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By Danna Webster & Debra McElroy



Photos by Mindi LaRose

KP Community Fair shines under sunny summer skies



Fair time. Fun time. Excitement. At the Key Peninsula Community Fair in August, the white capped vendor booths, the whirling carnival contraptions and pony rides were all wrapped-up in the good smells of barbeque and exotic

foods. It was a time to eat hamburgers for breakfast, while making serious plans around lunch and dinner with funnel cakes in-between.

Sandals and sneakers tramped trails past exhibits, chainsaw carvers, pie-eating champions, tractor pulls, a pioneer farm, and a (See **KP FAIR**, Page 13)

Logging returns to the Peninsula at Old Timers' Day

By Danna Webster KP News

The attendance for Old Timers' Day was estimated at over 3,000 by Bud Ulsh, board president of KP Community Services, which sponsors the event. "Super crowd, one of our best," Ulsh said.

Old Timers' Day is a fair featuring regional traditions, where logging is the star. The grand finale of the logging show is the "Fallin' Tree" contest in which loggers "fell" tall trees with the intent of landing the tree on a stake planted about 30 feet away. This year, the champion's tree hit that stake on the bounce

and that was good enough to beat the other loggers. Champion Chip Chandler came from Brookings, Ore., for the contest. Many members of his family drove more than eight hours from their Oregon home to watch him compete. "I made 'em proud," Chandler said.

Family ties to the logging industry led KP resident Dale Boquist to work as the coordinator for logging demonstrations at Old Timers' Day, and he has a long list of people who help with the many contests throughout the day. The last and most popular show is "Fallin' Trees," which is a contest of accuracy not speed.

(See **OLD TIMERS'**, Page 12)



Photo by Danna Webster Dale Boquist at his Glen Cove home with his logging artifacts.

Key Peninsula gets first traffic light

By Rodika Tollefson KP News

Sometime this fall, motorists traveling in the vicinity of Key Peninsula Highway and State Route 302 will find their traffic habits altered. A stop light is being installed at the intersection by the Washington State Department of Transportation—Key Peninsula's first traffic light (not counting the yellow flashing lights in Key Center).

The \$331,873 project includes widening and resurfacing a portion of the roadway. The project started this July and will be completed in the fall.

"The intersection is considered a high-accident location, with a higher



A concrete truck is pouring concrete to hold light poles at the intersection of Key Peninsula Highway and State Route 302.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

than normal number of accidents," said John McNutt, WSDOT project manager.

According to WSDOT statistics, there were 24 total collisions involving 49

vehicles near the intersection between 2001 and 2003, including one fatality

(See **LIGHTS**, Page 22)

9-1-1 call leads to shooting death

By Irene Torres
KP News

Pierce County Sheriff's Department reported four deputies were involved in a fatal shooting of 51-year-old Steven Strobe on Aug. 9. The officers were responding to a 9-1-1 report of a suspect attacking another man with a shovel.

According to the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, four deputies responded to a residence in the Carney Lake area of Key Peninsula. They found the suspect hiding in the woods, armed with a knife, claiming to be armed with several guns. For an hour deputies tried to negotiate with Strobe. Deputies noticed blood on the suspect, thought to be from self-inflicted knife wounds. Attempting to take him into custody, deputies used a Taser device without success. Strobe advanced on the deputies,

one of whom had fallen over brush on the property. Armed with a knife, Strobe ignored verbal commands to stop and drop his weapon. He was shot by the deputies, and died at the scene.

Neighbor Frankie Johnson remembered Strobe, "He seemed like a very nice guy, good looking, tall and handsome. He had a lot going for him." Some neighbors declined to be quoted, but several indicated there had been a pattern of calls to authorities about noisy parties late at night, loud music and lots of traffic, even when Strobe was away from the property.

One neighbor, Mike Baum, said, "The times I met him I liked him and he was definitely not threatening. That's an aspect that makes this story unsettling."

The Pierce County Sheriff's officers involved in the shooting were Sgt. Rustin Wilder, 35, a 12-year veteran of

the department who has served in the Peninsula Detachment since July of 2003; and Shaun Darby, 32, a six-year veteran of the department who has served in the Peninsula Detachment since May 2002.

These officers and two others present during the incident remain on administrative leave, standard procedure for personnel involved in lethal use of force incidents, according to a county sheriff's spokesperson.

Cheryl Morse, another neighbor, told the KP News, "I'm sure the officers did everything they could."

Johnson remembered that Strobe had named his driveway "Harley Road" because of his love for bikes. Johnson speculated Strobe may have committed suicide by police, though she said, "I'm not an authority, and I have no proof."

Neighbors said he had a history of

depression since the separation from his wife and the death of his son. Johnson said to the neighbor who called the authorities, "Don't feel guilty. He wanted to die. It's too bad it had to come down to that." Johnson described the neighborhood's general reaction to the incident: "We were very saddened by it."

"Steve had his problems, no doubt. But he had a lot of friends, and did a lot of things for people," said his father, Robert Strobe of Harstene Island. "He was especially good with young kids. He had a special way with them and older people. In the family, he was playful, full of fun."

Detectives from the sheriff's department, the office of the Pierce County Medical Examiner, and the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office are investigating the incident.

KPMPD endorses expansion of Wauna Fire Station

By Irene Torres
KP News

At the July 25 meeting of the KPMPD, James Bosch of Fire District 16 presented a request for a letter of endorsement for expansion of Wauna Fire Station No. 1. Funding for the \$670,000 expansion would come from the expected sale of the old Wauna fire station site, anticipated to cover about 75 percent of the cost. FD-16 will apply for grants for the remainder.

Kip Clinton, KPMPD commissioner, asked if the fire district had budgeted any amount to handle the increased traffic onto State Route 302. Bosch told

the KPMPD that they had made no provision for turn lanes into the station.

Fred Ramsdell, fire commissioner, told the KP News, "At the time we made the proposal, codes didn't require a turn lane, so we have no firm plans to include one."

Bosch's position is that the Washington State Department of Transportation should be responsible for highway improvements, and if the WSDOT or Pierce County Public Works requires turn lanes, "it will kill the project."

Plans for expansion include a two-story wing to house meeting rooms to be located on the north of the building. The larger ground-floor meeting room

would accommodate 70 to 75 people. Two smaller ground-floor rooms would hold up to 20 people each. Plans include two restrooms and a reception area on the same level. Second-story space would be reserved for storage.

With a vote of 4:0 (one abstention), the KPMPD voted to draft a letter of support for the expansion of the Wauna station, as proposed by Bosch.


Clinton noted that the pending acquisition of 360-acre park land across the highway will increase traffic as public use increases, ball fields are built, and other activities are added. She said, "Any developer should consider traffic improvements, right and left escape

lanes. It's dangerous down there in 'foggy bottom' or 'icy hollow,' depending on the weather. I fully expect the park district will have to install turn lanes. The state is only going to make improvements up to Creviston (the old Elgin-Clifton Road)."

For the pavement, costs would range from \$60,000 to \$90,000, and a traffic signal would take it over \$100,000, she said.

Clinton added that public hearings will be scheduled by the KPMPD in the fall to determine how the public wants the new park land to be used. That would be the time for public comment about traffic management.

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Key Pen brothers continue family's military tradition

By Linda L. Anderson
Special to KP News

After their graduations from Peninsula High School, Eugene "Tiger" and Shaun Childress followed their family legacy of serving their country by enlisting in the Army. Their father, "Gene" Childress III, who currently lives in Bremerton, is retired from the U.S. Navy, and his father is retired Air Force. An uncle is currently in his 21st year in the Air Force.

Tiger Childress, now 20, completed his boot camp training in July 2004. Following his graduation from A.I.T. School, he joined his unit, the National Guard 81st Brigade, already active in Iraq. Trained in fuel transfer and storage, Pfc. Childress drives the big gas trucks. At the end of August, he was promoted to the rank of E-4, having already received seven awards including the National Defense Service Medal.

Jeanette Childress, Tiger's mother, related an incident that occurred when Tiger's convoy was forced off the road by

Saluting our HEROES

a civilian procession traveling in the opposite direction.

People who knew Childress as he grew up on the Peninsula may recall the numerous times his front teeth were broken. When the HEMMETT he was riding in rolled down an embankment, he ignored his injuries to first ensure that he still had his teeth! Realizing they were still intact, he was greatly relieved. When he later called Jeanette at her work to ensure her he was OK, Tiger told her, "It was like a dream in slow motion."

The 81st Guard unit has returned from overseas duty and Childress was on medical leave until the end of August. He was contemplating his return with the hope he will be assigned to duty that



Shaun and Tiger Childress

would enable him to see his family regularly, especially his 4-year-old stepbrother, Emilio, who resides on the Peninsula. Keeping family close is a concept instilled by his mother, a veteran Navy wife who worked hard to keep the family close through years of military separations. Jeanette says she appreciates the international communication systems that are now available to enable military personnel to keep in regular contact with family and friends at home.

"Thirty if you like it, and 20 if you don't," was the advice Gene Childress gave his sons as they contemplated enlist-

ment. "It's the best way to get good training and steady work with a guaranteed paycheck," he told them. "It's a good life."

Following his older brother, Shaun Childress, 19, enlisted in March 2005. After boot camp, he graduated at Fort Knox, Kentucky as a tank driver/gunner. He is currently stationed in Bremerton and expects to remain in National Guard status for the time being. Through his school years, Shaun contemplated entering the field of construction. That is still an option open to him both in the military and later on in civilian life.

Salute KP soldiers

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Editorial

An age-old debate

An old cliché says the two things that are certain in life are death and taxes, but most people would agree that another certainty is change. With change comes a clash between generations, between old timers and newcomers, between the “we’ve always done it this way” thinking and “it’s a new day” argument.

That generational conflict rings true in recent events on the Key Peninsula. The Mayo Cove herring pen, which officials deem illegal, has stirred a mixed bag of emotions that fall within the “leave it alone” to “get rid of it now” spectrum. The discussions of growth planning by the KP Planning board brought similar sentiments, from “no more development, please!” to “we might as well embrace it.”

Which of the arguments is right? It depends on which side of the fence you’re sitting. Will they ever agree? Probably not. But in the process, the two camps should learn from each other, keep an open mind, and keep the dialogue open. Not everyone will like the end result, but as long as all opinions are respected, we may all grow as a result.

Tacoma Power working on Powerline road solution

By Steven J. Klein,
Tacoma Power superintendent
Special to KP News

Imagine that you own a large piece of property in a remote area that you only visit once or twice a year. You’ve owned it for many years and have invested a lot of money into expensive equipment, which you keep on the property that supports your business. As time has gone on, more and more people have bought property next to yours.

Imagine visiting that property and finding that your neighbors have turned it into a street with signs, mailboxes, fences and gates. In many spots, your land has become a veritable dumping ground.

Now imagine that your neighbors expect you to continue to allow them to use your property, don’t want you to limit their or anyone else’s access to it and expect you to continue to maintain a road and bridges that they can use when they want without contributing a cent toward their upkeep.

It’s hard to believe that anyone could

feel anything less than frustration at that situation. As the superintendent of Tacoma Power, I feel frustrated by it. Unfortunately, this situation is very real—and one that Tacoma Power is trying to manage today.

Tacoma Power owns a three-mile stretch of property (called by some 144th Street KPN or Powerline Road) that it purchased in the 1920s as a transmission line right-of-way. Through the years, nearby property owners have used our maintenance road to access their properties. Today, while we understand and empathize with the frustrations felt by those living in this area, allowing unrestricted access to the right-of-way is too much of a security risk, liability issue and financial burden for Tacoma Power to continue.

Pierce County Councilmember Terry Lee and I agreed to jointly fund electronic gates as a temporary solution to this problem. A permanent solution will require the property owners and Pierce County working together to develop alternative roads not located on Tacoma Power’s property.

In exchange for allowing temporary access via our right-of-way, we will ask property owners to sign an agreement that indemnifies us. Once they do so, they will receive a card that will open the electronic gates, which we expect to install in the next couple of months.

I believe this solution meets the needs of both Tacoma Power and the residents who use our right-of-way to access their properties. It gives the residents time to work with Pierce County to develop alternate access. For Tacoma Power, it will save up to \$50,000 per year in cleanup and maintenance, will help protect the security and integrity of our power system and will eventually lead to permanently closing off the property to non-utility vehicles.

Creating a permanent solution does not fall on Tacoma Power’s shoulders. We are willing to help, but that responsibility is up to the property owners and Pierce County. We encourage the residents to work toward a permanent solution with Pierce County so all of us can put this problem to rest once and for all.

Letters to the Editor

Growth will keep residents on this side of Narrows

The proposed new toll will cost approximately \$720 per year? Has anyone considered the impact upon low income service workers traveling back and forth to Tacoma? I can’t believe you can now travel for free but in a few years end up paying \$3 a trip for the same convenience. They should have put a gas tax to pay for this thing or the state should have footed the bill at least half of the cost!

I hope the Key Peninsula keeps growing because between that and Silverdale, I hope to never have to cross over that bridge unless I need to access I-5!

*Steve Winslow,
Minter Creek area property owner,
writing from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.*

Tragedy has another side to the story

You’ve probably read in the paper or heard on the radio about the Key Peninsula man who was recently shot by Pierce County deputies. You’ve probably dismissed it as something that occasion-

ally happens to people who are different than yourself merely by the crazy events that occurred that night. It could never happen to us. And for most of us, it won’t. But this tragedy is about more than just one night gone awry. Let me explain.

Five or six years ago Steve Strobe’s son, Kyle, a young teen-ager, took a gun and tried to kill himself. He failed, but the attempt left his face mangled. Last fall, Kyle, a good kid, sensitive and caring, elected to try reconstructive surgery to help with his disfigured face. He died from an errant blood clot caused by that elective surgery. Steve loved Kyle as parents do and, as they say, you’re not supposed to outlive your children. No matter what other factors were involved in this week’s incident the loss of a child is reason enough to not act appropriately. I understand.

You may choose to question the deputies’ decisions to shoot Steve. I choose to question my own inaction as a neighbor for not having gone over and told Steve how bad I felt for his loss of Kyle. As the deputies will forever have to live with the consequences of their actions I will have to live with those of my inactions. Such is life.

If, like me, you want to blame someone

or something for this tragedy, I ask you to go back five years earlier when there was a loaded gun on the table in front of a hormonal teen-ager. Too easy. If you have guns around the house, lock them up or, better yet, store them at a friend’s house through your kid’s formative years. And for crying out loud, go talk to your neighbor. They’re nicer than you think.

*Mike Baum
Key Peninsula*

We don’t need any more development

I am a relative “newbie” to the Peninsula, having purchased 10 acres near Lakebay and moved here in September of 2003 to retire. I moved here to get away from the city and the urban “lifestyle.” I’d moved twice before, always with that in mind, and each time, urban sprawl took over where I was living. I had hoped that moving out here would be the last time and I would have my “paradise.”

I retired last May and am now in the position that I’ve dreamed of for years, but if I’m going to have to again be fighting development and shopping malls and traffic, and the rest of what

goes along with that, then why did I waste the last three years of my life?

I love it out here and want to stay, but not if it turns into another Federal Way or Maple Valley (where I moved from). So what if I have to drive 5 miles to the nearest store? I knew that when I moved here! So what if I can’t run to the corner Safeway at 1:45 a.m. when I’m out of wine? I knew that when I moved here! I plan my shopping and hopefully will only have to cross the damned bridge no more than once every six months. Everything I need is either near here now or no farther than Port Orchard or Gig Harbor.

We don’t need any more stores, we don’t need anymore anything! We need to stop further development, period.

*Diane M. Loran
Lakebay*

Herring pen is vital to local economy

I have read with interest the reporting regarding the Lakebay herring pens. I have lived with the herring pens in my front yard since I moved to Lakebay in 1989. I would love to see a more

(See **LETTERS**, Page 5)

(From LETTERS, Page 4)

balanced perspective on this issue than I have currently seen in both your paper and the Peninsula Gateway.

Many "old time" residents feel that the herring pens are not a nuisance and that they in fact lent to the local appeal and character of our working community. I say working community because we are not only the site for an active fisheries business but a site for the Penrose Point State Park tourism business.

I enjoy hearing the single engine (not two engines as quoted by you) herring boat "Slim Pickin's" come idling into the bay. The skipper always idles his engine way down while out at the mouth of the bay and a simple Radio Shack sound meter will testify to the fact that all of the fishing operations including boat operations are substantially below the threshold of an automobile passing by on Lorenz Road. I have never recorded sound levels above an ambient of 70db. A normal human conversation occurs at the 65 to 70 db range.

It is disturbing to note that the bulk of complaints seem to be coming from residents who have more or less newly arrived into the area and are not accustomed to a community with a long-standing tradition of fishing and boatbuilding. Lakebay was the original home

of the Lorenz Bros. Boatbuilding Co. and a sawmill. It is time to acknowledge the need for not only celebrating our past heritage but our current heritage as well.

In the 16 years I have lived in Lakebay, I have never had a single dead herring float on to my beach. The operation is clean and efficient and important to our local economy.

I do not know if the herring pens will survive this most recent onslaught of NIMBY'ism but I hope they do. My four children and I have enjoyed the wildlife attracted to the pens and the story of man's dependence on the sea. I worked in the Alaska fishery as a young man, and know local families who continue to make a living from herring. Fishing is like farming. It is hard work, you depend on Mother Nature and sometimes she does not cooperate. It is not a job for the faint of heart but it is a job that teaches you things you might never learn otherwise.

*Stan Shauffer
Lakebay*

Herring pen should stay

Concerning the Lakebay Marina and the adjacent herring pens: Dewey Hostetler's business has been operating for years in the same location with no problems or complaints. I'm not sure how

we could have survived this long without a total breakdown of the community.

A majority of the people in the area, and not just the "old timers," long ago adopted a "live and let live" attitude concerning their neighbors. The "now that I'm here I want the area changed" position is not easily accepted by most of the people living here.

Mr. Hostetler has a right to continue operating his business, and since the Peninsula is a most beautiful spot to be living, let's not change the status quo.

*Art Olson, on behalf of
a large group of friends, Lakebay*

Kudos to KP News

The Angel Guild would like to send you this note of thanks for the absolutely wonderful job you and your team are doing with the Key Peninsula News. We read the paper from cover to cover and appreciate the thorough coverage of community and news items.

We are proud to have been a support to Key Peninsula News during its struggling years and are grateful for your success today.

*Dianna Home, secretary
The Angel Guild*

The Civic Center is searching for Volunteers to serve as the organizer for the annual Halloween Party on Monday October 31. Please call the office at 253-884-3456 to volunteer.



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Fire District 16 commissioner candidates

The Key Peninsula Fire District 16 will hold primary elections on Sept. 20 for the position of fire commissioner. Three candidates have filed for one available spot, and two candidates will advance to the November elections.

The Key Peninsula News asked the candidates to provide a short biographical note and a statement regarding why they'd like to become a commissioner. The statements have only been edited for minor typographical errors.

Keith Stiles

I have filed as a candidate for Position 3 of Fire District 16 as I wish to offer my business and administrative background to the service of the residents of the Key Peninsula. Fred Ramsdell's contributions to the community will be difficult to match but will always serve as a level to attempt to achieve.



I believe in staffing adequacy, long and short range planning, and fairness and citizen participation, and would be pleased to work with the current commissioners in support of these objectives.

As background, I served the district on the Citizens' Advisory Committee for the four new fire stations, and covered district operations for several years as the Key Peninsula columnist for the Peninsula Gateway. I hold a bachelor of art degree in economics (business), served a long business career with different companies in positions of responsibility, and was named by the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year in 1988.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center in conjunction with the Key Peninsula Community Council will present a candidates' forum for the Fire District 16 and Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District elections. The forum will be held at the Civic Center in the Whitmore Room on Tuesday, Sept. 6, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

This is your opportunity to meet and ask questions of the candidates.

I have also served the community for several years on the Peninsula School Board, including two years as president, and also as president of the Key Peninsula Historical Society and The Friends of the Key Center Library. I am a member of the Peninsula Preparedness Committee, been the editor of The Key Peninsula News for a few years, and worked on the State Route 302 Improvement Committee. I have also belonged at various times to the Longbranch Improvement Club, the Key Peninsula Lions Club, and the Key Peninsula Veterans' Institute. I have lived on the Key Peninsula with my wife, Lee, for more than 28 years, with homes at Herron, Vaughn, Home, and (currently) in Wauna. I would appreciate your consideration and your vote.

Ben Thompson

My reasons for seeking the position of fire commissioner are quite simple and straightforward. Having lived on the Key Peninsula for over 20 years, I have a working knowledge of the people and of



our needs and I believe a well-manned and well-equipped fire department is very important to our growth and safety.

Having served in a capacity of overseeing several hundred employees and multiple million-dollar budgets, as well as having owned and operated my own business, I feel that I have the management background necessary to serve a meaningful role in the fire department.

If elected I would place a priority on having the best-trained personnel and the best equipment that we could afford. I would support shared training and mutual aid with other fire districts in order to provide the highest level of safety for our citizens.

Insofar as funding is concerned, I would encourage the development of short and long range comprehensive planning and sound and responsible fiscal management. I also believe that the citizens should have a voice in the operation and management of the fire district and would encourage their comments on the day-to-day operations and involvement on citizen committees.

I started work with the city of Tacoma as an entry level engineer and retired as the assistant director of Public Works. I owned and operated my own construction business on the Key Peninsula for five years. Through the building divisions, I worked closely with the fire department in code enforcement and general maintenance of the fire stations. My wife, Kay, and I have lived on the Key Peninsula for over 23 years.

Community involvement: past commissioner of KP Park and Recreation District; chairman of the formation committee for the creation of the KP Metropolitan Park District; KP Community Council member; KP Civic Center Executive Board member.

Allen A. Yanity

I am 60 years old; my wife of 33 years and I have three grown sons, four grandsons, and two granddaughters. I am a 27-year resident of Fire District 16 and a long-time supporter of the fire department.



I firmly believe the fire department is the most necessary government service and I have worked to improve it for years. First by spearheading the move to bring back our ambulance service after it was given away and to improve it to the service it is today, and since then by attending nearly every meeting of the board of fire commissioners.

I believe now is the time to hire an equipment maintenance mechanic. We currently depend entirely on outside shops and firefighters who are not trained mechanics to take care of our very expensive equipment. I have over 40 years experience in equipment maintenance and I firmly believe we would save money with our own qualified equipment mechanic.

As your commissioner, I will protect your fire department. I will work as hard in the future as I have in the past to keep costs down and yet maintain the level of service we expect. Tax increases will never be an option, in my book, unless it is first voted on by you.

I am a Vietnam era veteran, and an American Legion member. I am past president of Citizens' Against Crime/ Citizens' Patrol. I have been active in the Historical Society, the Civic Center, and the Firefighters Association. I do volunteer work at Community House in Home and at the local church food-share program.

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KP Metro Park District candidates

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will hold primary elections on Sept. 20 for the position of park commissioner. Three candidates have filed for one available spot, and two candidates will advance to the November elections.

The Key Peninsula News asked the candidates to provide a short biographical note and a statement regarding why they'd like to become a commissioner. The statements have only been edited for minor typographical errors.

Kip Clinton (incumbent)

The voters of the Key Peninsula elected me to KP Metro Park Commissioner Position 5 in 2004. Because this position received the least



number of overall votes I was elected to a one year term. The Board of Commissioners appointed me Clerk/Financial Officer and I am pleased to report that, under my management, KPMPD has accumulated a positive bank balance from Zoo/Trek sales tax funds while doing much needed repair at Volunteer Park. This extra money allows KPMPD and community-minded volunteers like the Lions Club to do new smaller projects such as a picnic shelter at Home Park and a temporary equestrian arena in the westernmost unused field at Volunteer Park (until other facilities become available).

My family has lived in greater Tacoma area since 1898, when my great grandfather started our piano store, Clinton's Music House. My immediate family moved to our Home-area beach cabin in the 1960s. I have called the Key Peninsula

"home" since graduating from the University of Washington (bachelor of science), attending University of Puget Sound Law School, and while working for Washington State Department of Ecology. I currently manage the Tacoma division of Clinton's Music House.

I am committed to a park system that serves all recreational interests, whether it is team sports like baseball, basketball, football and soccer, or individual recreation like hiking, birdwatching, cycling, trail riding (horses and bikes), camping and watersports, or other events and activities. Because the Key Peninsula's location is within easy cycling/driving distance of three major cities, the future Key Peninsula park system could easily become a major source of tourism for the Key Peninsula. I would like to help the other commissioners pursue this exciting vision.

Russ Humberd

I have been a resident of the Key Peninsula community since 1996. I have been married for the past 19 years to my best friend, Elaine. Our son, Michael "Smiles," is active in school and community sports, and is currently a junior at Peninsula High School. I am active in the youth programs throughout the Peninsula and Pierce County.

I am currently involved in the following community programs: chair, Pierce County Youth Violence Allocations Advisory; treasurer, Key Peninsula Community Council; member, Pierce



Candidates Forum

The Key Peninsula Civic Center in conjunction with the Key Peninsula Community Council will present a candidates' forum for the Fire District 16 and Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District elections. The forum will be held at the Civic Center in the Whitmore Room on Tuesday, Sept. 6, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

This is your opportunity to meet and ask questions of the candidates.

County - Key Peninsula Community Planning Board; member, Peninsula Athletics Association (PAA) Board of Directors.

I ran for this position last year when we voted to form the Key Peninsula Metro Parks District. At that time I was focused more on getting the district approved than my own candidacy. I continue to believe that we can make a difference in our community by being involved. I know our community will continue to grow and we must plan for this growth.

Parks are a vital piece in the growth puzzle and often forgotten. Currently the parks in our community are centralized to the south end of the peninsula. We are lacking places for families and our youth to gather in the north end of our community, forcing them to seek activities and locations outside of our community. Beyond places to gather, we need organized activities for our families, and facilities to hold them in. I believe that the public should be involved in the process of developing and locating parks and facilities and not just hear about in the paper. No one person will make this happen; together we can improve the quality of life for all the citizens of the Key Peninsula.

Austin Miller

I completed high school and two years of junior college. Did three years in the U.S. Navy during Vietnam. My tour included nine months off the coast of Vietnam onboard the USS Enterprise.



I married in 1968 and have a daughter who was born in 1971, Shelly Miller. Her mother and I divorced in California, where I was born and raised.

I drove truck for 24 years before coming to the Key Peninsula. I actually changed professions four years before arriving here, which is heating, ventilation and air conditioning. I was with the same employer for 12 years and now joined with the service operations of Wells Fargo Bank, which I truly enjoy.

I joined the Key Peninsula Lions Club in 1996 and held virtually every position within the club, including president for two years. I have stepped aside from the club but still hold them to the highest mark of clubs that volunteer within their communities. Before I left the club, I started playing adult softball at Volunteer Park. I joined by invitation, the Softball Association Board, and was with the group for two consecutive years. This will take me into why I want to be a commissioner.

Volunteer Park needs to be developed for Little League and Adult Softball to a higher standard than where it is now. We need to provide more and better than what is there now. The Peninsula has great areas to develop into park land and Volunteer Park needs to stay a ballpark. I will strive to be a fair and open party to all ideas from the public and other commissioners. I respect the Key Peninsula.

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Vaughn teen carries artistic message to D.C.

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

It was a piece of art among many other pieces in a young artist's portfolio, but it took a Vaughn teen-ager on an extraordinary journey across the country.

The art, a grayscale batik representation, was created by Peninsula High School student Sarah Spunaugle. This summer, the "Untitled" piece — and Sarah — traveled to Washington, D.C. to represent Washington state in an exhibit by VSA Arts, an international nonprofit organization that promotes the participation of people with disabilities in the arts and society.

Carmen Murray, a vocational education teacher at PHS and a Key Pen resident, received an email during the school year about an art event in Seattle, and was asked to bring along some student work. As it turned out, the event was part of a nationwide contest. Sarah was chosen as one of two students from Washington state, the other being Gig Harbor High School student Kyle Lehosky.

Winning the state level meant Sarah

received an all-expense trip to the nation's capital for herself and a companion, and she invited Murray to come along. Hearing about the great news, staff at Vaughn Elementary and Key Peninsula Middle School, both of which Sarah previously attended, raised \$2,400 to send her mom along as well. They didn't stop there: They made sure the three ladies had beautiful outfits for a congressional reception, and a digital camera to document the excitement.

The four-day trip included an exhibit of all the artists at Central Gallery, a visit to the Capitol where senators such as John Kerry and Ted Kennedy were in attendance, and sightseeing of the capital's most prominent landmarks.

Sarah, a shy teen who takes a while to warm up and talk to a stranger, will be a senior this year at PHS. She says art is hard for her, but she likes the kind of art that gives her step-by-step instructions. "Untitled" was one of those artworks. The class assignment was to create a portrait using six shades of black. Murray helped her thumb through magazines to find a picture, and after making a copy they projected it onto the wall, from where Sarah



Sarah Spunaugle in Washington, D.C. with Sen. John Kerry and Jean Kennedy. Below, Spunaugle's artwork. Photo courtesy of Carmen Murray



traced it on fabric.

"It was like a puzzle; we looked at the picture and at the fabric and numbered it," Murray said. "She'd already done batik projects and knew the techniques."

The end result was a 35-inch by 22-inch portrait, which was later picked by chance from her portfolio for the Seattle exhibit.

"This piece just happened to be in her portfolio," Murray said.

Now, the piece has embarked on its own journey: It is part of a traveling exhibit being displayed around the country.

Kiwanis help KP kids gear up for school

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Sierra Kirtland, one of the many recipients of the Kiwanis Club's "Gear Up for School" supplies and clothing giveaway at the Key Peninsula Middle School in August, said the event was a great help to her and others on the Key Peninsula.

"I think that the Kiwanis Club Gear Up for School giveaway is a great idea for the families who can't afford to buy fancy clothing and school supplies that actually work right," she said. "The school supplies help for the new year of school that kids can actually be ready and excited for with the help of the Kiwanis Club."

She was, doubtless, speaking for most, if not all, of the hundreds of people who lined up all the way around the school building waiting to partake of this wonderful act of caring and generosity on the part of the Gig Harbor Kiwanis organization and its partners.

One of the organizers, Daphne Frickelton, said, "Eighteen Kiwanians and their family members spent the morning



(before the event) unpacking a sea of boxes and organizing the commons area at KPMS."

Inmates from the Washington Corrections Center for Women rolled in 100 bicycles, the product of a three-year partnership between the Kiwanis and WCCW.

"Used bicycles go into the facility in much need of repair and come out looking brand new," said Frickelton. "The WCCW volunteers stayed the morning and helped us set up."

Left, Five-year-old Vaughn Elementary kindergartner Devin Chenoweth is helped by Wayne Crosby of Payless Shoe Stores to find a pair of comfortable shoes for the new school year. Right, Vaughn Elementary kindergartner Andrea Daly carries brand new shoes received at the Kiwanis event.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



More than three dozen Kiwanis were on site to help 350-plus children in kindergarten through eighth grade get ready for the start of school. Children received a new pair of jeans, a shirt, shoes, socks, dental supplies and grade-appropriate school supplies including a backpack.

"This year," said Frickelton, "was our best event ever with a total of 14 partners — the most ever!" The partners ranged from local companies Peninsula Light and CenturyTel to retail outlets such as Office Depot and Payless Shoes.

"We are grateful to all our partners whose generosity put smiles on the faces of hundreds of children who might otherwise not be starting school with the same resources as their peers," Frickelton said.

Five-year-old Andrea, who will be a kindergartner, asked a friend to write a note on her behalf about the event: "This is how I feel: I feel really happy that you gave me the nice stuff. It helps me to get ready for school this year... The stuff that you gave me makes me feel good. Now I can't wait anymore for school to start. Thank you so much for all the things that you have given me."

Parent boosters help improve PHS field

By Danna Webster
KP News

The successes are mounting for the work on the PHS baseball field. A parents' booster club is trying to create a first-class athletic field. Their improvements include three additional batting cages, new equipment, baseball screens for batting practice, a new bullpen for the home team, and, thanks to the help of Subway, a new score board.

"The facility has a long way to go to be top flight," says Mike Hagen, a booster club member. According to Hagen, the parents' club has "lots of heartfelt guys that care about baseball."

"(It's) really got a great bunch of parents that want to help out," he says and describes his job as "the flunky organizer that gets all the leg work."

Hagen is a Lakebay resident and a familiar name to KP Little League families. In fact, he is using advertising signs like those at Volunteer Park as a major part of fund-raising for the PHS ball field.

"Like the program I started at Volunteer Park five years ago, we are selling advertising signs to be promi-

"The facility has a long way to go to be top flight."

-Mike Hagen, booster club member

nently posted on the outfield fence at Peninsula High School. The cost is \$600 for three years and includes a colorful, professionally designed 4-foot by 8-foot sign," he says. He explains that the Volunteer Park signs were made by Wendy Wackeling while Hagen "sold 'em, hung 'em up, kept them clean every year until Mike DeMoss took over." He is impressed with the present state of advertising on the park fence. "Apparently someone else is doing a great job with it now, 'cause there's a lot more signs than we had," Hagen says.

Besides the signs, a youth baseball clinic and a Rent-a-Hawk program help raise funds for the PHS baseball field. Last year, the clinic had 140 elementary students working with high school players during spring break. The Rent-a-Hawk project offers groups of four players for rent to do miscellaneous projects.

The PHS baseball field is used from March through October by three school

teams and summer teams.

"There's such a tremendous need when you only have one place to practice," says Hagen. "We have big plans to make this field one of the nicest in the Puget Sound, and the list (for improvements) goes on."

He mentions the need for additional bleachers and that a press box could involve the high school radio station with sports commentary and public announcements at the games.

"We are committed for the long term to work with the school, maintenance department, union workers as well as the rest of the community to bring this all together," Hagen says.

Hagen's volunteer work has followed his kids from the days of KP Little League to the high school. His oldest son just graduated and will attend college with a baseball scholarship, and his second son will play baseball as a PHS junior. His daughter has one more year before she will be a freshman but her interests are basketball and volleyball.

"By the time she gets there (PHS), I'll be working on how to improve the volleyball court," Hagen says.

News brief

CIS-P participates in statewide outreach

Communities In Schools of Washington, which represents 13 CIS affiliates around the state working to help kids succeed in school and prepare for life, said Comcast will donate at least \$75,000 worth of commercial airtime for the organization during 2005.

Comcast will produce and air a public service announcement throughout the region to support the CISWA network in its statewide public awareness campaign.

Colleen Speer, director of Communities In Schools-Peninsula, will be interviewing with Comcast in September and the interview will be aired at later dates.

CIS works with communities across the state to help connect and broker needed resources, programs and services to schools so that children get what they need to successfully learn and grow.

For more information about CISP, contact Speer at 884-5733.



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Key Peninsula Community Council candidates

The Key Peninsula Community Council will hold its election on Sept. 17. The candidates provided a statement on why they would like to be a KPC director, as well as other biographical information. (The Key Peninsula News is publishing the comments as provided by candidates, with minor typographical corrections)

Residents registered with KPC (not related to Pierce County voter registration) may vote by mail or at the following election sites: Peninsula Market, Lake Kathryn; Peninsula Market, Key Center; 76 Gas Station, Wright-Bliss Road; Home Country Store, Home. Voter registration will also be available. The election is on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; mailed ballots must be post-marked by Sept. 15. Votes will be counted the day of the election, and results will be posted at the KPC office as well as the Key Center Fire Station.

Area 1 (one opening)

Russ Humberd, incumbent

I have served on the Community Council as treasurer for the past year and want to continue.

Other activities and organizations include: member of Pierce County Community Planning Board, chair of Pierce County Youth Prevention Advisory, and member of PAA Board.



Area 2 (three openings)

Jerry Davis

To represent a community you must first have walked a mile in their shoes.

Other activities and organizations include: police officer in Alaska, president of Citizens' Patrol for two years, retired Army, life member of VFW, Elks, Eagles, member of KP Business Association, father of seven, and owner of Drive-Through Feed.



Danna Webster, incumbent

I want to continue to be a member of the Key Peninsula Community Council because of its objective. That is to: (1) identify the issues and concerns of the KP community; (2) find the resources available to meet those needs; and (3) serve as the connecting agent between the resources and the citizenry.

Other activities and organizations include: Pierce County Planning Board for the KP Comprehensive Plan, KP News, KP Writers' Guild, KP Trails (trail books), the KP Historical Society and Two Waters Arts Alliance.

Area 3 (one opening)

Kyle W. Chapman, MD, FACS

I believe I can be an excellent resource for past and present status of the Key Peninsula. Have been here for some 70 years, not always 100 percent of the time per year.

Other activities and organizations include: providing several Seattle and Tacoma charitable organizations with produce and meat from our farm, strongly supporting Union Gospel Mission in Seattle, active in Hospital Cancer Board, ACS, ASGS and AAPS, Medicare consultant for 25 years for 11 Western states.



Craig D. Hanson

We are at a critical time when growth management must be handled carefully to preserve our rural community so that we do not have the sprawl that other former rural areas have experienced (such as Maple Valley and Bonney Lake).

Other activities and organizations include: VFW and Washington National Guard.



Lance McMillan

Decorated Navy veteran with 25 years of proven experience in planning and logistics. I have been a part of the Key Peninsula experience for the past 27 years and would provide excellent insight to helping control and guide growth and development in our wonderful area. Enthusiastically looking forward to serving the community. Other activities and organizations include the Military Officers' Association of America (MOAA).

Michael Palumbo

Watching the key Peninsula grow over the last 27 years has raised concerns as to what kind of community we are going to become. I would like to help the Key Peninsula remain a great community to raise a family while keeping the values of country living. Growth is going to happen; I would like to help it happen in a manner that will maintain that friendly feeling of knowing your neighbors.

Other activities and organizations include: Key Peninsula Lions, 1990-1995, board member; Peninsula Soccer Club, 1994-1996, coach & team manager.

Frank C. Shirley

My background and training will give a conservative and management perspective to land use on the Key Peninsula. As a forester with a degree in economics, I can give the committee a point of view that is lacking and is needed for the future growth of the Key Peninsula. I have lived on Vaughn Bay for over 30 years and have participated in various volunteer organizations including Boy Scouts; Peninsula School Board, Special Committee; Camp Seymour Board of Directors; and Key



Peninsula Lutheran Church, church council.

Other activities and organizations include Toastmaster, Society of American Foresters (Certified Forester), and Pierce County Chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association, Washington State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee and Shirley Forests, Inc., President.

Area 4 (two openings)

Ross Bischoff

I chose to run in order to have representation on the council from KP Metro Parks and agricultural interests. Other activities or organizations include: KP Metro Parks commissioner.



Christine Fitzgerald

A native Washingtonian, I was raised on McNeil Island, and have a passionate appreciation for the unique marine-oriented environments of our islands and peninsulas. As a real estate broker, I walk a fine line between the necessity for development, and desire to preserve native habitat. Elsewhere, I have witnessed small beach communities virtually swallowed whole by condo and mega-house developers, while residents stood helplessly by. In the year I have been a homeowner in Lakebay, I have seen Key Peninsula residents' determination not to let that happen here. I am inspired by the community cohesiveness, willingness to participate, and genuine concern for the future of this special area. I am equally heartsick to see short-sighted clear cutting upon this beautiful land, with no thought to the detriment created for neighbors, wildlife, and the environment. I believe strongly there must be some middle ground where the land is honored and the community voice heard and heeded. And I am



(See CANDIDATES, Page 11)

(From CANDIDATES, Page 10)

concerned about foot traffic in harm's way along the highway. This issue needs a workable solution.

Other activities and organizations include: I am a board member of the Friends of the Key Center Library, a member of the Key Peninsula Writers' Guild, and someone who takes this opportunity to serve my new community very seriously. There is much to be done; I will be honored to represent Area 4 to the best of my ability.

Kathy Johnson

I am concerned with the growing number of subdivisions and the effect they will have on services and on already established larger landowners. The quality of life and the physical appearance of the Peninsula are already being compromised.

Other activities or organizations include: NW Gaited Horse Club.



Steven F. Schellings

As a vacation homeowner and frequent resident of the Key Peninsula, I have a vested interest in its future.

The obvious and inevitable growth of the Peninsula in the next few years needs a strong vision and a direction. I want to make sure there is a balance of growth in housing and land development, while retaining the natural beauty that drew most of us to live here. I also want to enable sound and conservation-minded economic development that will provide secure jobs for Key Peninsula residents.

Other activities and organizations: member, Ducks Unlimited; Boy Scouts of America, Cub Scout Pack Leader, Pack 167 University Presbyterian Church, Seattle; member of Nature Conservancy; Professional Association of Diving Instructors, member and certified diver; Washington Athletic Club, member, Board of Governors (2004), Program Board Chair (2004).



News briefs

KP Business Directory Website under way

A Website is being produced by GigHarboronline in cooperation with the KP Business Association. The goal is to post a complete business directory that includes shopping, services and recreation on the Key Peninsula. The Website is also seeking KP photographs and artwork to display. To have your address included or for more information contact Russ at 858-7508 or email russ@gigharbor.com.

County Council provides online meeting information

Citizens with Internet access now can receive information about upcoming Pierce County Council meeting topics automatically and in advance. The council has added a link to its Website at www.piercecountywa.org/council called the Interested Parties List aimed at keeping the public informed on various issues.

In addition, a kiosk will be installed in

the council office reception area this fall, so people who come to the office can create a log-in and use the Interested Party List service or search for information on the county site.

CenturyTel ranked fourth in survey

The CenturyTel, Inc. Website ranked fourth among 33 telecommunications companies in a recent survey conducted by The Customer Respect Group. Customer Respect, an international research and consulting firm that focuses on how corporations treat their customers online, conducts the survey on a quarterly basis. The study brings objective measure to the analysis of corporate performance from an online customer's perspective. It assigns a Customer Respect Index (CRI™) rating to each company.

Scores of 8.0 and above are considered excellent and show an admirable level of customer respect. CenturyTel earned a rating of 8.2, compared to the industry average of 6.7. CenturyTel also received distinction as the most improved company in the telecommunications category.

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(From **OLD TIMERS'**, Page 1)

Over all the years, Boquist says he won first place only once in Fallin' Trees but he admits he usually wins the saw-bucking contest; and 2005 was no exception.

"My family was a logging family," Boquist says.

His family logging history reaches back to the 1890s, when his great-grandparents, Nicholas and Agnes Peterson, worked and owned the Glen Cove land where he lives today.

Boquist has collected logging artifacts that are kept in his warehouse-sized garage. While some of the artifacts travel with him to Old Timers' Day as displays, his most notable and most prized 60,000-pound possession, a steam donkey, remains firmly mounted upon its log runners at Glen Cove.

His Smith and Watson steam donkey, circa 1920, was acquired in pieces and "The Old Man Mr." Bill Parson from Burley Lagoon taught Boquist how to put it together. The job took a year and a half. The donkey is a steam power plant that holds a wire cable used to haul logs out of the woods. It took eight to 12 cords a day to heat the water for the Smith and Watson.

According to Boquist, two steam donkeys were used to log Glen Cove. The steam donkeys yarded the logs (hailed them into a pile), which were then dropped over the bank into the Glen Cove Bay. Once the logs were rafted, they were jockeyed by tugboat to the mill.

At the conclusion of a job, the steam donkey was moved to the next camp by dragging it across the terrain, an operation that usually took two days. Over the years, logging camps worked north from Glen Cove and Vaughn up to Port Orchard.

After describing the hard and dangerous times of early logging for his great-grandfather and his great-grandmother, who cooked on a floating log camp, Boquist adds, "My grandfather was a woods boss, (and) Dad got into it; but I got smart. I went into construction."

Times have changed for the logging business and Boquist's garage museum is a testimonial to what was once a great American industry. For him, the greatest compliment about his collection came from his aunt, Aggie Whitmore. She told him, "Boy, if your grandpa was alive, he'd be really happy with what you did."

Times have changed with regard to the logging contests, too. Boquist admits that he no longer allows other loggers to borrow his saw at Old Timers' Day. "I used to loan my chainsaw, but I don't do that anymore. Not since the time a fellow beat me with my own saw," he says.



Key Peninsula Fairs Summer '05

Left, Dale Boquist of Glen Cove, an organizer for the Old Timers' Day logging show, shows off his skill. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

OLD TIMERS' DAY



Above, the loggers, both men and women, competed against each other and showed their might with the saw at the 20th annual Old Timers' Day at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Right, more than 60 members of the Tacoma Chapter of Harley Owners Group (HOG) gather for the camera after dropping in at the event. *Photos by Hugh McMillan*

KEY PENINSULA COMMUNITY FAIR



Left, 20-month-old Alyssa Hawkins spends a moment with a goat at the KP Fair's petting zoo. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Above, the race is on to become the boysenberry pie eating champ! *Photo by Danna Webster*

RENAISSANCE Fantasy FAIRE



Left, all sorts of unique creatures visited the Washington Renaissance and Fantasy Fair, including this very tall horse.

Right, Key Pen resident Tim Masbruch of Ye Olde Brat Fry cooks brats for the crowds.

Photos by Karen Hale



Renaissance Faire entertainers enjoy summer sun, growing crowds

By Karen Hale
KP News

This year's Renaissance Fantasy Faire enjoyed huge crowds, buoyed by a growing population interested in all things Renaissance and the fact that the Washington Renaissance and Fantasy Faire is now a well-known venue far and wide. This year the attendance was estimated at more than 65,000, the highest ever.

People came to the Key Peninsula from all over to stroll through the rows upon rows of vendors to see what modern-day folks who yearn for the simpler times are making for sale, such as old-world beeswax hand-dipped candles. The candle maker had many great stories, including one about why folk used twisted four-wick candles when leaving an abode at night in the olden days: safety. Four wicks looked like four people in the dark, and you were less inclined to be robbed. Who would have thought of that in these days of electricity and battery-operated flashlights?

Some of the sights of the faire included the ever-popular "fairy" who gives everyone fairy dust, a horse-headed giant and a harlequin trying to sell the bridge he was sitting on. ("Bridge for sale!" was all he ever said.) A giant harlequin clown walked around waving at everyone, and delighted children.

The music was as wonderful as ever, and one only needed to stroll around, listen, and then follow the ear to whichever musical venue was preferred. Heather Alexander was a popular show as well as the Sherwood Renaissance Singers. There were crowds around every show, as they were all excellent to hear.

There were even more interactions for the kids, with the ever-popular sword fighting arena. All swords are made of PVC plastic pipe and wrapped in foam and duct tape to prevent injury, and it seems to be a favorite for boys — and girls. Many girls tried their hand at besting any boy or man they dared take on. The best part was watching the "stare down." Intimidation before the strike, the best part of the duel. Ren Faire organizer Ron Cleveland was caught enjoying this part of the faire — he seemed to be enjoying dueling with knights and ladies.

Also available for the kids were fencing lessons, and an



Above, the Sherwood Renaissance Singers perform for the crowd. Left, Renaissance Faire organizer Ron Cleveland paces off with an opponent. Below, The American Jousting Alliance provided this year's battles and accuracy tests of skill.

Photos by Karen Hale

archery course for low-cost shooting (\$10 for 20 arrows) at target bags. The archery course was created on a building that looked like an outpost for a castle that doubled as a place to buy wooden shields, swords, axes and the like.

More food and vendors were also present this year. Of course, everyone who goes to the faire strolls to the back of the grounds for a meeting with the queen and then heads up the hill past the well-dressed comely wenches selling pickles from their pickle wagon (excellent garlic dills) and find a spot in the shade for the jousting show.

This year, the jousting exhibit was put on by the American Jousting Alliance. This show is more accurate in what the knights did to practice for battle. Leaning over their sword side of the horse, they held out their heavy steel sword and tried to spear a ring hanging from two strings. A semi-circle course of three rings for the gentlemen — and lady, as the American Jousting Alliance has a woman in its troupe — to see who was the best. In the event of a tie, the rings were replaced with smaller rings, and they did it again. The crowd seemed to be of a modern mind, as they all chanted for the lady of the realm. (Dam-i-en! Dam-i-en!) She didn't win, but everyone had fun and that's what it's all about.

By the end of the day, most of the faire-goers without kids were heading to the beer gardens for a Meade or two to wrap things up before returning to the castle. The ones with kids were looking for a snack on the way out, then past the vendors for perhaps one more treasure to take home to remember this fine day that naught may put a damper on.



(From KP FAIR, Page 1)

fish tank full of trout.

There was lots of music coming from stage speakers and bouncing the fields of Volunteer Park's baseball diamonds. Tunes on radios played soft oldies at the fire commissioner candidates' booth and rap at the hotdog vendor's stand. In the mornings, when the National Anthem was sung, feet stopped, business halted, and hands covered hearts, while fairgoers listened to hear that broad stripes and bright stars still wave over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Palmer Lake resident Carl Tucker came to the fair to see all the people. "Since I retired from the airport, one of the things I haven't had time to do is people watch. That's what I like to do," he said.

Other fairgoers came to watch the shows and shop the vendors; big crowds gathered for the pie-eating contests. At Saturday's 7-to 11-year-old event, 9-year-old Patrick Wheeler came out the winner, but the amount of boysenberries smearing the faces of all the young contestants looked about even. Sunday established the grand finale pie-eating champions. They were Kevin Bonn (7-11 age category); Connor Golden (12-17 age category); and Jeremy Dikeman (adult).

The entertainers received enthusiastic applause from an audience seated on hay bales; and, according to the auctioneer, buyers walked away with real steals from the woodcarvers' work.

At night-time, many of the volunteers and guests filled the tables and dance floor in the beer garden. They enjoyed good live music from the Bruce Partridge and Billy Shew bands and the chance to relax from the morning to dark schedules of the three-day long KP Fair.

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Key Peninsula News asked some August fairgoers what they liked best this year.

This is what they said.

KP Community



"It reminds me of my childhood in New Hampshire."

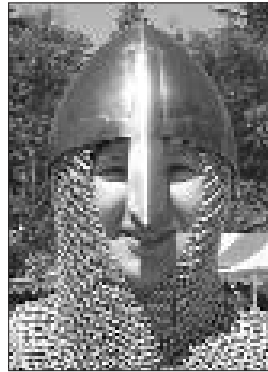
Mary Stankewich,
Gig Harbor



"I like lots of the rides and the prize winning — I'm good at that."

Lauren Chapman,
Rocky Bay

Renaissance



"I like the characters walking around...and the music!"

Donnie Timmons,
Port Orchard



"I love the jousting."

Caitlin Webb,
Federal Way

Old Timers



"I like the logging best. All of it."

Cassie Jutte, 12,
Tacoma



"I think it's wonderful that we get all these people enjoying themselves. ... This is the biggest show we've ever had."

Bud Ulsh, one of the organizers



"I like the petting zoo."

Courtney Washburn

"I like the magic show."

Coreana Washburn

Claremont, Calif.



*Photos by
Mindi LaRose,
Karen Hale &
Hugh McMillan*

"We like everything. It's awesome. We have all sorts of similar things in Spokane, but nothing like this. ... It's just like a big family."

Earl and Sandra Snyder, Spokane —
longtime Old Timers' Day visitors



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Residents on landlocked properties question map accuracy

Editor's note: This is an installment in a series of articles taking a look at the landlocked situation of the residents who live off 144th Street.

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

In April 1923, owners of land along a primitive Key Pen Road had their properties condemned by the city of Tacoma, which wanted to use the land for a power transmission project. The court determined "the said proposed condemnation and appropriation to be for a public use."

Tacoma Power since then built a transmission line stretching from Tacoma to the Cushman Power Dam, a line that also provides power to the Key Peninsula.

The road eventually became known by several names including Pole Line Road and Powerline Road, but the postal addresses designate it as 144th Road KP N. A former resident who grew up on 144th recalled using the road to ride horses, and said she and friends frequented a pet cemetery that existed right off 144th.

The properties had changed hands several times in the last eight decades, and nothing seemed amiss until about 30 or 40

years ago, when residents started having troubles with getting the county to maintain the road. The troubles have compounded in recent years, as landowners whose only access is through that road became unable to get any county permits. In their words, they became landlocked. Residents on the west side of Wright-Bliss Road are not affected, as the county owned a road there before the lawsuit, and therefore the road remained.

Tacoma Power says the residents on the east side of Wright-Bliss have trespassed on private property all this time. Residents, however, believe the lawsuit never intended to take away use of the road.

As residents scramble for answers, they are asking questions like: How can mail be delivered to a road that doesn't exist? How can the county approve easements off a road that doesn't have public access? Why do maps show a county road on a road the county said it doesn't own?

The question of maps has come up frequently in the debate between the property owners, the utility, and the county. Residents have pointed out "C.D. Rowley County Road" showed up on maps dating back decades, stretching not only on the

west side of Wright-Bliss but also for portions of the east side. Even county GIS mapping shows an undedicated strip of land stretching east of Wright-Bliss in between the parcels Tacoma Power owns.

Map errors

A representative for Metzker Co., which has produced some of the maps, said the information comes from sources such as the county assessor, county road departments and similar sources, but never from private information. Some residents have county documents for their private property showing C.D. Rowley Road on the county map, east of Wright-Bliss. One of those residents said, "It's not our imagination. We were led to believe" that was a legal road. Yet, as county Councilman Terry Lee pointed out, "A map has no legal authority, it's only an illustration."

"It is our property, I don't care what the maps say," Tacoma Power Superintendent Steve Klein said in an earlier interview. "There is no question there's been errors on maps."

Tacoma Power's Tom Anderson wrote in an email in reply to the KP News' question about the apparent road right-of-way on maps: "Unfortunately, the county's GIS mapping is incorrect and that strip of land does not exist other than as an error on the county's GIS map. Others have made the same argument to us based on the county's GIS map. We have brought this to the county's attention and they admit their map is wrong." A county GIS official told the KP News in August she was not aware of the errors but would look into it.

Some residents said their title reports showed a public road. Several property owners who bought their homes within recent years have, in fact, gone back to their title companies for answers. They learned that their properties show access, and their title companies may pursue legal action. Some believe if successful, the suit would help everyone else.

A Titor Title Co. agent in Tacoma, who is not servicing the residents in question but who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "Title insurance provides legal access to the property we insure... The legal access is automatically covered." But, he noted, "sometime legal access is not the same as the one used."

Next step

Residents have appealed for help from Lee, and county officials have since been actively discussing possible solutions with

utility representatives. Their approach so far has focused on providing residents with legal access that doesn't involve using 144th. Many property owners don't like the idea, and continue to insist 144th should have been a county road, or if not, the county should press Tacoma Power for an easement. They point to discussions dating back to the 1970s when the utility considered turning the road over to the county, in exchange for release of liability and other conditions (see KP News, July 05). They also say they "don't want a beautiful road" that could cost millions of dollars, they just want a primitive, but legal, road.

Lee said he brought the idea of a lawsuit to county Executive John Ladenburg, a former prosecutor. He said while Ladenburg feels the county may have a shot at winning, Tacoma Power would turn around and assess everyone to bring the road up to county standards. With the county in a \$650 million hole for roadway improvements, and many higher priorities, the county doesn't have the funds to bring the road up to standard either.

"Any legal remedies would come with a price tag citizens will have to pay," Lee said. "I'm going to try to solve the problem with the least financial impact to the citizens out there."

The county staff was in the process of determining what private and public roads could be used to provide access, though the work has focused largely on helping only already developed properties.

"The executive (Ladenburg) asked us and Public Works to lay out the options," said Planning and Land Services Director Chuck Cleberg. "In the past, when we've taken this look, the lack of access on that road was a real barrier." The two departments were researching parcel by parcel, to see what current roads could be used or where new roads may be built.

In the meantime, the residents are coming up on a deadline. Tacoma Power has been getting ready to install electronic gates on the road, and giving access to police and fire departments and to current residents — provided the residents signed a release form. The latest schedule estimate indicated the gates would go up by early October. Several residents said they would not sign the form — which may leave them without a gate key.

One resident told Lee and Tacoma Power spokesperson Chris Gleason at a meeting: "We just want a stinking road, a place with no gates. Our taxes keep going up and up — what for? Where are our taxes going to? It's certainly not going to our road access."

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Angel Guild renovates and reopens

The Angel Guild Thrift Store is shut up tight, but it is anything but quiet. The dust is flying, paintbrushes are working, and windows are being made to sparkle. It is renovation time. Even the angel figures are being washed, wings plumped, and halos polished. What a busy crew of ambitious ladies!

The shop will reopen for business on Sept. 7. Our hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

Donations are gladly accepted during these hours. When our workshop is full, it is sometimes necessary to shut the gates early.

We have many steady donors and we thank you. Mindy from Cutter Bug just emptied her Mickey Mouse Bank and donated it to us once again. Peninsula Market pays us for the sales slips we turn in each month and that is a big boost for us.

Come see us on Sept. 7 and see how bright and clean the shop is. Check out the quality of all the new merchandise that has been very gently used and chosen with care. We have the best prices in town. We will see you at the Angel Guild Thrift Store.

—By Betty Barkubein

Lakebay Fuchsia Society sets annual tour

The September meeting of the Lakebay Fuchsia Society, for members and guests, will be the annual tour of members' gardens on Sept. 11. For more information call 884-4746.

Key Center Library presents historical program

On Thursday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m., the Key Center Library will present a program called "Reliving the History of the Key Peninsula." Everyone will have

Seniors enjoy a Hawaiian day



Photo and story by Colleen Slater

The Key Peninsula Senior Society enjoyed a special Hawaiian Day in mid-August, with over 30 people in attendance. Members and guests arrived wearing bright Hawaiian clothing and leis to get into the spirit of the occasion.

"Desert Edition," a Sweet Adelines quartet from Tri-Cities, provided entertainment, with an assorted selection of music most of the seniors knew.

Lead Pat Underwood is daughter to the senior's president, Virginia Adkisson. Two other members of the group have family in Western Washington, so they were doing a "West Coast Tour" en route to a quartet school in Portland the next weekend.

These Key Pen seniors meet weekly for potluck lunch, visiting, and card games. Once a month, they pick a special theme day and decorate accordingly. They do not have a program every meeting.

Rose Malmgren, secretary, says when she and her husband first moved to the peninsula, they knew no one, and joined this group to get acquainted. It's one of the best places around to meet people and make new friends, she says.

Lunch is at noon every Thursday in the Whitmore Room at the Civic Center. All seniors are welcome to drop in and see what's going on.

the opportunity to watch how our much-loved peninsula area came into being as a community. There will be pictures, and, best of all, lots of stories about the people who were wise enough to make their homes here in this place of remote, lush beauty. Dale Skrivanich, an active and enthusiastic member of the Key Peninsula Historical Society, will bring our history to life with imagination and narrative skill. Mark your calendars for Oct. 13!

—By Mary Watson

Communities in Schools needs mentors

Communities In Schools of Peninsula connects community resources with Peninsula School District students to help kids learn, stay in school and prepare for life. The local non-profit organization believes programs don't change kids — relationships do.

Communities In Schools is seeking adult mentors for both reading and math programs taking place after school at

various Peninsula Schools. The CISP Reading Mentor Program pairs reading mentors with a struggling reader for one hour, one day a week. Executive Director Colleen Speer notes "The Reading Mentor Program identifies elementary age children who struggle with reading and then matches them with mentors recruited from the community. Already evaluation of the program demonstrates participating students made significant gains in their reading comprehension and fluency."

Adult mentors are also needed for the middle school based "Math Mentor Program."

Mentors work in small groups under the guidance of a Communities In Schools math instructor. Students report "the program helped me bring my grades up" and teachers reported more successful learning among students who participate.

A small commitment of your time can make a big difference in a child's life. To find out how you can be part of Communities in Schools of Peninsula Mentor Programs, call Colleen Speer at 884-5733 or email cispeninsula@centurytel.net.

—By Rochelle Doan

Camp Seymour holds Fall Folk Arts Retreat

Camp Seymour is hosting its first Fall Folk-Art Retreat on Oct. 7-9. Come join family, friends, and friends-to-be for a weekend of music, storytelling, dance, and crafts at all of Camp Seymour's traditional program areas—boating, climbing wall, archery, hiking, and marine science center. This event was conceived by Leif Hansen, Camp Seymour's new Group Programs Director, in hopes of bringing together our region's folk-artists (and folk-art enthusiasts) for a time of retreat,

(See EVENTS, Page 17)



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(From **EVENTS**, Page 16)

creative play, networking, and mutual enrichment. Registrants will have the opportunity of stating whether they wish to teach, perform, or simply enjoy what others have to offer. So whether you come for a drum circle, an informal jam session, to learn to tell stories, or to dance and play, the staff looks forward to seeing you!

Pre-registration is required so Camp Seymour can order food and arrange housing for participants. Registration must be done by Tuesday, Oct. 4, but early registration is encouraged. Visit www.campseymour.org or call 253-460-8884 for more information or to request a registration packet.

Oktoberfest returns to the Civic Center

Blues, Brews and Brats was a tremendous success for the Civic Center last year. Mark your calendars now for Oct. 22 and a great fall event. This year, Chef Oliver Coldeen will supervise the food committee, the local brews will return and Little Bill and the Bluenotes will fill the night air with award winning music. The German-style dinner starts at 6 p.m.

and the music starts at 8 p.m. There are a limited number of \$20 dinner and dance tickets. Dance-only tickets are \$15. All tickets will be available after Labor Day through the Civic Center and at Sunnycrest Nursery. Buy tickets early, this was a sold out event last year.

Community Planning Board sets meeting

The next meetings for the Pierce County-Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are scheduled for the first and third Wednesdays in September, Sept. 7 and Sept. 21. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library.

The Community Planning Board is working on policy development for the Key Peninsula Community Plan regarding land use and zoning. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the meetings. For more information, see www.piercecountywa.org/landuse.

SAVE Thrift Store expands hours

Starting in September the SAVE Thrift Store in Purdy will be open 6 days a week to better serve customers and donors.

Hours of operation will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The shop is located at the foot of the hill below Peninsula High School.

SAVE is operated by the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund with proceeds benefiting the activity groups and scholarship program at Peninsula High School. Items offered for sale include high-quality used clothing and shoes for the entire family, all types of household goods, books, toys and games, linens, craft items, jewelry and small appliances. While prices are always low, sales throughout the month make the bargains even better. A special favorite are the bag sales — the “baby” bag sale (on clothes and shoes up to kid’s size 12) is scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month, followed by mid-month and end-of-month bag sales for all sizes. The content of the bags is determined by the customer. During the final week of each month, the entire inventory of clothes and shoes is replaced with completely fresh merchandise. That day, called “New Selections” is also a big hit with shoppers.

SAVE Thrift Store has been a fixture in the community for nearly 20 years. Shoppers love its low prices and high quality, donors appreciate the opportunity to recycle items for a good cause, and

volunteers enjoy working in its pleasant, relaxed atmosphere. Won’t you visit us soon as a shopper, donor or volunteer? For more information, call the store at 857-2800.

—By Marsha Williams

Bayshore Garden Club meeting

The Bayshore Garden Club meeting is Sept. 2 at the Longbranch Fire Station at 1 p.m. There will be a guest speaker and the program topic is “Wells, the Water Table, the Drought and Septic Systems.” The hostess is Dolores Argabright and the presenters are Doris Boudreau, horticulture; and Doris Hoover, design. For information, call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

Get your calendar of events online!

They Key Peninsula News has an online calendar. Events listed in each month’s issue as well as additional ones, are posted in a list that can be conveniently printed and posted on your fridge or board. Check it out at www.keypennews.com. The list is updated once a month.



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Jolene LaLonde, the only female auto mechanic on the peninsula, replaces a smashed turn signal light at Moreland and Sons auto shop on the Key Peninsula. LaLonde, who lives on the Key Peninsula, attended Peninsula High School, Gig Harbor High School and Henderson Bay High School before graduating.

"I've always loved mechanics," she said, "and always worked with my dad on his cars. He was an excellent mechanic and taught me a lot."

LaLonde's 12-year-old son, Justin, is a student at Key Peninsula Middle School and her daughter Krysta, 10, attends Vaughn Elementary.

She started working with Moreland and Sons in March 2004 and has "learned a lot about being a mechanic here."

"I'm not a full blown mechanic yet; I'm a mechanic's assistant and lube tech. I'll be doing more complicated work as soon as I can get into school," she said.

LaLonde plans to work days and attend school at night.

Erik Moreland, business owner, said, "Jolene is a very dependable worker. We're proud she's part of our team."

Story and photo by Hugh McMillan



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Sat. Sept. 24th 9am - 11am, Sun Sept 25th 9am -
4pm; Sat. Oct. 1st 9am - 11am. \$75 per person

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Market Activity This Month

35 homes sold

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The Key Peninsula Community Planning Board is continuing to meet every two weeks. They are now involved in the land use portion of their program and there is still time for you to express your opinions as to the development, or non-development, of the Key Peninsula and the use of your land. It is important that you keep involved because this will affect the use of your land in the future!

Meetings are: The first Wednesday and third Tuesday of the month.

Location: Key Pen Middle School or the Library.

Foundation News

With some of our foundation funds (money donated by the agents from each transaction closed) we recently bought 20 wristbands for admission to the Key Peninsula Community Fair. In coordination with the Children's Home Society, who distributed the tickets, this enabled 20 children to go to the fair and enjoy the rides.

We also are, once again, filling 20 backpacks with school supplies for children going back to school. Again, coordinating with the Children's Home Society and with the generosity of Mike Maroney from our office who supplied the backpacks, 20 local children will have adequate supplies to start school.



LAKE HOLIDAY \$175,000
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TAYLOR BAY - CASE INLET \$228,000
You can enjoy the beach here! This private, gated community offers access to a nice gravel beach, boat launch and picnic area. The Dutch Colonial home has an extra large deck, secluded back yard is partially fenced - great for evening barbeques and entertaining. There also is a charming separate guest house on property. MLS 25118066



FIR ACRES \$234,950
Sparkling rambler on quiet dead-end .56 acre lot. Nicely updated, featuring vaulted great-room, skylights, master w/sitting space, walkin closet, 2 full baths. Partially fenced yard, 2 car carport w/shop space, 8x20 storage and play area in back yard. MLS 25117817



CUSTOM HOME ON COUNTRY LOT
\$295,000
The circle driveway invites you to this home which is nestled among towering fir trees w/small pond running through back of this 2.5 ac property. Comfortable floor plan has indirect lighting throughout, coved ceilings, rock hearth w/woodstove and a master suite w/jetted tub, dual sinks and walkin closet. Perfect home for formal or informal living w/private backyard and covered patio. Added bonus of a triple garage w/ 9' doors. MLS 25105284



LAKEBAY \$299,000
Beautiful country rambler on a very private shy 2.5 acres. Open floor concept, vaulted ceilings, large windows for natural light, gas fireplace & den/office. Oak cabinets, large pantry and French doors open out onto the stone patio. Nice garden area, blueberry bushes and room for more! MLS 25115561



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Pet carrier business finds new home on Key Peninsula

By Danna Webster
KP News

Rich van Engers did a lot of thinking while he drove trucks for the family trucking business. One day, while sitting in front of a veterinarian hospital, a pet owner carried a pet out the door and the animal was falling through the box. At the same time, the awning on the building caught van Engers' eye and the idea for a better pet carrier began to take hold.

Design and innovation were common attributes for van Engers, who credits his father, an engineer, as his inspiration. He says his father applied a philosophy of "if you don't have it, you make it" to whatever they needed.

It was about 14 years ago that van Engers sewed the first carrier himself. His idea was that the carrier should be a good sturdy product, flexible, safe, lightweight and durable. He called it a SturdiBag and drove to dog and cat shows across the United States with a few of his new carriers. It was a hit. Not only did it meet the needs for show animals, it also brought a new item to



Photo by Danna Webster

Rich van Engers demonstrates his pet carrier.

market for pet travel.

All SturdiProducts are made in Seattle but the e-business, showroom and design center is in a remodeled barn, off Key Highway just north of Moreland's. Since most of the business is online (www.SturdiProducts.com), there were many location options. While looking for land with some acreage, van Engers pulled into the KP

"If you listen to your customers, they'll buy what you make."

-Rich van Engers, inventor

property earlier this year and said, "This is it."

Today van Engers' SturdiProducts include pet carriers with hammocks; pop-up shelters; accessories such as pads, pans and bowls; and show essentials such as grooming stations — 40 different washable, portable items in an array of colors. His customer base extends across the United States, Europe and Japan. His products are commissioned yearly by the Nestles Corp. as awards to be included with the Winner's Cup at the Cat Fanciers Association International Cat Show. They have received many awards themselves and have been recommended in prominent dog and cat publications.

Innovation continues to be a hallmark for the company with safety and comfort applied as the standards. Everything about the products are original in design, with input from

customers like the portable soft-sided kennels, dividers that create two separate environments, seatbelt compatibility harnesses, and the use of nonmetal materials that make airport security a nonissue. According to van Engers, customers are part of his design team, his best sales people, and have taught him an important lesson in the world of business.

"If you listen to your customers, they'll buy what you make," he says. New York customers have currently turned the company's focus to evacuation kennels.

The first few months of Key Pen residency have been busy with travels to shows. Rich van Engers hopes to find time soon to meet his new neighbors and get acquainted with the community.

The welcome mat is out for neighbors to come see the showroom. "Please bring your pet," says Penny Johnson, executive vice president. She likes to have people let their animals try the products and admits that is where they get their best advertising photos.

"Come see us whether (you're) just curious or want to try the product," says van Engers.

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A very special place

By Irene Torres
KP News

In contrast to her favorite poet Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken," Jaci Parrish took her own path when she opened a new bead boutique in Purdy.

On her way to work each day from Wauna, she would pass the building on the shore of Henderson Bay, and fell in love with its location. Approaching her 40th birthday, she had made a decision to follow the path of her passion.

One late November day as she noticed the building for rent, she had a far-fetched idea to place a beading business there, and started to work to make it happen.

Why beads? "There is just something about beading...the colors, design, and (the way) we make use of the craft," she said.

There seemed to be a need for a local bead outlet. The Bead Factory in Tacoma and other stores near Silverdale were the closest, and Parrish knew many local people whose interest in beading was growing.

Lunch hour calls to other bead stores and suppliers gave her a quick education on what would be necessary to open her own shop.

"I called all over the country, and made decisions based on my own research, shopping, trial and error. People don't share information with other vendors very easily," she said. Parrish received quotes from \$40,000 to \$80,000 to purchase office equipment, credit card processing, furniture, display tables, and initial inventory to open. She humbly acknowledges, "I did it for less



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Jaci Parrish stands in front of a selection of gem stones and sterling silver findings. Hanging behind her (in the window) are strands of fire-polished beads. The deck overlooks the Purdy Spit and the Puget Sound, and is open for "beading on the deck."

"I really feel there has been divine intervention with some of the people who come here." — Jaci Parrish

than that."

Financing the venture with her own personal loan to the business, she signed a lease in mid-December. To her surprise, she was able to get through the permitting process quickly and opened The Beadin' Path in mid-January.

Parrish credits her sister, Fran Paulman, who comes up from Portland every other weekend to share her knowledge and talent. "She's an integral part of the store. I couldn't have done it without her," Parrish said.

Husband Bryan takes care of the building and grounds maintenance, and her stepchildren, Dylan and Leslie, have been a big help.

With its soft white walls and the backdrop of the Puget Sound reflected in the prisms of its colorful beads, the shop has a boutique feel, a peaceful aura, and a most refreshing atmos-

phere.

"It is happy and warm. I wanted a gathering place...a special place where people can share a hobby, relax, and bond with friends. I really feel there has been divine intervention with some of the people who come here," Parrish said. "They have developed a common bond, some under the most challenging circumstances."

KP Resident Barbara Anderson related her very personal experiences in the beading store. Anderson's mother is battling a terminal illness, and when she visited the Beadin' Path, the mother said, "These special people are helping you to get through my struggle." Anderson, whose nickname is "Lucky," said, "It's my place of peace...my safe harbor. I'd rather go there than anywhere. It's the 'total package.' There's something very special about it. It's a place to go to relax."

Another loyal customer, Sandy Frankie, said, "The Beadin' Path has a life of its own. It's one of the kindest, gentlest places there is. I take every class I can. It's fun. It's therapy, and there's something magical about it."

With a mailing list of about 250 people, and taking her lead from customers' requests, Parrish publishes the class schedule for the following month about two weeks in advance.

"One of the most exciting things is that people discover in themselves that they can create beautiful things, and some go on to sell them at work or to friends," Parrish said.

The sisters started a line of bead jewelry, AuClair, named after their mother's maiden name. The line is recognizable because of the use of crystals and delicate designs, and has been featured in craft shows.

Course offerings include Basic Beginners, Netted Vase, and the popular Blossom Bracelet. Deb Saldivar instructs students in making wirework earrings, wire wrap rings, and wire bead caps. Other classes include knitting (suspended for the summer), and step-by-step instructions for toe rings, anklets, sunglass holders, and the crystal lace necklace. Part of the proceeds from sales of certain merchandise go to the Susan G. Komen Cancer Fund and to the Fisher House Foundation, which provides for housing of military families during hospitalization of their service members.

Two-hour classes cost \$20 (plus materials) and group discounts are offered.

"We offer group events like birthday parties and 'ladies' night out,'" Parrish said, and plans some classes with wood beads for teen-age boys. "We're growing, adding as we're able. Next year, we are poised for great stuff, and will be accepting consignment art work." Artists looking for a venue to show and sell their jewelry lines can negotiate a commission with The Beadin' Path.

"Hit the Deck" was added during the summer as a Sunday class offering. Parrish said, "We might not have every bead under the sun, but you can bead under the sun," on the deck overlooking the water.

Inventory includes beads made from glass, fire-polished, Austrian crystal, fine Japanese seed beads, to semi-precious stone like rose quartz, agate, tiger eye, turquoise, jasper, citrine, hematite, and vintage selections from the '20s to '60s.

Basic tools are available for sale as a set or individually. Prices range from 5 cents up to \$10 or more for beads made from semi-precious stone. Finished jewelry products range from \$15 to \$120.

Growing up in the East, Parrish earned a degree in political science from Smith College. She lived in California for 10 years, and worked in real estate and administration. She always had a creative bent, and worked in the arts, including crafts, knitting and needlepoint. Parrish moved to Gig Harbor in 1999, and even with this new business venture, still works full time for the city of Gig Harbor.

"Loyal, supportive customers show me in so many ways that this path was meant to be," Parrish said.

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Deadline for October submissions with camera-ready artwork is September 19th!



(From LIGHTS, Page 1)

and 28 injuries. The state uses this type of data to prioritize its funds for safety improvement projects. The funding comes from the "old" general "gas tax" of 23 cents (not related to the new gas tax passed by this year's Legislature or the "nickel tax").

By mid-August, preparation work included installation of loop detectors, building the foundation for the signal and the slight modification of the island to allow better turning movements. McNutt said the project was proceeding on schedule and repaving of the road was expected at the end of August. An exact completion date was not known because the signal components are custom made, and their delivery date was not known at press time. However, McNutt anticipated the light to be functional by mid-October.

The system will use a so-called detection loop (usually a circle or rectangle cut in the ground) with a low-voltage wire in it; cars create a magnetic field of sorts

"I couldn't imagine a roundabout at 55 mph."

-John McNutt,
WSDOT project manager

that the loop detects. Once the signal is detected, the programming analyzes the traffic and eventually the light changes.

The original plans for the intersection called for a roundabout, but McNutt said, "I couldn't imagine a roundabout at 55 mph."

The traffic signal is expected to reduce the number of fender-benders in the area, although it may take a while for drivers to get used to the idea of having to slow down (especially those bound south on KP Highway). The signal would not create significant delays for drivers, McNutt said.

"We wouldn't put it in there unless we knew it will improve the situation," McNutt said. "It should substantially reduce the number and the severity of the accidents."

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From Pioneer Stock Helen Skahan of Elgin

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Helen Skahan lives and gardens on the land where she was raised.

Charles and Anna Davis, her maternal grandparents, settled in Elgin in 1905, where the Brookside Restaurant stands. Their house, on skids, was hauled from Rainier log camp by horses. Helen Lunore, born in 1918, grew up across the road (now 118th).

A regular chore was starting the economy engine pump, to get water from the spring to fill water barrels. It was hard, and if she didn't release the handle at the right time, it went flying off. They used this water to bathe, wash dishes and clothes, but her mother wanted fresh spring water for her churned butter. Helen carried that until her mother decided it was time her brother, three years younger, needed to learn how. He raced to the spring, roiled the waters and dashed back up to the house.

"I would carry it six times over instead of him doing it once," she says. She told



Photo by Sandy Morris, courtesy of Key Peninsula Historical Society

Skahan's brush shed, ca 1986.

her mother what he did and said she'd do it, but her mother said her brother had to learn how. She wonders still about her mother's thinking.

Skahan helped churn butter in the large cedar churn. It held four or five pounds of butter.

The family had chickens and always one cow. "One miserable cow" would go down to the bay at certain times of the year. There were no fences, neighborhood cows grazed freely, and returned home at night. This cow had to be hunted and brought back home when she headed for the salt water.

Skahan cut and carried wood and kindling.

She once offered to help her grandmother sew. She tried to take tiny, careful, stitches, but her grandmother said they looked like basting stitches, appreciated the help offered, but said she'd do it herself.

"Grandma sewed everything by hand," says Skahan. When she was given a treadle sewing machine, she was afraid to use it.

Skahan attended Elgin school — seven grades with one teacher. "We went to school from 9 o'clock until 4, with an hour for lunch, and two recesses," she says. "It was almost dark when we came home in the winter."

She married Bert Day in 1935. Day was assistant superintendent for the fish hatchery at Minter Creek, and the family lived in one of two identical houses on the hill. When he was promoted to superintendent, they had to move to the other house, a few feet away, much against Helen's objections. She feared her children would fall down the stairs to the hatchery.

Day died suddenly at age 35, and Helen was left with small children, ages 2, 4 and 6.

She shucked and washed oysters. In

the summer, she picked wild blackberries for neighbor Hazel Fenton's pies sold at the Fenton auction. She helped Hazel in the kitchen at the Glenwood dances every Saturday night.

"I hated the waltz and pokey dances. I liked the Varsouvienne and schottische," she said.

She met Elmer Skahan there, and after they married, they built a brush shed on the property. Elmer, Helen's son Verne, and her stepdad all picked brush. She enjoyed doing it, too, but was the one who managed the shed. She bunched the huckleberry or salal, wired, weighed, trimmed stems, put 20 bunches into a bale, and tied it. She wore the tread off the bottom of her boots in about a month, working on the concrete floor. A buyer from Portland picked up 1,000 bunches a week and shipped them to New York.

Today, she tends her large flower garden, and in her "spare time," crochets and knits items to sell at the Port Orchard Saturday Farmers' Market.

Skahan considers moving to a smaller place. "What plants would you take?" ask her daughters. She loves them all, and continues to tend her large garden where she's lived most of her 87 years.



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"The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it." (Ancient Chinese Proverb)

Adventures back in time

Photo and story by Hugh McMillan

A member of the Interactive History Co. who staged a hands-on presentation of medieval armor earlier this summer at the Key Peninsula branch of the Pierce County Library assists 12-year-old Jeremy Schroeder of Lakebay, a Key Peninsula Middle School student, in trying out a medieval helmet.

Jeremy said he was surprised to find out how heavy the helmet really was.

Of the many items of armor displayed and worn by audience members, all were made with tools representative of the period, employing the precise techniques armorers used hundreds of years ago.

Later that day, the show moved to the Gig Harbor branch of the PC Library.



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Obituary

Steven Edwin Strobe

Steven E. Strobe, 51, a Tacoma/Key Peninsula resident most of his life, passed away Aug. 9, 2005. Strobe enjoyed the beach and was an avid motorcycle enthusiast. He was a member of the Pipe Fitters Union, graduated from Curtis High School in 1972 and U.P.S. in 1977.

Strobe was greatly loved by his family and many friends. They will miss his playful spirit and innovative storytelling. Family members include his daughter Katie Strobe of Seattle, mom Gerry Buffalow of California, dad Robert Strobe of Harstene Island, Bob Jr. (brother) and Karen Strobe, Suzanne (sister) and Greg Gabbard, stepsister Cyndee Boren, Estelle (great aunt) & Ben Gilardin, his nieces and nephews, and special pet Chi Chi Rodrigues. He was preceded in death by his son, Kyle Edwin Strobe.

A celebration of life was held at Steilacoom Beach (near marina) on Aug. 17. Remembrances may be made to Key Center Fire Station District 16, 8911 Key Peninsula Highway, KPN Lakebay, WA 98349.

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Historic Longbranch home holds fond memories

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Jean Humphreys lives in a house with more history than many on the Key Peninsula.

Part of it was the first post office at Longbranch. Another was added by rum runners in 1927.

Humphreys has the original title abstract, showing T. J. McKenny obtained the property for a homestead in 1869. She has lived there longer than anyone else.

Although Humphreys feels she is a relative newcomer to the area (1965), she stayed in Vaughn the summer of 1926 when she was 10. The Logans of Dutcher's Cove took Humphreys and her sister in that summer. They rode the ferry to Manchester, where Mr. Logan met them with his horse and buggy.

One of her chores was to clean the kerosene lamps.

Humphreys made friends with a neighbor girl her age, Gerry Freeborn, daughter of the Vaughn storekeeper. She "adopted" a baby crow and kept it in a



Ellen Frost enjoyed having her animals in her front yard. Photo circa 1930s.

Photo courtesy of Jean Humphreys

bird cage. She also had a cat, so Freeborn took the crow, named it and kept it for awhile.

The original post office is now Humphreys' kitchen and dining room. The building was barged in at high tide. Homer Kennedy added a living room and second story, put up a little building behind the house for a still, and constructed a long dock. The buildings were hidden by thick evergreens.

William H. Siebold willed his home on Filicy Bay to nephew Myron Frost. After

moving to Longbranch about 1929, the Frosts put in a large orchard. Humphreys says one of the apple trees, although hollow, still bears delicious fruit.

Myron Frost operated a store, and Humphreys has a book listing some merchandise sales and customer names. Shovel, 45 cents; bucksaw, 35 cents; panel bedstead, \$1.70; single harness, \$11; 2-year heifer and calf, \$36; 22 sheep, \$132; 1 ½ tons hay, \$15. Humphreys says people came from some distance to trade with Frost, who

was known to be an honest man.

Ellen Frost's recipe book is another treasure of Jean's. Some handwritten recipes include Mrs. Lee Oatmeal cookies, Aunt Ella Suet Pudding, and Mexican Stew. Ellen worked to have the Longbranch Church rebuilt after the first church was condemned. The congregation met at the WPA building (now Longbranch Improvement Club). Women sold eggs and other items to raise funds.

Ellen Frost was good friends with Jean's husband, Hugh Humphreys, and his parents. She willed the property to Hugh. She didn't realize she had to have the will notarized to be valid. He had to buy the house at auction.

Jean Humphreys wrote histories of the Longbranch Church and other local places, including tales of Indians from Ellensburg and herring boat occupants shooting at cabin cruisers. But the history she's most familiar with is that of her own home. She never tires of sharing what she knows about that first post office, the rum runners, and other fascinating events about the land and those who have lived there.

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The circle of life:

Franciscan Health System initiative helps terminally ill patients, families

By Irene Torres
KP News

Franciscan Health System West has an end-of-life clinic-based program in Gig Harbor. Key Peninsula resident Georganne Trandum, RN, OCN, is the director and nurse care coordinator of the program. She helps to ensure continuity of care after primary care physicians identify patients with serious and progressive illnesses, talk to them about expectations for the future, and link them to a nurse care coordinator to help them access community services. Trandum troubleshoots various obstacles the patients and families may encounter.

"The program developed as an outreach from the Franciscan Health System Ethics Committee. Most of the ethical dilemmas resulted from ICU end-of-life care," Trandum said. "This happens in ICU when patient wishes are unknown and after aggressive treatments have been started in Emergency Departments. Facing difficult decisions regarding continued intubation, possible surgeries, feeding tubes, or other aggressive care options, we felt we had to learn about patients' and families' advance directive wishes prior to an acute hospital episode."

A Franciscan team including Trandum attended the Institute for Health Care Improvement Collaborative, Improving Care at the End of Life sessions and met nearly every week for a year to discuss their experience and future direction.

"I had been an oncology bone marrow transplant nurse. We needed someone who could be the collaborative leader and actually do the day-to-day work, so I took a leave of absence to assume that role," Trandum said. "I wanted to do it — I was excited to do it. We spent a year in the IHI Collaborative. First, we learned the model for rapid quality improvement, which we implemented. Early on, we decided we would do something at a clinic, rather than in the hospital or hospice. So, over the course of that year, we created a clinic-based program in one pilot clinic and I've been with it ever since."

The purpose of the program was to identify patients who were not receiving quality end-of-life care. "We needed to connect dying patients and their families to the community resources that are underuti-



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Improving Care at the End of Life staff, (l-r) Barbara Waters, department assistant/volunteer coordinator; Georganne Trandum, director; and Stephanie Wells, clinic care manager.

lized, but out there," Trandum said. "We also needed to promote honest conversations with their physicians so that they could have the benefit of quality time with their family. In addition, we needed to inform patients about their hospice benefit so that they could be referred earlier and have the longer time with hospice. Hospice is the gold standard in end-of-life care but typically patients are not referred early enough, resulting in short lengths of stay and crisis management instead of meaningful and comfortable time for life closure."

The program has grown over time, with more physicians referring patients and requesting the service at their clinics. This fall, new programs will be launched to support six clinics in the state. "Currently, clinics in Columbus, Ohio, Little Rock, Arkansas and Nashville, Tennessee are showing interest in the program," said Trandum, who collected enough data to write a 220-page training manual on how to duplicate the program.

"This program is easily replicable in other communities because, No. 1, the concept is quite simple: just two to three people in a clinic reaching out to that clinic's dying patient population," she said.

The program's pilot clinic in Gig Harbor is in a virtually all-white, economically diverse community. A second clinic was opened in a rural setting, and another in the inner city. "The volunteer component

EOL program details

Total EOL patients active in all 10 of the clinics as of July 2005: 854; Gig Harbor clinic, 92.

Total patient contacts* by the EOL program from July '04 to July '05 at the Gig Harbor clinic: 5,054.

*Contacts include nursing, chaplain, volunteer calls checking on patients and assuring community resources are adequate and satisfactory above and beyond usual interaction between a patient and clinic physicians.

For details about Improving Care Through the End of Life, call 858-4380 or visit www.fhshealth.org/services/iceol.asp

values and wishes are," Trandum said. "We really feel that this conversation is key in allowing the patient to verbalize his needs, feel validated and supported."

Staff tries to keep everything as community-based as possible. Each clinic has a volunteer coordinator and volunteers from that community. The volunteers are trained to make phone calls to patients and to be a companion by telephone. "Once they've had hospice volunteer training, they can reach out and go to the home, or go out to coffee with a patient enrolled in the program," Trandum said.

Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Waters said, "The volunteer is our 'ear and eyes' as to how patients are doing and what their needs may be — sometimes our volunteers are the only contact our patients may have for a given length of time. They give unconditional compassion, on their own time, because they care. We are so lucky to have them."

The program requires creative financing. Some clinics pay for the nurse, some for the volunteer coordinator, others for the chaplain — or maybe for two or three of those positions. Most funding is from grants and foundation money.

"I just think with 80 million baby boomers coming through, we will have to find the money for palliative and supportive care for people near the end of life," Trandum said. "With medical technology, people live longer with chronic illness. Patients and families have unmet needs prior to hospice. We need to figure out how to pay for that support when they need it."

One doctor wrote in a satisfaction survey, "EOL has been a wonderful resource for myself as well as my patients. They often have helped to avert problems and help handle patient issues without having to make an often difficult trip to the office."

Trandum says she feels blessed to have a staff of 19 who help patients at risk in a professional and caring manner.

"We are changing the public's perception of the circle of life and our Franciscan Health System holds reverent the full continuum of care — birth through death," she said.

The circle of life, from birth to death, is a focus of the Franciscan Health System. The End-of-Life program is designed to make the last part a little easier.

both at the rural setting and at the pilot program was never a problem; we almost have more volunteers than we need. But in the inner city it has been harder to build an adequate volunteer base," Trandum said.

Services used by the program include senior centers, Meals-On-Wheels, Lifeline, shuttle services, prescription delivery, and safety inspections and others. Issues such as safety can be addressed in the home. Most of the patients live in the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula area.

"We may just do something very simple, but what it does is build some rapport and some trust so that then we can begin talking together, truly, about the end of life, life reviews, spiritual renewal, family connections, and living while dying," Trandum said.

A chaplain is available and patients who are referred to the chaplain may receive home visits or follow-up calls. The chaplain attends advance care planning sessions and may also facilitate a reconnection to a patient's faith, church or synagogue.

Advance care planning sessions with patients and families "is probably the most important part of the program."

"An advance care planning session takes an hour and a half of time for the physician, the family, the end-of-life nurse, and the chaplain... The goal is to discuss the patient's diagnosis, what the expectations are down the road, what treatments are available, and what this patient and family's

Deacon Sylvia Haase enjoys the Key Pen spirit

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Sylvia Haase finds the community of Key Peninsula contains a spirit of sharing and caring, attitudes needed and appreciated in today's world.

Haase taught gifted children English and German for 32 years, including two years in Germany, where she visited relatives and traveled in northern Europe.

She and teacher Virginia Liebergesell pooled resources in 1991 to buy waterfront property in Vaughn, and built a home to replace the cabin. It's large enough for each to have her own space, plus quarters above the garage for Liebergesell's daughters, and room for extended-stay guests.

Haase was raised Lutheran, but attended Episcopalian Annie Wright School her last years of high school. When she retired to Vaughn full time, she "shopped" for a church, and found St. Hugh Episcopal Church in Allyn. The woman priest gave good sermons, both "food for the soul and food for thought," says Haase.



Haase

"My full intent was to be a Sunday consumer," she says with a smile, but that didn't last long.

She became a reader, and in preparation for Sunday readings, studied scripture. The belief of St. Hugh's, as with many churches of today, is a total common ministry — all members are called to be ministers and care for one

another. In a small mission church such as St. Hugh's, some are called to become priests, deacons and preachers for their own congregation.

The Diocese of Olympia lost three of four priests in a short time, and the need for more local priests was realized. The congregation participated in "discernment classes," studying their individual gifts. By the end of the six-week session, Haase was called to be a deacon, and two others were called as priests. They attended a three-year course of weekly meetings, and had papers to write.

She is part of a Circle, meeting twice a month to plan liturgy, classes to offer, and discuss people who need help in the congregation or community. St. Hugh's has five preachers, all licensed, not all clergy. A retired ordained priest preaches every fifth Sunday. This is a church of unpaid volunteers. Haase, the only deacon, commits 10 hours per week to fulfill her duties. These include active participation in the Sunday service, taking Eucharist to the home-bound each week, and bringing notice of local, national and global concerns to her congregation.

"Haase means rabbit or hare, and Sylvia means 'in the woods,' so I guess I'm just a little rabbit in the woods!"

Haase, born into a German community, says to include the "e" when pronouncing her name: "Haase means rabbit or hare, and Sylvia means 'in the woods,' so I guess I'm just a little rabbit in the woods!" Her home, surrounded by trees on three sides, looks across the waters of Case Inlet to a view of the Olympics.

Haase loves the larger community of the Key Peninsula. She serves on the boards of both Two Waters Arts Alliance and the Key Peninsula Civic Center. She likes the attitudes of helping one another — where there is a need, there are offers of help. For example, she plans to replace a former greenhouse, destroyed by falling trees, with a large shed. A friend is organizing a "barn raising" to put it up.

That, says Haase, is typical of the community spirit on the peninsula.

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The Art Barn is center of creative attention

By Jerry Libstaff

Key Pen Highway is the main arterial through our community. Just south of Key Center lies a dark-red building known as The Art Barn, thought by many to be the artistic heart of the Key Peninsula.

Established in the early 1980s by Jim and Pat Blundell, the building originally was home to Pat's passion, The Country Mouse. Pat Blundell filled the building with work tables and designed craft projects she sold to magazines. She also taught tole painting, sold craft materials and paints. The Country Mouse became recognized as a creative center where artists studied with Pat and developed their careers.

When Pat passed away, Jim decided to continue supporting the arts in her memory. In January 2003, Key Pen artist Beverly Pedersen located her art studio



The Genuine
ARTicle



Beverly Pedersen takes a moment to enjoy a summer day outside her studio, The Art Barn.

Photo by Jerry
Libstaff

in the Country Mouse. With help from friends, she added personal touches to the building. With Jim Blundell's blessing, a covered porch and larger windows were incorporated. He encouraged Pedersen when she wanted to fashion a flower garden. Through the work and changes, she maintained much of Pat Blundell's painting and influence. As work progressed, Pedersen's friends talked of working at "The Art Barn," a name that became

synonymous with the building.

The Art Barn is now Pedersen's private studio. Art supplies are no longer for sale; however, Pedersen continues Blundell's path of art education. Pedersen and fellow artist Laura McClintock often open the studio to classes and events.

One of those events, the Open Studio Tour, takes place Sept. 17 and 18. The community is invited to visit the Art Barn, enjoy a display of art created by five well-known artists and purchase items that excite them. The crowd will also be entertained by two fantastic groups performing free concerts during the weekend.

The Open Studio Tour encompasses Gig Harbor, Fox Island and the Key Peninsula. Artists have opened their doors for 12 years so art lovers can experience their work and their environment.

The Art Barn will open for the third year as a destination on the tour. Five artists will offer their work: Beverly Pedersen's silk creations and watercolors, Laura McClintock's watercolor paintings, Karen and Norman Geiger's jewelry, Christopher Mathie's Raku pottery and acrylic paintings, and Chuck Gumper's mixed media work. It is a great opportunity to see these fabulous artists together in one location.

TWAA September classes

Sept. 11, 18 and 25: Plein Air Painting with Kurt Solmssen

Sept. 24, 25 & Oct. 1: Make a Photo/Painting Journal with Robin Peterson

Sept. 11: Beginning Gourd Basics with Kristen Bottiger and Nancy Howard

Open studio details

Now in its 12th year, the Gig Harbor-Fox Island-Key Peninsula Open Studio Tour will be Sept. 17 and 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year 23 professional artists, including two studio locations and eight different artists on the Key Peninsula, will be part of the tour. Robin Peterson will demonstrate the process of developing illustrations, painting on commission, and original paintings at her new Fernwood Studio off Lackey Road. The Art Barn will host work by Laura McClintock, Chuck Gumpert, Christopher Mathie, Karen and Norman Geiger, and Bev Pedersen.

Additional information, including maps to the various studios, may be found at www.gigharboropenstudiotour.org

In addition to visual arts, TWAA will offer two free community concerts at the Art Barn this year. The concerts are open to everyone. The Vicci Martinez Band, a group that's become a national phenomenon, will present an acoustic concert Saturday, Sept. 17, at 1 p.m. Jazz Musette with Lorraine Hart, a local favorite, will perform Sunday, Sept. 18, at 3 p.m.

Details on the Open Studio Tour including directions and artist information is at www.gigharboropenstudiotour.org. To find out about the concerts, call 884-5934; call 884-2149 for questions about the Art Barn.

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Out & About



Photo by Frank Slater

Cutter "Revelation" from Port Orchard spends the night anchored in Vaughn Bay in August. The boat owner said the area was gorgeous.



Above, Julia Moore, 7, a Discovery Elementary student and Nadine Pasin, 7, of Minter Creek Elementary, practice lessons learned in water color painting during the Two Waters Arts Alliance Children's art program in August at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. "I painted a butterfly with a heart," said young Moore and Pasin declared, "I'm painting a room and learning how not to look at the paper (she is painting on)." *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Right, Joshua Curry prepares to shoot an arrow from his home-made bow at Camp Woodworth.

Photo by Colleen Slater



Above, Scott Gallacher, KPMPD director, accepts delivery of a new Kubota Utility Vehicle from Kitsap Farm Garden and Tractor earlier this summer. From left to right, KPMPD's Eric Clement, Scott Gallacher, Jim Nichols from Kitsap Farm Garden & Tractor, and KPMPD Chair Paula DeMoss. *Photo by Frank Slater*: Below, Key Peninsula's Rhythm N Shoes Cloggers, were caught by the Key Pen News camera in August while they practiced outdoors for their upcoming performances at the annual Old Timers' Day festivities. They are showing off a favorite step, "the brush." *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Photo by Hugh McMillan

At its annual Key Peninsula Fire Department fund-raising pancake breakfast and Ashes Ladies Auxiliary rummage sale, Ashes stalwart Shirli' Olson spruces up the organization's display of goodies for sale.