



In this issue



▲ Racing toward a dream, page 20



▲ A story about perseverance, page 24

## PHS group celebrates 20 years of generosity



Peninsula Hawks Scholarship original committee members Ellen Griffin, Dele Gunnerson, Jean Flynn, Jane Hoffecker, Dallas Presley, Joan Ryan, and Sandy Newhouse display a banner that sums up the program's contributions over its 20 years.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

By Danna Webster  
KP News

In 1984, a small group of Peninsula High School parents determined they would provide a greater scholarship opportunities to students. In its first year, a newly created committee doubled the

\$7,750 funds available the year before. By the year 2004, the amount given was \$200,000.

In two decades of work, the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund Committee has awarded \$2.75 million in scholarships to

(See PHS, Page 28)

## KPPRD nears dissolution... unless

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

With a bare agenda, all debts apparently paid and about \$8,000 sitting in the bank account, the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District appeared set in April for its final days. The KPPRD has been tying a few loose ends, including paying an Internal Revenue Service settlement and requesting the county to close out an old petty cash account for which no receipts could be found.

"I think we've finally reached the wrapping up stage," said Commissioner Kip Clinton.

Following an inquiry from the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association regarding the board's interest to become a

(See KPPRD, Page 29)

## News

- Forum looks at meth . . . . .2
- Museum celebrates 10 years . .3
- Veterans honored . . . . .6
- 350-acre park gets OK . . . . .7
- Conquering math . . . . .8
- Show & Tell . . . . .9
- 'The magic of life' . . . . .11
- Volunteer spotlight . . . . .17
- Whatever happened to... . .22
- Paying back to community . .23
- From pioneer stock . . . . .26
- Genuine ARTicle . . . . .27
- Out & About . . . . .32

## Sections

- Peninsula Views . . . . .4
- Schools . . . . .8
- Business . . . . .11
- Community Works . . . . .16
- People & Lifestyles . . . . .19
- Arts & Recreation . . . . .27
- From the Experts . . . . .30

## Fair showcases livable community

By Irene Torres  
KP News

What makes a community livable? Penny Gazabat knows. Two years ago, she was staffing the I.M.Pact booth at the Key Peninsula Livable Communities Fair, spreading the word about preventing domestic violence. Little did she know that strolling among the exhibits were some unknown benefactors. That chance contact resulted in grant awards from the Geneva Foundation that enabled the opening of a safe house to protect victims of domestic abuse.

Ed Taylor of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association knows. In 2004, he asked the Livable Communities Fair organizers where they found the professional jazz band to entertain at the annual event. "That's your school system at work," he was told by Dennis Taylor. "That's the Key Peninsula Middle School



KP News archive photo

The fair is a place to find information about local services and volunteer opportunities.

jazz band."

Pierce County officials know. In 2004, representatives from the Advanced Planning Department attended the Livable Communities Fair to ask what quality of life issues KP residents felt were

important. "Those issues were organized and prioritized and used to plan for the upcoming meetings of the Citizens Advisory Board that would begin, in late

(See FAIR, Page 25)

# Forum educates about meth

By Connie Harris  
KP News

Methamphetamine manufacturing and its addiction have become the single worst epidemic in our communities.

"Washington is ranked as one of the highest states in numbers of meth labs busted. Kitsap and Pierce counties are at the top of the list," stated state Rep. Pat Lantz in response to the question of the importance of a public forum on meth, held in April.

Safe Streets Campaign and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department hosted the Meth Forum at Key Peninsula Middle School on April 2. About 60 people attended the forum, which included a workshop and information booths.

Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets kicked off the forum with a presentation of Key Peninsula programs designed to fight the growing meth labs in the neighborhoods. Members of TEAM (Teens Empowered Against Meth) were introduced. In addition to educating their peers about dangers of meth addiction, their goals are focused on working with the state Legislature to have meth-related ingredients, such as certain cold medicines, removed from the shelves at stores and placed under lock prior to a sale. They are also targeting the removal of drug paraphernalia from the smoke shops.

Lt. Larry Bauer of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Peninsula Detachment, encouraged a law enforcement and community partnership. Bauer explained the coverage on the peninsula and efforts being made to organize neighborhoods to work with the department to solve the local problems.

"I can pull ... the Department of Health and other drug enforcement



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Sue Peterson of Vaughn is briefed by Daina Ager from Washington States Department of Corrections on the various types of drug-related paraphernalia.

agencies to assist us in solving these problems. We encourage everyone to organize and participate to rid your area of the meth lab problem," Bauer said.

The other speakers emphasized how meth addiction is closely related to much of the crime on the peninsula. Ron Evans, from the Pierce County Sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit,

**"Washington is ranked as one of the highest states in numbers of meth labs busted."**

**-Pat Lantz, state rep.**

discussed the importance of the formation of Block Watch groups like Citizens' Patrol. Detective Michael Ames illustrated how identity theft and mail theft are commonly occurring due to meth activity. Deputy Tom Olesen with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, educated the audience on how to recognize meth labs and paraphernalia, and Daniel Bissonnette, executive director of A Chance To Change, discussed how to identify the signs and symptoms of drug use in youth.

Exhibits and information booths represented some of the agencies that are partners in the fight against meth. The Washington State Department of Corrections, U.S. Postmaster, Pierce County Neighborhood Action Team, Pierce County Juvenile Court, Key Peninsula Community Services, and the Olalla Recovery Center were just a few of the agencies present to answer questions and explain their work to fight methamphetamine and the crimes relating to the addiction.

"For a three-and-a-half-hour commitment, it was a good turnout. We were pleased," Taylor said, adding that the forum was the first of many other public outreach activities planned by the Key Peninsula Crime Prevention Task Force.

"This is an important step in educating the public on the dangers of meth... but education without action will do no good," he said.

*Hugh McMillan contributed to this article.*

## KP Lions/ KPMPD to build Home Park picnic shelter

By Hugh McMillan  
KP News

The last Saturday of March at the Key Peninsula Fire Department's station in Home, members of the KP Lions Club and KP Metropolitan Park District convened a meeting to seek public input for the proposed Lions Club-sponsored construction of a picnic shelter in Home Park. The park, opened a little more than a year ago, is essentially undeveloped for public use and the two organizations wanted to ensure that the planned construction met with public approval.

The group unanimously accepted a design submitted by KP Lions Vice President and chair of the club's Home Park Assistance Committee George Robison. The design was prepared by a local civil and structural engineer and was previously approved by the KPMPD board. The board had also agreed on a proposed site and orientation within the park for the structure. A basic lumber supply will be provided by the KPMPD from existing supplies.

"Community input was sought to assure that the construction meets the needs of the intended user community," said KPMPD Chair Paula DeMoss.

"You need not be members of the Lions or the KPMPD to contribute your ideas, money, materials, or building talents to help make the project a success," said Robison. Lions will be soliciting cash and material contributions from businesses and the general public. Those wishing to participate in the project or to make a contribution should contact Robison at 853-2721.

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# KPHS Museum celebrates 10 years

By Ronda Anderson  
Special to KP News

Members of the Key Peninsula Historical Society had a dream that some day artifacts from the Key Peninsula would be somewhere all could see. Now those members and others look forward to celebrating the 10th anniversary of the KPHS Museum in May.

It took more than a building and artifacts to start the museum. Many volunteer hours were needed to build display cases, hang ceiling lights made from the courting buggy wheels of Elmer and Elsie Olson, receive, catalog, and display acquisitions from many donors. As with any venture, it took money to get started, and the museum wouldn't be open today if not for ongoing donations from community businesses and individuals to meet the museum's financial needs.

The small museum is packed with pieces of local history. Showcases for Lakebay, Longbranch, Home, and Vaughn/Glencove each have items particular to that area. One showcase has baskets



Photo courtesy of the KP museum

Vaughn Union High School, 1945. The museum is in the building on the right.

from the early Native Americans of the area. Another showcases the logging industry with a coal oil bottle, froe and mallet for cutting cedar shakes, a 1952 7-hp McCullough loggers' chain saw, and wood planes from the estate of Capt. John Wahlborg.

A herring rake hangs from the wall, as well as senior pictures from Vaughn Union High School. A couple of swimsuits used at Faraway in Longbranch adorn the wall above the display case, along with a

Faraway sign.

Of course there's a nice collection of "old" toys, including an 1895 doll, Solar bicycle gas lamp, pencil box and a 1920s Little Red Rider. Many items to look at, enjoy, and to bring back memories of being a "kid" before television, computers, and video games.

The Mosquito Fleet was important to the establishment of many communities on the Key Peninsula. As the peninsula is surrounded by water on three sides, early

## Celebrate the museum's anniversary

KPHS members invite the public to join them on Saturday, May 7, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., to celebrate the 10th anniversary of their dream. Stop by the Civic Center, home of the museum, to celebrate, look back to earlier days on the Key Peninsula, and view the Sallie Sloan exhibit, graduation pictures of some old-timers, and many wonderful artifacts that tell stories of times long gone.

transportation to Glencove, Vaughn, Home, Lakebay, and Longbranch was by boat to deliver goods as well as people. Pictures of many of the boats that served the area are on display, as well as a foghorn from 1897, a marine compass, and many other fine articles.

A kitchen area with a cookstove used in the Home school at 6th and C streets, along with a Griswold waffle iron from the Bradley House in Vaughn, are among the many wares from early kitchens and laundry.

A new display on Sallie Sloan by Caitlin Kezele, for her Peninsula High School senior project, is currently on exhibit.

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**Editorial**

**A disgraceful act**

It is unbelievable to hear the latest news about Memorial Day preparations at the Vaughn Cemetery. Someone has stolen nearly two dozen bricks from a wall slated to become a permanent veterans' memorial.

Every year, members of the nonprofit Vaughn Cemetery Association take special care of the grounds in preparation for Memorial Day observances. For a decade, local veterans' groups have flown service flags to honor departed military veterans. This year, a special celebration is planned for May 29 — the dedication of a permanent memorial.

Cemetery association members solicited more than \$1,000 worth of donations to purchase 150 bricks for the wall, where seven flags will be erected for the first time this May. It took many hours of hard labor to build the wall. One day, volunteers came to the grounds to find more than 20 bricks missing. It wasn't an impromptu theft: Each brick weighs a hefty 60 pounds.

Someone apparently needed to finish a landscaping job and couldn't afford \$80 for bricks — and saw the opportunity to get some for "free." It's sad to know such a blatant act of vandalism would happen in our community. It's not the first time either: A couple of years ago thieves helped themselves to newly planted trees from the same area.

"It really dashes your belief in mankind," says Joe Dervaes, cemetery association president. "You are stealing from the community."

They are really stealing from themselves, and from a sacred place where some day they or their family may be placed to rest. It's a disgrace.

Luckily, there are still Good Samaritans around. A business owner who wished to remain anonymous stepped in to donate enough bricks to redo the wall.

Now, the challenge will be to keep the vandals from coming back. Citizens' Patrol members have been put on alert, as have local sheriff's deputies, but it takes more: It takes all of us to be vigilant. If you drive by the cemetery, or any other business or public building, and you see something suspicious, notify the authorities.

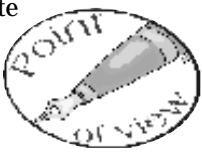
"Being observant is half the battle," Dervaes notes. The other half is perhaps exposing the culprits on a virtual "community wall of shame."

**A different picture:**

**The Purdy ramp will benefit DOT, not KP residents**

By Mike Baum

I have studied the Department of Transportation's ramp meter plan and have concluded that there is reason for serious concern. The DOT has installed meters on the last five eastbound onramps of State Route 16 before the bridge. My concerns are with the SR302/Purdy and Burnham Drive meters.



Transportation experts describe the merging of two traffic flows as the "platoon effect." Too many cars merging with too little room. Space them out and traffic will flow better. Minimizing the platoon effect is the goal of a meter system. Usually. But not this time. To my knowledge, the Purdy ramp has never produced a slowdown due to the platoon effect. So why meter? The answer is to control volume. A highway will only handle a certain number of cars. Beyond that capacity, distances between cars lessen and speeds go down. If the DOT can keep x-number of cars in queues at five onramps for two hours, they can prevent the main highway from reaching that saturation point. But it's a slippery slope. Read on.

Gridlock. DOT suggests that the backup will extend no further than 2,000 feet down the hill, yet they have not installed sensors or cameras at that point. They won't even know if traffic is backed up over the Purdy spit. Irresponsible, in my opinion. If the backup extends over the Purdy Spit, it will impact high school arrivals and traffic around Burley Lagoon.

Economy. Both ramps are long uphill stretches. Traffic will be stop-and-go, followed by a rapid uphill acceleration. There will be additional fuel used. At 25 cents per trip, the total would be over \$200,000 per year. Lower property values are also a possibility.

Traffic impact. Some cars will not have accelerated to freeway speed and be merging at a less than optimum speed, ironically creating a traffic problem like the one DOT is suggesting the meters will be eliminating.

Also, once congestion has occurred prior to the bridge, there is no possible advantage to holding cars at Purdy. But they cannot release the traffic, as it would then become a platoon and create a secondary slowdown at Purdy. So they will keep them queued and essentially be giving traffic from Port Orchard, Bremerton and Gig Harbor

priority. Starting to get the picture? This is not a well-thought out plan.

So why are they doing this then? Well, there is an advantage to the people of Gig Harbor and Port Orchard when you have commuters from the Key Peninsula sit in line. They will get to the bridge faster. DOT's own study cites political factors as a consideration in creating a volume controlling queue with ramp meters. Perhaps they feel we will quietly accept this burden.

My solution? Abandon the ramp meters at the Purdy and Burnham spans. They are for DOT's benefit, not ours.

Don't forget the DOT meeting May 24 to discuss a new ramp at the bridge specifically for Gig Harbor commuters. Now are you getting the picture?

*Mike Baum is an aerial photographer who lives on the Key Peninsula.*

**Editor's note:**

The May 24 meeting is an open house on the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge and State Route 16 projects. It starts at 5:30 p.m., at Harbor Ridge Middle School, 9010 Prentice Avenue NW in Gig Harbor. For more about WSDOT projects, see [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects)

**Welcome back from Iraq to Key Pen soldiers!** Do you know a KP resident who has recently returned from Iraq or is currently serving on active duty anywhere around the country or the world? We'd like to feature them in a special tribute to soldiers. Please leave your name and number at 884-4699 or email [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) to learn details.

**Letters to the Editor**

**Humane Society responds to letter**

I am writing in response to "Humane Society charges late fees without notice" (Letters, April, 2005). The Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County does not want your readers to be misinformed. Mr. Gephart's letter states many untrue statements and he has unfortunately obtained his information from an unreliable source.

The reality is that The Humane Society no longer provides animal control services for Pierce County other than pet licensing, and that will only be until Dec. 31, 2005. If Key Peninsula residents have animal control issues, they should contact Pierce County Animal

Control at 798-PETS. If residents are concerned with the level of service, they should contact their county council representative.

Meanwhile, The Humane Society will continue to notify owners of pets whose pet licenses are due, and canvass neighborhoods looking for unlicensed pets, as we have always done. Please note, while we do send a letter to notify when pet licenses are due, this is done as a courtesy and we cannot be responsible for the delivery of those letters. The responsibility of licensing is the owner's alone.

The only reason The Humane Society reduced its staffing was to compensate for the elimination of the Pierce County animal control program, and is not experiencing an "apparent budget crisis." The Humane Society has been an important and vibrant part of this

community since 1888 and will continue to be viable and help abused, neglected and homeless animals far into the future.

Humane Society board of directors has announced that the Society will not renew any animal control contracts, including licensing programs, effective Jan. 1, 2006, as this is a municipality responsibility.

The Humane Society will refocus its resources by leading the effort to eliminate the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals in Pierce County. The Humane Society will continue to serve the Key Peninsula and other communities through its many humane programs.

*Thomas D. Sayre  
The Humane Society for Tacoma and  
Pierce County*



# Touch the children - change the world

By Linda L. Anderson  
Special to KP News

In the midst of a world immersed in war and chaos, mankind searches desperately for something good to latch onto. Soldiers want to know that their efforts are not in vain. Children need respites from their fear and insecurities. People need one another for encouragement, having their needs met and some semblance of what humanity is all about.

Military from several countries around the globe have joined in the efforts for a better life in Iraq. No one likes war, but it is sometimes a necessary thing. It is a necessary tool to accomplish the goals set. It is not necessary for me to reiterate the reasons for military action in Iraq. It is not necessary for all peoples to agree with those reasons or support the idea of war when it is against their conscience.

It is, however, necessary that the people of the United States stand

behind their government and the military personnel who put their lives on the line for the success of the mission to help the Iraqi people.



I am a military mom. I will not insult you by saying I am looking forward to my son being deployed in the coming months. I won't tell you that he is thrilled with the prospects of going into combat. However, I am proud that my son is willing to go because he understands it is necessary. "There is a job to do and we have to go do it, Mom," he told me.

All of our military serving in Iraq and going there need to know that it is for a worthwhile cause and that they have the support of their fellow Americans. A letter, an email, a care package, a patriotic word to someone else to join in the supportive efforts go a long way to keep our military personnel active, motivated and coming back alive in greater numbers.

There are others we need to understand as well: the people of Iraq. Their land is explosive, their sleep interrupted with bombs and gunfire, their hope dangling by a thread. The children have learned fear and death first hand. Many have lost the adults they counted on for provision and protection. Their streets are filled with soldiers and tanks, guns and devastation.

Look again, and you will see that their streets are also where they meet and bless the men and women who have endangered themselves to give these people a new hope for the future. Their wounds and their lives are touched by caring hands, a kind word, a smile that transcends the language barrier.

Actor/director Gary Sinise and author Linda Hillenbrand have formed Operation Iraqi Children, a program through which much needed items may be sent to the children of Iraq. Many of you may know Sinise in "Forest Gump," "Ransom," and "Apollo 13."

The Lakebay Community Church is

leading the way on the Peninsula by organizing a collection drive as part of its Outreach Ministry. Church members will collect the needed supplies for Operation Iraqi Children until May 10. The church will serve as the central location for collections from businesses and groups, and prepare all donations for shipment to the warehouse in Kansas City, where international delivery services will ship the items free of charge to the troops in Iraq, who will then hand them out to the children.

If everyone who reads this promotes the positive side of the war in Iraq, it will rub off on others. Before we know it, the attitude of the entire country will change.

Any clubs, organizations, churches, schools, families can organize an effort to provide the school supplies needed by the Iraqi children. It's easy. It's important. It's personally rewarding. You can touch lives and make the world better.

*Linda Anderson is a member of Lakebay Community Church and a Key Pen resident.*

#### Editor's note:

For supply kit instructions, please see the Community Works page.

*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. We welcome your views and feedback. Please email news@keypennews.com or call 884-4699 to find out our letters and columns policy, or visit www.keypennews.com.*



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# Permanent veterans' memorial erected in Vaughn

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Every May for about a decade, Memorial Day on the Key Peninsula has brought an inspiring view: dozens of American flags flying at the Vaughn Cemetery. It is one of those rare occasions when organizers of an event would wish for wind: The higher the wind, the more awesome the view.

The flags themselves are even more special than the awe they inspire, as they fly under the blue sky 200-plus at a time. The flags, collected by the local veterans' groups, are casket flags of military veterans who have passed away from across the country and even across the world.

"All the flag poles are spaced out so flags can fly fully without hitting each other. It's a marvelous sight, a beauty to behold," said Joe Dervaes, president of the Vaughn Cemetery Association, which has been working with the local VFW post and now the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute to make the day special.

It is even more special this year: A permanent memorial will be dedicated at the cemetery, where seven flags, one for each of the six service branches and one for POW/MIA, will be erected. The May 29 dedication will include music by the Bremerton Navy Band, a blessing of the site by Suquamish Tribe Elder Jim Pratt, and special speakers. The annual memorial service will follow.

This year, 211 casket flags will be flown in the "Aisle of Honor." They include flags from Medal of Honor recipients, from Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, several wars, and all branches of U.S. service.

"When we first started this, we contacted cemeteries to find soldiers. Now, it's word of mouth," said KPVI's Cy Young. "This is dedicated to all the veterans, no matter where they've been."

Any family member can give the flag to KPVI, regardless of how long the person who died served, what branch, or whether he or she was in a war. Each pole has a plaque with the soldier's name, and a board near with all the names listed, matched with pole numbers for easy locating, is provided for the day. They are numbered in the order in which they were donated.

"They go to great lengths to preserve the flags on behalf of the families," Dervaes said.

The nonprofit cemetery board raised more than \$1,000 to build the rock wall where the flags will be raised.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The Vaughn Cemetery members were working on a rock wall in April where the KP Veterans Institute will install a permanent memorial to soldiers.

The KPVI was hoping to have a special veteran present at the dedication: Washington's first gentleman, Mike Gregoire. The group had invited Gov. Christine Gregoire to attend, but upon learning of a previous commitment, she asked if they would instead accept her husband, to which they said, according to one member, something like: "Gracious, yes!" Mike Gregoire served in the military and has been involved in veterans' affairs issues. At press time, the group had not received an official confirmation on whether he would be able to attend.

The cemetery association had a temporary setback in April after someone stole more than 20 bricks from the wall. An anonymous business owner, however, donated new bricks for replacement. Volunteers were working hard to finish repairs on time.

## 'Aisle of Honor'

The dedication ceremony and memorial service on May 29 begins at 11:45 a.m. at the Vaughn Cemetery. The permanent veterans' memorial will include one service flag each for the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. The 11th annual memorial service honoring those whose flags fly in the Aisle of Honor will follow.

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# It's almost official: Horseshoe Lake park gets funding

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

It was a three-year dream in the making, but in April it was about to become reality. A 350-acre property of land, known only as the Horseshoe Lake parcel, will become a public park.

The idea started after KP Parks and Recreation District a few years ago created an acquisition committee, chaired by Ed Taylor, to look into opportunities. Out of several properties considered, "this one seemed to have the most potential and be most fruitful for the citizens of the Key Peninsula," Taylor told KP News last year.

The property, near 144th Street and State Route 302, belongs to the Department of Natural Resources. It's forestland, harvested by the state, with proceeds going toward a public school construction fund. About \$87 million per year are generated from the 2.1 million acres of forest trust lands.

For many months, the idea of the park hinged on several factors, including funding from the Legislature. For the property to become a public park, the

## Legislative updates

Several bills passed in the 2005 legislative session will impact the Key Peninsula, including a transportation package that includes improvements to State Route 302. KP News will feature a legislative roundup in the June issue.

lawmakers needed to appropriate money to pay for the value of the land and the value of the trees. Once the Department of Natural Resources included the land on its proposed list of transfers earlier this year, things looked a little brighter. DNR asked for a total appropriation of \$67 million, with Horseshoe Lake at No. 12 on the list.

The average allocation historically has been \$50 million. The projects are usually funded either completely or not at all, said Everett Challstedt, DNR project manager for the Trust Land Transfer Program.

"We looked at more than 50 properties," he said. "We try to look at those requested by public agencies and that for the most part have good timber value. ... Pierce County spoke up for this one and that had an impact (in placing it on DNR's list)."

The acquisition is part of the capital budget proposal, which at press time had not been signed by Gov. Christine Gregoire. She was expected to sign it, according to legislative sources.

"I am thrilled with the trust land transfer successes that we had in making certain that the Horseshoe Lake property will become... a fabulous park for the Key Peninsula, but really for the whole region," said 26th Legislative District Rep. Pat Lantz, who was on the House Capital Budget Committee. "It has such potential."

On July 1, the DNR starts appraising all the parcels for fair value, the first step in the transfer process. The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District would almost certainly be the receiving agency.

KPMPD Chair Paula DeMoss said the board will consider things final only when the transfer process is complete, but once it is, community members will be invited to participate in a planning effort for the future park.

"The acquisition committee has given our community endless hours of volunteer time as they have been working to acquire this land," she said. "This is a great oppor-

tunity for the Key Peninsula to have many recreational needs met. ... I am in high hopes that the community will continue to be involved in the planning of this venture."

Challstedt said the agency has two years to complete the process, which is very extensive. The property would be transferred with a deed restriction for the intended purpose: in this case, open space and recreation. "It is essentially a gift to them (the park district)," he said.



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# Conquering math

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

On a Thursday afternoon, shortly after Key Peninsula Middle School students shuffle into buses or their parents' cars, Travis Huddleston and Sean O'Brien can be seen in a classroom discussing math formulas and concepts with two adult tutors, Kathy Robers and Kim Rosenbach. Nearby, Jaimee Miller and Patrick Chandler, caught up with their own work, enjoy a break on the computers. There is no shortage of smiles in the room.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Volunteer Kim Rosenbach helps KPMS eighth-grader Sean O'Brien with a math exercise.

None of these eighth-graders have to be there. Attendance of the after-school math mentoring program is voluntary.

"My grades are higher. I'm paying attention more during class. It (math) seems easier now because I understand it," explains Patrick, who has only been participating for a few weeks. "I enjoy being here."

"I'm doing better at math, and (the program) is really fun," said Jaimee, whose grades in math are also improving.

The math mentoring sessions, held once a week, are sponsored and coordinated by the Communities in Schools of Peninsula. While already providing other programs at the school, CIS-P staff wanted to do more last fall.

"I met with (school counselor) Kim Lubin and other faculty and asked, 'What can we do to continue to support the students?'" She said, "We need a math program," says Rochelle Doan, CIS-P program and family services director.

After researching other math programs, recruiting and training volunteers, and hiring an onsite coordinator, CIS-P launched the program last November. The goal is to help the students understand basic concepts and catch up. As many as 12 students are tutored by the four volunteers, often in one-on-one sessions.

"It's very personalized instruction," says volunteer Jeff Oliver, who is a certified math teacher with two decades of experience. Oliver moved to the Key Peninsula about a year ago, and was looking for an opportunity to tutor math. When the CIS-P sessions were launched, school staff contacted him to let him know his opportunity knocked.

"My joy in teaching math is ...bringing students some understanding and confidence in what they're doing," he says. "(The tutoring) gives them an extra boost and motivation to apply them-

selves, and getting caught up with homework."

The boost and the motivation in this program are a two-way street. For volunteer Kathy Robers, who works part-time with the school district's pre-school program, helping the students is a way to boost her own confidence.

"I get from them as much as they do from me," says Robers, who worked as a special education aide for 10 years before moving to Gig Harbor from Ohio. Robers and fellow tutor Kim Rosenbach also volunteer at Evergreen Elementary, as part of the reading mentoring program there also sponsored by CIS-P.

Robers was at first shy about participating at KPMS, feeling a little rusty in math. But during her first encounter, she got help from eighth-grader Britney Hill.

"She was so nice, that gave me the confidence to come back," Robers says. "She was so good, I thought, 'I can do this.'"

After about two months, students on the average improved their letter grades by half a grade, and their math level by a full grade, says Leonard Treanton, a site coordinator who is a certified teacher. "It's the relationships with the mentors and other students that help them succeed," he says. By other students he refers to peers who have completed the program successfully, as well as some young math wizards who often hang out to tutor.

"The other kids' success helps them, because they want to attain the same type of progress," he says.

Encouraged by the early success, CIS-P will continue the tutoring program next year, and is looking at ways to potentially expand it.

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# Show & Tell



TJ Schlosser signs his name on a poster supporting The Day of Silence. This is a nationwide event in which participants take a vow of silence to show support to the gays and lesbians who, out of fear and harassment, stay silent about their sexual orientation. *Photo by Christina Moore*

Minter Creek Elementary fifth grader Lindsey Pelletier shows some masterful moves during the school's Jump Rope Assembly. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Vaughn Elementary fourth grade students started their WASL testing in April with a traditional "waffle kick-off" breakfast. Left to right, Owen Joga, Lucretia McMurry, and Michaela Crown, with Mr. Michael Crown putting whip cream on Lucretia's waffle. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Fifth-grade classes at Vaughn Elementary School journeyed to Olympia recently to visit the state Capitol. While they were in the visitors' balcony of the House chamber, State Rep. Derek Kilmer spotted them and came up from the floor to share a few words and answer questions.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*



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# LIC dinner auction raises \$15,000 for roof



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Pat Latshaw, co-chair of the auction committee, entices the bidders to pony up for a Spirit of Washington Dinner Train ride.

By Hugh McMillan  
KP News

The second Saturday of last month, the Longbranch Improvement Club's "Raise Your Spirits and Raise the Roof" dinner auction at the LIC clubhouse was judged a "surprisingly well attended event" by Rich Hildahl, a past president of the organization.

"We'd hoped for a good crowd, but we were astonished with the overflow ... of those attending," he said. "We had to set up extra tables and chairs to meet the need."

According to Hildahl, the auction brought in about \$15,000, all of which will be used for installation of a new roof on the clubhouse, which is a national historic landmark. The new roof will cost about \$100,000. Club members plan to replace or overcover the current rusting galvanized-steel roof with a new steel roof of more durable finish. At this juncture, the building structure will have to be examined by certified experts to determine if it will support another layer of steel before final planning can proceed.

Auction committee co-chairs Connie Hildahl and Carolyn Wiley said "putting

together an auction takes countless hours of hard work, dedication, and a passion for the cause." They thanked auctioneer Jim Marso; art director Tim Heitzman; the dinner committee members Linda LeBlanc, Paula Bowen, and Norma Iverson; administrative coordinator Carol Ptak; and the auction committee members Pat Latshaw, MaryAnn McDonald, and Mark Jones.

"So many more deserve recognition and credit for a job well done, it would fill a book," the co-chairs said.

More than 80 individuals, businesses and other groups contributed an eclectic offering of auction items including artwork, plants, jewelry, baskets, newspaper subscriptions, pottery, boat cruises, nights in a condo in Seattle, building supplies, even wristwatches and a military top coat from the former Soviet Union.

But the item that drew most fervent attention was a used book sale of some pretty ratty looking books, into which "surprises" were placed, including gift certificates for a variety of goodies that in at least one case far exceeded in value the price paid.

Those wishing to help get that roof on the LIC clubhouse is encouraged to call past president Rich Hildahl at 884-1400.

# Board wraps up environmental phase

Land-use, economic development discussions begin in May

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

The Key Peninsula Community Planning Board was getting ready to finish the plan's natural environment policies at the end of April. At press time, a special meeting was scheduled for last week in April to finalize the review of the environmental aspect.

The board will not officially vote on approval of the environmental policies until the entire plan is complete, but Pierce County Senior Planner Mike Kruger said he is seeking "general concurrence" before moving on to the next phase. He said he was satisfied in terms of that concurrence so far for the portion that the board discussed at the April 19 meeting.

Many of the board members have been participating in the subcommittee work over the last three months. Any member of the general public attending the subcommittee meetings was considered part of the subcommittee. At least one of those members, Rick Sorrels, told the board he did not feel the plan to date was ready for approval, while former state Rep. Lois McMahan said she was concerned that some aspects would unnecessarily infringe on property rights.

The policy focuses largely on public education and on incentives to property owners. It is significantly different from the community plan adopted in unincorporated Gig Harbor—which has more specific and more stringent restrictions.

Some highlights of the environmental

policies include:

- Supporting public education and incentive-based programs to protect the natural environment;
- Discouraging use of fertilizers, pesticides and other toxic substances and encouraging use of alternative energy sources, water conservation, low-impact development techniques and other environmentally friendly practices;
- Protecting groundwater resources and the quality of surface water, including implementing methods for reducing potential seawater intrusion, using farm plans, promoting use of native vegetation, and discouraging new dock and pier construction;
- Preserving open space, including encouragement of open space acquisitions, and conducting an inventory of existing public properties that have open space potential.

The policies, once approved, will result in some new regulations as well as amendments in current county codes. The outlined ideas — such as having a permit ombudsman, using various incentives, and assisting landowners with septic tank failures — are specific to the Key Peninsula, Kruger said, although the county council may choose to implement similar strategies countywide.

## KP Community Plan

For details about the KP planning board's draft policies, call county planning at 798-2700 or go online to [www.piercecountywa.org/landuse](http://www.piercecountywa.org/landuse). An informational booth will be available at the KP Livable Community Fair on May 7 at the Civic Center.

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'The magic of life'

# Key Pen woman helps achieve fulfillment

By Irene Torres  
KP News

**A** radiant Barbara Hawkins beams a contagious smile as she talks about her life and her living. Caring for her family back in Kentucky, she says, "I always knew there would come a time when I'd bolt for the door." After the passing of her mother and an elderly aunt, Hawkins realized her four boys had grown and gone on their way. She found herself free of responsibility and could begin to pursue her own career and her dreams.

Adding to her coursework at Stevens College in Columbia, Mo., and classes at the University of Louisville, Ky., Hawkins began to attend conferences to learn the art of hypnosis. At one of those conferences, she met a woman from Edmonds, Wash., who would become a dear friend. She invited Hawkins to visit the Puget Sound, which she did, and fell in love with the area. Eventually, she moved to Edmonds, then to Port Townsend; but every time she heard the name of Gig Harbor, she said, "I just knew I would live here someday."

In the fall of 2004, she picked up a newspaper, and saw a real estate ad for this area. "Here I am, and I just love it," she says.

Now, peaceful, relaxed and confident, Hawkins has started a business on the Key Peninsula, Life by Design.

"God always leads where we need to be, depending on how smoothly — or how roughly — he makes the path we follow," she says.

Her faith is strong and her casual conversation is sprinkled with Bible

passages and references to God's direction for her life.

Hawkins works in the area of personal and career development, and asks her clients, "What is the goal you want to achieve? How do you want this to be fulfilled in your life? A promotion, higher sales, to start a business?"

"Then we begin to chart a course," she says. "To make a decision to center yourself can impact your day in so many good ways. Incorporating a few moments of relaxation will help to achieve a better result," she says.

Using visualization, autosuggestion and neurolinguistic (NLP) programming techniques, she can help people achieve their goals. She is careful to explain that she is only an assistant, that the client must take the action required to fulfill the need: "They have to want it. I can't make a person do anything. I can't make a person stop smoking or lose weight. I just give them the tools to do it themselves."

She defines her work with clients as "a tight focus of attention in a relaxed state of mind," and she adds, "in a safe environment." "Hypnosis is not something spooky. It is active, directed prayer, used to build an awareness of mind, and a link with God," she says.

NLP is the way the brain and mind code memories. "We can change the way we store our memories, and we can learn to use that knowledge to help ourselves," she says. NLP is one of the techniques she uses to help victims of trauma overcome post-traumatic stress syndrome so that those memories no longer need to be associated with emotional distress. "They can lay it to rest and make peace with themselves," she



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Barbara Hawkins helps people discover the magic within themselves.

says. By 2006, Hawkins' own goal is to attend NLP master practitioner training.

"We all express our creativity in different ways. Most people are visual, gaining awareness from what they see. Some are auditory, getting their information from hearing. Others are kinesthetic, using their body reactions and gut feelings to direct their decisions," she explains. "All successful CEOs like Bill Gates and Donald Trump have high kinesthetic perceptions. One of the gifts I bring is sharing how we are not limited to one view of the world."

Using "future pacing," Hawkins can help clients rehearse their desired behaviors and direct themselves toward achieving their goals. She is interested in expanding her programs into businesses to help them get in touch with clients' needs, establish the right relationships with people, create repeat customers, "to get people to work interrelatedly to achieve maximum potential."

As she relates details of her most profound success, her eyes grow misty. She knows she made a difference in the life of at least one client, a man in his mid-20s. He had come to her as a referral from a therapist in Atlanta, Ga., a practitioner whom Hawkins did not know. The client had suffered severe trauma in his young life and had been debilitated by posttraumatic stress syndrome for years. The techniques he learned from Hawkins resulted

in a pouring out of tears, a genuine cleansing process. When his session was over, he told Hawkins, "None of it matters any more." She says, "All of the pain and despair he felt from the traumatic experience had left him. He was free of the pain that had cramped his heart."

Three of Hawkins' sons live in and around Louisville, Ky. The other, David Wood, is a recruiter with the U.S. Air Force, stationed in Little Rock, Ark. He is awaiting deployment to Iraq in January 2006. "People serving in our military have made such a commitment to their families, to their communities, and to our country. Regardless how we feel about being over there, we need to respect that commitment," she says. To repay those returning after service in the war zone, Hawkins is willing to teach them, at no charge, techniques for dealing with post-traumatic stress.

She calls her approach "transpersonal," coach-speak for "whatever works." "As Harv Eckert says, 'our tool chest gets bigger' with every class we take, and every one we teach. As practitioners, we tailor to each individual client's needs and use the tools we have learned...different ways, different places," she says.

With a sparkle in her eyes, she relates her awareness of those around her: "I see the joy, the beauty and the love in people — that's the magic of life."



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## Business briefs

### New counseling office opens in Key Center

A new counseling office is now open in Key Center at the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center (next to the Key Center Library). Maudie Lucas, M.Ed., LMHC, is accepting clients for individual, couples and family counseling. She has many years of experience counseling people in all stages of their walk in life.

Lucas says her philosophy of counseling is rooted in the firm belief that knowing the truth about oneself will set the person free. She uses an interactive approach and includes practical ways for clients to apply what they are learning.

Lucas, who used to live on the peninsula, has many fond local memories. "It's great to be back," she said.

### Nimrick's celebrates 2 years

On Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15, from noon to 5 p.m., Nimrick's Furnishings Old 'N New will be hosting an open house to celebrate the store's second anniversary. Co-owners Barb and Geri would like to thank all their customers for

their patronage and support, which has helped make their business a success. Refreshments will be available.

### Sunnycrest featured at show

The Sunnycrest Nursery of Key Center will be featured as one of the 20 exhibitors at the Point Defiance Flower and Garden Show at Point Defiance Park on June 3-5. Owner Claudia Loy will design a garden with the theme of "Timeless Beach Retreat" with an artsy feel. The garden will use deer-resistant, drought-tolerant plants and a water feature, in a setting that gives the feeling of rejuvenation, "a place where you can hang out for the weekend," she said.

Sunnycrest will sell advance tickets (\$12 adults; \$5 kids) until May 20; tickets also sold at the event (\$15 adults). For details, see [www.ptdefianceflowershow.com](http://www.ptdefianceflowershow.com).

### Clarification

An April business brief stated the Country Gardens flower and gift shop near the 76 gas station in Wauna has closed. This store has no relationship to Terry's Country Gardens, located several miles further off State Route 302, near the new Brookside Restaurant.

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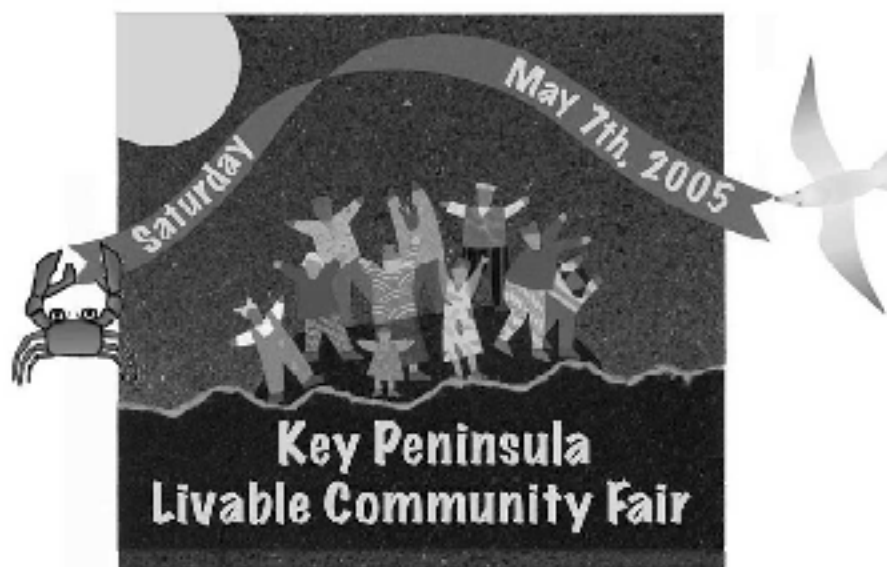
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# 'Mothering the mother' Two Key Pen doulas help through baby delivery

By Paula Moore  
KP News

Key Peninsula has two doulas — professional birth assistants — working in partnership at the Harbor Doula Group. They are Michele Hill and Karen Ramirez.

Hill, mother of three, was already interested in becoming a doula when she moved down the street from Ramirez.

"I was fascinated during the birth of my best friend's baby, and it felt natural for me to nurture her even though I had not had any formal training," Hill said.

As the two young mothers became friends, Hill shared her excitement about becoming a doula with Ramirez. Soon Ramirez, also a mother of three children, found she wanted to join in.

"I have always been fascinated by pregnancy and the birth process. Being able to comfort and empower a woman's journey is very rewarding," Ramirez said.

Their journey has taken them to Bates Technical College, where they received

**"Being able to comfort and empower a woman's journey is very rewarding."**

-Michele Hill, doula

their training. PALS (Pacific Association of Labor Services) certified Hill. Ramirez has applied for her certification through DONA, Doulas of North America, and hopes to get it soon. To complete certification, the doula must have extensive study and attend three births with documentation of these births. She must also have good references from the parents, doctors, midwives, and nurses who were present at the births she assisted.

The word doula comes from ancient Greece. It means "women's servant." Today the word refers to a professional birth assistant. A doula provides informational, physical and emotional support to mothers and their partner before, during, and after birth.

Because doulas understand the range of medical procedures presented to pregnant women and those in labor, they can offer information to the couple to help them make better choices.

A doula doesn't take the place of the



*Photo by Mindi LaRose*

Doulas Michelle Hill (left) and Karen Ramirez pose with a birthing ball, belly ring and sifting scarf used to assist and provide comfort to pregnant moms.

doctor, midwife, or nurse, but is part of the prenatal team. The mother, not the hospital or the insurance company, employs her.

The doula does all the nurturing tasks. She brings quiet harp music, aromatherapy, massage oil, microwavable rice packs for labor pains, high protein snacks, bottled water, lip balm and mouth wash. By making the woman comfortable and relaxed, each birth becomes personal and special.

Beyond making the mother at ease and giving more maternal satisfaction with the childbirth experience, there are physical benefits to having a doula, the two women said: shorter labor, fewer complications, and reduction in the need of pain medications and epidurals.

Besides attending at births, they offer private home childbirth classes, as well as classes taught in public health centers. They also have postpartum services, which include teaching mothers to care for their infants, light cooking or cleaning, and help with household needs. Harbor Doula services include 24-hour, on-call help, along with assistance choosing a birth plan.

Confidentiality is very important, and records are treated as any medical staff would.

Hill expressed both women's thoughts, by saying, "A doula magnifies the miracle of birth by mothering the mother."

# Commission considers delisting

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Less than 15 years after including the old Wauna post office on its register of historic buildings, the Pierce County Landmarks Commission is due to vote on whether it should delist it. At an April meeting with the Pierce County Parks and Recreation, which owns the building, commissioners heard arguments from parks staff and neighbors on why the building should no longer be on the register.

Delisting is the first step in demolishing the structure. The dilapidating building is a liability and no longer has any utility value, said parks Director Jan Wolcott.

"We were unable to find any supportive service group that would assist us financially in renovating the building," he said. The Friends of Wauna Post Office, pressured by negative feedback from area residents, has conceded the effort earlier this year. "No one has stepped forward," since then, Wolcott said.

After purchasing the building more than a decade ago, the county had great plans for it—and for improvements of the entire Purdy Sand Spit park area.

"At the time, everyone was very optimistic about what they could do with the property...but the circumstances changed," said Airyang Julia Park, the county's historic preservation officer.

The location, an environmentally sensitive area, and other obstacles made it difficult to obtain funding. In the meantime, the structure has received no maintenance. "It's been deteriorating over the years and maybe gone beyond the condition (from which) it could be restored," Park said. "Because the community coalition that wanted to restore it gave up, that decision will impact (the vote), unless another group comes along."

But the time for anyone else to come forward is running out. The landmarks commission would likely consider the delisting request at its May 10 meeting. "The (landmarks) board members seem to be supportive of our decision to have it removed," Wolcott said.

The Pierce County Council must also approve the final decision. Once the request is approved, the parks department would seek a demolition permit, he said.

No funding was available in this year's budget for the demolition.

# Residents on power line road face 'locked gate' restriction

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Residents who live on the so-called "Power Line Road," nicknamed due to the electricity transmission lines that run on it, found themselves in early April greeted by a newly installed gate.

Known officially as 144th Street KPN, the road is a right-of-way for the Tacoma Power, and for years has been part of a dispute between the residents and Pierce County.

The county maintains this road belongs to the utility, thus it's not a legal access, thus they will not issue any permits—at the utility's request. The residents maintain they used to get permits all the time, until several years ago. The road, or at least part of it, is county roadway, they say—and they have proof.

In the meantime, property owners have been landlocked, unable to get permits for remodeling and roof repairs, and in some cases unable to sell their homes. To add insult to the injury, the gate, installed by Tacoma Power, is slated to be locked, leaving access only to residents, utility crews, and emergency services.

Tacoma Power spokeswoman Chris Gleason attended one of the neighborhood meetings in April. She brought photos showing dumped cars and loads of garbage on one portion of the road.

The photos included a car that was apparently used as shooting practice, and a dead goat inside another vehicle. The cleanup, she says, costs the company \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year.

"We feel the only solution is to keep out people who don't belong on this right-of-way, and the only way to limit access is to lock the gate," she said. The gate could be locked as early as June.

The situation brought back to light the dispute between residents, county officials and Tacoma Power. A county representative told KP News last year that several permits were issued by mistake and the problem was corrected. Many residents said they were led to believe 144th was an undeveloped county road (see previous coverage in the October 2003 issue). Tacoma Power says it's willing to "cooperate" with the county to solve the problem, but that the county hasn't been responsive. There has even been discussion of giving the road to the county as long as the utility is relieved of liability. But the county says it doesn't have money to bring the road up to standards and maintain it.

In the meantime, residents are paying taxes on what they say are properties with greatly diminished values. And they're not giving up the fight.

(For more, read the next issue of the Key Peninsula News.)

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## News briefs

### KPMS student to travel to Australia

Katrina English, KPMS sixth grader who will be an ambassador through the People To People national program this summer, has made her goal in raising funds for her travel. (See KP News, April 2005 for full story.)

Katrina raised over \$500 from the fund-raiser held at Rudolph's Espresso in March and a few more dollars came her way after the publication of her story in the KP News. The family was still a little short, but through some creative financing, they were able to come up with the rest of the money.

The Key Peninsula and the entire United States will no doubt be well represented in Australia by Katrina.

### Nextel wants to build tower

Nextel Communications has filed an application with the Pierce County planning department for a conditional-use permit to place a 150-foot cellular phone tower in Wauna. Because the site is located in a residential area, the application must be approved by a hearing examiner. "They came to my door and said, 'You've got the right spot,'" said property owner Mike Salatino, who would lease part of his land to the company. He said Nextel would pay for improvements and permits.

County planner Mojgan Carlson said cell phone towers in residential areas are not uncommon, with at least one currently located on the Key Peninsula.

Nextel representatives could not be reached for comment. The company announced in December that it would merge with Sprint by the middle of 2005.



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PHOTO: MARY BRIDGE

## Coffee House invites teens

On the Key Peninsula, April 1 was not April Fools' Day. It was the grand opening of the Teen Coffee House for high school students, grades nine through 12.

"It's a place to hang out on Friday nights," said co-youth and family director Troy Milles of the KP Lutheran Church. The coffee house runs each Friday from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at McColley Hall, corner of Lackey Road and the Key Peninsula Highway next to the KP Lutheran Church, and it's free. Snacks, soft drinks, bands, board games, karaoke, poetry reading, crafts, music, computer homework stations, teen issue debates or forums, and open mic keep things lively. Teen bands wanting to perform live are welcome. For information, contact Milles or his co-director, Kirsten Roberts, at 884-3312.

—By Hugh McMillan

## Down Home Band rides again

The first summer practice of the Down Home Band will be at the Key Medical Center, 15610 89th St. in downtown Key Center, on Thursday, May 5, at 7 p.m. The band is open to all community members who play a band instrument. The first performance will be at the annual Gig Harbor Cancer Run on June 11. Show up if you are interested or call Dr. Roes at 884-9221 for more information about the band or practices.

## Women's ministry to begin on KP

A new home, Bible-based, women's ministry is starting in May. Our purpose is to minister to women who are hurting and lonely. There will be personal ministry and prayer. The meetings will be each Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Key Peninsula area every month. Space is very limited.

Email spirit9@centurytel.net or call Bonnie Freed at 857-5528 if interested. Leave your name and contact phone number and we will confirm your reservation.

—By Bonnie Freed

## Dinner and dance to benefit Evergreen Elementary

The Sixth Annual Dinner/Dance to benefit the Evergreen Elementary School Reading Program will be held May 21 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club. A full spaghetti dinner, catered by Tricia Thompson, will

## Key Singers present Spring Concert



Photo courtesy of Key Singers

The Key Singers would like to thank the Key Peninsula Community and say that "your past support for the Key Singers has been so 'heartening.'" The group's annual spring concert's theme this year is "Songs From The Heart." The concert is May 15 at 3 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road and Key Pen Highway. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and teens, and free for 12 and under. A raffle will be held and refreshments provided. Tickets for the concert and raffle may be purchased from Key Singers, at the Livable Community Fair on May 7 at the Civic Center in Vaughn, or at the door before the concert.

be served starting at 6:30 p.m.

Music will be by the Blues Passage Band, a talented local group that specializes in acoustic and amplified country and rockin' blues music. The Evergreen Elementary Blues Kids (from the After OURS blues harmonica class) will also perform.

All proceeds benefit the Evergreen Elementary School reading program. The sponsors for the dance are Baillie & Associates, Inc. and Larson Anthropological Archaeological Services Limited. For information, call 858-1499.

## Dust off the your cleats and grab your glove

Summer is fast approaching and it is time for coed softball on the Key Peninsula. The Key Peninsula Metro Park District is now accepting team registrations for weeknight coed softball. Teams will play a 10-game season plus a double elimination end of the season tournament. Games will start the week of July 5. Games will take place Monday through Thursday with an end of season tournament being played on Saturday and Sunday in September. Individuals without a team may contact KPMPD and request to be put on a player availability list. The cost of the league and end of season tournament is \$ 550. Team registrations and rosters are due by June 14, 2005.

For more information or to request a team registration flyer, please call 884-9240.

## Preschool invites you to book swap

The Nature's Child Montessori in Lakebay invites everyone interested to bring their children's books to a swap on May 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. To participate in the swap, bring the books you'd like to exchange to the preschool, located at 15412 71st KPN, on or before May 7 and receive tokens. Redeem those tokens at the May 21 swap for other books of equal value.

Books must be appropriate for children of ages 1 through 10. The tokens will be based on the book's condition, whether it's hardback or paper back, and whether it's a classic children's book or not. For details, call 884-6313 or 884-4263.

## News from TOPS #WA 1019

Congratulations to our new board members, Louise Harrison, Leader; Judy Delaney, Co-Leader; Del Horwitz, Secretary; Jena Henak, Treasurer; Frankie Johnson and Joan Cluver, Weight Recorders. We're looking forward to a wonderful year with our new board members and a fresh start for spring! We are all working on "Taking Off Pounds Sensibly" with sensible eating and exercise and don't forget the group support! Wow! We are all on the weight-loss road together and we're inviting you to join us on Tuesday nights, 7 p.m. at the KPCC in the

VFW Room. Come join us to get the information, encouragement and support you need to get to that slimmer, healthier, happier you!

Thanks to all the folks who donated their used articles for sale at our April 30 rummage sale. This is our biggest fundraiser for the year and the proceeds will help send our chapter to TOPS State Recognition Days in May.

—By Joetda Wickline

## Angel Guild has new officers

Angel Guild has had a change in officers. This is done at the annual potluck luncheon at the Civic Center. We have had a very dedicated slate of officers this past year. Our heartfelt thanks to them for the countless hours they devoted. Welcome aboard to the new officers who stepped forward and accepted an office.

Flowers are blooming, and the sun shining (now and then) makes you think of spring cleaning, doesn't it? When doing this, please remember Angel Guild for your gently used donations. Mindy, of the Cutter Bug, has given us another donation from her Mickey Mouse Bank. We do appreciate her generosity. Peninsula Market gives us a check regularly for the sales slips that our customers and members put in the jar in the shop. We are very grateful to all concerned.

Summer clothes and camping gear are now in the shop. Check us first when you have a need.

—By Betty Barkubein

## Community Planning Board sets May meetings

The next meetings for the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are Wednesday, May 4, and Tuesday, May 17, at 7 p.m. in the KP Middle School Library.

The Community Planning Board is working on policy development for the Key Peninsula Community Plan regarding the Economic Development and Land Use. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend. For more information, see [www.piercecountywa.org/landuse](http://www.piercecountywa.org/landuse).

## Volunteer Park master plan meeting planned

The first master plan meeting for Volunteer Park will be on Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m. at the Volunteer Park Annex. All citizens are highly encouraged to assist in the development, planning and programming aspects of the park district. The KPMPD is also in the process of developing programs for youth, teens and



adults. Citizens are encouraged to provide ideas for programs and events that they would like to see offered by the park district. For questions, contact KP Metro Park Director Scott Gallacher at 884-9240.

## Iraqi school supply drive needs your help

The Lakebay Community Church is conducting a community-wide outreach event. Church members are collecting specific school supplies for Operation Iraqi Children. Collections can be dropped off at the church on Sunday, or Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The items collected will be sent to U.S. troops in Iraq. The troops distribute them to the children. Please adhere to the list below.

Supply list: One pair of blunt-end scissors, one 12-inch ruler with metric markings, 12 new pencils with erasers, one small pencil sharpener, one large eraser, one box of colored pencils, one composition book, three folders with inside pockets, one zippered pencil bag. Each set of supplies should be put into a 2 gallon

Ziploc bag. Please enclose no additional items, and be sure that all items are new and unused. Assembling standardized kits ensures that each child receives the same number of the most needed items, facilitates customs clearance, and relieves our volunteers and soldiers of the time-consuming and labor intensive process of sorting and allocating random donated items.

For questions, call Linda at 973-2519.

## YMCA Camp Seymour celebrates 100 years

Upcoming events include:

**Mother's Day Family Camp:** May 6-8. Celebrate your family and enjoy time together at Camp Seymour! Choose from camp activities (boating, climbing wall, archery, crafts, marine tanks) all weekend and conclude on Sunday with a Mother's Day celebration and lunch. For more information and registration materials call Camp Seymour 884-3392, or check [www.campseymour.org](http://www.campseymour.org).

**Summer Sampler, Open House:** May 15, 2-5 p.m. Enjoy a spring afternoon

sampling summer camp activities with your family: canoeing, the bouldering wall, crafts, and a campfire program. Take a tour and hear about our summer resident camp. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is free and no registration is required, but please do not arrive before 2 p.m.

**Open House:** June 12, 2-4:30 p.m. An opportunity for new and veteran campers to get an advance look at their summer camp. Take a tour, enjoy a snack and meet the camp directors. Free, no activity areas open, and no registration necessary.

## Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at the Longbranch Fire Station at 1 p.m. on May 6. The hostess is Jean Humphries, and the presenters are: Dolores Argabright, theme program "Artichokes"; Sylvia Retherford, horticulture; and Liz Fore, design. Members are participating in the plant sale on May 7 at the Livable Communities Fair at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For more information call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

## Obituaries

### John A. Larson

John Larson was born Sept. 20, 1915 in Vaughn. He passed away April 5, 2005.

His parents had immigrated from Sweden and Finland. They settled with other immigrant families on Lackey Road in the area known as "Little Sweden." He grew up there and attended Vaughn schools. He served in World War II in the Army Air Force as a tail gunner and flew many missions out of North Africa. He was a lifelong logger and high climber, having worked in the Dewatto area as well as Alaska, Dabob Bay, Thorndyke Bay and all around the Key Peninsula.

He married the late Silvia Kolmorgan in 1947. They resided in Home, enjoying 47 years together, camping, fishing and traveling from their home on Henderson Bay. In 1998 he married the late Phyllis Bradley from Vaughn who had been a schoolmate and friend for many years. They shared five years together before her passing.

He is survived by daughters Katha Neal (Robert) of Lakebay and Toni Smith (Harold) of Tacoma, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. One grandson predeceased him. At his request there will be no services.

### Frederick Thomas Haley

June 29, 1912 - April 4, 2005

Fred T. Haley passed away peacefully at his home with family and friends by his side. He is survived by his children, Susan Headley (Steven), Mark (Nancy), Evan (Sabine), and Mimi Haley (Neil Edwards); his brother, Theodore R. Haley (Rosel); grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his longtime caretaker, Renee Viers (Dennis Sharp), who loved him like a father. Fred's wife of 57 years, Dorothy Geyer, preceded him in death in 2003.

Much has been said of Fred's life as a businessman, proponent of education, and defender of civil liberties and equality. Fred was a man of bold ideas and passionate action. He was also a husband, father, mentor and friend to many.

Fred was an experienced mycologist, loved to hunt, walk and work in the woods, and plant and harvest fruit trees and vegetables. He loved the mountains and the sea. He aspired to be a professor of literature, but accepted the request of his father to enter, and ultimately lead, the family business.

The family would like to invite you to share in the celebration of his life on July 22, at 1 p.m. at the U. of Puget Sound, Schneebeck Concert Hall, in Tacoma.

## Volunteer spotlight: Tom Walter

Story and photo by Danna Webster

Tacoma Community College established a GED program on the Key Peninsula one year ago. On Monday and Wednesday mornings, determined students meet at the Home Fire Department in pursuit of learning skills. They work with instructor Doris Harschman and volunteer tutor Tom Walter.

Walter travels across the Purdy Spit to teach multiplication tables, algebra and plane geometry. He is a retired marketing manager who did his undergraduate work in civil engineering. Math and science are his subjects.

According to Walter, his students are there to upgrade themselves, their working situations and their lifestyles.

They have a broad range of ages but none has a high school diploma. Getting a GED can mean qualifying for a job or for entrance into the armed services, better pay at an existing job and being able to help their children with homework. One of Walter's youngest students confided that after she gets her GED, she plans to pursue her interest in paleontology and maybe look into the medical field.

Walter has been tutoring GED students for seven years. He says when you tutor, "you become an encourager. You encourage them to go on." He adds that he has learned much from his students and that "tutoring is very satisfying" for him.

He remembers standing before his students and saying, "I commend you. You are the ones here, reaching out,



WALTER

trying to improve yourself."

GED program coordinator Jenny Jesch says, "Tom is able to connect with the students and genuinely cares about their progress and

goals. The students often comment on how much they appreciate Tom for his patience."

Next year's classes start Sept. 26. Classes are free and scholarships are available for the final test fees. Jenny Jesch, coordinator for the program, plans to hold registration and pre-testing on the Key Peninsula before the new classes begin. For details, call 851-2424 or email [jjesch@tcc.ctc.edu](mailto:jjesch@tcc.ctc.edu).

## Get involved

**Children's Home Society:** Seeking adult and high school volunteers for the summer youth recreation program. Contact Kim Bauer at 884-5433.

**Tacoma Community College GED class:** The Peninsula Adult Basic Education Program offers GED preparation and basic skills enrichment to the folks in the KPN area. If you are interested in volunteering as a basic skills

tutor, call Jenny Jesch with Tacoma Community College in Gig Harbor at 851-2424.

**Key Peninsula Community Services:** Desperately needs a passenger van driver to pick up community seniors for lunches on Wednesdays and Fridays. Contact Cristi Watson 884-4440.

**Key Peninsula Middle School AFTER 'OURS Program :** If you would like to reach out to a student at Key Peninsula

Middle School, please consider being a tutor, mentor or teaching a class. Contact Jan Siburg at 884-4800.

**Key Peninsula Metro Park District:** The newly formed Key Peninsula Metro Park District is seeking volunteers to help with various park projects and planning. Volunteers are needed for professional services, clerical, and master planning for Volunteer Park. Contact Scott Gallacher at 884-9240.



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### Sales this month on the Key Peninsula:

12007 102 <sup>nd</sup> Ave Ct - Wind N' Tide	\$1,200,000
13902 Meadowlark Dr KPN - Lake Holiday	\$ 178,000
10505 120 <sup>th</sup> Ave - Minterbrook Beach	\$ 450,000
19828 30 <sup>th</sup> & KPS - Joemma Beach	\$ 184,000
2113 191 <sup>st</sup> Ave KPS - Palmer Lake	\$ 220,000



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### VAUGHN BAY \$499,000

150' low bank Vaughn Bay waterfront! This wonderful home has plenty to offer with upstairs master suite that boasts its' own deck, brick fireplace and extra room with a wardrobe closet. The views in this clean, spacious home are incredible! You will also be able to enjoy a beautiful lower deck, garden space and fruit trees - all on 1.6 acre. Come and enjoy what Vaughn Bay is offering you! MLS 25035775



### STARTER FARM \$185,000

Quaint 3 BR cottage overlooking picturesque 4.74 acres. Warm interior. Natural light prevails in large living room, cozy propane fireplace & oak cabinet kitchen. Two-car garage. Enjoy the serene landscape including tall old timbers, apple orchard, country garden & grapevines. MLS 25045127



### HOME SWEET HOME \$120,000

3 BR 2 BA w/vaulted ceilings, custom paint, new carpets, master suite w/walk-in closet, all vinyl windows & light & bright skylit kitchen! You can enjoy the large sunny lot or relax on your deck overlooking the timbered open space beyond. Private cul-de-sac location. MLS 25048677



### WATERFRONT CABIN \$375,000

Enjoy spectacular views of the Sound & Mt. Rainier from this comfy waterfront cabin. Vaulted ceiling, natural wood interior and the wood stove all add to the warmth and charm of this getaway retreat. Make an offer now – and you will be in just in time for summer fun on the sandy beach - waterskiing, swimming and fishing. MLS 25051912

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# Key Pen men among Hall of Fame inductees

By KP News staff

At the first-ever Banquet of Champions organized by the Tacoma Athletic Commission on May 7, various stars will shine among an expected crowd of 1,500 sports fans. Among those stars, to be inducted into the Tacoma-Pierce County Sports Hall of Fame, are Key Pen residents Bob Ryan and Bob Sprague.

Longtime Wauna resident Ryan will be inducted as football coach. He played quarterback at the College of Puget Sound. After coaching in high schools at Montesano, North Kitsap and Puyallup, Ryan returned to his alma mater to become football coach and athletic director. He led the Loggers to a 43-28-3 record during that time. Ryan, a member of the UPS Sports Hall of Fame, has been a scout for the National Football League's Buffalo Bills since 1979.

Sprague, a 30-year KP resident and retired veteran longshoreman, had an accomplished prep career in basketball at Wilson High School. He helped the school to its first state tournament appearance, and continued with the same kind of success at the University of Puget Sound. His intimidating size (6-9, 260 pounds) and talent earned him many UPS records, along with a spot in the 1964 Olympic Trials. Before missing his senior season due to mononucleosis, Sprague set numerous Puget Sound records. Sprague, who competed at Puget Sound from 1961-64, was inducted into that school's Hall of Fame in 2000.

Sprague, who has not played since 1964, said the induction is a surprise but he still knew of some old fans of his,

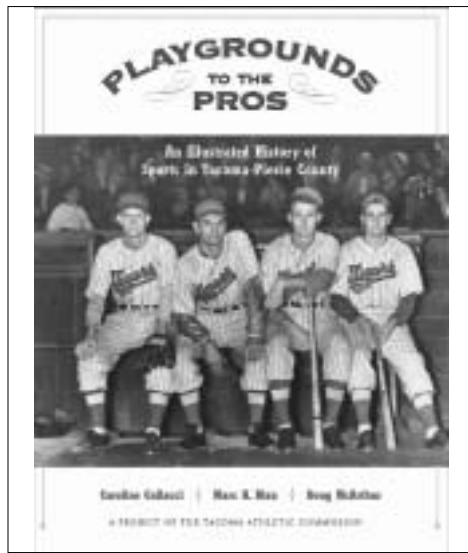


Photo courtesy of Marc Blau

The cover of "Playgrounds to the Pros" has a photo of four members of the 1941 Tacoma Tigers baseball team. Second from left is Marv Rickert, from the Rickert baseball-playing family of Longbranch.

including Tacoma Mayor Bill Baarsma.

The banquet will include the unveiling of the book on local sports history titled "Playgrounds to the Pros: An Illustrated History of Sports in Tacoma-Pierce County." The book contains more than 450 photos providing a historical perspective of over 35 different sports that have kept Pierce County residents occupied over the years.

The public is invited to attend, though at press time tickets were selling fast. Dinner and the program cost \$30. For information, contact Marc Blau, co-author and event organizer, at 253-848-1360. Information is available at [www.tacomaathletic.com](http://www.tacomaathletic.com) or [www.tacomasporthall.com](http://www.tacomasporthall.com).



Prison Pet Partnership Program volunteers and their service dog trainees relax at the Target store in Gig Harbor North before engaging in the "social and realities" training.

## PPPP service dogs in training

Story & photo by Hugh McMillan  
KP News

In 1984, the Key Peninsula Lions Club, in keeping with its dedication to assisting those in need, became involved with the Prison Pet Partnership Program, which has operated out of the Washington Corrections Center for Women for almost a quarter century. The Lions continue to support the program.

"The Lions endorse the PPPP," said incoming Lions President George Robison, "because it is a win, win, win, win, activity for everyone."

Win 1: The program rescues from animal shelters dogs with appropriate characteristics for training as service dogs.

Win 2: The dogs are brought to the WCCW, where they are assigned to inmate volunteers who have been taught to train the dogs in the proper performance of services for persons with various disabilities. It is an honor and privilege for the inmates involved in the program, which provides them training in marketable skills such as dog grooming and training.

Win 3: As part of the training process, the dogs are partnered with their to-be-recipients, who visit the prison and work jointly with the dogs and their inmate trainers until both become a team; the dogs open doors, bring ringing telephones to be answered, turn lights on and off, recover dropped items, and perform a plethora of other tasks for their new owners.

Win 4: With but a single case of recidivism in its history, inmates involved in the PPPP program become productive citizens upon completion of their sentences; they do not return to incarceration. The WCCW is the second largest employer in Pierce County West of the Tacoma Narrows; the first is the Peninsula School District.

As Training Coordinator Susie McGehee explained, "Training service dogs is not just about teaching them to retrieve.

Before our dogs-in-training are placed with their new partners they must have spent many hours experiencing countless situations, people and places. Our inmate trainers work hard to get their dogs ready for the 'real world' of working service dogs.... However, there is only so much that a dog can experience in prison; that environment becomes fairly sterile and predictable and, without further socialization, the dogs quickly and easily get institutionalized."

This is where volunteers come in. Once volunteers have met the training requirements, they are ready to take dogs on basic outings such as visits to shopping center parking lots to practice loading and unloading cars. The goal is to provide an inexperienced dog the opportunity to develop skills and focus in a relatively nonthreatening new setting. This includes trips to public parks where the dogs can work on loose leashes ignoring other dogs, squirrels, birds and other distractions.

"The dogs get accustomed to working with a variety of people in a variety of places," said McGehee, "and by the time they are through the program they are ready for just about anything that comes their way."

To sustain its operations, PPPP, a nonprofit organization, relies in large measure on funds collected through voluntary contributions, payments for services of its boarding and grooming facility, an annual raffle, and its annual charity auction, Bark and Bid.

This year's Bark and Bid will be held Saturday, May 14, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Wesley Inn Best Western in Gig Harbor. The event boasts excellent catered appetizers, a cash bar, and both live and silent auctions. Tickets, \$25 in advance, are \$30 at the door. Orders must be received by May 6. Call Kelly at 376-3177, Holly at 241-9403 or visit [www.prisonpetpartnership.org](http://www.prisonpetpartnership.org).

Hugh McMillan is a KP Lion and board member of PPPP.



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# Racing toward a dream

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Somewhere on the Key Peninsula, a young man hopes to someday race cars in NASCAR.

"That's been my dream since I was little," AJ Butler says.

It's not so far fetched. This Key Peninsula Middle School sixth-grader, who calls himself an average student, has already conquered many tracks and races. Just on a slightly smaller scale.

AJ started riding dirt bikes at age 5. His father, Frank Butler, was an avid racer who had raced in a NASCAR division. The family traveled around to watch him race. Then Frank decided to quit due to injuries — and AJ got his own racing start.

Three years after doing dirt bikes, AJ and his dad "wanted to do something different," and switched to quarter-midgets. These are the miniature versions of actual midget racers, at about one-quarter scale. At least twice a week, they drive to Graham for practice. Almost every weekend during the summer, they drive as far as British Columbia and Portland to competitions — and even to Las Vegas once a year, for the nationals.

AJ says the best part is when he wins, when he takes "the last corner and the checker's thrown." He wins quite often.

**"It takes more than one person to make a good team. It takes the whole family."**

-Frank Butler, father

This year in Vegas, he placed eighth in his class of 88 racers. That wasn't his personal best. Two nationals prior, he placed sixth.

That's when AJ got a new quarter-midget. It was a promise: If he did well, they would move to better equipment. Mom Debbie, who wasn't so sure about the whole quarter-midget racing deal at first, was the one who insisted on the purchase. Now she can often be spotted putting air into the tires before a race.

And that's how they all go about it. Mom, dad, AJ. The youngster's the only one driving the cars, but it's pretty much a family sport. AJ says his success is due 75 percent to his father. Frank helps him scale the cars, work on the shocks, air the tires, make sure the driver is comfortable. In this sport, the prep work, "setting up the car," is 50 percent of the battle. The rest is driver skill and knowledge — and here too, Frank plays an integral role.

"It takes more than one person to make a good team. It takes the whole family," Frank says. "Any child and family can do this." Adds AJ, "It pulls us together, and makes us a better family."



*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

Above, AJ Butler with his two "quarter midgets" racing cars. AJ, who is seeking a sponsor, scored three more victories at his most recent race, at the end of April. Bottom left, Quarter-midget racing, which can go as fast as 35-40 mph, is safer than motocross due to the extensive safety measures, says AJ Butler. AJ was in a rollover once, and was shaken a bit but unscratched. He's been in several crashes too—"some get kind of scary." *Photo courtesy of the Butler family*

AJ says he focuses on racing "every day a lot." But academics come first. No good grades, no racing — that's the rule. He says he used to get in trouble more often in school, but racing has taught him discipline and has motivated him to get better grades. Some kids at school tease him about his racing, he says, "but it doesn't change anything."

For the family, his passion for racing is a huge commitment. On the track, that commitment frequently pays off, along with his own devotion. A racer who skipped the novice category and went to compete straight into senior ones, AJ describes part of his strategy: At home, he often plays racing video games to practice in two dimensions. At practice before a race, "a good driver will watch those who know the track." During the race, "You have to focus ahead...and the next corner ahead."

The team also thinks ahead, to the big picture. Even as they have to scale down on the number of races this year, unless they can find a sponsor, they know the goal. Keep racing as long as it's still fun, and shoot for the club championship. Last year,

after adding up all the ribbons, trophies and points, he missed the champ mark by three points.

Beyond that goal— NASCAR, some day. "It will take a lot of racing...and getting a lot of records, and hopefully doing my best," AJ says.

In our state, NASCAR doesn't have as much exposure. Fans have to travel far to watch, and sponsors are not as eager. "Having NASCAR come to Washington would be huge," son and father say.

Their wish could come true. After pulling out of a proposal to build a NASCAR track in Marysville this winter, International Speedway Corp. confirmed in April they were still looking for a site within 30 miles of Seattle. Reports said a Kitsap property, near the Bremerton National Airport, was among the top contenders.

If such a track were built, by then AJ may be almost ready for it. In the meantime, he'll occupy his time with getting better. Racing in two different categories, he sometimes gets really tired—but not tired enough.

And then, there is that dream.

## Quarter-midget racing

Boys and girls ages 5 to 16 can drive the open wheel race cars. Safety rules are strictly enforced, and include belts and buckles, arm restraints, racing clothing, helmets, gloves, neck braces, car roll cages, and more.

To learn more about quarter-midget racing, visit the Quarter Midgets of America association online at [www.quartermidgets.org](http://www.quartermidgets.org), or the Little Wheels Quarter Midget Association at [www.little-wheels.org](http://www.little-wheels.org).





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## Bus Replacement Program on Schedule Thanks to Voters

The school district's Transportation Department received the delivery of seven new buses at the end of December, allowing for the replacement of old ones. The Bluebird buses that were added to the fleet of 59 provide better fuel mileage, improved ergonomics for the drivers, reduced emissions, decreased inventory costs, and a nicer ride for the students. Maintenance & Operation costs will also be greatly reduced.

'We continue to replace the old with the new, so we can have efficient buses without exhaust fumes on our front line,' said Transportation Director Annie Bell.



Students at Minter Creek Elementary were delighted to receive Bus #41, and several of them submitted drawings and signatures expressing their appreciation to PSD.

two decades, and the modern buses have various features that improve safety and comfort of the students and the drivers. Standard features include heated mirrors, strobe lights, acoustic ceilings that lower the noise level, power-entrance doors and other elements that improve the quality of the ride.

The school district receives some funding from the state, based on depreciation, but the money is not enough to buy new vehicles. The purchase is made possible thanks to voter-approved funding.

'We really appreciate the taxpayers giving us the opportunity to replace our fleet,' Bell said. 'Our goal is to keep replacing all our old buses and get them on a regular depreciation schedule.'

The technology has changed tremendously in the last

### May events:

- 10 – Peninsula High Spring Band Concert 6:30 p.m.
- 12 – School Board Regular Meeting at Harbor Heights Elementary 6:30 p.m.
- 16 – In-Service Day  
No School
- 18 – Peninsula High Scholarship Awards Assembly 6:30 p.m.
- 24 – Peninsula High Band Follies 7:30 p.m.
- 25 – School Board Study Session at District Office 6:30 p.m.
- 26 – Peninsula High Choir Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 27 – No School
- 30 – Memorial Day Holiday

### Photos of the month



Minter Creek Elementary teacher Jeff Staffki offers a free guitar class to students after school. Photo by Mindi LaRose.



Key Peninsula Middle School eighth-grade honor students Amanda Van Why and Karissa Wilkinson were selected to be Pages for State Reps. Derek Kilmer and Patricia Lantz, respectively. Photo by Hugh McMillan.

### Did you know

The school district Transportation Department buses travel 6,000 miles per day, or more than 1 million miles per year—the equivalent of going 40 times around the world or making more than two round trips to the moon and 163 round trips to Key West, Florida.

### At a glance

The first annual Washington Association for Pupil Transportation School Bus Technician's Competition began with the Regional competition on March 19, 2005 with nine regions from the state sending up to two competitors each to the state finals. Bill Fors and Joel Schroeder are among the first Technicians in the state to participate in the Technical Skills Competition. They advanced to the state competition which will be held May 14, 2005 in Yakima. The winner will represent Washington at the national competition held in July at the Thomas school bus factory in High Point, North Carolina.

### Business Week 2005

Henderson Bay High School will host Business Week 2005 during May 23-26. As a volunteer for the Washington Business Week program, you play an important role in offering students real world experience with life-changing results. Here are a couple ways to get involved:

- Become a Company Advisor: Company Advisors guide a "company" of 10-12 students through the week-long experience.
- Become a Judge: Judges participate for two hours on Thursday to evaluate each company's performance in their final presentations.

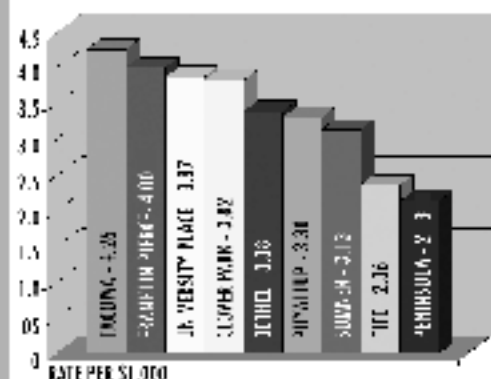
For more information contact Shannon Matson at (800) 686-6442 or email at shannon@wbw.

### GRADUATION 2005

Peninsula High's ceremony starts at 12:00 pm and Gig Harbor's follows at 3:00 pm at the Tacoma Dome on Sunday, June 19th, 2005.

Henderson Bay High School Graduation Ceremony will be on Monday, June 20th, at 7:00 pm, in Kilworth Chapel on the UPS campus.

### MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS LEVY COMPARISONS 2005



Whatever happened to...

# Catching up with Vince Callaway after closing of his video business

Old video gurus never die; they just wait for rainy days.

By Danna Webster  
KP News

Vince Callaway and his wife, Betsy, own about 2,000 videos that were recently considered as stock for a new video store. That dream dissolved with the reality of dramatic changes in the home-video entertainment world. They next speculated that their videos were excellent investment material for future sales. Now, they admit that the collection is near and dear to their hearts and shall remain as permanent fixtures in their home.

The 2,000 videos were collected during the days when the Callaways owned KP Video at the junction of Key Peninsula Highway and 134th Street. The store



CALLAWAY

closed in the fall of 2004 and was more of a hobby than a business, according to Vince Callaway. It was a popular place where customer-friends gathered and kept up on the latest news around the peninsula. The Callaways loved it.

Today, Vince Callaway is keeping busy with "podcasting." Podcasting was initially designed for the Apple computer's iPod and is a new phase in Internet technology that is catching on rapidly. Producers make their own shows, which are available for downloading. Listening is at the user's convenience. Callaway calls it "time-shifted radio, kind of a TiVo for radio." (TiVo is a digital recorder that can record television programming.)

Currently, the most popular shows in podcasting are political commentary and alternative music. Callaway describes the music on podcasting as an underground movement created because of all the complications using normal mainstream music. "It's the ability to hear things you wouldn't hear on normal radio," he says.

Callaway produces political commentary programs. His experiences 10 years ago as

Do you want to know, "Whatever happened to..." something or somebody you previously read about in the Key Peninsula News? Let us know and we'll try to find out! Email us at news@keypeninsula.com, or write to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394. Include your name and phone number in case we need to clarify your question.

a legislative aide for Republican Sen. Bill Finkbeiner serves as a valuable resource for making contacts in the political arena. He has had good success with many legislators willing to participate. An interview with Sen. Bob Oke, representing the 26th Legislative District, is available on his podcast site, totalsense.com. He has some hot ideas for follow-up interviews and campaign coverage but they were waiting until this legislative session's end.

Getting started in podcasting is relatively easy, he says: "To go into podcasting all you need is a computer with a microphone. From there, it is pretty simple." Broadcasting was a new experience for him

and he had to learn how to set up mixers and microphones. He provides instructions on "how to do podcasting" at his Website. He welcomes questions from interested people at vince@totalsense.com.

Though podcasting isn't a money-making project for Callaway, he finds it rewarding to combine his political background with his technological knowledge. He says podcasting is a good thing to do when the weather is bad, but when the weather is nice, he prefers to work on car restoration projects.

The Callaways don't know if they will open another business on the peninsula. They have a couple of ideas and find KP a great place for marketing; but real estate and county regulations are another story.

Whatever the endeavor, the Callaways will stay close to home. "If I have to go across the Purdy Bridge, I don't like it," Callaway says. They consider a shopping trip to Port Orchard, or a restaurant run to the Purdy Floatation Device, all-day trips. They are strong advocates of local business owners and do most of their shopping in the neighborhood.

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## Paying back:

# One homeowners-association president's fight for his community

By Danna Webster  
KP News

The roots of Jesse White run deep into the Key Peninsula. They spread from a 1-square-mile homestead in the Herron community, established by his great-grandfather in 1889, to his birth place in Home. Jesse White was born in the Dave Dadisman house (which was not the brick Dadisman house, he is quick to point out) because his father worked for Dadisman as the manager of the Home egg, grain and dry goods warehouse.

His father, Harry, oversaw the shipping of fruits, vegetables and thousands of dozen-eggs aboard the "Mosquito Fleet," and his duties also included bookkeeping and butchering.

"Dad was a meat cutter. He butchered goats, cows, venison, and elk," says White. For that work, his father earned all the family groceries and a salary of \$84 a month.

Young Jesse attended seventh and eighth grades in what is now the KP Civic Center building in Vaughn. His teacher, Ernie Miller from Alaska, had a busy schedule because he was also the principal. It was Miller's habit to make assignments, tell his students to stay busy and leave to attend to other duties. When the teacher left the room, so did White. The fire escape ladder used for his exit still hangs below the second-story window. White says a couple of trees that helped hide his departure are now missing. His destination was the nearby creek, where his trusty fishing pole was stashed.

About six years ago, White moved into the Horseshoe Lake Estates, retiring from busy years as an auto mechanic, dirt-track car racing, and 30 years of



Photo by Danna Webster

Jesse White has fond memories of this ladder at the KP Civic Center.

rescuing abused horses. It pleases him that of the nearly 300 horses rescued, only two were lost. How could he afford to help so many horses? "Had to fix a lot of cars to repair a lot of horses," he says.

Being a good neighbor came naturally to him. He mowed yards for elderly neighbors and cleaned their ditches; and, in a very short period of time, he became the president of the homeowners' association. He says he took that responsibility because he believes it is time for him to pay back for the good life provided him by the Key Peninsula.

"I wanted to try and do something for my community. This place was pretty rundown when I took over. ...I'm trying to make it better," White says and

describes being an HOA president: "It's like managing a minicity. There are all the problems, work, neighborly love and neighborly care of a big city, only on a smaller scale."

Every homeowners' association needs volunteers. White is disappointed to find less enthusiasm for volunteering than the KP had in the old days. "In the old days, everybody volunteered. Nobody wants to volunteer anymore," he says.

But some Horseshoe Lake neighbors have stepped up and volunteered for the board. The vice president, Peter Lagos, is a retired Massachusetts state patrolman who says he left his career after being shot at twice and figured a third time would be too many. He maintains some of his old career habits. He and White patrol their streets nightly.

White and his HOA board have gone to war against unlawful conduct of drug selling and drug manufacturing in their community. Their efforts have earned the admiration of crime-stopper groups like Safe Streets.

Horseshoe Lake Estates was one of the crime hot spots on law enforcement maps. White made his own map. Every known drug activity in the Estates was identified by location and address. Unlawful activity is challenged and White campaigns tirelessly for rightful law enforcement support from state, county and local authorities.

In addition to patrolling the streets and campaigning for law enforcement, the board has turned to another front on the war against drugs: the elimination of rentals. From county officials, he learned that there is a significant relationship between drug activity and poorly managed rental properties. "Once a community gets to a 30 percent

rental capacity, you might as well kiss it goodbye," he says. The HOA board has written new covenants, had them reviewed by an attorney, and now must have them signed by every resident. An added complication is that each signature must be notarized. The intrepid duo, HOA president and vice president, remain undaunted. They plan to go door-to-door with Lagos' newly acquired notary seal, which he obtained by putting up the required bond money and establishing his credentials. They will do what it takes to win the war.

As a result, the streets that were once noisy are now quiet by 10 p.m. White says you can't even hear any dogs barking but he supposes that is because his wife is the dogcatcher.

White believes that communication is the real key to a successful homeowners' association. He and his board have worked to establish a phone tree that contains nearly all of the 107 residents' phone numbers. When White receives a phone call with a neighbor complaint, his first step is to say, "Let's go over and talk to them."

"It is a mistake not to know your neighbors," White says. "That's what made this work, trying to keep everybody in communication."

He believes a good homeowners' association can do this for every community. He knows that building involvement in an HOA isn't easy. He says, "It takes motivation to get people to do things, so promise them the world...a steak dinner. ... People need to get away from their TVs and computers. Get involved. ...It's worth it."

Good communications can turn out like White and his neighbor lady. "I mow her lawn, she bakes me a pie," he says.

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And the moral of the story is...

## Perseverance pays off for Vaughn author

By Karen Hale  
KP News

Renee Riva, known as Renee Capps to her friends and family, has been writing for a very long time.

As a child, she started writing because a neighbor wrote and she thought it was fun. Her first story was "Puppy Love," about a puppy in love at the vet. In sixth grade, a

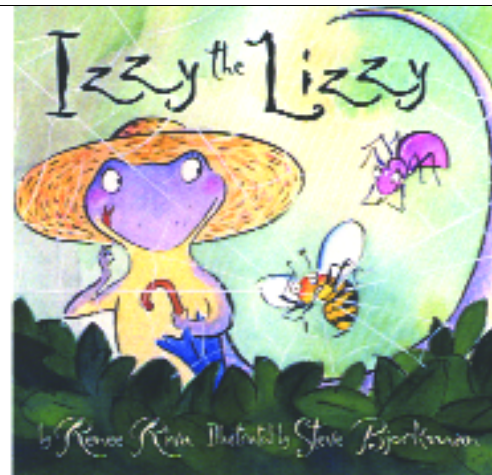
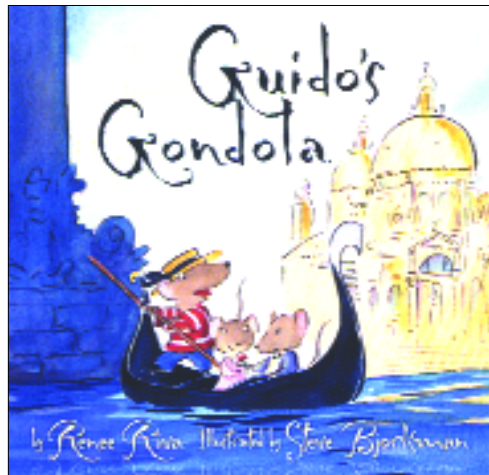


RIVA

classmate offered to pay her to write a poem for school, getting that student an A minus! She also wrote ditties and musings in a teasing way to delight her friends and family at school and at home.

Eventually, she wrote greeting cards as well as articles for Guideposts and Catholic Family Magazine. She has been asked at times to be a speaker for women's groups.

In the course of her life, she married, had three children, and never gave up on her dream of owning a farm. Riva and her husband found the perfect one in Vaughn and moved in 11 years ago. Since then, she has been able to find other outlets for her writing, getting involved



Illustrations courtesy of Renee Riva

The cover jackets for Riva's two newly published kids' books.

in local writing groups as far away as Poulsbo, and going to weekend writing conferences in Canby, Ore., and San Jose, Calif.

Riva loves to write, but she loves to write with a purpose. "Too many kids just follow the flow of others, and entertainment in the world — the general culture — never looking beyond," she said. This belief and her values from her faith have led her to write children's books with lessons: value lessons with a moral.

"Guido's Gondola" and "Izzy the Lizzy" are Riva's first published books, through

Waterbrook Press, a division of Random House. These wonderful stories, about a rat who learns that bigger is not always better and a lizard who helps a spider understand mercy, are a treat to read, even for adults. Children will love the thoughtful rhyming in the stories and understand their lessons.

Riva was given several choices for an illustrator to her books, and she chose wisely, selecting drawings by Steve Bjorkman. His illustrations in these stories are detailed yet fun and give an intimate feeling to the stories, helping

### Meet Renee Riva

"Guido's Gondola" and "Izzy the Lizzy" by Renee Riva will be available in stores on May 17 and may be pre-ordered online at sites such as Amazon.com and Allbookstores.com.

Riva will have a book signing at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Saturday, June 4, from noon to 2 p.m. You can bring your pre-ordered books for signing, or buy a copy or two while you are there. If you can't make it to the Civic Center to meet Renee on June 4, she will also be appearing for book signings on May 28 at the Tacoma Good News store on 6th Avenue from noon to 2 p.m. and at the Tacoma Dightman's on 38th Street from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

convey the messages.

One of Riva's favorite authors, C. S. Lewis, wrote a statement in his book, "Weight of Glory," that she has come to think of as one of her own value lessons in life. She refers to it often: "We are half-hearted creatures fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at sea. We are far too easily pleased."

That thought is in the back of her mind when she writes, especially for children.

Focus on prevention:

## Public health nurse helps KP families

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Working behind the scenes at the office of Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center in Vaughn, Kathy Harsch helps Key Pen families with problems ranging from medical needs to emergency birth control and tobacco abuse.

Harsch, RN, BSN, is a public health nurse with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, where she has worked in various roles for 17 years. Focusing on prevention and education, Harsch works with kids and parents in their homes, and takes a holistic approach to health and wellness. That means addressing, often through referrals, needs as varied as housing, financial resources, nutrition, childcare, health-



HARSCH

care, family conflict, and child safety.

"My goal is to educate parents to be the best parents they can," she said. "I like the philosophy of preventing versus dealing with illness or crisis. I think we can prevent a lot of things if we educate."

The Key Peninsula's family support she provides is part of the health department's services. Each public health nurse has an assigned area. Harsch's includes Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor, and part of Tacoma. She finds the Key Pen unique, however, due to its lack of local resources and especially transportation. For low-income families or young mothers, taking a trip to the other side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge can prove difficult.

"There isn't a lot out here for them. It takes a trip to Tacoma, and a lot of these families can't afford it," she said.

Although her work largely involves support for pregnant women, at-risk and low-income families with children under age 3, support is also available to families with children of any age and income. All the services she provides are free.

Harsch deals with some of Key Peninsula's most desperate people. Often times, she's the backbone for a teen-age mother's support network and gets to see her develop into a responsible young woman. Other times, she gets to interfere in crisis situations, perhaps even preventing a tragedy.

"Your heart goes out to these families. I think most of them want to be good parents, they just don't know how," she said. "I love it when parents are interested in learning about parenting, asking questions, and taking time to enjoy their children."

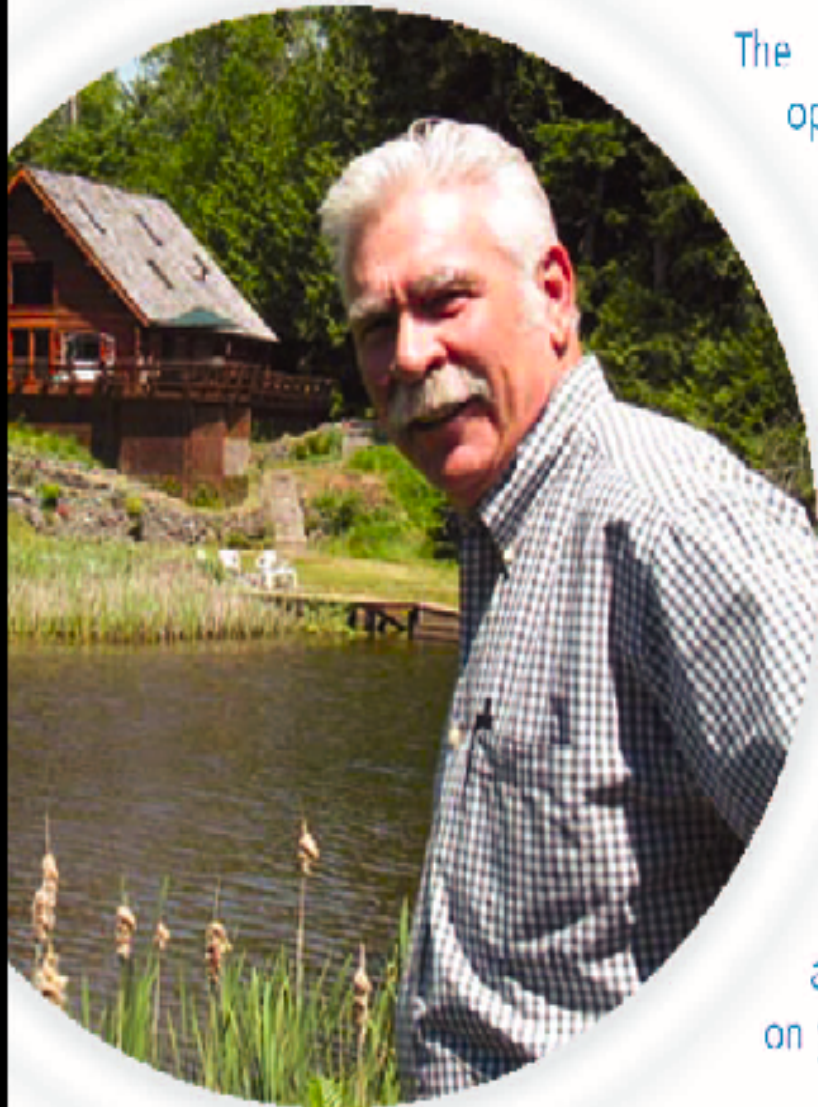
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(From **FAIR**, Page 1)

2004, to develop the KP Community Plan," said County Council Member Terry Lee.

"We used the information to better understand the storm-water issues that might be unique to the Key Peninsula, so that we could direct our surface water management fees to protect the shellfish in the bays and estuaries on the KP," Lee added.

Dennis Taylor, of Safe Streets, knows. The KP Livable Communities Fair is co-sponsored by Safe Streets, and Taylor describes the event as "showcasing the people, agencies and organizations that make the Key Peninsula more livable."

If you haven't attended a Livable Communities Fair, this is your chance to go. Then you, too, will know a little more about what makes a community livable, and how to get involved in the community to help make everyone's lives better.

There will be booths for arts and culture, citizenship, public service/information, employment, economic development, education/outreach, habitat protection, land use, parks/trails, social and civic services, and all of the volunteer opportunities that make life on the Key Peninsula livable. Come and learn how citizens feel about parks and recreation, 24/7 police protection, land-use densities, transportation issues, economic development, and other issues and aspects that affect our lives.

"People love the combination of booths, entertainment, and special attractions. They like the family-oriented flavor of the event," Taylor told the KP News.

## Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair

Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.

For more information, call 884-3456. Entertainment, two food vendors and children's activities will be available.

The annual plant sale of the Lakebay Fuchsia Society will take place concurrently, outside the Civic Center from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Fuchsias in all sizes, annuals, perennials and other plants will be available.

## Correction

In an April article about the metro park district's new director, Scott Gallacher's name was spelled incorrectly. We regret the error.



# 'Friends of the Key Center Library' introduce new programs



Rosina Vertz, South Kitsap resident and longtime Pierce County Library employee, is the new Key Center library supervisor.

Photo by  
Connie Harris

By Connie Harris  
KP News

The Friends of the Key Center Library group is planning a flurry of activity this spring and summer. The group met in April and created a concrete direction for the months to come. For children, activities include a magician in medieval costume on June 18 and a puppet show given by the Pierce County Library on July 14. For adults, the Friends will continue their book discussion group on the third Thursday of each month.

A motion was passed to have a cabinet built by a local artist and placed in the library. It will hold the Friends of the Library group's supplies and display the current activities for the patrons. The cabinet would be purchased with a donation made by Lee Stiles, who passed away earlier this year.

On May 12, the annual Friends of the Library potluck dinner will be held. Anyone joining the Friends by

**"The system here is a continuum and I foresee no changes. The policies are in place. I am here to serve the public."**

-Rosina Vertz, librarian

May 10 is also eligible to attend. Eric Hanberg, manager of the Grand Theatre in Tacoma, will be the keynote speaker, discussing the history of the theatre. Also, many of the books and tapes donated to the library by the Friends will be displayed.

The new Community Library Supervisor Rosina Vertz was introduced at the April meeting. Vertz began working for the Pierce County Library in 1990 as a page, at both Gig Harbor and Key Center branches. When asked about any upcoming changes, she simply stated, "The system here is a continuum and I foresee no changes. The policies are in place. I am here to serve the public."

# From Pioneer Stock Five generations on Vaughn homestead

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

Don Mills' roots are in Vaughn. He lives in the home his grandparents built in 1914.

His grandfather, Dominick Mills, fled Lithuania to avoid conscription in the czar's army, after his parents were brutally murdered. At Ellis Island, his name was simplified to Mills, so he was the first of his family to carry that surname.

He traveled across the United States and lived awhile in Monte Cristo, a gold mining town in Snohomish County, where he honeymooned with his wife, Helen Kalinowski. They moved to Seattle, where Mills operated two saloons, and grubstaked many Alaska gold rush miners.

Two children, Mary and Ted, were born in Seattle. Ted was an ailing child, and on the advice of their physician, the family left Seattle for a place in the country. They arrived in Vaughn in 1908.

Dominick bought a shy 50 acres with over 1,000 feet of waterfront, two cows and a rowboat, for \$3,200 from the Brown brothers. The property, on the south shore of Vaughn Bay, was part of William Vaughn's original homestead. The family lived in the cabin built by Vaughn until they constructed their own home in 1914.

They raised chickens, cows, horses, apples, and garden produce. Their son George was born in 1911 in the brooder room of one of the chicken houses because it was the warmest place on the property.

Oyster shells and barnacles were gathered near McMicken Island to supplement the chicken feed. This made the egg shells sturdy enough to be shipped out for sale.

Dominick was an accomplished horseman and knew good horses. Helen was raised Catholic, but had joined the Christian Science Church, and Dominick built a small church on a knoll at the back of their property. When the building was no longer used as a church, it reverted to the Mills family and was later torn down.

Helen acted as mortician at least once. A photo shows their neighbor, Mr. Hudson, all laid out in his Sunday best, in the bottom of a rowboat, awaiting transportation to the cemetery across the bay.

Ted Mills, who recovered in the country air, lived most of his 91 years at



Photos courtesy of Don Mills

The Mills home, built in 1914, with the men who built it, William Kinkaid, Dominick Mills, and Tom Gabrielson.

Vaughn. He and his dad commuted to Todd Shipyard in Seattle during World War I, returning to Vaughn each weekend. Ted was a rivet catcher. He later worked in the woods, and eventually became an electrician.

His wife, Bertha (Lonning), was a longtime Vaughn postmaster. They lived on Wright Bliss Road, near the Vaughn intersection. Their son, Don, later built a home next door.

When Grandma Helen Mills died in 1955, Mary and husband Ernie Anderson returned to the home place. They lived out their lives there.

Don worked for Wes Davidson immediately out of high school. A year or so later, he went with Davidson to Alaska. In 1955, he returned to Vaughn to be an apprentice electrician. He and his dad worked together on several projects, including the Hood Canal floating bridge, the prison at Shelton, and assorted Nike sites.

Don recalls staying with Grandma Mills when his father fished commercially and his mother went north with him. Don loved waking up in the morning and looking out at the bay.

Don bought his father's third of the family property, adjacent to the Andersons, where he continued a lifetime love of water activities.

He and wife Judy had a dream early in their married life to someday buy the Mills' home and restore it to the original layout. After aunt Mary's health declined in 1998, they purchased the land, restored much of the house, cleaned up and added gardens.

"My roots are here as much as the other place," he says. Son Matthew and family live on the original property, and sons Michael and Martin visit often with their families, making five generations of Mills to occupy the land. They hope it can stay in the family for many generations to come.

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# KP sculptor featured at New York shows

By Jerry Libstaff

Tip Toland is a nationally renowned sculptor living on the Key Peninsula. Her ceramic sculptures have been awarded honors throughout the United States. The engaging, figurative pieces have been featured in exhibits in New York and throughout both the East and West



The Genuine  
ARTicle

coasts. She has instructed at several universities and art academies, and her work was recently included in the book "500 Figures in Clay."

Toland's sculptures are beautiful and captivating. They represent the human form in an exceptionally realistic manner. Many of her pieces depict people of age. Toland says she loves "older people's faces. They provide a history, a nuance of

life and life's lessons."

A recent work titled "A Light Dusting of Snow" shows an older man who has reverted to childhood. Toland imagined a man running through snow, enchanted by it, as a child would be. In his unabashed delight, the snow falling upon him doesn't melt. She says, "He wanted to be... needed to be... old, enthralled and naked in his delight."



TOLAND

Toland says she has always been an artist. She was good at art and gym in high school, and art seemed the appropriate path to take upon graduation. She studied at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia as well as schools in Washington, D.C. She later received graduate degrees from universities in Colorado and Montana.

She moved to Seattle in 1984 to "live on a boat" but when she arrived, she found

the boat that had been offered was only a rowboat. Toland fell in love with the area and stayed. Three years ago, she was drawn to the Key Peninsula, where she and her husband have established their home and her studio. She says that when she has a show out of the area, she knows she's home when she crosses the Purdy Spit.

Toland says, "My work is a visual metaphor for what I'm thinking and feeling. It's spiritually based and each piece has its own story."

Many of her recent works include babies. "Their faces show the vulnerability before it gets masked over. Children are our doorway to humanity," she says. Her piece "Listening to Infinity" depicts a baby being born from sound, emerging from a Conch Shell. "It's a spiritual portrait," she says. "Babies embody the innocence and vulnerability, which is really the God in all of us."

Most recently, Toland is working with full scale, life-size figures. She says the experience has been humbling.

## TWAA May classes

May 14, 21,28: Travels in Journal Writing, with Vicky Schauer

May 15: Framing and Presentation, with Beverly Pedersen

May 28-29: Ornamental Leaf Garden Art, with Doris Sharp

For information or to register, call 884-2029 or email [brynnfoss@harbornet.com](mailto:brynnfoss@harbornet.com).

Tip Toland will have two shows in New York this summer. Her work will be featured at Nancy Margolis gallery, opening May 26, and she will be included at SOFA, (the international Expositions of Sculpture Objects and Functional Arts) in New York, June 2 through 5.

Toland's work can be seen online at [www.tiptoland.com](http://www.tiptoland.com).

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

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(From PHS, Page 1)

all types of students and for all types of pursuits, vocational and academic.

The committee celebrated its achievements on March 29 at the Canterwood clubhouse. Parents, high school staff, donors, former recipients and committee members applauded the \$2.75 million mark. The committee recognized the astounding response from the peninsula. From the beginning, businesses, individuals, families, grade schools, and middle schools all gave. Together they set a path toward great growth in scholarship funding at PHS.

In their second year, one of the original scholarship committee members, Avon Gay, obtained a lease agreement for the building at the foot of PHS' grounds. There, they established the S.A.V.E. (Seahawk Academic and Vocational Education) Thrift Store, which is still in operation at that site and is supported by school staff, student help and civic groups. The thrift store is a major fund-raiser for scholarships, currently generating \$30,000-\$40,000 per year. It is at the thrift store where instructions and materials for scholarship notebook applications are available for purchase.

In fact, the notebook constitutes the entire application. Notebooks contain a personal essay, resume, transcripts, three letters of recommendation and several pages displaying activities, interests, awards and accomplishments. The scholarships range from \$100 to several thousand dollars.

"Scholarships are awarded on merit and potential," explains Marsha Williams, co-president of the committee. "Financial need is not a factor."

The factors considered are academics, future plans, community service and activities. Not all students can be active beyond their school work and not all students start out successfully in high school. According to Williams, the committee has awarded all

**PHS scholarships**

This year's Scholarships Awards Assembly is on May 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the PHS gymnasium. The public is invited.

Next year's students should start collecting information for applications, including community service work and examples of their talents, skills and experiences. Information is available from the PHS career counseling office. Students can contact Debra Langley-Boyer at 884-4235 for guidance. Parents who want to become involved with the scholarship program should contact Marsha Williams at 857-7557.

types of students within a wide range of GPAs, students in academic and vocational programs, and "turnaround students" who had a "rocky" beginning in high school but showed improvement in their final years.

"The goal is to raise the self-esteem of students and to motivate them to receive post-high-school education, whether it is in a vocational field, a junior college, or a four-year college or university," says Sandy Newhouse, a founding committee member. "The support of the community has given many students the encouragement to go beyond what they might have, because someone believed they could."

A 2004 recipient, Heidi Alvestad, wrote her appreciation: "Thank you for all of the hard work and countless hours you donate to give PHS seniors the opportunity to further their education. Your passion and commitment to the program is priceless and I hope you all know you are very much appreciated." Alvestad is studying art at Tacoma Community College.

Two of the first recipients of the 1985 scholarships expressed their appreciation by attending the anniversary dinner: Greg Barney, of Multi-Care Corp. in Tacoma, and John Selfors, a PHS teacher in the Career and Technical Department.

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**Ornamental leaf Garden Art with Doris Sharp.** Create your own garden art out of concrete using one of nature's largest leaves. \$30 per person. Materials fee \$10.00. Saturday, May 28th, 10.00 - 1.00.

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(From **KPPRD**, Page 1)

caretaker for the Civic Center, some commissioners have tried to promote the idea and hang onto the district. The discussion at one point centered on whether the creation committee for the KP Metropolitan Park District had "promised" the public last year that KPPRD would go out of business if the metro park were created.

A brochure promoting the metro board idea to the public in 2004 stated, "What will happen to the current park district? KPPRD plans to transfer all its assets to the Key Peninsula Metro Park District. KPPRD will then be dissolved." To help KPPRD with its debt, the newly created metro parks district paid about \$30,000 to obtain Volunteer and Home parks.

"I believed it was pretty clear the old park district would be dissolved," said Jerry Schick, who is a commissioner on both park boards. He said two other commissioners who are on both boards, Clinton and Ross Bischoff, are opposed to the idea of keeping the old park district going.

Ben Thompson, KPPRD treasurer who chaired the creation committee, said he was the only person who attended all the formation committee meetings and no such promises were made. "At no time did

anybody ask, 'Do you promise to go out of business?' The question was brought up what would happen to KPPRD, and the answer was that the intention was to dissolve," he said. Thompson, a Civic Center executive committee member, has been one of the biggest supporters of using KPPRD as a way for the Civic Center to save insurance and tax costs. Using KPPRD rather than the metro parks for an umbrella would eliminate competition for funding, and the only interest for the board would be the civic center, the proposal argued.

Six people who were either on the creation committee or on subcommittees told the KP News that dissolution was an implied promise, although technically the word "promise" was not used. However, promoters for creating the MPD did state that there was no need to maintain two park entities to duplicate services and that KPPRD would only be around long enough to pay its debts and transfer assets to the new park board.

"It has always been my understanding during the meetings that the commitment was to dissolve," said Jeff Harris, Community Council president who was on a metro creation board subcommittee.

Mike Salatino, KPPRD chair and member of the civic center board, said the

intention was to go out of business, until the Civic Center proposal came along and "sounded like a good idea." In fact, the idea wasn't new — the Civic Center had been part of the KPPRD once before, though the two bodies parted ways a few years later after some intense disagreements.

"I don't remember making promises except that our intention was to do it (go out of business)," Salatino said.

The Civic Center, which has been struggling financially due in large part to high insurance costs, could save thousands of dollars each year on insurance as well as taxes by becoming part of a park district. (The KP Civic Center Association is the owner of Key Pen News). Phil Bauer, KPCCA president, asked for a show of interest at a March KPPRD meeting regarding the caretaker idea, and received three out of five "no" votes.

Schick, who voted against along with Clinton and Bischoff during the informal vote, later said in an interview, "I think it's beyond the scope of what the voters would want... Clearly we want the Civic Center to prosper and it's unfortunate they have the expenses they have (but) everyone on the metro is very concerned about keeping the old park board going."

Salatino said it would be up to the KP

Civic Center Association now to pursue the idea further, and that KPPRD is not adverse to the idea but it's not pushing it either. Bauer told KP News two weeks after the KPPRD meeting that the show of hands was enough for him to get an idea of the commissioners' support, and that he didn't believe the center would be further considering KPPRD as an option. In the meantime, the Civic Center signed under a nongovernment insurance pool, significantly decreasing its insurance costs.

Several KPPRD commissioners would be up for re-election in November, but Salatino said it was unlikely the lame duck district would be around by then. Unless there is strong interest by the Civic Center to come under KPPRD, he said by August things should be wrapping up, and the bank balance would be transferred to the KPMPD. By state law any remaining funds are to be given to the local school district. A petition for dissolution must be filed with the county courts.

"We now have a suitcase park district, it owns nothing and has no obligations," Salatino said. "Our intention is to go out of business...unless there is a purpose (or) the need for the park district."

A resolution to dissolve KPPRD was written at the end of April and pending a vote at an upcoming meeting, Clinton said.

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# Take caution when caring for trees after a storm

By Peter Carris

When the power is out and trees are across the road, most people huddle around the woodstove and try to figure out dinner. When the worst of the storm is behind us and we start to come out of "hibernation," things can really start to get dangerous. Neighborhoods light up with the sound of chainsaws from the back of the storage shed and suddenly many logger "genes" are discovered. The fact is, more than 33,000 chainsaw-related injuries happen annu-

ally, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**Unseen Hazards:** People tend to clean up the damage they see on the ground without checking the canopies or apparently undamaged tree in their yards. There may be broken branches hung up in the trees. Trees that have suffered storm damage may require various treatments. Stress may create entry points for insects and diseases, requiring supplemental care such as irrigation, mulching, fertilization, or pest control. More severely damaged trees will need pruning and even additional support such as cables or braces.

**Advice for homeowners:** Be careful with do-it-yourself tree work. Unpredictable storm damage situations can present some of the most dangerous working conditions both in the trees and on the ground. Pruning or

removing trees, especially large ones, can be particularly hazardous work. This type of work may be best left to the professionals. An arborist is a specialist in the care of trees. Certified arborists are knowledgeable about the needs of trees, and are trained and equipped to provide proper care.

**Getting help:** If you'd like to find certified arborists in your area, as well as information for consumers, contact the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture by calling 503-874-8263 or visit [www.pnwisa.org](http://www.pnwisa.org).

Information is also available from the international chapter of ISA at [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com) or at [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com).

*Peter Carris is a certified arborist and president of Tree Care Solutions Inc. He and his family live and work on the Key Peninsula.*

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# Out & About



*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Vaughn Elementary's 8-year-old Austin Keough whacks all five of the pitches tossed to him during a Key Peninsula Little League batting practice. He was the only batter to achieve 100 percent at this part of the training session.



Right, Dixie Lodholm of the Minter Creek area jogs on an exercise treadmill under the guidance of Jill Vedros of Gig Harbor Orthopedic Physical Therapy at the recent Gig Harbor Fire Department-sponsored annual Health Fair. The exercise computes cardiovascular fitness levels by checking the efficiency of her heart and lungs to distribute oxygen to her muscles. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*  
Left, windsurfers are "rediscovering" the Purdy Sand Spit—summer must not be far behind. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

Undaunted by a power outage that left much of the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor in the dark, the KP Planning Board took advantage of the daylight to conduct its April 6 meeting under the sky.



*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

Don Foster (right) of Allyn and Steve Smith of Victor are treasure hunting at the annual KP Sportsmen's Club yard sale in April.



*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

Left to right, KP Sportsmen's Club President Dale Frank, Treasurer Dorothy Parrot, and board member Jim Blundell "hang out" at the club's annual fund-raising yard sale.

## To submit a photo for Out & About

Email it to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) or drop it off by the office, located at the Civic Center at 17010 S. Vaughn Road in Vaughn.