.

"This is a voluntary program to take a look at alternative best-management practices, and using tried and true practices," said Erin Ewald, farm resource specialist. "We are hoping to keep the animals healthy, minimize the chore time, and the overall objective is to minimize the impact on resources."

A district representative comes out to the property for an initial evaluation. A conservation plan is then created with a variety of suggestions, goals and priorities.

The program also offers technical assistance, a network of services, and cost-share for specific projects such as fencing off creeks, based on funding and priorities. McKenna qualified for cost share to install a fence along a seasonal creek on her property to keep animal waste from draining into the bay. The Conservation District paid for fencing materials, and a crew of volunteers from the so-called Stream Team planted the banks after the installation to prevent erosion. The Stream Team also does habitat restoration, lake monitoring, and works with groups and neighborhoods on projects related to water resources.

The Farm Conservation Program relies heavily on education and schedules regular workshops and tours of farms that use best practices. The Key

Conservation at work

Conservation plans are developed for individual property owners and are based on voluntary cooperation. In some cases grants are available for projects.

PCD works in partnership with government agencies but is a nonregulatory body. It focuses on improving fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. Resources include a quarterly newsletter and annual low-cost native tree sale.

A workshop on Aug. 31 at Equarry Stable on County Line Road will discuss small farm basic aspects and management. For details, see www.piercecountycd.org, call 253-845-9770 or visit the PCD booth at the fair.

Pen's Rocky Bay Equine is one of the businesses that has been used as an example of a conservation-minded farm.

The district will have a booth at the Key Pen Community Fair Aug. 20-22 where farm owners can learn more about the benefits of farm conservation plans, upcoming workshops, and other resources available to them. For information, contact 253-845-9770.



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The Ramsdells looking for a sunny change

The two community pillars may say good-bye soon

By Cristi Watson
Special to KP News

The Ramsdells' back yard is like a park according to one of their neighbors. When asked how they can leave such splendor, Mary Ramsdell replies, "We're going to start all over again, just on a smaller scale."

Within three years, the Ramsdells are leaving our community for a new home, Hawaii. Why would they leave this area? "Honestly," Fred replies, "property taxes primarily! Hawaii is a lot nicer to their senior citizens with tax breaks, and there's no paying for dump fees, snorkeling and gardening year round, beautiful blue waves...and it's kinda hard for us to retire here... there's always so much to do."

Fred and Mary Ramsdell "do" for the community over and over again. They volunteer for many different organizations, eight on last total. They



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, a.k.a. Fred and Mary Ramsdell, are looking to "retire" to sunny Hawaii. No word on whether any elves would follow.

have given their hearts, souls and passions to the fire department, the parks board, the Angel Guild, and kids' sporting programs to name a few.

Fred Ramsdell was born on the Key Peninsula and remembers that his parents bought 40 acres for \$120 in 1941. They paid \$10 a month and had it paid off within a year. Mary, on the other hand, hails from Kansas and moved here

in 1949. The truth be known, Mary arrived here by covered wagon, a Ford Woodie that is. Her kids ask if she had to walk beside the wagon, or sit up and steer the oxen.

With 23 years of marriage under their belt and six children, curious people ask how did they meet? What wondrous romantic deed did Fred do to win the lovely Mary's heart?

Here's the answer. Mary was walking down McKuen Road, in her white sweater and nice outfit, when Fred, a member of the Key Peninsula Fire District, "accidentally" doused her with a front mount pump. At the mention of "accident," Fred smiles and says, "I just had to meet this girl," and the rest is history.

Fred has come a long way from his first job of being a linotype for various newspapers. He's been a fire commissioner, a park board commissioner, a Key Peninsula Community Fair board member, and all around a nice guy. Not to be outdone, Mary was the first woman officer for the Key Peninsula and Anderson Island fire departments. When

asked if she got to boss Fred around, she said that he had a higher position than she did, but when she was dispatcher she got to tell him where to go.

Perhaps their most-anticipated activity every year is handing out candy canes to all the young and the young at heart — a deed they have carried for 30 years as Key Peninsula's Santa and Mrs. Claus. Santa and his missus are now seeing third-generation lap sitters.

To the youth, they impart these words of wisdom, "Get involved in your community. Volunteer! You get more out of it than the people you help." To the older set, these words: "We don't have to live with each other; we don't have to like each other, but we must respect each other's opinion, and always control your temper."

As they talk of the many great times, and the colorful events during their lives on the Peninsula, the love they have for each other, and for the people they will be leaving is obvious. Thank goodness we have a few more years to enjoy this couple and to absorb their zest for community.

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Creating a people- and eco-friendly business: A day in the life of an oyster farmer



A DAY IN THE
LIFE

By Danna Webster, KP News

She is a farmer's daughter. Erika Wiksten's father was lured into oyster farming at age 23. Harold Wiksten's aquatic farming business stayed in the family when Erika became the owner of Minterbrook Oyster Co. in 2002, and now she's in the process of bringing her father's 1954 business into the 21st century.

She and her management team call their vision "One World, One Life," an important theme to all her business practices. Caring for the environment is her top priority.

This July morning started, as usual, around 5:30 a.m. Wiksten drove her truck to Rocky Bay, loaded up 25-pound bags of clams, and brought them back to the plant for today's preparation.

The drive into Minterbrook winds down a long paved lane lined with trees and grassy yards. The deer and other wild life have grown accustomed to the farmer's presence. An otter scurries out from under the office porch steps as Wiksten and her three canine partners open up for business. First thing this morning, she coordinates a meeting location for a truck driver and the boat captain at Hartstine Island. Then she goes about checking the cooler temperatures, starting the ice machine, and arranging to have a truck moved to the loading area for the first deliveries to Seattle.

By 7 she is at her desk, in a spacious office that was the children's play area back in the days when her father was in charge. His office was down a few steps. He had couches and antique nautical furnishings, more like a living room than the efficient computer desks of today.

Wiksten calls the health department and checks emails. When a broker for her newest product idea drops in, she clears her schedule to talk with him.



Erika Wiksten, owned of Minterbrook Oyster Co., on her vast and fast-paced farm.

Photo by
Danna Webster

Dave Laundry, who started work for Minterbrook 15 years ago, takes a visitor on a plant tour. He was foreman for Harold Wiksten and now is the hatchery manager. He starts where the dump trucks bring loads of dry shells to a churning hopper. After a spin in the hopper, the shells are conveyed into a giant cement mixer that is the shell washing machine. This operation has been the same for 25 years, but new ideas

for a washer and hopper combination are on the planning table.

The work is labor intensive. Truck drivers bring the loads and men are stationed along the process to keep the shells moving. The cleaned shells, bagged into nylon sleeves, are called cultch and used to set the seed. Seeded cultch are bundled into huge bales ready to plant in

(See OYSTER, Page 23)

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(From **OYSTER**, Page 22)

the bays. Last year they planted 42,000 bags. The seed tanks are the nurseries where oyster larva are released in a carefully controlled environment and encouraged to attach to the cultch.

The larva acquisition costs about \$3,800 a week. Seven to 10 little specks can be seen on the shiny lining of some shells. Laundry says the larva swim with cilia until they attach to something. Once attached to their host, the mother shell, they lose their cilia and develop organs, like a stomach, necessary for feeding. At that stage they can digest algae. The larva stay in the nursery seed tanks for a week while the water temperature is adjusted from 73 degrees down to bay temperature. From the nursery they are taken to deep water holes. Laundry sends out 1,504 bags each week.

In six to eight months, the young oysters begin lifting up from the mother shell. The bags are taken to a beach, opened and the oyster clusters are spread. At Minter beach, about 40,000 bags cover each acre. When beachcombers take these clusters, they are kidnapping Laundry's very precious babies.

By the time Laundry gets back to the office, Wiksten is ready for a beach walk. Walking on the beach is essential to this business.

"Most of it you have to go out and see for yourself," she says. Technology can't help with the majority of the work. "A lot of what we do —picking shells, breaking shells, spreading the seed, is done by hand," she adds.

Minter Bay was once a polluted estuary. The reintroduction of oysters has brought it back to a healthy aquatic habitat, according to Wiksten. "The estuary is a true indicator of our environment as a whole. If an estuary is degraded, that impacts the whole eco-system," she explains.

Wiksten wades through clear water as she hikes toward the sand spit. Shells crunched underfoot are on a path that doesn't harm the oyster crop. Her father taught her, "Don't walk on the oysters. Don't walk on the seed."

A blue heron poses on a large driftwood log. A gaggle of geese swim just off shore. "The birds do well, the fish do well," she points out. These are signs of a recovering eco-system.

Little shacks that once lined the sand bar in the 1900s have washed away. The sand bar itself is eroding, but that's a good thing. As the sand bar opens up it helps flush out the bay. There are no traces of the shacks, but carcasses of old sunken ships jut up from the sand.



Photo by Danna Webster

Members of the "shucking team" are part of nearly 100 employees at Minterbrook.

Wiksten digs for surf clams. She finds a cockle and live sand-dollars. As a little girl, she experienced one of those childhood letdowns. She was told that sand-dollars were sea cookies. They are not good to eat. Later, she took some consolation from the fun of opening dead ones and finding five little birds. She says the popular sand-dollar is actually the locust of the shell-fish world. Where you find lots of sand-dollars, you won't find an aquatic balance.

Little crabs and baby bullheads scurry out from underfoot at Minter Creek. These creatures were once inhabitants in the zoo that young Wiksten and her brother created for entertainment. They offered 25-cent tickets to their parents to visit.

Those early days and the water zoo are the inspiration for Wiksten's biggest dream. She wants to establish an aquatic habitat facility for local schools, where students can learn about aquatic environments.

"Wouldn't that be fun?" she asks. Fun is a word heard often on the walk. The work is fun, life is fun, the zoo dream is really fun. There is a bounce in her step, a smile on her face and her eyes are opened wide

with expectation.

She wades around an oyster barge just before reaching shore. She points out its four-cycle engines and says all the fluids Minterbrook uses for trucks, boats and equipment are environmentally friendly. They use hydraulic fluids derived from vegetable oil and food grade lubricants on conveyer chains.

The last stop is the retail building. The place is fast paced. The men in the long line of shuckers come from several different countries. Many study English as a second language in classes provided at the farm. "Age, race and gender are not relevant. For one is judged by work ethic and heart...You are valued as an individual and not regarded as a number...You are part of the team, the family," Wiksten wrote in her journal about the company.

She said her parents worked hard all their lives. They taught their kids a work ethic. After school, the kids worked. "You have to be grounded, never forget your roots," she says. Wiksten knows first-hand all the farm's jobs.

For Wiksten, the fun of work is in new creations. She shows off a knife designed by Minterbrook for the shuckers, jar

labels in French, Spanish and English, colorful plastic lids with imprinted bar codes—a first in the industry—and the tamper-proof seal under the lids that took 26 tries to perfect. She offers some oysters to a visitor and gets a bag for her lunch as she drives to her next meeting.

When she returns, she calls the harvest crew to see how they did. "Some of my highest paid employees are the harvesters. Without them you wouldn't have a product," she says. After those calls, she sets tomorrow's schedule, knowing the probability of keeping hers is poor. She will return phone messages and check email before she closes up, usually around 10 o'clock at night.

In the good old days, a farmer worked from dawn to dusk but this aquatic farmer works from dark to dark. Erika Wiksten does get to see the light of day. And she delights in the fun of her work. The call of eagles is her elevator music, and the hulking supervisor that keeps her under his scrutiny is called Mount Rainer.

How many people get to say, "It's time to go to work" and then head for the beach? It's all in a day's work for the oyster farmer.

Volksmarch preparations labor-intensive

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

For the 15th year in a row, the Key Peninsula Lions Club-sponsored annual Volksmarch was held the first weekend after the 4th of July celebrations. Just one short of 200 walkers, 119 of whom were American Volkssport Association members from throughout the Puget Sound area, enthused at the beauty of the trails that wandered from Bud and Dolores Ulsh's property off Delano Road through Penrose Point State Park's forests and along its beaches during the two sunswept days.

Lion Club President Frances Challenger thought an explanation was in order of "what all goes into bringing it off." "It doesn't just happen," she said.

It sure doesn't. Before the first of the year, club members need to clear the operation with the state parks of via the Penrose Point State Park ranger, Dave Roe and his superiors. Simultaneously, clearance and a sanction number must be sought from the AVA via and with the assistance of the Evergreen Volkssport Association.

In past walks at Penrose, walkers have been able to park for free either at the park or at the start/stop desk set up by the Lions in the parking area at Bay Lake. The latter's proprietor, Washington's Fish and Game Department, laid on a \$5 parking fee some years ago, so the Lions transferred the start/stop desk to Penrose until this year, when the state was compelled to charge \$5 for parking to compensate for reduced parks budgets. Learning of this, two Good Samaritans, Bud Ulsh, president of the KP Community Services/Food Bank, and his wife, Delores, offered to let the Lions set up the start/stop desk and provide, at no cost, parking for walkers on their property that abuts the Penrose property.

With this development, everything seemed a go, and an article for the EVA's by-monthly magazine, the Pathfinder, was submitted for approval and publication in order to alert AVA walkers to the event. Together with Caril Ridley, board member of the new Metropolitan Park District, and Simon Priest, trail developer, the 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) trail was surveyed for needed cleanup and windfall clearance. Arrangements were also made via EVA with the New Balance shoe company, which provided at no cost a supply of signs. Arrangements for a portable bathroom at the start/stop point were made by the



Left to right: KP Lions President, Frances Challenger, Maxine Kiser, a walker from Boulder City, Mont., walker Linda Todd of Renton, KP Lions Past President Bill Onstad, Cristi Watson, executive director of the KP Community Services/Foodbank, walker Mary Mantzarinis of Renton, Bud Ulsh, president of KPCS, Caril Ridley, KP Metropolitan Park District commissioner, and Bud's wife, Dolores Ulsh, chatting at the Start/Stop station of the Key Peninsula Lions Club's Volkssport Club-sponsored 15th annual Volksmarch.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Ulshs, who split the cost with the Lions.

Three days before the event, Challenger drove to Edgewood to collect yard-square road signs, five-gallon thermos water jugs, dog water dishes, and other paraphernalia.

The day before the event Lion George Robison and Caril Ridley carefully marked the trail with yellow arrows for the outbound route, and green for the return. This required a knapsack filled with sharpened stakes to be pounded into the ground along the trail; no arrows are stapled to trees or park property. The following morning, before any marchers arrived at the 8 a.m. start time, the trail was walked to be sure youngsters of other folk camping at the park did not turn any direction arrows the wrong way. It has happened.

At 7 a.m. on opening day, the yard-square direction and caution signs were placed from State Route 302 to the Ulsh property. Even with great care, the direction sign at the Home bridge sent people into Home, not toward Penrose. Only two cars went the wrong way before this was corrected. Happens.

At 6:45 a.m., Cristi Watson, executive director of KPCS, joined Challenger and Ulsh to set up a canopy for the start/stop desk and assorted items.

Each of the previous 14 years, the club has created a unique brochure printed and folded at no cost by Sound Credit Union thanks to its Key Center facility and, via EVA, distributed throughout Western

Washington's Volks' activities. This year, three computers failed to respond to this need. There was no brochure and there was reason to worry that attendance, much of which is the product of these brochures, would suffer. Only slightly.

When the last walker has returned to the start/stop point, every worker bee tidies up the hive and prepares for the next day which, again, kicks off at 8 after an earlier checkout of all road and trail direction and caution signs. This is a must; some inconsiderate person had removed the direction sign at Elgin Clifton replacing it with a wedding sign, and at another place, the wind had whipped the signs to point in the wrong direction.

Despite these minor annoyances, this year's Volksmarch was a success. More

importantly, it marked the first time the Lions have joined together with the KPCS and KP Metro Park District to make it a success. All three organizations are witnessing an unsettling decline in the number of active volunteers and have agreed to be mutually supportive of one another's events for the foreseeable future. All agree that these activities are interesting, fun things to do. As Challenger said, "It doesn't just happen."

Anyone interested in participating in these activities should call, the Lions, 884-3485, KPCS, 884-4440, or Metro Parks, 884-5461. You will be greeted with open arms.

Hugh McMillan is a Lion and Volksmarch organizer.

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Contra dance returns to Key Peninsula

Contra folk dancing for all ages returns to the Longbranch Improvement Club Saturday, Aug. 7. The "Home Brew" band will bring this lively, old-time style of dance to the Peninsula community once again. Everyone is welcome whether singles, couples, or children. The workshop at the beginning of the evening will start at 7:30, with the dance following from 8 to 11 p.m. Since all the dances are taught by the caller before each dance, no one need worry about knowing how to do the dances! Caller Matt Temmel will help with the steps.

The LIC historic building with its wonderful ambiance is a great venue for music and dance. The proceeds from the event after expenses will go to the Improvement Club for the benefit of the building. Tickets are \$7.

This dance originally came from England long ago. Partners dance a series of figures with each other, then each couple goes on to repeat the same figures with other dancers in a set of two

parallel lines, moving up or down the length of the hall. The music is usually reels or jigs, and the dancers move in a simple smooth walking step that is easy to manage for all ages. The dancers combine in all possible paired combinations. Tricia Thompson, the organizer, says that by the end of the evening you may have danced with almost everyone at the dance.

Originally called "country dancing" in England, it became popular in France where it was named "contredans." From the French came the name Contra Dance. It has been catching on in Gig Harbor and now comes back to Longbranch.

To find more about the dance form and events around the country try www.contradancelinks.com on your browser. Many of the enthusiastic dancers watch for the dance events and go back and back to repeats of the fun evening.

—By Mary Mazur, LIC

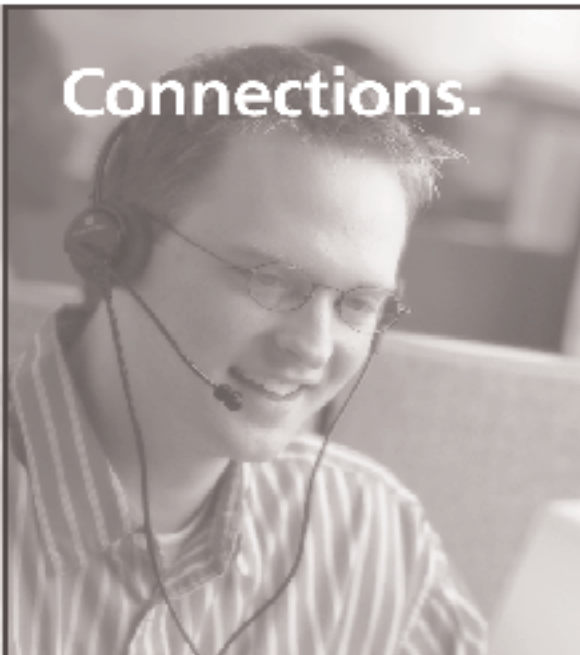
Karaoke Nights



Photo by Danna Webster

Saturday nights are karaoke nights in Key Center. Some mighty fine voices are heard, like Key Pen's own Teresa Driscoll, pictured here. Good tunes are sung at both of the major establishments downtown, and Aug. 7 should be an especially good time. It is contest night with \$50 prizes at Key Center Saloon.

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Obituary

Edna Denney

Edna Denney, 77, a resident of Lakebay for 11 years and previously of Buckley, died July 14, 2004. She was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Vaughn.


Edna found good in everyone, and will be remembered for her great sense of humor. Family members include daughters Diane Denney of University Place, Donna Denney of

Lakebay; sons Lonnie Denney (Sheryle) of Gresham, Oregon, Larry Denney (Ethyl) of Lakebay, Leslie Denney (Dawn) of Troutdale, Oregon and Robert Denney (Valerie) of Port Orchard, sisters Lucile Stephens and Eldores Dougherty, both of Oregon; brother Lawrence Peters of Tacoma, 26 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, one great-great grandson, and a large circle of friends.

A memorial gathering was held at Edna's home on Saturday, July 24. Arrangements by Haven of Rest.

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Out & About

Evergreen Elementary fourth graders Waverly Shauffer and Stephanie Daggett, 9, were recently selling "Boquets of Flowers, 25 ¢ ea," and "FRUIT" at a make-shift stand. "We've been here almost all day," they said, and were quite pleased with the fruits of their labors. When asked what are they going to do with the money, they said, "We don't know. We're saving it until we find something we like and then we'll share it."



Photo by Hugh McMillan



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Dr. Fahra Merchant and dental assistant Caressa Wilson of Metropolitan Development Council Health Care for the Homeless provide dental care to an unidentified Key Peninsula resident recently at the Key Peninsula Community Services. The medical van with two operating areas and dental professionals is sponsored by Northwest Medical Teams with local and travel costs provided by Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church of Gig Harbor.



Top left, Deck hand Donnie Surratt leaving the mainland dock of the Heron Island ferry.

Photo by Colleen Slater



Bottom left, The fireworks continued the day after the 4th of July. An unoccupied Palmer Lake cabin was totally consumed in this blaze, attributed to kids playing with fireworks. *Photo by Rob Gordon*



Left, "Mr. Monet," a garden artist created in Penny Hertzberg's garden, can be usually seen at work rain or shine. Hertzberg, of the Vaughn Bay Garden Club, and her garden like having Mr. Monet around. *Photo by Colleen Slater*

Right, Aubry Arthur of Puyallup, and Rachel Martin of Tacoma, both 11, create chalk art on the tennis court at Camp Seymour during a recent summer camp day. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

