



KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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Time for Romance,
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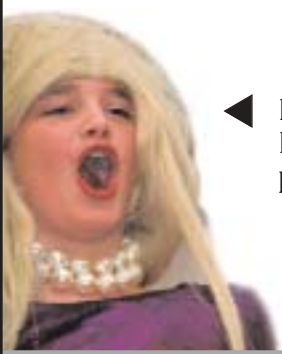
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Sen. Derek Kilmer goes to Olympia

By William C. Dietz, KP News

When the state Legislature reconvened on Jan. 8, the 26th Legislative District's Derek Kilmer reported for duty. Not to the House of Representatives, where he served one term, but to the Senate, where Democrat Kilmer filled the slot vacated by Republican Bob Oke when he chose to retire.

The win was part of what pundits called a "Democratic sweep," as Democrats expanded their majority in Olympia, and Kilmer defeated his Republican rival Jim Hines by an overwhelming margin. An outcome that would seem to suggest that voters preferred Kilmer's focus on issues like economic development, small business, healthcare and education to Hines' promises to limit tax increases, and

impose tougher penalties on sex offenders.

However, while it's likely that issues were critical to the way the race turned out, so was the amount of money that each candidate had to spend. Kilmer, who was on the receiving end of approximately 1,800 donations, raised upwards

(See **KILMER**, Page 24)

Ice canoeing on Vaughn Bay



Photo courtesy Judy Mills

"Panels of ice" on the Mills' beach on Vaughn Bay.

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Mackenzie and Kelson Mills, 8 and 10 respectively, experienced a unique adventure with their parents on Jan. 12, the second day of "a sheet of ice" on Vaughn Bay.

Dad Matthew Mills suggested the outing, and with the kids jumping up and down with excitement, mom Lisa joined in. They paddled out in their

red canoe, and found the ice to be about a quarter-inch thick.

They pushed through the icy covering, and the noise sounded "like at the North Pole," Kelson said. "We had to yell to be able to talk," he said.

"It sounded like metal grinding against metal," Mackenzie added. "When we paddled, the waves went

(See **ICE**, Page 34)

Aquaculture concerns reach legislative level

Editor's note: This article is part of a series examining issues regarding geoduck farming. See related article on page 33. To read previous articles in the series, visit www.keypennews.com.

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The battle for acceptable compromise between the commercial geoduck industry and environmental groups began on a small, local scale last spring. Today, less than a year later, controversy over growing methods, and lack of adequate scientific study to provide a solid ecological footing for this relatively new aquaculture has reached beyond interim regulations sought by Pierce County.

Rep. Pat Lantz of the 26th Legislative District introduced House Bill 1547, "Examining Geoduck Aquaculture Techniques and Practices," on Jan. 19. It proposes to amend existing shellfish regulations in Puget Sound (RCW 79.135.110), calling for a minimum of eight specific studies through the sea grant program at the University of

(See **GEODUCK**, Page 32)

Rescue unit fully equipped

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Key Peninsula Fire Department recently acquired new "Res-Q-Jacks," which, according to Division Chief Chuck West, is the last addition needed to consider "the new rescue vehicle complete and equipped to handle most all emergencies."

Purchased in 2005, the rescue unit carries the "Jaws of Life," which are preplumbed and ready to operate through an onboard "Power Take Off" (PTO) generator. It also carries a breathing-air refill station capable of refilling "Self Contained Breathing Apparatus" (SCBA) for prolonged emergency operations, which means personnel do not need to return to the fire station for refills. The unit also carries equipment for high angle and confined space rescue.

"To fully outfit the rig for the tough job ahead, the new "Res-Q-Jack" can be used to stabilize and lift large objects, such as motor vehicles, on most surfaces and grades," West said. "It is quite versatile and can also be configured as a

tripod to lift patients and objects from confined spaces."

FD-16 Capt. Hal' Wolverton said, "At emergency accident scenes, we often find vehicles that are partially overturned or perilously canted off roadways, which poses problems, endangering firefighters' safety in the process of rescuing entrapped persons. One of the most dangerous such positions is when a vehicle is on its side. The potential for injury to extrication teams is increased due to the unstable nature of the vehicle and terrain."

The "Res-Q-Jack" is a multipurpose vehicle stabilization tool that can be quickly deployed to add stability to an unstable situation. "The tool allows us to provide medical attention to patient needs much more rapidly and with more safety," he said.

The department first purchased four new fire engines and the equipment to outfit them as a result of the fire truck levy's passage three years ago, followed by the rescue unit and miscellaneous equipment.

"We recently purchased a new



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Key Peninsula firefighter/EMT Zach Johnson explains the use of the department's newly acquired Res-Q-Jacks at a recent training session.

command vehicle and are in the process of installing radios and emergency lighting," West said. "The new command unit should be ready in early 2007."

The last of the money made available by the levy, which will expire in 2007, will be used to purchase a much-needed

water tender. The proposed 2,500-gallon tender will replace one of an aging fleet of water tenders purchased in the 1980s, West said.

The district hopes to have the new water tender in operation in the beginning of 2008, when the last of the levy money is collected.

BRIEFS

news

Brookside restaurant sold

The New Brookside Restaurant was bought in January by Steve Skibbs, the owner of two real estate offices in the area. He is joint owner of the Key Center Windermere with Joyce Tovey, who owns the building itself. Tovey declined to comment. Agents at the Key Center real estate office could not confirm rumors the Brookside would be turned into a Windermere office. Skibbs declined to return calls, despite several attempts to reach him for comment. According to his agent, Allison Skibbs, the building's intended use is "several months out."

Herring pens appeal withdrawn

Derwin Hostetler, who has operated herring pens in Mayo Cove, withdrew his appeal to the state Supreme Court, following a series of legal decisions and appeals. "As things stand now, the whole matter is closed," said Mark Luppino, code

enforcement officer for Pierce County.

The withdrawal ends a long-running dispute between Pierce County's Department of Planning and Land Services, and Hostetler (as first reported in KP News in September 2005). The county maintained that Hostetler lacked the permits necessary to operate herring pens that have since been dismantled, while the marina operator claimed to have legal nonconforming rights, which, had they been declared valid, would have enabled the herring pen operation to continue, over objections from some of the local residents.

KPMPD recruiting to fill vacancy

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District is seeking candidates to fill a board seat vacated by Paula DeMoss, who resigned in December. The park district will accept resumes until Feb. 7, at 5 p.m. Commissioners will interview candidates on Feb. 12, during a study session scheduled for 6:30 p.m., and appoint an individual during the regular scheduled meeting that will follow at 7:30 p.m. The appointed commissioner will serve until the next

general election, held in November 2007.

The position is open to all residents of the Key Peninsula. Interested individuals may submit a resume and cover letter to KPMPD, Position #3, P.O. Box 70, Lakebay WA 98349. For information, email scottg@keypeninsulaparks.com, or call 884-9240.

Commissioners meet every second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m., with a study session preceding the meeting at 6:30 p.m. when necessary, at the Volunteer Park annex. The meetings are open to the public.

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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

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

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

Coast Guard buoy to help with patrols

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

During the middle of last December, a U.S. Coast Guard mooring buoy was installed in Filucy Bay. According to Lt. Fred Seaton of the U.S. Coast Guard's 13th District headquarters in Seattle, the buoy was placed to provide a sheltered layover for cutters patrolling Puget Sound waters.

Petty Officer Brian Day, a member of the USCG cutter "Henry Blake," the vessel that placed the buoy, said it is the most-southern mooring tie-off for vessels making the long trip from northern waters down to Olympia. Filucy Bay was chosen specifically because it is a protected body of water, and when used by a Coast Guard vessel, will make it possible for the crew to rest, and resume patrols, maintenance of public aids-to-navigation buoys and markers, or search and rescue operations on a following day without having to return to their port of origin first.

Seaton and Day confirmed the buoy could be used as a tie-up for homeland security purposes, or during law enforce-



Photo courtesy Robin Gould

The U.S. Coast Guard buoy in Filucy Bay is one of nine in the Puget Sound region.

ment operations, although they both also stressed its primary purpose is simply to provide ease of operation for both vessel and crew.

In addition to this one, eight other USCG mooring buoys are currently established in Puget Sound (including two installed after Sept. 11, 2001), and

provide more staying power than an anchor for either the 110-foot, 16 crew member cutters, or the smaller 87-foot, 10-crew member vessels patrolling inland waters. Seaton said the buoy is clearly marked "USCG" and is not a tie-off for public vessels of any kind, at any time.

Citizen of Year deadline extended

Thanks to a parade of windstorms, power outages, snow storms, etc. the Key Peninsula Lions Club, sponsors of the annual Citizen of the Year banquet, has extended the nomination deadline to Feb. 6. Nominees should either live, work, or own property on the Key Peninsula. Nominators should provide the name, telephone number, mailing address, and a brief statement describing the volunteer activity or activities of the nominee whether for a single accomplishment or for prolonged contributions to the welfare of the KP community.

The event will take place on March 10, at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn. Keynote speaker will be Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck. Dinner will be prepared by Blondie's restaurant.

Nomination letters should be sent to: KP Citizens of the Year 2006, P.O. Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to Pat Medveckus at Patricia.Medveckus@Ferguson.com, or to Hugh McMillan at hmcnp1000@cablespeed.com. For more information, call 884-3319.

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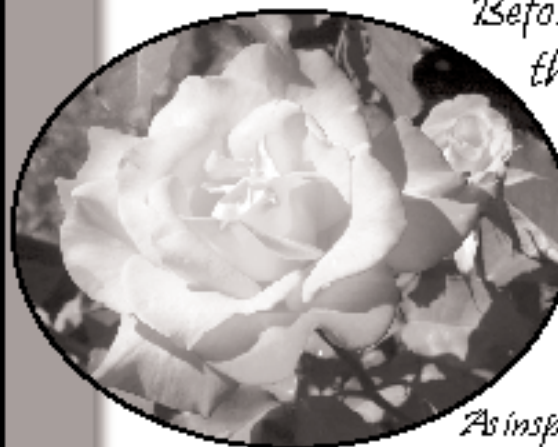
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EDITORIAL

Survey to help with park district's growing pains

In the nearly three years since its inception, the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District has faced criticism for slow progress with regard to park improvements, projects, and operations. Yet behind the scenes, the park district has been taking steps toward an improved management system.

The first step was to hire a professional director. A great deal of credit goes to the dedicated community members who managed the parks as volunteers for many years — however, it is tough to grow an organization solely with volunteer labor. Once the district became better organized, and commissioners were able to turn the day to day operations over to staff, more steps followed.

In the last two years, KPMPD added new recreational programs, both for youth and adults. Much-needed repairs and deserved maintenance were addressed at Volunteer Park, and according to Director Scott Gallacher, many of those projects are completed.

Now, with some of the immediate priorities addressed, the park district is moving toward the next step. In order to grow, and decide on priorities, the commissioners request public input on future direction. Do you want to see the 360-acre park acquired, or do you think resources should be used on programs instead? Do you want more boat launches or more playgrounds? Should the district acquire new parks, or focus its efforts on improving existing facilities? And would you support paying for any of these efforts with property tax — considering that the KPMPD currently does not collect any, yet it is entitled to do so without a public vote.

These and other questions are addressed in a survey the commissioners will use to create a comprehensive plan. This document will be used as a blueprint to shape the future of its parks.”

The survey, printed in this issue of the KP News, can be dropped off at indicated locations, or filled out at www.KeyPeninsulaParks.com. Having a good park system is a key aspect of a livable community, impacting everyone, whether you are enjoying your retirement on the Key Pen, or raising children here. Don't miss this opportunity to help shape the future.

What did you learn in the windstorm?

Mind you, this was an inconvenience, not a disaster. What if it had been a disaster?

By Jo Anne Gray, PEP-C
Special to KP News

After the December storm, I read that stores ran out of things and restaurants ran out of food. Motels were full and restaurants in operation were swamped. You can't count on supplies being there.

Gas ran out. Good reason to drive on the top half of your tank. What if roads were such that new supplies could not be delivered or you could not get out?

When your water supply depends on power, what did you do? The fire districts offered free water but people managed to fill up their containers where there was water. This time. Note that PEP-C (Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee) sells used, food-grade, 55-gallon drums for emergency water storage for \$25 (call 265-8510).

One person used the RV for water, but even figuring five gallons per person per day, it was too little. Another person said their well manager put a generator on their system. Since all our water on the peninsula comes from wells, somebody somewhere is pumping and pressurizing



it. Find out who and what the plan is.

Those of you who had no phones, did you have a family plan in place? Did your cell phones work? Consider renewing your family communication plan.

Local information in emergency is from KGHP FM at 89.3, 89.9 or 104.5.

Our neighborhood pretty well helped each other and guys with chainsaws cleared the roads. We must be responsible for ourselves.

I learned that for wandering and working with things, a small flashlight hanging from my neck by an elastic cord works well. I can see where I'm going and what I'm doing without holding it. A headlamp also works well. I learned that, while batteries keep for seven years in a cool, dry place, the air in my garage is too damp. A whole package of batteries rusted. I will have to keep them in plastic bags.

I learned that a double boiler or pie pan over water works well for not burning things and an inverted one keeps them warm (missing the microwave). And that

we have way less wood than we thought. We wheeled garbage cans full up to the closest door.

If you don't have a wood stove, you can radiate heat into a room by inverting a clay flowerpot over whatever you are cooking on (with ventilation).

We were pretty comfortable heat, light and cooking-wise but needed to find a solution for refrigeration. Nice that it was winter and cold outside, but if we hadn't had a place to move our frozen food, we would have lost it. Keeping food is a problem. Even when you plan to use the refrigerator stuff first and don't open the freezer door, things thaw after a while. One resident shared that she froze pans of water outside and put them in the "ice box."

OK, now, y'all get back out there and replace the supplies you used up and the ones you didn't have. Write to PEP-C and tell us how you managed and what you will do differently next time. Check the PEP-C Website (www.pep-c.org) for replies and ideas.

Jo Anne Gray is a Gig Harbor resident and coordinator for PEP-C. Preparedness is an act of love. Prepare because you care. PEP-C may be contacted at P.O. Box 1217, Gig Harbor WA 98335, by phone at 253-265-8510 or via email to prepare@pep-c.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Article needs additional credit

It was great to see Keith Stiles get at least some of the credit he richly deserves for the myriad ways he has served this community. But many of her friends were puzzled that there was no mention of his wife, Lee, who died just about two years ago. It was Lee's participation in many organizations on the Key Peninsula that helped feed Keith's delightful column in the KP News and she was his photographer for any of his columns or articles. Lee was a faithful participant at KGHP radio station along with Keith and was his partner or assistant in many of his projects. She, too, would not easily acknowledge the credit she deserves, but she does deserve it.

Mary Krumbein
Vaughn

Good Samaritan helps after accident

Early in the morning on Jan. 20 the Whittemore family of Palmer Lake slid into serious problems on the unexpected icy roads. Molly and her daughters went into the ditch and against the hill at the Home Port Restaurant. An "angel of mercy" stopped to help, put the girls into her car in a safe location and helped Molly until the emergency vehicles arrived. The family wishes to express their deep gratitude to this unknown woman who helped them during this traumatic time.

Linda Anderson
Lakebay

County crew response gets kudos

During the January icy roads conditions, I had to drive to and back from work to Lakewood from 88th Street, bottom of Longbranch up to Purdy and around to the VA hospital in Lakewood,

a 98-mile round trip. We saw a lot of secondary and primary roads in Tacoma and Lakewood in terrible shape. During the trip home, when we got off at the Purdy exit, the whole situation changed. It was almost like a normal road. The ride became much safer and saner, and anxiety level went to normal commute level. It was just amazing, how clean the Key Peninsula Highway was compared to other roads!

Carl Foutz and his crew at the county's Public Works Purdy shop did an outstanding job.

Phillip Ingram
Longbranch

Dinner organizers thank Civic Center, volunteers

We want to send a note of thanks to the Key Peninsula Civic Center board for allowing us once again the use of the Civic Center on Christmas Day to entertain a

(See LETTERS, Page 5)

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on this page and present these views for public information only.

Aquaculture and agriculture: Natural necessities

By Rick Sorrels, Special to KP News

When vocal citizen groups push their elected officials for changes, sometimes the government loses its proper perspective, making decisions that it lives to regret.

Vancouver B.C., which is laid out similar to the Seattle/Tacoma corridor, boxed in by mountains and the sea, had well established, thriving industries and commercial activities supporting a large region. Citizens got tired of the noise, smell, traffic, and congestion that accompanies these businesses, and pushed for change emphasizing residences and parks. Subsequent changes resulted in loss of jobs, loss of products available for consumption, and a huge loss in tax revenue. They still haven't fully recovered from earlier bad choices.

Similarities exist with Tacoma and Gig Harbor. Downtown Tacoma had a very pronounced industrial base, which is now being replaced with condos, museums, colleges, promenades and other nontax generating activities. Gig Harbor had a thriving fishing fleet, which is gradually disappearing because the necessary infra-

structure no longer exists.

Agricultural land and products are beneficial uses that governments need to preserve. Should any of a large number of potential disasters befall us, locally produced food products will become a godsend. Production and distribution of excess food products provide employment opportunities and tax revenue, help our "balance of trade" and support governmental goals and programs. The United States, with Washington state a major contributor, has been long known as the "breadbasket of the world." We not only feed ourselves, but also the hungry everywhere. Agriculture needs to be a protected resource.

Washington law requires that agriculture be protected and promoted. Agriculture takes many forms: apples on trees, berries on bushes, wheat in open fields, corn in plowed fields, cranberries in bogs, onions below ground, etc. Aquaculture fish farms, clams, oysters, and many others is considered to be "a branch of the agricultural industry," with all of the securities and protections provided thereto (RCW 15.85.010). Some of the oldest laws passed

just after Washington attained statehood were specifically designed to promote and protect the commercial shellfish industry. Those laws and philosophies are still in effect.

Commercial food production is often times not very attractive to subdivision residents adjoining farmlands. Odors come from manure, fertilizers, and pesticides. Vermin and other pests love to cavort and feed amongst the crops. Tractors, cultivators, and harvesters all make noise. Freshly plowed fields just don't look as pleasant as a natural forest. Legislators pursuing the popular vote sometimes listen too closely to complaining neighbors while failing to recognize the state mandate to support and protect our agricultural industry.

Currently, on the peninsulas, some shoreline residents have become quite vocal about geoduck harvesting. They complain of noise, the unattractiveness of somebody else's private property, "debris" left on somebody else's private property, and interference with their ability to trespass upon somebody else's property. These neighbors fail to recognize they are dealing with "somebody else's property"

that is being used in a manner fully consistent with state statutes, goals, directives, and regulations.

State law, as currently written, has little sympathy for property owners neighboring aquacultural enterprises. Geoduck beds are treated like plowed fields with water on top. Ecological concerns for protected species have developed over the past couple decades that are not adequately addressed by existing state regulations governing geoduck harvesting practices. Changes need to be addressed in the state Legislature. Rep. Pat Lantz is pursuing research funds to investigate "best science" to identify needed changes. Sen. Derek Kilmer is involved on the Senate side.

Most Washington counties do not have a shoreline or any geoduck industry. Let's hope that the legislators recognize that agriculture (which includes aquaculture) is of paramount importance for the entire state. Research results should stimulate discussion and changes to our state's basic fundamental philosophy regarding agriculture and its important stepchild, aquaculture.

Rick Sorrels lives in Glen Cove.

(From LETTERS, Page 4)

crowd of senior citizens with a party and dinner. The whole experience of the occasion takes on a special meaning when you see the faces of the guests light up with sincere appreciation. So many of our guests come to join us year after year and look forward to the invitation with great anticipation.

We are very grateful to the Civic Center for giving us access to the facility for over 25 years. It would be difficult to pull it all together without this great donation from the board. We wanted to attract more residents from our immediate community, but the response wasn't there. Those local people who did join us insisted that they really enjoyed themselves but didn't understand why there weren't more local faces there. They were glad not to have to travel a great distance.

The volunteers who helped us came from far and near. It is great to have all their able and willing participation. Loyd Miller was drafted to be Santa and did an outstanding job. We're hoping to get his services for next year, too. The smiles and thank you from parting guests make us ready to plan for another Christmas.

*Mike and Joyce Salatino
Wauna*

KPMPD highlights accomplishments

By Scott Gallacher, executive director

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District was busy over the two years. The following is a list of some of the 2006 accomplishments:

- Completed renovation and successful operation of concession stand at Volunteer Park (\$ 30,000)
- Renovated three infields at Volunteer Park (\$7,000)
- Coordinated the construction of retaining wall at Volunteer Park by Key Peninsula Lion Club members with an excess of 180 volunteer hours (\$5,000)
- Created conceptual master plan of 360 (Horseshoe Lake) property (\$4,975)
- Successfully prepared application for Lu Winsor Grant
- Coordinated "Parks Appreciation Day" for Purdy Spit, Rocky Creek, and Home Park on which volunteers donated over 100 hours
- Coordinated with Key Peninsula Little League for over 150 volunteer hours at Volunteer Park
- Coordinated two outdoor movie nights

- Coordinated a variety of athletic programs and camps including indoor soccer skill clinics, cheer camp, basketball camp, Skyhawks Sports soccer and mini-hawk camps, two adult softball tournaments for 14 teams, adult summer co-ed softball league for eight teams, and more

- Coordinated the removal and installation of playground equipment and surfacing as part of senior project with Peninsula High School student (\$2,200)

- Coordinated the design, creation and installation of 18 trail marker signs at Rocky Creek as part of Lu Winsor Grant and Peninsula High School Senior project (\$900)

- Funded November '05 general election costs for elected officials (\$4,000)

- Purchased office equipment including computer, software, copy/fax/scanner, and digital camera (\$3,000).

2005 accomplishments included:

- Purchased security gates for Volunteer Park (\$5,100)

- Hired executive director in March
- Purchased Kubota Utility Vehicle (\$12,500)

- Purchased Toro Rotary mower from Pierce County surplus (\$6,500)

- Painted concession stand and Volunteer Park annex buildings

- Coordinated well and water system work (\$1,550)

- Purchased infield conditioner mix, Turface (\$7,100)

- Coordinated with Key Peninsula Little League for over 150 volunteer hours at Volunteer Park

- Coordinated variety of athletic programs including indoor soccer skill clinics, Pepsi Pitch Hit Run contest for youth baseball, adult summer co-ed softball league for eight teams, adult fall co-ed softball league for five teams

- Purchased variety of light fixtures for Volunteer Park (\$1,200)

- Funded September primary election costs for elected officials (\$7,400)

- Coordinated phase 1 of retaining wall project as part of Eagle Scout project

- Created Web site.

Hospital design approved

By KP News staff

The city of Gig Harbor Design Review Board in January recommended the approval of St. Anthony Hospital, with some revisions. A public hearing was scheduled for Jan. 24, with a final decision by the Gig Harbor hearing examiner expected in February.

Officials with Franciscan Health Systems, the developer of the facility, said construction is planned to start as soon as June 2007. A groundbreaking ceremony is expected in late April or early May.

"With a planned opening in early 2009, the vision for St. Anthony Hospital and its lifesaving medical services is becoming a reality," said Joe Wilczek, president and chief executive officer for Franciscan.

The 217,000-square-foot hospital will include design elements inspired by Gig

Harbor's maritime heritage. The hospital is named after St. Anthony of Padua, the patron saint of sailors and fishermen.

The plans include an outdoor water feature and healing garden, along with a cafeteria, a nearby medical office building, parking for 700 vehicles, and free wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi). The large construction crane has been reserved and orders are being placed with manufacturers for steel beams that will be used in construction, Franciscan said.

The hospital will include a 24-hour emergency department as well as inpatient and outpatient surgery, diagnostic imaging, physical, speech and occupational therapies, and a heart catheterization and vascular unit for heart-attack patients and those suffering life-threatening problems in their veins or arteries. The project is estimated to cost \$150 million.



Illustration courtesy FHS

This drawing shows the front of St. Anthony Hospital, which will be located in Gig Harbor North. The emergency department entrance is visible to the right. The hospital will be easily accessible from Canterwood Boulevard.

BRIEFS

news

KP News elects new officers

The Key Peninsula News Publishing Board held officer elections at its regularly scheduled January meeting. The Publishing Board is the KP News governing body, comprised of three representatives from the newspaper's volunteer staff, and two representatives from the executive committee of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, which owns the nonprofit newspaper.

The board members are as follows: Irene Torres, president (KP News); Frank Slater, vice president (KP News); Bill Dietz, secretary (KP News); Ed Taylor, treasurer (KPCCA); and Bruce Macdonald, member at large (KPCCA). Macdonald joined the board in January, replacing Loyd Miller, who was a publishing board member since 2005. Executive editor Rodika Tollefson serves as an ex-officio, nonvoting board member. The Board of Directors acts as the publisher of the Key Peninsula News, and may be reached by calling 884-4699.

Fundraiser to benefit injured resident

Wauna resident Mike Salatino and his friends are planning a benefit spaghetti dinner and dance for Phil Radcliffe, a

local business owner who was seriously injured in a mill saw accident on Dec. 2. At press time, Radcliffe was still in the burn care unit at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

"Phil Radcliffe is a consummate volunteer," Salatino said. "At times, he may be a bit reluctant... but for over 25 years, he has never turned me down when a project needed his expertise. Whether it was a Civic Center project like the drain field back in the '80s, or the major land clearing jobs at Volunteer Park, I could count on Phil to pitch in and do his share."

The dinner will be held Saturday, Feb. 24, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Admission is \$7.50/person at the door or \$7/person prepaid (tickets available at LuLu's restaurant and Sunnycrest Nursery). Organizers are seeking volunteers to help prepare the spaghetti dinner, as well as donations.

Jerry Miller and the Ruston-a-Way band, which include three Key Pen residents, will volunteer their talents to entertain the audience starting at 7 p.m. Tickets for the concert are \$15/person or \$25/couple, available only at the door.

For information, call Mike Salatino at 851-4556.

Lee elected county chair

Pierce County Council members in January elected Councilman Terry Lee to succeed Councilman Shawn Bunney as Pierce County Council chair.

Lee represents District 7, which includes both sides of the Narrows

Bridge: the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas, Fox Island, University Place and Fircrest.

Most recently the council's vice chair, Lee was first elected to the council in 2002 and was sworn in for his second term on Jan. 8. "We've got a busy year ahead of us and a good budget to guide us, so I look forward to getting started," he said.

Bunney, who represents District 1, will take over as executive pro tem.

Civic Center elects new officers

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association recently elected Ben Thompson as its new president. Other

KPCCA executive board members include: Loyd Miller, first vice president; Bruce Macdonald, second vice president; Sylvia Haase and Kathleen Degginger, secretaries; Ed Taylor, treasurer; and at-large members Pam Libstaff and Tom Howard.

The KPCCA invites any interested community member to become part of the board, or to volunteer for one of many Civic Center fundraisers and events. For information, call the nonprofit organization at 884-3456.



LEE



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SR-302 study on the horizon this summer

By Rick Sorrels, Special to KP News

Although formal studies on a new highway through the Key Peninsula will start in a few months, an actual highway is years away, according to Washington State Department of Transportation engineer Pasco Bakotich.

Bakotich, the licensed engineer in charge of all pre-construction responsibilities for WSDOT road projects in this

region, spoke at the monthly Key Peninsula Business Association meeting held on Jan. 19 at Blondie's in Key Center.

"(State Route) 302 will not, cannot accommodate growth," he told those in attendance. "Growth will happen, it cannot be stopped."

He said funds will be available in July "to start the formal studies to determine the best location" for a new highway.

"The environmental document will take two and a half to three years to complete," he said. "The environmental process will determine the solution."

The starting point for WSDOT will be a 1993 feasibility study that identified a number of options, which ranged from not doing any mitigation to building a new highway.

"Something has to be done," Bakotich said. "SR-302 is a dangerous road. It's windy, curvy, and not designed for the demands currently placed upon it. Environmental and cost factors make it impossible to upgrade SR-302 to four lanes at its existing loca-

More SR-302 meetings

The Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor League of Women Voters Unit has also been meeting with WSDOT as well as county officials regarding State Route 302. The unit is looking into the issue of the highway traffic flow and congestion, including previous studies and potential solutions. The next Unit meeting is Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Visitor and Volunteer Center, 3125 Judson Street in Gig Harbor (see the Community Works section for more details on the meeting).

tion. Growth is booming on the Key Peninsula. We plan for 10 additional trips per day for each new residence constructed." Bakotich said a new location will be very challenging. "Environmental regulations make it extremely difficult, if not impossible to cross the Burley Lagoon at another location, or even to widen the existing road and bridge

across the (Purdy) spit," he said. "But studies show that relocating SR-302 north at either Pine Road or Burley-Olalla Road would severely discourage use by Key Peninsula residents, the vast majority of which turn south when they reach (State Route) 16. Relocation that far north would do little to fix the existing problems." Maps provided by Bakotich identified options under consideration for the relocation of that portion of SR-302 located west of 118th Avenue would use either 144th Street (Powerline Road) or a continuation of Pine Road (in Kitsap County). "Both options have their own particular problems that will be a challenge to overcome," Bakotich said.

"Construction for a new SR-302 is still many years away. As an interim help, design money has already been funded for widening shoulders and adding turn lanes for portions of SR-302 between 94th Avenue and the Burley Lagoon," he said. Design work will be done in 2009, with construction during the summer months of 2012 and 2013.

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FD-16 STATS



A mini-van ended up in Glen Cove when the driver became distracted and missed the sharp turn near Camp Seymour on Cramer Road. The two uninjured occupants swam to shore before rescuers arrived. The van sunk and was later removed by the Pierce County Sheriff's dive team.

Photo by Kristen Pierce

Nov. 29 — Key Peninsula Fire Dept water rescue team responded with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to a report of a seal that was tangled in a stray fishing net in Henderson Bay. The net was retrieved and no loss of marine life had occurred.

Dec. 4 — A head-on collision with injuries was reported on SR-302 at the Purdy Spit. Fire District 5 and 16 units responded and found the roadway partially blocked; however, no injuries were reported by the parties involved.

Dec. 13 — Fire and EMS crews responded to 22 calls for assistance during the windstorm. Most of the calls were as a result of lines down and trees across the road from the windstorm, and one call involved a barge being pushed into the Purdy bridge. Another call involved a tree against a house on 137th St NW area; no one was injured.

Dec. 15 — Firefighters remained active throughout the day responding to calls for assistance during the aftermath of the storm. Several calls for smoke in residences with no significant damage reported and at least one call for possible carbon monoxide exposure. Firefighters responded to one shed fire that was caused by a generator exhaust too close to the wood

December total calls: 254

Medical aid: 111
Fires: 25
Burn complaints: 13
Vehicle crashes: 18
Weather related: 73
Other: 14
Mutual aid from GHFD: 10

siding. Fire crews responded to 47 weather related events between the evening of Dec. 14 and the morning of Dec. 16.

Dec. 17 — The Key Peninsula Fire Department responded to a chimney fire in the Wauna area. The fire had occurred due to a lack of cleaning of the chimney that had a significant amount of soot buildup.

Dec. 26 — Paramedics responded to a Palmer Lake residence for a report of a rash. Medics have responded to repeated 9-1-1 calls over several months to the residence; however, the patient refuses to be transported.

Dec. 31 — Medic crews responded to a 1-year-old girl who accidentally ingested some Benadryl ointment and baby oil while she was playing. Poison control was contacted and confirmed that there was no need for further care; she was left with her parents.



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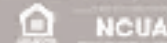
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Citizen committee sets toll recommendations

An interview with Lakebay's Sonja Morgan

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The Tacoma Narrows Bridge Citizens Advisory Committee forwarded its list of 15 recommendations regarding the toll to the Washington State Transportation Commission in January. Comprised of nine citizens appointed by Gov. Christine Gregoire, the commission has met for the past few months to discuss the toll rates, potential discounts, and other issues.



MORGAN

The CAC recommended setting the initial toll at \$3 per vehicle for cash payments, and \$1.75 for commuters who pay electronically via the Good to Go! electronic collection system. The commission recommended no other discounts to any groups, "in part because of the difficulty of identifying those persons within a group and assuring that there was no abuse to the system, in part because of favoring one worthy group to the expense of another worthy group and in part because of the administrative cost in administering such discounts or exemptions," according to the recommendations.

Sen. Derek Kilmer led a group of legislators representing Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula, Tacoma and South Kitsap areas in asking Gregoire to include a \$10 million appropriation in her proposed budget to "buy down" the tolls for the period when the existing bridge is closed for retrofitting. In the event of the

appropriation, the CAC recommended leaving the cash toll at \$3 and discounting the electronic toll collection fee to \$1. (To read the complete list of recommendations, as well as Kilmer's letter to Gregoire, visit www.keypennews.com.)

According to Janet Matkin, spokeswoman with the Washington State Department of Transportation, the transportation commissioners agreed in principle with the recommendations but will take a closer look at the proposed toll amounts. The commission has not set a timeline on the final decision, but the WSDOT planned to open its Good to Go! customer service center in the spring, at which time it's expected that the toll rate should be known.

The Citizens Advisory Committee will remain in place for the life of the toll, and will meet regularly to evaluate toll collection/bond payment data.

The Key Peninsula News met with Sonja Morgan, a 27-year-old Lakebay resident who was appointed to the CAC, to ask her about her experience. Born and raised on the Key Pen, Morgan returned to live on the Key Peninsula after a few years away. She currently works for the state House of Representatives Office of Program Research in Olympia as a session clerk.

Key Peninsula News: Why did you want to be involved with the tolls committee?

Sonja Morgan: I've always been interested in the bridge and wanted to make sure the Key Peninsula community was considered as part of the bridge users, so I applied. I'm the youngest person on the committee.

KPN: How would you describe your experience on the CAC?

SM: I was very happy to be on the committee. I think we looked at a lot of

For more information on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and the tolls, visit www.tacomannarrowsbridge.com.

different issues concerning tolls and financial scenarios. I feel like we've covered a lot but I also feel we could have met more to discuss issues more in-depth. In my opinion, we were rushed to get a recommendation out, but I feel we've accomplished a lot.

KPN: What kind of issues did you examine?

SM: Some issues we looked at were toll rates, discounts, time of day pricing, per axle charge, building up of reserve funds, capacity of the tolling facility and electronic toll collection, user friendliness, marketing of the Good to Go! program and early retirement of the bond debt.

We looked at discounts, and came to the conclusion that it's difficult to implement a discount when you have electronic tolling and cash tolling. We came to the realization pretty quickly that in order for traffic to not get congested, there needs to be a certain percentage of electronic toll collection, but to have a discount verified, you'd have to go through the toll booth, and we didn't want that to become a traffic issue. And we didn't want to favor one group over another. (Discounts) was a big question — it was a fairness issue, and we were especially concerned about those who use the bridge frequently.

KPN: What was the most challenging part for the group, in your view?

SM: I think it was a great challenge to be charged with the task of working out a toll rate that we felt was fair based on projected figures of toll revenue and concrete figures of bond debts. There were a lot of unknowns ... (such as) the effect the tolls will have on bridge use... and differing opinions on what traffic flow will look like after the tolls are implemented.

KPN: How did you arrive at the final toll figures?

SM: We looked at data provided by the Department of Transportation that the consultant calculated, and some members of the committee calculated their own numbers as well. We tried different scenarios: \$2, \$4...

KPN: Are you satisfied with the recommendations?

SM: I think that the 15 recommendations we decided on do cover a lot of

ground, from toll rates for the Narrows Bridge to larger statewide issues of a \$10 million buy-down and future tolling projects. I would have liked to see the 15 items be filled out more in-depth, however, including more discussion of how we arrived at these decisions. I personally feel as if we were pressed for time, with a Jan. 16 deadline, and I consistently encouraged the group to meet more often.

KPN: What was the most difficult part for you?

SM: The most difficult part of the process, for me, was where to start, how to initiate group dialogue on the difficult issues. This is also the part I like best about being on the committee — times when we discuss different perspectives and present creative ideas. I feel very strongly about having this be an ongoing thorough process where everybody's voice is heard.

KPN: What else do you think is important for the public to know regarding the committee's decisions?

SM: It is important to remember that the CAC continues to be in existence as long as there are tolls on the bridge. It is written into legislation that we must be consulted on any proposed changes to tolls. We have requested that the DOT provide the CAC with monthly reports outlining the actual toll revenue, operational expenses and traffic flow that occur once the new bridge is open and tolls are implemented. We will be looking at this information, along with public input, to respond to the functionality of Washington state's only current tolling project. The Citizens Advisory Committee can be contacted through email on the DOT Website. Although, at this point, we do not know if the Transportation Commission will adopt the recommendations made by the CAC, I urge bridge users to review them and provide feedback to the committee.

CORRECTION

A story on the Key Center Massage co-op in January incorrectly credited massage therapist Christy Campbell with clinical volunteering in Honduras and midwifery and incorrectly misspelled the name of Timothy Oaks. We apologize for the errors.

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'Green' playground planned at Vaughn Elementary

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

When the Vaughn Elementary School PTA board wanted to find a way to get a new playground system installed for the students, Lisa (Dervaes) Mills volunteered to chair the playground committee. Mills and her husband, Matthew, were students at the school in the mid-1970s, and both had great-great grandparents who settled on the Key Peninsula. The couple's two children are now Vaughn students.

A teacher in the Port Orchard school system, Mills is keenly aware of the differences in the playgrounds at Vaughn, and some of the other schools. "We felt there was a real lack," she says. "We're trying hard to get a good playground system in. The kids sure deserve it."

Joining Mills in this effort is PTA board Treasurer Tina (Selfors) Self. She was also a Vaughn Elementary student in the '70s, a few years after Mills. Self's daughter is a fourth-grader at Vaughn, and her son, a Vaughn graduate, is now in sixth grade at Key Peninsula Middle School.

Mills and Self first set out to discover what kind of playground the children would choose for themselves. In May 2006, they posted big sheets of paper at the

More information

Inquiries about the playground structure or fund can be sent to vaughnptatreasurer@yahoo.com.

school and encouraged students to draw what they wanted; they talked with kids and got teacher input. Then they shopped for a "green" playground that was environmentally-friendly and met state standards for wheelchair access.

"(The new system) is 100 percent U.S. made of recycled steel and structural plastic, and the wood chips to be used are also recycled," Self says.

The playground area will include benches and tables for socializing, paths, and places for visitors of all ages to relax and enjoy the outdoors. The anticipated price tag is between \$50,000 and \$60,000. As soon as the school district completes required drainage, playground construction for Phase I can begin.

So far, the committee has raised about \$28,000. Last May, they held the first Vaughn Elementary PTA auction, their primary fundraiser. They will hold another one this May, and hope Vaughn

Elementary parents and the entire community will participate, turning a grand playground desire into a delightful reality.

Self sent out a request for donations to 2,100 businesses in the Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor community "on Dec. 14, the day of the storm," with scant response. Still, she is determined to find a way to build the entire playground system. With no grant or matching funds, the committee is reliant upon the goodwill and commitment of the community to help build it. Her donation letter read, in part, "A letter of gratitude listing everyone who donated will be sent to the Vaughn student body. We want to make sure people who donate are recognized for their generosity and involvement in their community." Additionally, for several levels of giving (beginning at \$100), a plaque will be engraved with the donor's name and mounted in the general playground area.

The new playground may or may not be fully complete before Self's daughter leaves the school after fifth grade. "I've got a two-year term (as treasurer)," she says, "This (playground system) is something I'm going to be involved with until it's completed."



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Parents Tina Self and Lisa Mills (middle left to right) pose with their children, fifth-grader Kelson Mills (back), fourth-grader Josie Self (front left) and third-grader MacKenzie Mills on the same slide they played on as kids at Vaughn Elementary School. The new playground will be placed in the grassy area seen behind the slide, near the same area where the old school building sat. For "old times' sake," the kids are wearing shirts from their parents' era when the school's mascot was "The Vaughn Varmints."



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PHS students publish award-winning newspaper

By Kristie Byrd, KP News

The Peninsula Outlook, Peninsula High School's student newspaper, is a consistent award winner. Most recently, the newspaper won its sixth Pacemaker award, considered the "Pulitzer Prize of student journalism" by the National Scholastic Press Association.

The Outlook is "setting the standards high," according to news editor, Taylor Buck.

When asked what judges look for in a newspaper competition, adviser Derek Smith said they look for stories that are appealing, entertaining, and informative. The Pacemaker awards are given by the National Scholastic Press Association, with judges considering such criteria as coverage, content, writing and photography, design, in-depth reporting and others.

"We have a lot to live up to, but we are definitely capable," Taylor said. "We are learning to get things done quicker."

An issue of the paper comes out once every three weeks. The Outlook is a class and a student-run club. Some staff members aren't in class but show up on

the weekends.

"Everything you do matters, and you're ultimately responsible," Taylor said about the students' roles.

The students have a sense of ownership and pride, therefore they are motivated to do a good job. "The class is structured hierarchically, meaning positions of power that students have to earn. They keep each other in line and also make sure to show concern for the well-being of others," Smith said.

The administrators are also supportive of student journalism, and many parents are willing to help out with time and money, according to Smith. He said that most importantly, The Outlook has reporters who are willing to work hard, write ethically, design artistically, and think critically.

"I'm really lucky and fortunate to be able to work with a group of teens who are amusing, insightful, quick-witted, savvy, colorful, and every day, I look forward to teaching that class and interacting with them," Smith said.

The newspaper received the new Pacemaker in November, while also placing ninth for best of show, and third



The staff of The Peninsula Outlook illustrate the creative chaos that floats around the classroom as the staff works late at night to wrap the paper. Front row, newspaper adviser Derek Smith and co-editor-in-chief Cassandra Kapp. Co-editor-in-chief Caity Carter is in the back row, far left corner, with managing editor Patrick Renie to her right.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

for best of show, special edition.

"It shows that all our hard work has paid off," co-editor-in-chief Cassandra Kapp said. "We are a serious newspaper with serious students and we want to prove it."

Other awards won by the students

include first-class honor rating, and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Crown award, the most prestigious honor by the CSPA.

Kristie Byrd is a Peninsula High School freshman.



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Glenda McQueen knows mops, treasures moppets

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

On the advent of her birthday in 2006, the head custodian at Evergreen Elementary School had literally shared one-half of her life with the Peninsula School District. Glenda McQueen has logged 26 years of keeping peninsula schools, from grade schools to the high school, clean and maintained for students, faculty, staff and visitors. That doesn't mean she gets any special perks — her office shares space with mops, a washer and dryer, a computer, and various cleaning/maintenance related items.

McQueen is a woman whose 4-foot, 10-inch stature does not tower over a child, and she "likes kids smaller than me," she says. So when she arrived at Evergreen Elementary four years ago, it felt just



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Glenda McQueen with her student helpers, fourth grader Nicky Ngo (Urfer), and third graders Kaila Jacobson and Mary Stevens.

right. "I knew this was home as soon as I came here," she says.

McQueen originally wanted to be a kindergarten teacher; the career path she follows has given her many opportunities to spend time with children, and teach them valuable things. About two

years ago, one quiet student asked if he could help her during recess. She didn't see any reason why not, and so McQueen's "Helpers" were created. Every Monday morning she posts a sign on her door, with time slots for four helpers. Children who have written permission from their parents may sign up for two slots that week.

During their special time with McQueen as her "Helper," the children wear a special "on duty" badge. McQueen and Evergreen Principal Jacque Crisman both sign certificates naming each child as an "Official Custodial Helper." McQueen enjoys having these temporary helpers, and takes pride in "teaching them about safety, health, cleanliness, and the buddy system." She says, "I think it teaches them to be responsible."

The kids like the program, too. One student, now in middle school, stopped by her office one day while waiting for

his parents to pick up his little sister, now a student at Evergreen. "I wish I could come back and help you," he told her.

McQueen, whose day at school begins at 6:30 a.m., does much more than sweep, mop, empty trash cans and clean bathrooms. She assists with fire and earthquake drills, monitors the breakfast and lunch lines, and greets the children when they arrive in the morning with hugs and smiles. For two years, McQueen has also been a volunteer reading mentor through the Communities in Schools after-school program for first and second graders.

"Their minds are so open, like little sponges, taking in everything," she says.

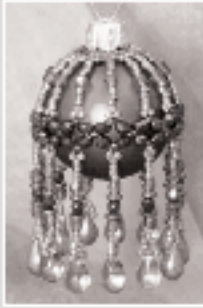
Her energies and devotion are not lost on Crisman, who says, "We appreciate everything she does for us — the way she interacts with the children. Glenda is always there for the children."

When she's not working, McQueen enjoys gardening, handicrafts, and reading fiction. Still, her career has been more than just a job. In 1992, she met her future husband when she joined the custodial staff of Gig Harbor High School, where he is now the head custodian.

Even on a shopping trip to Target, McQueen can be called upon to do what she does best. "It's probably a little disturbing to the parent to see their young child run up to a stranger for a hug," she says with a laugh. "But once I introduce myself, it's OK." She gets a kick out of the small cries of surprise often heard while she's out shopping or even driving around, because the kids believe she lives at school. Just recently, one youngster spotted her in a parking lot. "Look, Mom!" the child said, pointing with delight. "It's Mrs. McQueen, and she's got a car!"

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Michael Sly (right), Jasmine Paxton and Chelcia Martin (below), some of the play's hilarious characters.

Photos courtesy Madison LaRose and Jessica Kahler



Hilarious student performance entertains KPMS audience

By Erica Ma, Special to KP News

"Lights!"

The lights flickered on, throwing the lavishly dressed cast in the scene of a luxuriant dining room into spotlights.

"Camera!"

Everyone took a deep breath, readying themselves for the big performance.

"Annnnd action!"

Immediately the action began, and "Asa Buckcannon," a wealthy 65-year-old CEO of Buckcannon Industries, proposed a toast to his equally wealthy (though somewhat dim) family and friends.

"To good friends and relatives!" Asa exclaimed.

"To good friends and relatives!" the family toasted.

"To a great year!" Asa exuberantly shouted.

"To a great year!" the family toasted.

"To Buckcannon Industries!" Asa called enthusiastically.

"To Buckcannon Industries!" the family toasted.

"I don't feel so good," Asa said and paused, looking slightly pale.

"I don't feel so good!" the family toasted.

"No, I'm serious!" Asa moaned, less energetically now.

"No, I'm serious!" the family toasted.

"I think I've been poisoned," Asa choked.

"I think I've been poisoned!" the family toasted.

"I'm dying, you idiots!" Asa bemoaned.

"I'm dying, you idiots!" the family toasted.

After a few moments of overdramatic staggering and stumbling, Asa fell down dead, his last words being, "I'm dead!"

"Asa Buckcannon" is 13-year-old Michael Sly, who portrayed this character with humor and wit in Key Peninsula Middle School's latest play, "Days of our Nights." With an additional twist, he also played Casa, Asa's identical twin sister. With an outrageous wig and an even more absurd dress, Casa is literally Asa in drag. "It seemed interesting to play the role of a 'manly' woman," Sly said.

The play, staged for KPMS students as well as the community in January,

told the tale of a befuddled group of ridiculously rich people celebrating New Year on a yacht, as Asa Buckcannon, the "head honcho" of the family, suddenly dies from poison. More murders soon follow, and the already foolish family is thrown into utter chaos and confusion. Just when things couldn't get worse, Asa's somewhat inept bodyguard, detective Palumbo, shows up on the scene, ready to solve the case. Much to his dismay, the family scoffs at him, suspicious of his minimal detective skills.

With a cast of Phoebe Buckcannon, the tyrannical mother of Asa; Gena, who has a chip implanted into her brain, which makes her extremely bipolar; Greta, the long-lost relative who was raised in the jungle; and of course, spoiled, gun-happy Sami Brady, this show couldn't get any funnier.

After an incident with the lead actor in the performance, Lennon Chalk, a ninth grader at Peninsula High School, was asked to fill in the lead. He eagerly agreed, and set out to study the character of Palumbo. Another ninth grader, Nick Markman, filled in for another actor in the play. Lennon and Nick are excellent actors, and have performed in previous Key Peninsula plays. Despite the limited time, they did an outstanding job of memorizing the lines, and performed wonderfully, making "Days of Our Nights" one of the most memorable plays KPMS has seen.

When asked about the play afterwards, the cast unanimously agreed it was a huge success, eliciting uproarious laughter from the audience. Actor Tara Miller said, "It made them laugh a lot. I'm just glad they didn't throw vegetables at us."

The teacher of the advanced drama class, Jason McWhirter, highly praised the talent and perseverance the class has shown. Although weather conditions cancelled nearly all their dress rehearsals, the students were unhindered and worked hard, bringing an outstanding play to the school.

"Despite the weather problems and cast problems, this class did an amazing job, and I was proud to be a part of the production," McWhirter said proudly.

Erica Ma is a Key Peninsula Middle School eighth-grade student.

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Mingling business with community service: The KPBA offers networking, ways to give back to community

By Irene Torres, KP News

If the turnout for the installation of officers is any indication of support, Jud Morris, incoming president of the Key Peninsula Business Association, may have an easy term.

The dining room at Blondie's was full to capacity when Morris and other officers were initiated at the KPBA's annual meeting on Jan. 22. Everyone was "there to support Jud," many said as they were introduced. His staff from the KP Family Resource Center office attended. Also represented were new startup businesses, some that recently moved to the KP, and others that have been serving the peninsula 25 years like Sunnycrest Nursery, or 35 years like the Home Feed and Grocery Store.

The KPBA has about 80 members, including not only businesses but also nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and individuals.

Outgoing President Bek Ashby said in an interview, "The KPBA provides an opportunity to meet community members and business owners and to serve and be part of the community."

Ashby, who works for Belfair-based North Bay Mortgage, believes it is important to her company to be part of the community where it does business, including the Key Pen. "The KPBA provides that avenue," she said.

KPBA's community involvement

Outgoing President Bek Ashby outlined the activities benefiting the community: The KPBA is one of the organizing groups for the Key Peninsula Fair. "This is a great service to the community, with much time and energy spent by members," she said.

The KPBA sponsors a Little League team and gives two \$500 scholarships each spring to two graduating Key Peninsula seniors. The organization had adopted a portion of the Key Peninsula Highway near Home for litter pickup, and members clean the roadside four times a year. It also sponsors a full-page ad, listing members' names, each year for the Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa's schedule, and provides refreshments at the tree lighting.

For more information call Jud Morris at 884-5433.

KPBA details

The monthly KPBA luncheon meeting, held the third Friday of each month at Blondie's Bar and Grill, features guest speakers covering topics relevant to business activity or Key Peninsula issues. February speaker will be the Pierce County sheriff and the Pierce County auditor will speak in March.

Breakfast meetings are held the first Friday each month at LuLu's HomePort, at 7:30 a.m.

Morris has been the director of the nonprofit Key Peninsula Family Resource Center/Children's Home Society for one year. He told the KP News, "KPBA's election of a nonprofit agency person as president reflects the business association's view that all organizations provide services and resources. We all serve the same people in the community, whether we refer to them as customers, consumers, or clients."

He feels his election demonstrates KPBA's willingness to consider different possibilities and new opportunities, as well as its history, which includes being involved in many community events.

"I believe the KPBA has a solid foundation to support growth and development of services and resources for Key Peninsula residents, and at the same time develop strategies to attract people who do not live on the Key Peninsula to Key Peninsula businesses," he said. "One of KPBA's strengths is how members support each other." He plans to build on that strength.

KPBA provides various benefits to its members, ranging from networking opportunities to visibility. Members are listed in the organization's marketing brochure and on its Website, www.kpba.org, which also provides a link to members' sites.

Fire District 16 Capt. Chuck West said, "It seems that you see the same faces at the KPBA that you see elsewhere making this community a great place either as a member or presenting to the group... And we get to be part of an organization that provides a vital boost to the spirit of this community. They are a great association for the KP, doing great things."

One of those "same faces" is that of Ruth Bramhall. She has been a member of the KPBA for at least 10 years. She said, "I am always selling (raffle tickets etc.), and I enjoy the meetings, working with everyone, and offering suggestions... They



Photo by Frank Slater

KPBA officers installed at the meeting, l-r, Todd Rosenbach and Barbara Heard, sharing secretary responsibilities; Carrie Ellis, treasurer; Jud Morris, president; and Claudia Loy, vice president. Terry Lee seen in foreground.

depend on me to help... The breakfast and lunch meetings are a good place for established businesses to meet. It gets them acquainted with other businesses from the Purdy Spit to Taylor Bay."

At the installation ceremony, Ashby acknowledged Bramhall's dedication to the community, saying, "Ruth knew the

name of every single person who attended tonight."

Ashby said the KPBA is a dynamic group of people. "The interest and focus of the KPBA tends to take on the personality of its active members," she said. "The KPBA is willing to be what the membership wants it to be."

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School District to provide no cost early childhood programs

Starting with the 2007-08 school year, Peninsula School District will offer all-day kindergarten at no charge to all district families. The new program will replace the half-day and all-day tuition-based classes available until the end of this school year. It is part of the district's commitment to provide early childhood intervention programs at no cost to everyone.

PSD originally launched a pilot program in 2003-04 to offer tuition-free all-day kindergarten to low-income families. Numerous studies have shown that early education has positive impact on academic success during later school years. All-day kindergarten classes allow teachers to spend more time on teaching basic academic and social skills while maintaining an environment focused on educational art games and other age-appropriate activities.

"The program will provide a comprehensive, all-day kindergarten for all students, allowing them more time to learn skills, and also provides additional learning opportunities for students who didn't attend a pre-school program," says Student Services Executive Director Dr. Sarah Drinkwater.

Students will be allowed to attend half-day in the morning, for families



Holly Keene (center), all day kindergarten student at Vaughn Elementary School, with her fifth-grade reading buddies, Lularae Lingetelder and Courtney Flafno, during their weekly 'buddy reading.'

who believe it's the best option for their children. "The parents are the lead decision makers in their children's education," Drinkwater says. Transportation, however, will not be available at noon for the families who choose that option. Successful implementation of all-day kindergarten classes district-wide requires changes in a variety of district operations, including food services, professional development and transportation, as well as the hiring

of additional teachers.

In implementing the new program, the school district is on the leading edge of education. All-day K is a major topic in education across the country, and Washington state's Early Learning Initiative is currently examining the issue.

"There is real support behind early intervention services," Drinkwater says. "It's an exciting opportunity, and the community is interested in supporting it."

February Events

- 7 Commencement Bay Jazz Fest at PHS auditorium. 7:00 p.m.
- 15 School Board Regular Session 6:30 p.m. at Artondale Elementary
- 19-23 No School – President's Break

Kindergarten Registration for 2007-08 begins with a Saturday Registration Kick-Off!

February 10
from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
at each of our 8 elementary schools.

Registration will continue during the week of February 12th-16th from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at each elementary school office, and continues through the last day of the 2006-7 school year on June 22nd.

Did you know...

NEW FACILITIES USE WEBSITE NOW AVAILABLE

Jeremy Bubnick, director of Community Facility Use and Aquatics, has worked closely with Barbara Kase, PSD Webmaster, to fine-tune a facilities use website now available at www.facilities.psd401.net. Everyone's invited to visit the site to view our buildings, fields, pools, and meeting spaces for consideration when planning an event.

At a glance...

POOL RENTALS - GHHS and PHS pools are available to reserve for private parties on Saturdays and Sundays. All reservations must be made in person at the pool office. Most reservations are made one to two weeks in advance, so please plan ahead.

NEW LAP SWIM - Effective January 2007 GHHS Pool Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 5:00 - 7:00 a.m. (whole pool); for more pool information visit www.pools@psd401.net.



Members of a PSD delegation pose with Chinese school administrators in front of Jinan No. 1 High School in Jinan, China.



PHS Principal Grant Hosford and PSD Board Member Jill Johnson participate in a tree planting ceremony on the campus of Jinan No. 1 High School, commemorating the sister school agreement between this prestigious Chinese high school and Peninsula High.

COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to news@keypennews.com • Deadline 17th of the month

Feb. 1 — Fuchsia Club

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society begins another year of special events, educational programs, and garden tours. Meetings are the first Thursday evening of each month. The first program of the year will cover the things to do now to get you and your fuchsias ready for another great gardening year.

Thursday, Feb 1, 7 p.m. Key Center Library; Candy, 884-9744.

Feb. 2 – Mustard Seed Project

The Mustard Seed Project, focused on the development of an elder-friendly Key Peninsula, has scheduled four community task group meetings for February. Residents of the Key Peninsula and current and potential service providers who want to gather information, review possibilities and create options for “aging in place” are urged to attend these meetings.

Senior Information and Referral Group - Friday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m.

Transportation and Mobility for Elders Group - Friday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m.

Elder Health and Wellness-related Services Group - Thursday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m.

Housing Options for Aging in Place Group - Friday, Feb. 23, 10 a.m.

Brones Room, Key Center Library; 884-3920 or ediemorgan@themustardseed-project.org

Feb. 3 – “The Whale Rider” at library

“The Whale Rider,” a movie rated PG-13, will be shown at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Key Center Library, 884-2242.

Feb. 3- Little League clinic and late registration

The Key Peninsula Little League is having a players’ clinic and late registration on Feb. 3 at Volunteer Park. The KPLL will also hold tryouts on Feb. 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Volunteer Park. The season will begin on March 24.

www.eteamz.com/keypeninsulalittle-league, 253-677-2743

Feb. 3 – Contra dance

Joe Michaels, an experienced caller from Seattle, will lead the Contra dance, and the Lakebay Rollers will return with their delightful fiddling to begin the season at LIC. The Contra dances, walking in time to live music assisted by a caller who does walk-throughs and prompts, will be held on the first Saturday each month through April and also in October and November. A workshop is presented at 7:30 p.m. to teach the basics and welcome newcomers. The dance follows from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 at the door with a maximum of \$25 per family. This is a smoke-free, no-alcohol event in which folks of all ages can get together for an evening of good fun.

Saturday, Feb. 3, 7:30-11 p.m., Longbranch Improvement Club; Tricia, 884-7830.

Feb. 8 — League of Women Voters meeting

The discussion topic at the next Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Unit of the League of Women Voters will be the unit’s transportation study of traffic flow and congestion on State Road 302. Due to the storm, the December meeting on this topic was cancelled. This is the vital highway serving Key Peninsula and connecting SR-16 and the region with the land routes to the west. The unit will begin by reviewing past studies by the state Department of Transportation and the transportation section of the proposed Key Peninsula Community Plan in Pierce County. It will lay plans for being informed of the upcoming 2007 environmental impact study of the SR-302 problems by the WSDOT. The League encourages women and men from the Key, Gig Harbor, and Kitsap Peninsula region to join and participate in discussion of the topic.

Thursday, Feb. 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Gig Harbor Visitor and Volunteer Center, 3125 Judson St., Gig Harbor (across Judson from the Post Office); Liz Lathrop, 851-2210, or Mary Mazur, 884-1061

Feb. 8 – American Roots music at the library

The Friends of the Key Center Library

presents “American Roots Music: A Sonic Adventure of Continental Proportions,” a free lecture by ethnomusicologist Brian Pertl. Drawing from our country’s rich cultural history, he will demonstrate how important early styles and forms of music nurtured and shaped contemporary music like modern blues and rock. Pertl has been a teacher at the University of Washington and lecturer for Humanities Washington’s Inquiring Mind series for many years, covering topics including American popular music, African American music, Anglo-American music as well as aboriginal music of Australia and sacred music of Tibet.

Thursday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m., free, Key Center Library; 884-2242

Feb. 8 – Bible class begins

Lakebay Christian Assembly is sponsoring a presentation of the video series “Growing Kids God’s Way,” a class/discussion group on parenting from a Biblical perspective. Meetings will be weekly from February through June. (The time will be determined soon.) Call to register soon so supplies can be ordered.

Thursdays, Feb-June, Lakebay Christian Assembly; Michael or Sharron Dean, 884-9948

Feb. 9 – Foreign film at library

The Japanese foreign film “Shall We Dance” will be shown at the Key Center Library at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening, 884-2242

Feb. 9 – Regional blood drive

The Cascade Regional Blood Services will be at Peninsula High School, 14015 Purdy Drive NW, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 1-877-24-BLOOD for other dates and locations.

Feb. 10 – Mt. Everest climber speaks

Dan Mazur, a well-known mountain climbing expedition leader, will be a guest speaker at the Longbranch

Improvement Club. He has 27 years of experience and is perhaps best known as the Summit Club climber who rescued Lincoln Hall, who’d been left for dead, on Mt. Everest. Mazur leads treks to Nepal several times a year. Admission is \$5/adult and \$2/school age.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30), Longbranch Improvement Club; Carolyn, 884-9157 or c.wiley@gte.net

Feb. 10 – Skating fundraiser

The Key Peninsula Civic Center will host a special Saturday Skate Night to raise funds for a new lighting system.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 6-9 p.m. \$5/person

Feb. 11- Habitat for Humanity application meeting

Habitat for Humanity, Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Chapter, will conduct two application meetings to consider applicants for a Habitat home to families on the Key Peninsula.

The meetings will be held at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. and on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.

Families who live in substandard living conditions, who have low incomes, and who demonstrate a desire and ability to partner with Habitat and live and work in Pierce County are selected. The household income of these families needs to fall between 25 percent and 50 percent of the median income in Pierce County (\$16,775 to \$33,550 for a family of five). Selected families are required to put in 500 hours of “sweat equity” to build their home and the homes of other selected families.

Bring copies, not originals, of the following documents for all family members: birth certificates or immigration documents, Social Security cards, 2004 and 2005 federal tax returns for all wage earners (including W-2s), W-2s for 2006, proof of all household income for the past 12 months, rent receipt or lease agreements, documentation for all debts (include total balance and monthly payments), insurance statements, utility statements, and it is suggested you bring a free credit report (a free credit report per year can be obtained by visiting

www.credireport.com or calling 1-877-322-8228).

Sunday, Feb. 11 and 25, 2 p.m., Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Rd KPN, Lakebay; Orval, 857-4873

Feb. 15 — KP Senior Society

The Key Peninsula Senior Society will celebrate Valentine's Day with a lasagna feast/potluck. Come and join the group at noon for food, laughter and card games.

Thursday, Feb 15, noon, Key Peninsula Civic Center, Vaughn; 884-5052 or 884-4981

Feb. 16 — Peace activists speak out

The Key Peacemakers will host a panel of speakers from regional peace groups who will share information of the history and mission of their groups, their personal involvement, and upcoming projects. The representatives and groups are: Sallie Shawl from Peace, Justice, and Healing and United for Peace Pierce County; Laura and Tom Karlin from the Tacoma Catholic Worker; and folks from the Gig Harbor Women in Black. Some of these people have been involved in social justice and peacemaking for many years.

Friday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; Dory Myers, 884-9299

Feb. 21 – Community Council meeting and location changed

The KP Community Council's regular meeting for February has been pushed back a week due to Valentine's Day and moved to a new location.

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m., Vaughn Fire Station 5 (Wright-Bliss and SR-302); Lance, 884-5667

March – Teen holds another fundraiser

Katrina English, eighth-grade student at Key Peninsula Middle School, will hold another fundraiser, a dinner/auction to help earn her tuition cost for her People to People Student Ambassador trip to Europe this summer. She has earned \$1,300 toward the \$6,000 tuition. Katrina's January fundraiser at Roundtable Pizza in Tacoma brought in 10 supporters, and the family wishes to thank all the contributors, sponsors and donors.

Saturday, March 3, 5 p.m., Lake Holiday Clubhouse; \$10/person or \$30/family of 4; 225-5519, englishm@comcast.net

March 3 crab feed canceled

The Second Annual Civic Center Crab

Feed was canceled due to the shortage of crab this year causing a high increase in crab prices. The event was planned as a fundraiser for the center.

Ongoing — TOPS meetings

Members of TOPS chapter Wa #1019, Vaughn report that they lost 250 pounds in 2006 as a group. Donna Kopp had the best results, with 38 pounds down. Overall, 25 members had good results for the year. If you are looking for support and would like to join the chapter, they meet every Monday evening at the fire station at Wright-Bliss Road and SR-302. Cost is \$24 to join and \$5 monthly dues; no food products are sold.

Weigh-in, 6 p.m.; meetings end at 8 p.m.; 884-4102

Ongoing — Teen Coffee House

The Teen Coffee House, for youth in grades 9 to 12, is open every Friday night from 7 to 11 p.m. at McColley Hall.

Fridays, 7-11 p.m., McColley Hall, 4213 Lackey Rd, Lakebay; Lynda 253-849-6629

Goodwill station in Wauna

A new Goodwill donation station opened in January by the Chevron gas

station in Wauna. The station had been located at the Pierce Transit Kimball Drive Park & Ride in Gig Harbor.

The donation site will be open seven days a week, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Local residents are also welcome to drop off donations at the Gig Harbor Goodwill store, 4805 Point Fosdick Drive in Gig Harbor. Residents are reminded to bring donations only during the hours the donation station is open.

To check what gently used items Goodwill accepts, visit www.tacomagoodwill.org and click on "Donate." For more information about the new site, contact Elaine Brabham at 573-1333 ext. 305.

Last year, there were 91,200 drop-off visits to Goodwill donation stations on the Peninsula. Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula residents contributed nearly 5 million pounds of clothing and household goods in support of Goodwill's mission.

Get involved Volunteer corner

SAVE Thrift Store is seeking volunteers to work at the store. Add your name to the line-up of seniors, parents of school-age children, and other community volunteers who enjoy working at the store once or twice a month, once or twice a week, or more, as they desire. Volunteers need no prior retail experience; all training is done onsite for tasks such as sorting donations, pricing, hanging clothes, displaying merchandise and cashiering. Profits support the scholarship program and activity groups at Peninsula High School. Call 857-2800 or drop by the store on Purdy Lane just below Peninsula High School.

The **Key Peninsula Civic Center board** needs new members to infuse new ideas, energy and enthusiasm. The board meets monthly on the second Thursday at 7 p.m. The board oversees the use, rental, maintenance, upkeep, finances and expenditures of the Civic Center, home to the Children's Home Society, two churches, the Key Peninsula Museum, Key Peninsula News, and other organizations. Bring your ideas and expertise to the next meeting in the Whitmore Room at the Civic Center on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. Contact Ben at 857-5075, Phil at 884-9172, or Gena at 884-3456.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Phyllis Whittington

California lost a dynamo when Phyllis Whittington and her husband moved to Port Orchard in 1991 to care for an aged parent. It didn't take long for the family to discover the Key Peninsula.

Whittington has two children, ages 9 and 11, in Vaughn Elementary School. She has served as PTA president, and has held other school volunteer parent positions. She laughingly says as a teenager she watched Harper Valley PTA on TV and couldn't wait to have her own family and be involved in their lives. A few years ago, she began "Family Fun Night" at Vaughn Elementary, a free monthly event at school combining dinner and enter-



WHITTINGTON

tainment, a way for parents to be involved with their children's educational experience. She credits a grant from the Angel Guild for launching that successful program. Whittington says the principal began seeing parents at those functions he'd not seen participate before. "It's a comfortable introduction to the school," she says.

This year she is working with the "Magnificent Milers Club" at midday Monday and Friday recess. These are students who run laps at recess. Whittington started out running with them until one day she realized she was running on a broken ankle. She still has a few weeks remaining as a spectator, not that it's slowed down her other volunteer activities.

Monday and Friday afternoons she volunteers in her children's classrooms, and this year is involved with a new program at the school: "Hands-on-Art." "I'm so excited about this," she

says. "The program is one day per month, and each month is a new art experience."

Outside of her school activities, with the help of a friend, Whittington began a small holiday outreach campaign. For several years now, she has chosen two or three families "who need some extra cheer through the holidays," and the two women prepare holiday offerings of goodwill and comfort.

Whittington and her husband, Steve, began a small tile and stone business in their garage in 1993. Today it has grown to two retail shops. Whittington balances her time between volunteer activities, the family business, and fishing — her primary hobby.

"I do lots of things because I want to," she says. "Not because someone says I have to. I think that's what makes a great volunteer."

— Chris Fitzgerald

Moreland's sale puts Guinn in driver's seat

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The new owner of Moreland and Sons Auto Repair, Jim Guinn, took ownership on Nov. 20, after having successfully negotiated a purchase from Eric and Manuella Moreland.

The Morelands initially had no inkling they would be selling last year. Eric Moreland thought they would "go three to five years more" before beginning to look for a buyer who shared their commitment to service for their rural community.

"The only way I would sell it is if (the purchaser) would have the same values as I put into it," he says. "It's still my name on the building. We (wanted to be sure) customers would be given consistent, trustworthy service..."

After running the business for nine years, Moreland says the hardest part is what to do next. He loves cars, the automotive business, and concedes he took the business home with him. "It's hard to walk away from customers," he says. He's taking some time off to spend with his three teenage boys, and to plan his next step. Manuella has been recruited by the school

district to be a bus driver.

Guinn comes from an automotive family background, born and raised in Seattle. For 27 years his father owned an auto parts store where he worked summers, learning about the field, and rebuilding alternators. He went to heavy-duty mechanic's school, worked as a mechanic for five years, then returned to run a family machine shop. Eventually, Seattle became too big for Guinn and his family. A small town when he was a boy, Seattle had become "too hustle and bustle — no community atmosphere," he says. The family sold both the machine shop and their Seattle home and moved to Olalla.

For two years he worked for Baxter Auto Parts and observed 105 auto shops. He asked himself, "What was business like for the auto repair industry?" In September 2005, armed with his answers, he began the search for his own auto-repair shop, an established business that was well-run and profitable. Guinn expected he may have to commute some distance to find such a shop — the family was settled and they were not moving again.

A chance phone call to Moreland and



Jim Guinn, the new owner/operator of Moreland and Sons Auto Service, together with auto mechanic Jay Geier, takes a look under the hood of a vehicle.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Sons in July 2006 was "nothing short of incredible." "A shop of this size, doing the volume they do, is the proverbial 'needle in the haystack,'" he says. And here it was almost right in his own back yard.

"Nothing has changed on the service end," he says. Nearly all the original staff remains on board. Tony Andresen, the son of the original owner when the shop was Black Forest Auto Repair, has been hired, joining Casey Hawke, Craig McKean and Jay Geier. Kevin Balshuesman, service writer, still meets customers at the counter.

Guinn plans to remodel the waiting room, and may eventually add additional bays and enlarge the auto holding area. He's thinking of holding a contest in a few months to invite the community to help them find a new name.

"Nobody likes change," Guinn concedes, and is "90 percent sure" he wants residents' input on that decision. "We put everything we had into the business," he says. "We want to give the entire community a huge 'thank you' during the transition."

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Gina Earl is surrounded by all sorts of treasurers at her new store, Moon on the Meadow.

Photo by
Mindi LaRose

'Moon on the Meadow' a dream come true

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Gina Earl loves antiques, and during all her years living in Tacoma, she collected them. She is also a potter accomplished in hand-built vessels and unusual finishes. Eventually her passions outgrew her home, and after dreaming of owning a shop for a decade, one day she just made a leap.

"If I don't sell my house (in Tacoma) and get going, it will never happen," she told herself. At the same time, while still working as a grant writer for the MultiCare Health System, she began to look for the perfect spot for her new life.

Earl found it in Burley, just next to the Burley Grocery Store. Friends she's known for 30 years who now live on the Burley Lagoon, Bob Christel and Dewayne Grimes, had been looking at the building as a potential restaurant, decided against that, and mentioned it to Earl.

The building, zoned neighborhood commercial, had been many things in its life, beginning as a gas station in 1935; Earl couldn't wait to transform it once again. She was still working in Tacoma when she first converted the garage into an espresso stand, a transition phase that would eventually become the shop she held in her imagination for so many years. Then she became seriously ill, had heart surgery and her dream seemed far beyond reach, both economically and physically.

Christel and Grimes stepped forward, purchased the property from her, then rented it back to her. "We are comfortable being 'hands on' owners," Grimes said. "This has been Gina's dream for a long time, and we want her to envision it as she sees it evolving. She's creating a stir among people who know her."

They see their decision as a way to help preserve the location, and note that Gig

"Moon on the Meadow" is located at 14938 Bethel-Burley Road, and has generous open hours.

Harbor North is "creeping this way." Although this round-about way of establishing "Moon on the Meadow" definitely is unusual, they all agree it has been an interesting chapter in their long friendship.

Earl's shop, and the house she lives in next door with her two dogs and two cats, is painted bright yellow; both have red roofs, and the cheerful buildings can be seen from state Route 16. Volunteers help Earl with tasks she cannot yet do; that does not mean her enthusiasm for this new life has diminished. "I've never lived in the country before," she says. "This little Burley area — it's been here forever and I couldn't ask for better neighbors. I feel like I'm actually part of a community."

The shop is a cozy 750 or so square feet, and features a main antique/art salon and a doll room. An eclectic mix of Victorian furniture, Hummels and Franklin Mint collector plates greets visitors, along with art deco pieces and "One Hot Bag" one-of-a-kind purses. Earl plans to attend auctions to augment her stock of antiques and collectibles, and to bring in more local art. She also accepts artwork on consignment, and tries to make it affordable for artists to show their work. She has featured collaborative pastels by Ric Hall and Ron Schmitt, watercolors by Donna Fredenburg, and her own Raku pottery.

At the back of the shop, behind a door, is a small pottery kiln room. Earl accepts one or two students at a time who are interested in learning how to hand-build with clay; they work right in the shop, among the antiques, overseen by her Yorkie, Cinnamon.

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District (KPMPD) requests your help in developing its Comprehensive plan for future parks use and expansion. KPMPD owns/manages 3 parks. (1) The Key Peninsula Sports Complex and Fairgrounds (Volunteer Park) next to Key Peninsula Middle School, (2) Home Park in Home, and (3) Rocky Creek Conservation Area next to the entrance of Lake Holiday at 150th Ave. KPMPD is funded only by Zoo/Trek sales tax and User Fees, which amounts to about \$160,000 annually. **CURRENTLY NO PROPERTY TAX IS COLLECTED FROM KEY PENINSULA RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT THE PARK DISTRICT.**

Your response to this survey will help determine what parks and services will be available over the next 20 years. Please, limit your response to one per household.

1. Please indicate the frequency that your household uses the KPMPD park facilities: **MARK ONE**

- Once per week
- Once per month
- 2 or 3 times per month
- Once per year
- Never
- Other _____

2. What changes would **INCREASE** your household's use of park facilities: **MARK AS MANY AS APPLY**

- Improvements to existing parks
- Additional activities at existing parks
- Develop additional parks
- Additional youth activities
- Additional adult activities
- Better bus service
- My Family Does Not Use Parks
- Other _____

3. Please identify specific improvements you would like to see at:

Volunteer Park: _____
 Home Park: _____
 Rocky Creek: _____

4. Which statement best describes your position on the future of KPMPD parks/facilities: **MARK ONE**

- ___ Expand the number of parks and facilities and acquire more land while available.
- ___ Improve existing parks and facilities, but do not create any new parks
- ___ Maintain existing parks without any expansion.
- ___ Close existing parks and facilities.

5. If you support expansion of parks and facilities, indicate what expansion should occur. **MARK AS MANY AS APPLY**

- A.** Acquire 360 acre parcel along SR hwy 302 (at no cost)
- B.** Acquire 360 acre parcel along SR hwy 302 (purchase if necessary)
- C.** Acquire park and conservation land while still available
- D.** Acquire/improve boat launches
- E.** Develop camp grounds
- F.** Develop base ball fields
- G.** Develop walking, hiking, bicycle, equestrian trails
- H.** Children playgrounds
- I.** Picnic areas
- J.** Swimming pool
- K.** Develop soccer fields
- L.** Recreation Center/Gym
- M.** Event Center/Fair Grounds
- N.** Water access
- O.** Tennis courts
- P.** Basketball courts
- Q.** Skate Park
- R.** Other: _____

6. Please select the three (3) items in question #5 which are most important to you and your household.

_____ First _____ Second _____ Third

7. What type of Activities/programs would you like see developed by KPMPD? **MARK AS MANY AS APPLY**

- A.** Preschool Programs
- B.** Youth Programs
- C.** Adult Programs
- D.** Senior Programs
- E.** Health & Fitness Programs
- F.** Sports Camps/Clinics
- G.** Day Trips (ball games, culture events)
- H.** Special Interest Programs (class room)
- I.** Equestrian (Horse) Activities
- J.** Nature outings
- K.** Cooperative Programs with other agencies
- L.** Informational Newsletters
- M.** Outdoor Cultural Activities (movies, concerts)
- N.** Environmental Education
- O.** Other _____

8. Please select the three (3) activities/programs in question #7 which are most important to you and your household

_____ First _____ Second _____ Third

9. Which statement best describes your position on funding for KPMPD parks, facilities and programs: **MARK ONE**

- I support a nominal property tax for parks.
- I support charging user fees for persons/organizations using the parks
- I support a combination of property tax and/or user fees for parks
- I do not support any tax levy to support parks.

10. If you support a property tax for parks, what amount do you support: **MARK ONE**

- I support a property tax of 75 cents per \$1,000 evaluation, (approximately \$ 6 per month for a \$100,000 home)
- I support a property tax of 35 cents per \$1,000 evaluation, (approximately \$ 3 per month for a \$100,000 home)

11. Which statement best describes your confidence in the KPMPD Board of Commissioners: **MARK ONE**

- ___ The elected Commissioners should make all decisions regarding parks without polling the voters for their opinion. That is why they were elected.
- ___ The elected Commissioners should survey the voters and residents for their opinions before deciding important issues like tax levies.

The next set of questions is strictly for categorizing **YOUR RESPONSES.**

- 12. In which zip code do you reside?
 98395 98329 98349 98351 98394 OTHER _____
- 13. Counting yourself, how many are in your household? _____
- 14. What are the ages of all household members? _____

Please submit your response in any of the following ways:

- Log on at www.KeyPeninsulaParks.com
- Mail to: PO BOX 70, Lakebay WA 98349
- Drop Box at: Volunteer Park
- Key Center --Fire District 16 Headquarters
- Key Center - Capital Lumber
- Home - Lulu's Home Port Restaurant
- Lake Kathryn Village—Cost Less Pharmacy

*Thank you very much for your time and your valuable input.
 Please respond by March 4, 2007*

Commentary: Ethics in government

By Rick Sorrels
Special to the KP News

According to media sources, a fire chief in the city of Sumner is currently being investigated for ethics violations for being employed concurrently as the factory representative for the company that sold fire trucks to the department. A city of Tacoma councilwoman is also being investigated for ethics violations for voting on utility improvements for portions of the city where she owns property, and for receiving a "tax break" for renovation of a home listed on the city's Register of Historic Places.

The "Appearance of Fairness Doctrine" requires that "public officials must execute their duties with the appearance, as well as the reality, of fairness, and that they must be as objective and free as possible of entangling influences." The two predominant governmental agencies on the Key Peninsula are Fire District 16 and the Key Peninsula Metro Parks District. There have been no official complaints

filed against any of the local officeholders, but certain concerns have been raised.

Some citizens occasionally comment upon the number of Bosch family members employed by FD-16, with one serving as a fire commissioner. Fire Chief Tom Lique said that family members do not supervise each other in the district. "Our policies would not allow it," he said. "No matter how great their job performance, they simply cannot advance into a position where they would supervise a family member. It would conflict with this rule."

FD-16 board Chairman Rick Stout said, "Commissioner (Jim) Bosch has been very careful to abstain from any board vote which might conflict. He's even avoided participating in union contract negotiations, because the results might benefit a family member."

Another concern is developing in the parks district. KPMPD is negotiating with the state to obtain the 360 acres near State Route 302 and Powerline Road for a park. The Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire wants to

lease a portion of this site from KPMPD for a permanent fair location. Two of the parks commissioners have a financial interest.

Commissioner Ross Bischoff said, "Seeing as how I have in the past contracted with Renaissance Faire for a concession stand, I must in the future recuse myself of any future voting concerning the 360 acres or a Ren Faire lease."

Commissioner Elmer Anderson, appointed recently to fill a vacant parks board seat, owns the nearby vacant land that Renaissance Faire has leased for the last nine years for its festival. "I will need to carefully consider the wording of proposed motions that come before the board before I decide whether a conflict exists or not," he said.

Detailed ethics codes are found in numerous places: Judges in the Code of Judicial Conduct (CJC), state officers and employees in RCW 42.23, RCW 42.36, and RCW 42.52, county officials in PCC 3.12, city of Tacoma in TMC 1.46, and other organizations in their bylaws and operating procedures.

Depending upon the particular violation, the codes allow for fines, jail time, and/or removal from office to be assessed against the individual officeholder.

Government entities such as the state of Washington and Pierce County have detailed ethics codes, with citizens elected for an oversight board. Small governmental bodies may or may not have adopted an ethics code. In these cases, concerns could be addressed to the executive in charge, like a fire chief or parks director, or to a commissioner if the executive is the subject of the complaint. Concerns about a commissioner are directed to the chairman of the board.

Ultimately, all elected officials are responsible to the voters who can recall them from office. Mindy Chamber of the state Auditor's Office said, "In some particular circumstances, the auditor can get involved, but we investigate and advise only, we are not an enforcement agency. The county prosecutor always has the option to prosecute for criminal violations."

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(From **KILMER**, Page 1)

of \$476,000 compared to the \$142,000 or so that Hines received.

When asked to comment on the amount Kilmer spent, Kevin Carns, the Republican political director for the state House of Representatives, said: "Races are becoming more expensive. Still, that's a lot of money for a state race. But they (the Democratic Party) wanted that seat."

To put the cost of the Kilmer/Hines race in perspective, consider a May 4, 2006, article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, which said, "The cost of running a successful legislative campaign has more than doubled in the past decade; the average cost of waging a successful bid for the state Senate, for example, has grown to nearly \$150,000." Which is roughly one-third of what Kilmer spent.

So, what does \$476,000 buy? When asked about the television ads he ran, Kilmer said, "We did three separate ads — one highlighting my work helping military and veteran families; one listing some of my endorsements from nurses, teachers, law enforcement etc.; and one quoting from the various newspaper endorsements that we received."

As for all those direct mail pieces, Kilmer said, "I know we sent out a couple in the primary election and then something like seven or eight in the general. We had a number of groups — the realtors, the teachers, the dental association — who sent out mailings in support of me as well." And, according to information available online, the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee sent \$43,875 Kilmer's way, putting him among the top candidates in terms of their donations. In addition, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee contributed \$50,000 toward Kilmer's campaign, and the 26th District Democrats gave him more than \$20,000.

Why were Democrats and their allies throwing so much money Kilmer's way? The answer may lie in the fact that while the pre-election Democrats had a three-vote majority in the Senate, two of their members had a consistent tendency to vote with the Republican minority, which made it difficult to muster the votes required to win where social issues were concerned.

George Robison, state committeeman for the 26th District's Democrats, said, "It was very important to win this district, because this is kind of a swing district, and it could have gone either way. It's not only important to have control of the Senate generally, but to control the committee process, so that the right legislation comes



Sen. Derek Kilmer receives the oath of office on Jan. 8 from Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerry Alexander on the opening day of the 60th legislative session.

*Photo courtesy
state Senate*

to the floor... Because of people like Tim Sheldon (35th District) who may vote with the Republicans, you can't count on them for support. Especially on issues that are very important to Democrats having to do with human rights."

When asked why he chose to give up his House seat and run for the Senate, Kilmer seemed to lend support to that theory. "There were a lot of issues that we pushed out of the House that got jammed up in the Senate," he said. "And my hope is that we can make some progress on issues related to the community."

With a big win in his pocket, it would be understandable if Kilmer took a verbal victory lap, but the newly elected senator chooses to deemphasize party politics, in favor of getting things done. "I think people are tired of partisanship," Kilmer said. "What is more important is how we can work together to solve problems. I did two things when I got to Olympia... First, I decided to vote for what was right, regardless of party. The second thing was to find a Republican co-sponsor for legislation that I put forward, and I think I succeeded about 90 to 95 percent of the time. I think we're better off when we work with each other rather than duking it out."

According to Robison, that philosophy has everything to do with why the Democratic Party chose to support Kilmer so strongly. "He's a guy who can sit down and listen to all sides of a question. Not everyone will be happy — but good things will come out of it," he said.

Do Republicans agree? Not exactly. Carns says, "To Derek Kilmer's credit, he's a ferocious campaigner. There are times when his partisanship shows through."

Perhaps some of that can be seen where the so-called "wedge issues" are concerned. Kilmer is crystal clear about the question of legalized abortion — and a little less so where gay marriage is concerned. When asked if he's in favor of a woman's right to choose, he said, "I am. I believe it should be safe, legal, and rare."

But, when asked about gay marriage,

Kilmer said, "I believe we can address rights issues without redefining marriage. I don't think we should discriminate against anyone." When KP News pressed for a yes or no answer regarding gay marriage, the senator smiled, and gave the same answer he had before.

Kilmer, who grew up on the Olympic Peninsula where he saw people lose their jobs as the timber industry collapsed, maintains that his primary focus lays outside the realm of partisan politics. His parents were school teachers, but thanks to scholarships, he was able to attend Princeton, where he earned a bachelor's degree in public affairs, before going on to the University of Oxford, where he was awarded a doctorate in comparative social policy focused on economic development.

And that's where Kilmer's political and professional careers intersect each other. When not in Olympia, working on behalf of the citizens of the 26th Legislative District, he is a manager for the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County.

When asked about the potential for a conflict of interest between the two jobs, Kilmer said: "The organization I work for is not for profit. I think there's a great deal of synergy between it and my responsibilities in Olympia."

As for the possibility of a full-time

Legislature, like the states of California, Michigan, and New York have, Kilmer said, "I'm not crazy about that. I think there's a value in having legislators who have real-world jobs and can bring that perspective to Olympia."

Before winning his Senate seat, Rep. Kilmer sponsored a state constitutional amendment (House Joint Resolution 4223) to increase personal property tax exemptions, which the voters overwhelmingly approved. He also worked to pass measures that would authorize a job creation tax credit and provide financial protections to business owners who serve in the National Guard or Reserves.

Where the Key Peninsula is concerned, Kilmer points to his efforts to secure \$10 million that will be used to provide local residents with discounted tolls on the new Narrows Bridge during its first year of operation, so long as the money is actually budgeted (see related story, page 9). He also worked to fund improvements to State Route 302, specifically preliminary design work having to do with the possibility of a new Key Pen access corridor, and found a way to pay for road improvements that helped move forward St. Anthony's Hospital in Gig Harbor North.


For this session, Kilmer was selected as the vice chairman of both the Senate International Trade and Economic Development Committee, and the Senate Higher Education Committee. "I couldn't be more excited, or honored, to be chosen for these committees," he said. "The work of these groups represents my top two legislative priorities."

When asked about what ambitions, if any, he might have for even higher office, Kilmer indicated that all his attention is focused on the Senate. However, when KP News addressed the same question to Democratic committeeman Robison, he said that Congressman Norm Dicks won't be in office forever, and when the local Democrats ponder the future, Derek Kilmer's name has a tendency to pop up.



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Key Peninsula sweethearts love to celebrate

By Jeanette Brown,
Special to KP News

What would Albert Krause think about the small buffalo herd peacefully grazing along the fence line on a 10-acre spread now known as Maplewood Ranch, part of a new Longbranch subdivision located just off 40th Street? Moreover, what would he think about the Key Peninsula couple who now reside in the newly remodeled farm home (replete with gated driveway and professional landscaping) that he originally built in the mid-1950s, a piece of Longbranch legend that some locals still refer to as the "Old Krause Homestead"?

Most likely Krause, the son of famous Key Peninsula pioneers, would give a big "thumbs up" to the buffalo, once found in abundance on the great plains of the American West, and now making a grand and rapid comeback in Washington. He would likely be quite taken with these two business owners and lifetime Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula-area residents who seem to embody the "old pioneer spirit," embracing family values of yore and a strong work ethic.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

High school sweethearts Roy and Robin Ward open their beautiful property to friends and family for weddings and other events. Their daughter's wedding was held right below, on the grassy area.

The owners of Maplewood Ranch, Roy and Robin Ward, are Peninsula High School sweethearts who decided to move out to the relatively new subdivision from their small farm in Key Center in order to remodel and restore their newly purchased 1950s farm house and barn. Of course, they brought their two daughters with them and have been making changes at Maplewood Ranch ever since.

The Wards are now empty nesters, and true to their pioneer roots, Roy and Robin's family tradition of hard work and strong family ties are firmly entrenched on both the Key and Kitsap peninsulas, anchored by their large, extended families.

Roy's grandparents, Burt and Phyllis Ward, homesteaded just off the Key Peninsula Highway in the 1920s — not too far "down the peninsula" from Key Center. Roy's maternal grandfather, Howard Sigmund, was a local logger and sawmill owner, and Roy's mother, Dorothy, was one of nine Sigmund children. Roy estimates he has more than 100 first cousins living in the area.

Not too long after Roy Ward and Dorothy Sigmund graduated from Peninsula High School in the early 1950s, they were married. Roy Jr. grew up in Rosedale; his future bride, Robin, resided just a short distance away in Minter.

Roy is proud of the fact that their daughters, Kate and Ashlee, are the third generation of Wards to graduate from Peninsula High School. Therefore, it should come as no surprise, that in addition to owning and operating Maplewood Construction for the past 25 years, Roy also works at Peninsula High School as an assistant coach for the girls' fast pitch softball team, where he also had the opportunity to coach his youngest daughter, Ashlee, a big fan of girls' fast pitch. Ashlee now attends Tacoma Community College and works part-time alongside her dad, mom and older sister in their business offices located in Rosedale.

Older daughter, Kate, was married at Maplewood Ranch after graduating from Eastern Washington University, and later designed a Website for the

For more stories celebrating love and local getaways, see our special insert section, Time for Romance.

ranch that features her recent wedding. The Wards have made many improvements to their home and grounds over the past nine years, including opening up the view of Filucy Bay and adding a magnificent water feature and a 1950s-style, covered wraparound deck with a peaked roof to augment the historical features of the home.

Right after the Wards bought their new place, they started holding family reunions, and gave it the name of Maplewood Ranch. It wasn't long before family and friends began asking to use their "entertainment-friendly" estate and grounds to host their own celebrations and events. The buffalo herd that graze peacefully on the grounds are an extra added attraction, and buffalo steaks are served up frequently on the large outdoor barbeque.

The Wards also had the old barn remodeled; the main floor features a large and efficient country kitchen for cooking up those timeless family reunion specialty dishes. The second floor hosts a private room with bath and also features a balcony with spectacular views of the bay and the ranch.

The Wards have always enjoyed entertaining their family and friends and this June, Roy and Robin will be hosting the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of her parents, Dick and Jodi Rasmussen.

The couple has seen many changes in the area over the past two to three decades, but they have learned to embrace them and plan to celebrate and reminisce about all those changes frequently with their family and friends at the Maplewood Ranch.



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The right moves

Key Peninsula dance instructor teaches how to move with the rhythm

By Irene Torres, KP News

Gliding across the dance floor, sliding in time to the music, spinning into a private fantasy, couples appear to meld into a single form, each lost in the arms of the other. Outsiders can watch the rhythm of the dance, but dancers live within it. Dance is a common expression of romance between two people. It is also good exercise, providing a great cardiopulmonary workout, while having fun.



HENRY

There is a dance instructor on the Key Peninsula who can teach even the left-footed student to move to the music. Doug Henry, owner of Key Pen-based InStep Dance, has been teaching ballroom dance for 11 years, currently teaching classes six days each week in Tacoma, and previously teaching at the KP Civic Center. He also provides private lessons for couples, individuals, or groups to learn ballroom or swing

dancing.

Henry has demonstrated his dance techniques for wedding magazines and wedding shows, including the annual Tacoma Dome wedding show. He offers basic dance steps, to full choreography wedding classes for the bride and groom, or even the full wedding party. He can teach the groom to dance with the mother-in-law, and the father to dance with the bride. These lessons will come in handy for one Lacey couple whose relationship has bloomed in Henry's classes, and who plan to marry this spring.

He also choreographs dance showcases at least once each year, and is negotiating the details of a stage show, tentatively titled "A Tribute to Dance," a project that will take two years to develop.

Even reluctant students find themselves laughing along with Henry, who can readily step into the female partner's role, and dance backward to better demonstrate the dance steps. Henry's secret to appearing light on his feet is to keep his weight on the balls of his feet, with shoulders level. Well-fit

shoes with smooth soles ensure solid footing. A sense of rhythm, good balance and unlocked knees allow the dancer to stay relaxed and ready to transition from one dance position to another — face to face, side-by-side, or passing around the back. Each move adds interest to the dance and challenges to the dancers. Spins and twirls are accomplished with the lightest

fingertip touch, pivoting over open palms, with never a grip, grasp, or strong-arm maneuver. Like playing an instrument, practicing dance improves the performance, and enhances the enjoyment of the activity.

Henry says, "Whether you just want to learn social dancing or have a special occasion, classes are provided in a non-threatening, fun environment."

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Faith leads local dentist on adoption path

By Kristen Pierce, KP News

The Key Center Corral is host to many diverse businesses that participate in and contribute to community events. Dr. John Olsson, Key Peninsula resident and local dentist, owns one of those businesses. Although he is known for his participation in the Christmas Tree Lighting since 1985, he would rather be acknowledged for other feats, like being a dedicated husband, father, and Christian.

Olsson was born in Norwalk, Conn. He ventured west at age 17 to attend an undergraduate school. He then enlisted in the Army for three years, following a family tradition (his father was an engineer for the Naval Reserve), and enrolled in the dentistry program while living and working at the Fort Lewis Air Force Base. He graduated from the University of Washington's dental school in 1980.

Olsson remained in practice at Fort Lewis after he and his wife, Jean, (a Washington native), moved to Gig Harbor. After a while, the long work commute became tedious, and Dr. Olsson decided he would prefer to work in a smaller community, closer to home. While



Photo courtesy Olsson family

The Olsson family on Mother's Day, 2006.

exploring the outskirts of Gig Harbor, he discovered the rustic, Western-themed Key Center Corral and immediately fell in love with the area, deciding to become a rural dentist. Unfortunately, another dentist had

beaten him to it and already had his practice in Key Center — so Olsson continued to work at Fort Lewis until his prayers were answered by an ironic and fortunate decision from the existing Key Center dentist to close his "small town" practice. So he moved out and Dr. Olsson moved in.

"I've always dreamed of working in a small town. I wanted to be in a place where everyone knew each other and out here, everybody knows your name," Olsson says. He smiles and asks with a chuckle, "You know, like the TV show 'Cheers'?"

Besides dentistry, Olsson's primary interest is to glorify God, and then his wife — in that order. He teaches Bible study. One of his favorite verses, which he refers to as his "life-verse," is Romans 6:11. Olsson describes the verse by saying, "I try not to let sin rule me but let God rule me. Each day I wake up and ask, 'What can I do for Him today?' as I begin my day."

God answered him by planting the idea to begin adopting children, Olsson says. He and his wife already had four daughters of their own, but they thought, "Maybe God wants us to adopt a boy."

Soon after, the couple began discussing the adoption idea with other members of

their church. They started searching online and gathering information about different orphanages.

"My wife is a very driven woman. She really kept on the adoption road," he says, describing their process of looking for a child as "God engineered."

The Olssons saw a photo online of a girl from a Russian orphanage who reminded them of their oldest daughter, and fell in love with her. Having to fire their adoption agency, which turned out unscrupulous, they traveled to Russia themselves.

They visited three different orphanages to locate the 9-year-old girl, Dasha (who is now 15 and named Jordan). In the process, they also unintentionally "picked out" two other children, 2-year-old Jenya (now named Johnny, age 8) and 16-month-old Efiem (now named Joshua, age 7), which made a grand total of seven children.

John Olsson beams like only a proud father can as he describes each child's personality and unique traits. He is also glad to admit how well each child has settled into their family and how happy he and his wife are about their decision to go to Russia. But, as he put it earlier, it was all God engineered.



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A special friendship

Mare helps nurse heal after stroke

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

For 30 years, Kristi Clark was a nurse ministering to the needs of others. Then two years ago, she had a stroke and found herself retired, with time on her hands, confused, dizzy, disoriented. Family and friends supported and comforted her; her curly/mustang pinto cross mare helped her heal. There were many days of uncertainty for Clark — for herself, about her skills, her life before and now, and how it would all play out — and she found a path back to her center through Dixie, the mare.

“So many times I just buried my nose in her neck (and hung on),” she says. “Somehow, we are in sync with each other.”

During those first unsteady months following the stroke, and even now occasionally, Clark knows she is “off” in her timing, perhaps putting herself unintentionally in harm’s way around a horse. Dixie seems to know, and moves to counter Clark’s mistaken step, taking care, protecting her.

Originally a city girl from Seattle, Clark began to learn about horses at age 21 at a ranch in South Dakota. Her then-husband’s grandfather had been a horseman in World War I, and taught her the basics. Clark went through a series of “bad” horses, rupturing her spleen while working with an arabian at one time.

One thing she’s eager to pass along to novice horse-lovers is to take care when choosing a horse. “You don’t need to take on one that will hurt you — I’ve been there and done that,” she says. “Avoid (that mistake).”

“
I like the independence of being an entrepreneur, of being outdoors. I’m just a dabbler with a love for horses.”

— Kristi Clark

”

Years later, a friend on the peninsula told her about a roughly trained mare and thought she might be a good match for Clark. Used as a broodmare, at the time Dixie was 7 or 8 years old, and none too keen on people. Clark said she trained her on “horse time” — couldn’t catch her for the first year, but after hand-grazing and really learning what made Dixie tick, the two became the best of friends.

Clark and her husband, Paul, have lived in the area for 25 years, originally in Gig Harbor, and currently on Key Pen on the water. Their daughter, Jamie, is “the best rider in the family” and will soon be leaving for the Marine Corps.

Years ago, the Clarks bought 27 private, rolling acres in the Penrose area and have made riding trails throughout. In preparing to relocate to the property, Clark thought of her horses’ comfort first; the first building she designed and had built on the land was a monitor horse barn. This is where the family’s four horses, including Dixie



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Kristi Clark with Dixie and her foal, Morning Myst.

and her pinto foal, Morning Myst, live. Clark or her husband (or both) make the drive to feed, care for and visit the horses twice daily; it’s a priority that other things work around.

In late December, Clark received word from the county that the family’s house plans have been approved. She is looking forward to the day when her

country home is completed, and she is just a short stroll away from her best equine friend, Dixie. She says she’s looking forward to establishing an organic blueberry farm.

“I’m a project person,” she says. “I like the independence of being an entrepreneur, of being outdoors. I’m just a dabbler with a love for horses.”



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FROM PIONEER STOCK GENE STONE — A GOOD LIFE

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Gene Stone, whose grandfather gave Key Peninsula its name, enjoys his Lakebay home, surrounded by memories of things he loves.

Stone, born in Colorado, moved to Bremerton with his parents when he was 3. His father, Ernest, an auto mechanic in Colorado, came west with his family and brother to find work. He worked at the Navy yard awhile, then opened his own garage plus a meat market in Manette.

The family moved to Lakebay in 1927. Gene was in fifth grade, and attended the brand new school that now houses the Key Peninsula Community Services. He met his future wife there.

"She didn't like me then," he says, and still seems surprised she married him.

The Stone family first lived near the head of Mayo Cove, then moved up the hill near the highway. His father started a chicken ranch, but also had a cow, some pigs, and a large garden.

"We never went hungry (during the Depression)," says Stone. "We always had plenty of good food. The only people who had money were the postmaster and the mailman," he says. Those who worked at the Navy yard or loggers had some money too, but weren't all that well paid.

His paternal grandparents, Edward and Esther Stone, followed them to Bremerton in 1920, and later to the peninsula. The senior Stone, a violin maker, was relatively new to the area, when he won the contest sponsored by local businessmen to name the peninsula. The shape on the map reminded him of an old-fashioned key. He won \$25, and Aldy Visell took a cue from the winning name to call the local business area, at the crossroads of what was then called Longbranch Highway and Vaughn-Glencove Road, Key Center.

Gene Stone says everything was very clean on the peninsula. A plus for his father, who recovered from respiratory problems he has had for many years.



Photo courtesy Gene Stone

Four generations of the Stone family in 1940 at Edward Stone's Herron Road home. Left to right, back row: Edward, Esther, Harriet, Ernest; front row, Ada, Marilyn, Gene.

Stone used to think life was pretty tough, but looking back, thinks it was a great place to grow up.

"We had lots to do as kids. We weren't stressed for time," he says, and adds, with a twinkle in his eyes, "We used to swim naked in Lakebay."

Stone left school in 1934, before his senior year at Vaughn. He wanted a job. He joined the "CCCs" (Civilian Conservation Corps, a project of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to help people out during the Depression). Each payday he sent most of his money home. He spent a summer doing rock work on the road near Dosewallops, then started cooking for the camp.

"I was kind of scrawny, and I think they felt sorry for me," Stone says. "It was hard work in the woods. I could

cook pretty good for a big crowd." At one time he was head cook for 175 people.

After three years with the "CCCs," he worked in Bremerton at the Navy shipyard awhile, then cut brush and timber, and logged. He worked for Davidson Logging, Harm Van Slyke, and others.

He married Ada Sorenson, daughter of Albert Sorenson, first RFD (Rural Free Delivery) mail carrier for Lakebay. Albert Sorenson sold him 300 feet of waterfront. Stone's home is partly "on the cove" in a literal sense, with pilings supporting part of it.

Ada took a Red Cross class for water safety instructor, along with Dulcie Schillinger. Both then taught swimming and life-saving classes. Daughter Linda was one of Schillinger's students.

"I think (Ada) taught half the kids on the peninsula to swim," says Stone. He says the best memory of his life is of all the kids having fun in the water. Linda swam all day when she could, starting May 1, went home for supper, had her hair braided, and was out in the boat, rowing until dark. "Even if it was raining," she says.

Ada died four years ago. Linda and her sister, Marilyn, live in Tacoma.

Stone, at 91, shows few gray hairs. His maternal grandfather, Harm, died at 98, with a full head of black hair. Both daughters seem to share those genes.

Stone says he's had a good life on the peninsula, and still likes living here.

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Local artists featured at TCC gallery

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Several Key Peninsula as well as Gig Harbor area artists are featured at the Baroque Revival Exhibition that opened at the Tacoma Community College campus in January. The exhibit, which features 30 artists in a variety of media, is the brainchild of Lakebay resident Jennifer Olson-Rudenko, the gallery's director since March 2003.

"The art on view in the exhibition reflects society, and allows us to consider and produce a visual record of our time in history," Olson-Rudenko wrote in a narrative accompanying the exhibit. "Contemporary artists draw upon the historic record of past artistic movements. As we consider the art of the contemporary world, we are reminded of Bernini, Caravaggio, Rubens, van Ruisdael, Sánchez Cotán, and others who continue to influence new work."

Olson-Rudenko, who holds a doctorate degree in art history and also teaches art appreciation classes, has a personal interest in baroque. The topic of Spanish Baroque art is part of her dissertation at

Baroque Revival Exhibition

The exhibition will be on view at The Gallery at Tacoma Community College through March 16. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday - Friday. Admission is free. The gallery is located on TCC's main campus, 6501 S. 19th St., in Tacoma.

Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula artists whose work is displayed are Adria Hanson, Melanie Johnson (Key Pen); Melinda Cox, Herb Hallberg (Gig Harbor) and Sheila Anderson (Fox Island). For information, call 460.4306 or visit www.tacomacc.edu.

the University of Pennsylvania, and she traveled to Spain three times as part of her research. "The baroque period in art lasted from about 1580 through the 17th century," she wrote in her essay. "It was considered a Golden Age in art in France, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. Major historical events, including the Reformation (1517), Counter Reformation (1563) and Peace of Westphalia (1648), shaped the production of art, which inspired the contemporary artists in this exhibition."

She said she was able to select a variety of artists for the exhibit because baroque has so many styles. "I wanted to have a show for the community, and involve a lot of artists," she said. "The call to artists for this show was met with good response, and the

participating artists have produced some intriguing works of art."

Olson-Rudenko has spent her entire career working at art museums and art galleries around the country while also teaching. "The most important thing you can teach students is that you have to see art (in person) to really appreciate it," she said.

Lake Holiday resident Melanie Johnson is among the local artists whose work is being showcased. Her digital photography is focused on still life. Johnson received a camera as a birthday present from her husband in 2000, so she could take photos at her daughter's upcoming wedding. She taught herself by reading and experimenting, and is now pursuing digital photography as a vocation (while currently working at TCC as well).



Photo courtesy TCC

"Faith" by Key Pen artist Adria Hanson is one of the artworks displayed at the Baroque Revival show at TCC.

"I am very excited to have been selected," she said. "The gallery at TCC is very professional; it's quite an honor to be selected."

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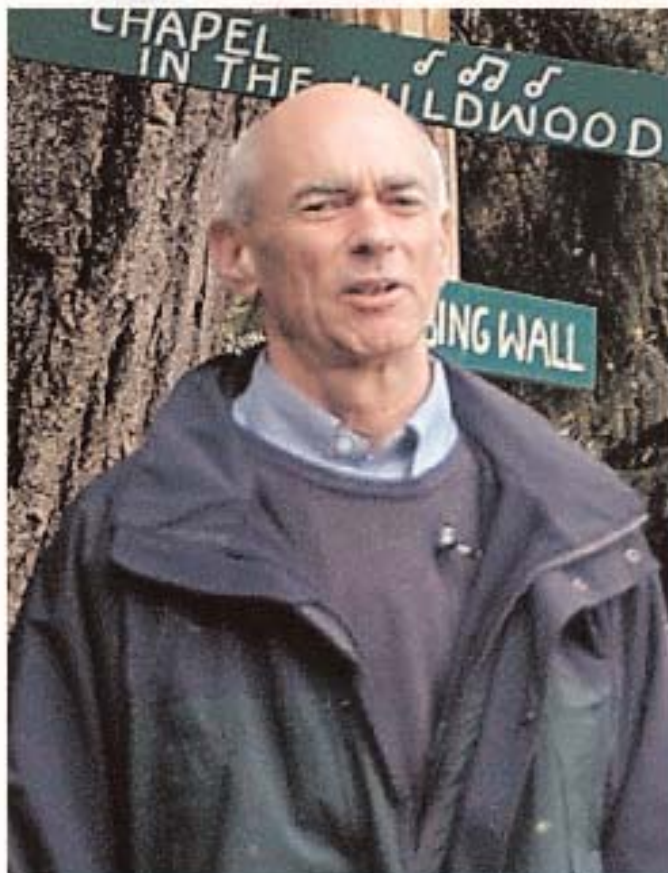
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OBITUARY

Olive A. Williams

Olive Williams was born in Tacoma to John and Hazel Paul on Jan. 27, 1913. She died Jan. 17, 2007.

The Williams family spent much of Olive's early years on McNeil Island, until the civilians were required to leave due to the prison. The family moved to Home, where Williams remained, raising her own family, until the death of her husband, Winston, in 1975. She then moved to Lakebay, and lived there until this past year when she moved to a rest home due to her failing health.

She was preceded in death by her husband, brothers Cecil and Sydney Paul, sisters Sally Booth and Jaunita Paul, and great-grandson Zechariah West. Survivors include sons Robert (Katha) Neal and Dennis (Florine) Williams, daughter Merri (Kenneth) Lund, sister Dixie Bell, brother Stanley (Audrey) Paul, eight grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Services will be at a later date.

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(From **GEODUCK**, Page 1)

Washington, with full disclosure by proposed researchers “of past, present, and planned future personal or professional connections with the shellfish industry or public interest groups.”

Among the mandated studies are an assessment to determine how “high densities” of geoduck in previously wild tracts alter species diversity, and the potential for cultured stock to put wild stock at risk. Lantz’s bill asks for science to study the capacity of intertidal lands to carry the large-scale monoculture farms the industry intends to implement. The legislation also carries a mandate for growers to post a bond equal to the cost of cleanup, as opposed to the Department of Natural Resources proposal of twice the amount of the lease on state lands, an amount averaging \$1,000 per year per leased site, at most.

The bill calls for all studies to be completed and findings reported to the Legislature by 2013, with annual updates on study progress in the interim. Most importantly, the bill places a moratorium on state tideland leases. It reads: “Except for contracts that have had a request for offer issued prior to the effective date of

this section, the department is prohibited from entering into any leases that would permit the commercial aquaculture of geoducks on state-owned aquatic lands associated with Puget Sound, including the Strait of Juan de Fuca, until one full calendar year after the sea grant program at the University of Washington reports to the Legislature the results of the studies required by section 1 of this act.”

The bill further calls for each new proposed lease (public and private) to obtain a conditional use permit from the Department of Ecology; it requires additional restrictions on setbacks, buffers, and habitat for state and federal endangered species. Included is also a provision for permit revocation for geoduck operations out of compliance. The bill first goes to the House Puget Sound Committee for hearings, and must secure funding from the Appropriations Committee.

Lantz says the bill addresses the issue of compliance, county by county, and provides a minimum standard — a site-specific conditional use permit from DOE for each new lease. “The (shellfish) industry’s intention was to obtain one (blanket) permit to grow geoduck anywhere; (armed with that), they would not be subject to scrutiny,” she said, adding that Mason County, for instance, has no permit requirements at this time.

“This bill is an attempt to give counties the opportunity to use the minimum application-by-application, site-by-site specific standard, and impose their own regulations in addition,” she said. The bill, if passed, will supersede DNR’s plan to lease 25 acres of public tidelands per year for the remaining nine years of the proposed 10-year leasing cycle. “We can tell DNR what they can do with public lands,” Lantz said. “We can’t tell private landowners what they can do, but we can regulate them.”

Last fall, the shellfish industry’s Pacific Shellfish Institute released its “West Coast Shellfish Research and Education 2015 Goals and Priorities” and “Geoduck Clam Research and Management” documents. They acknowledge that “increasingly, the general population is demanding that forests, riparian areas, beaches and other wildlife habitats be preserved and enhanced.” The research document states that cultured shellfish are an integral part of the marine ecosystem, and addresses industry debris issues with this solution: “Expand participation with marine-focused organizations (such as tribes, environmental groups, marine resource committees) in beach cleanups throughout Puget Sound, most notably to retrieve and recycle or properly dispose



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

Remnants of a geoduck farming operation are seen at Joemma Beach State Park about a month after December’s storm. Geoduck farms officials have said they clean up the beaches around their farms on a weekly basis.

of all derelict or lost shellfish aquaculture equipment and materials.” PSI’s report also calls for research, specifically “integrated pest management” of such species as red rock crab, Dungeness crab, diving ducks, gull, and crows, among others.

Just as Lantz’s bill, this report is concerned with “optimal densities for beach seeding... in regard to sustaining production and beach condition (particularly in... geoduck).” The document goes on to say that with potential regulatory control of geoduck seeding, the density issue could “move to a higher priority as the geoduck grow-out industry develops.” The report concludes that, “It is possible for Washington growers to make rapid advancements in subtidal geoduck culture... Washington growers possess the infrastructure to begin... (and) geoduck seed supply is not limited...”

HB-1547, responds to the message among diverse environmental groups at local, regional and national levels. In an email to the Henderson Bay Shoreline Association, Becky Goldberg, a representative of the nationally-known Environmental Defense Council, writes, “...There are legitimate issues about where mollusk farms are sited, how big they should be and how farming activities are conducted.” People for Puget Sound, a Seattle-based organization, issued an “Intertidal Geoduck Policy,” which advocates regulation of geoduck aquaculture, and “open space taxation

HB-1547 information

To read the text of House Bill 1547, and follow its progress through the legislative system, go to Rep. Pat Lantz’s Website at <http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/lantz>. At press time, public hearings were expected during the first week of February.

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programs that provide financial incentives to private tideland owners for leaving their tidelands in a natural state.” The Washington Council of Trout Unlimited passed Council Resolution 06-1 in November, saying, “...The state Department of Natural Resources has declined to perform a Programmatic Environmental Impact Study to determine the long-term effects of (geoduck farming) activity, declaring it unnecessary. The agency instead intends, through adaptive management, to correct any harm observed only after it has been discovered. The scientific research to determine the long-term impacts of such activity is lacking and no formal peer reviewed studies have been completed. While there have been limited studies conducted by the (shellfish) industry and some informal investigation by academicians... the exact long-term impact on the sensitive Puget Sound near-shore environment is unknown.”

According to Lantz, her intention in crafting HB-1547 is to provide clear pathways for responsible aquaculture. The positions of nearly every organization concerned about the rapid, unfettered growth of this young aquaculture is echoed in the Trout Unlimited document where it reads: “Aquaculture management within Washington state is diffused among at least five separate agencies, along with federal and tribal agencies, that are subject to management procedures, processes and rules that are often conflicting and confusing to agency managers, the industry, and the general public. This diffused system of aquaculture management has contributed to the uncertainty and confusion in permitting and leasing for near-shore geoduck activities and, in this instance, has highlighted the need for a more comprehensive, efficient and centralized management system.”

Update on permits

Two geoduck farming application permits on private tidelands, initiated by Taylor Shellfish Farms in the Vaughn Bay area (SD55-05 and SD53-05), were approved and on appeal, as reported in the January KP News. On Jan. 19, they were reconsidered by Terrence McCarthy, Pierce County deputy hearing examiner. He upheld the standard 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with no working holidays, operation for harvesting. The company had sought the ability to harvest at night, using lights and operating equipment.

McCarthy wrote, “Waking up individuals at all times of the night... intensifies a built-in conflict... time limitations are used to minimize conflicts between two incompatible uses, that of noisy commercial farming, and the quiet residential life in the rural area.”

He denied two permit conditions the county sought: a final site plan, and yearly compliance status reports. McCarthy dismissed Taylor Shellfish’s statement that he did not have “authority to review” operations and extended that review period from three to five years.

KP shorelines may see landscape change

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The classification that opens the entire east side of Case Inlet from Rocky Bay to Longbranch, including Vaughn Bay and Dutcher's Cove, to commercial shellfish farming, is scheduled to be complete by spring of this year, according to Bob Woolrich, manager of growing Areas for the Office of Shellfish and Water Protection of the state Department of Health (DOH). On the west side of the peninsula on a "half-mile or so" stretch just south of Minter Bay, Woolrich indicated Minterbrook Oyster has asked for additional approved classification for beaches adjoining those they already farm; Woolrich says this is the only "west side" classification request at this time.

A recently released Geoduck Clam Research and Management report by Pacific Shellfish Institute identifies the South Puget Sound region to be of special interest to geoduck farmers because of its water clarity and abundance of other shellfish. Other healthy, growing species indicate abundant

To view a DOH Commercial & Recreational Shellfish Areas map, visit www.keypennews.com. The map is in color and, with the upcoming classifications of the east shoreline of the entire Key Peninsula to "approved" commercial shellfish farming is outdated. Find Rocky Bay on the map, and follow the gray-colored shoreline all the way down to Longbranch, including Herron Island. All the gray areas, by spring, will be green. This is the color signifying tidelands to minus-70 feet, both public and private, are "approved" for commercial shellfish cultivation and harvest.

phytoplankton and nutrients, necessary resources for successful aquaculture geoduck farming. The largest commercial shellfish grower/processor in the state, Taylor Shellfish, is located within that region, in Shelton.

The report notes the "proximity to current culture operations... reduces travel time and cost by eliminating additional infrastructure in other areas." South Puget Sound Department of Natural Resources-owned tidelands are cited as holding "promising characteristics." In addition, the document says, "South Puget Sound also has substantial concentrations of wild geoduck — (again) a promising characteristic for farm siting." The report does not

mention the industry practice of removing all wild geoduck, and other living species, from the site of a new farm prior to "planting."

Cathy Barker at DOH said that, about five years ago, Taylor Shellfish and Seattle Shellfish requested the Case Inlet tidelands, which were then "unclassified," to be classified "approved" for shellfish production. Additionally, Woolrich said about two years ago, he was also asked by the Puyallup Tribes to open Vaughn Bay specifically for commercial harvest.

The process of taking unclassified tidelands to one of several classifications takes the DOH from two to five years. It begins with 30 water samples taken over several years in all weather, seasons, and tide levels. A shoreline survey is done to "look at the shoreline very carefully for any pollution sources." He cited several examples of pollution, such as failed septic tanks, extraordinary numbers of wildlife, livestock, and boating activities. After requirements for a desired classification have been met and the area is classified, Woolrich said the DOH takes water samples six times per year, "tries to" look at each site every three years, and is mandated to "scrutinize the site" every 12 years.

Woolrich stressed the DOH has a narrow focus and is only concerned with and controls the harvest of shellfish, not

permitting, planting, etc. For those issues, he said, people need to look to the Department of Ecology, DNR, or Fish and Wildlife. Woolrich admitted that "commercial growers can get ahead of us," and that his staff primarily looks for three conditions: chemical contamination, biotoxins, and oily spills.

In response to a question about South Puget Sound areas (Totten Inlet and Zangle Cove) that environmental groups claim to have been polluted primarily by an overabundance of monoculture farming, Woolrich replied, "Pollution of water is another agency's problem unless it affects human health. Environmental impacts of affecting fish and shellfish are not issues DOH looks at. People expect geoducks and oysters to be alive when purchased; if the shellfish die, people will not buy them, so it's not a DOH problem."

The classification of the entire east shoreline of Case Inlet coincides with at least two geoduck application permits that have been approved, appealed, and reconsidered (SD55-05 and SD53-55) in Vaughn Bay, scheduled for "approved" classification by spring. Without the classification to "approved" status, geoduck farmers can plant and cultivate the clams, but not harvest them, as harvesting is controlled by the DOH. Regardless of whether growers plan to plant on either private or DNR tidelands, they are required to comply with DOH classification standards for harvest.

Geoducks, anyone?

Bob Downen, a Longbranch resident for many years, wonders where the geoducks went. He says people used to sell them at roadside stands all down the peninsula. "None of the supermarkets carry it; the clerks don't even know what geoducks are," he said. "Johnny's Seafood Market in Tacoma referred me to the Asian markets."

He remembers when the clam sold for 25 cents a pound, and says he "can't get much enthusiasm (for all the farming) when geoduck isn't even available for the U.S. public to purchase." Downen has no objection to farming, as long as "it's done in a logical, good cyclical way with regulations that don't destroy the sea as a resource."



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(From ICE, Page 1)

under the ice and made it move.”

The water from the paddles froze before the drops landed. They could see the path they made through the ice. Kelson reached out with a boat hook to smash a hole in the ice, then stuck the hook into the hole to pull the boat ahead. They saw seashells frozen in the ice, and sticks half-submerged that Matthew said “looked like frozen wooly mammoths.” They watched a

seagull walking around on the ice, but most of the ducks and seagulls were out on the sandspit.

The children knew they had to be careful in the canoe so it didn't tip, and if they fell in and went under the ice, they would need to break the ice. “Take your personal flotation device if you go,” Mackenzie advised.

After the tide went out and left ice on the beach, “it looked like a bunch of panes of glass,” according to Kelson.

Grandpa Don Mills told them it was 57 years ago when the bay had that much ice on it.

Both children were ready to go out the following day if the “Vaughn Bay ice sheet,” as their dad called it, remained intact.

“It was the best winter adventure ever,” Kelson said.

Matthew, Kelson, with a boat hook, Mackenzie, and Lisa Mills in their canoe.

Photo courtesy Judy Mills



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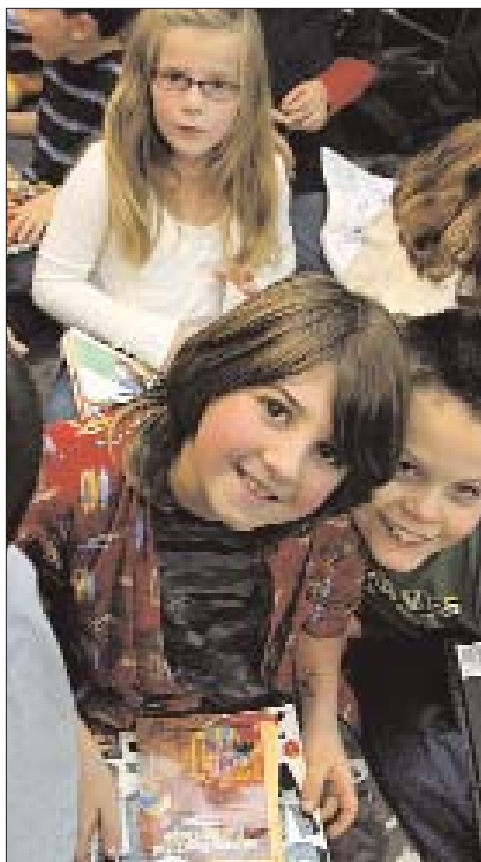


Above, friends and family members are cleaning up damage caused by the December windstorm at a Filucy Bay home. Trees from the neighbors' property fell on top of the home of Chuck and Norma-Jean Gibson, causing \$30,000 in damages. The couple moved into the five-year-old home just last spring. "It amazes me that we never thought to look at our neighbors' trees and discuss the potential for such damage," Norma-Jean said. "Dialogue should be comfortably open between neighbors in such areas where weather/tree conditions can take such a toll."

Photo courtesy Norma-Jean Gibson

Just before December's wind storm wiped out power, Vaughn Elementary held its annual "Marsha Iverson Books for Special Readers" program in the school's library.

Scads of excited kids scooped up books from tables set up for each class and need category, then gathered near the stairway to share with classmates the wonders of these special gifts. Pictured here, fourth grade students Daysen Warram and Gabe Bellamy and second grader Shiann Hendershot excitedly share their "very own books." *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Right, Key Pen resident Ty Hardin joins volunteer mom Shana Lutz sharing a book with pre-schoolers Cameron Lutz and Jacob Snarr during the Evergreen Elementary Reading is FUNdamental event, planned three times a year. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Key Peninsula Middle School students in the beginning band class, directed by music teacher Meg Mansfield, perform in their very first public concert for a packed audience of parents in January. With most of them having only played their instruments for four months, the 90 members of the band did an outstanding job. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



Many Key Pen residents enjoyed themselves when the snow covered the peninsula in January, including these dogs (above) and these Lake Minterwood kids (left). For more snow day photos, visit our online gallery at www.keypennews.com. *Photos by Karen Hale and Kristen Pierce*

Below, Kurt Self, a parent volunteer, helps out at the Key Peninsula Middle School student store. The store is open during the lunch hour and honor time and all proceeds go to the PTSA. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



A call to our readers!

The Key Peninsula News would like to compile a gallery of beautiful scenic shots from around the Key Peninsula. Share your favorite photos with us! We will publish them in our online gallery, and choose our favorites for print publication. Email photos to news@keypennews.com.