



Aug. 31
Peninsula
High School
football
season starts
vs. Bellarmine

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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98395
Permit No. 2
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AUGUST 2012
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- Subway coming to Key Center
- New emergency prep program
- County discusses shorelines

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Food co-op connects farmers, consumers

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Erin Reetz has been coming to Key Pen from Fox Island almost weekly for the past few months. The attraction? Fresh Food Revolution, a Key Pen food co-op that marked its first-year anniversary earlier this summer.

“(The co-op) struck me as an exciting local resource for local and organic food. Being someone in search of those type of resources, I thought it was something I wanted to support,” said Reetz, who sometimes drives over with her friend, another co-op member who lives on Fox Island.

(See Co-op, Page 4)



Photo courtesy Ron Cameron

Feeling like seafood

A heron fishes in the evening on Von Geldern Cove (Joe’s Bay) at high tide earlier this summer. A point-and-shoot camera with a telephoto lens was used on maximum telephoto, focusing on the heron and blurring the red hot poker flowers to emphasize the heron.

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A friendly gator grin
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KP company outgrows space, heads north

By Danna Webster, KP News

Business is booming for pet travel equipment manufacturer SturdiProducts, located in Key Center. The company’s brand of pet carriers, totes, tents and popup shelters has set the standard for travel bags for breeders and trainers, according to Executive Vice President Penny Johnson.

Their products are found at major dog and cat shows worldwide, in large pet-supply stores like PetSmart, and are known to carry famous pets from Morris the Cat to the dog on “Modern Family” television show.

“Famous dogs and cats buy our products,” Johnson said, “but most people think their pets are celebrities.”

It is her opinion that the reason they have grown busier during the years of economic downturn is because “buying pet products is like buying products for your baby — people will find the money

to do it.”

The business has been so successful, it needs more space to operate and will be moving soon to South Kitsap. About a year ago, they purchased the largest building in Manchester, just past Port Orchard, and started making plans to renovate what they call a large, leaky 7,000 square-foot-box with a view of the Seattle Space Needle.

The owner of SturdiProducts, Rich Van Engers, started the business in the 1980s by cutting out patterns on his kitchen table. He was one of the first to patent the bag-sewing process and hired out the work to Seattle firms. He currently has 40 patented products.

He was featured in the publication of Exceptional People Magazine’s “Top 20 successful business icons of 2010 and 2011,” along with the likes of CEOs from Dell, Nike and PepsiCo. The company is officially celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

(See SturdiProducts, Page 9)

Improvements planned for Key Center Library

By Danna Webster, KP News

Changes and improvements are coming soon to the Key Center library, including increased space and a remodeled entrance. The new plans are a result of a facilities master plan, Pierce County Library 2030, written during 2008 and 2009. More than 5,000 Pierce County community leaders participated in the effort to shape library services and buildings to meet their community needs during the next 20-plus years.

Under the handicap of no new funding, the library system is planning improvements that can begin immediately. That means library leaders have to skip over the No. 1 priority to "make 'em bigger" and develop improvements that can start now, according to county library marketing and community relations director, Mary Getchell.

Scheduling for improvements has begun and actual work should take place between October and December of this year for the Key Center branch. The most significant improvement will be the addition of 150 square feet of space. This will be accomplished by remodeling the foyer.

The Key Center branch is the only one of the 18 county libraries that will increase square footage. When asked about expansion possibilities using the offices adjacent to the library, Getchell said, "That is

not an option that we are looking at for this time."

The problem is that the library requires a heavy loading floor with loading capacity for books and shelves and, also, additional electrical capability.

With a remodeled entrance, additional square footage and a new service desk, "the library will look very different," said Rosina Vertz, Key Center community branch supervisor.

Other changes will include redesign of the layout for easier access, better lighting, improvement of movie choices and improvements of system efficiency.

"We will have self-pickups of holds. That makes our system more efficient and frees us for in-depth assistance, research, (being) more efficient in our customer service," Vertz said.

The library will also have an increase in computers and Internet access. "Many afternoons, all the stations are used. We will be able to serve our customers in that area a lot better," she said.

By the end of this year, all 18 branches of the library system will have greatly improved movie choices with hundreds more selections and one-stop shopping service desks, according to Getchell. Patrons will browse in a specific area dedicated solely for media and service desks will raise and lower to adjust to different patron heights.

Both Getchell and Vertz are working on

plans and schedules for the project time that will cause as little disruption of service as possible.

"The contractor decides the calendar. We look at overall service and try hard not to close any library," Getchell said.

Vertz is working to determine what is possible for customer service during a period of winter holidays. One consideration is alternative locations.

"Maybe the community has some ideas for alternative locations for a few months around November, December and January. We have stretched our budget and there is not much left for rent or

utilities. Perhaps there are some tax deductible or in-kind donation options," Vertz said.

Another consideration is a bookmobile, which presents such complications as legal parking, availability of power hookup and access for patron parking. The winter and holidays also add complication to planning the project but the budget has been accepted and Vertz said it is time that it gets done.

"I am confident there will be some service," she said. "We work well with our neighbors here. This is really a positive development from our point of view."

Pertussis vaccine available at Key Medical

Key Medical Center now has the pertussis vaccine available for uninsured and underinsured adults who are caring for or are in close contact with children. Due to the epidemic of pertussis, or "whooping cough," the state of Washington has supplied the clinic, located in Key Center, with 50 doses to provide for free for people who need it.

Key Medical Center will offer the vaccine at its site, located at 15610 89th Street, from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 25, for any Key Peninsula resident who needs the vaccine. There is no charge for this service, which will be provided on a first-come, first-served

basis. Vaccine recipients do not need to be Key Medical patients.

The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department reported 446 cases of the disease, which is highly contagious, in Pierce County (including Gig Harbor and Key Pen cases) as of July 14.

A health department spokesperson said in a statement, "It is clear that vaccination remains our most-effective weapon to control this disease. Vaccination reduces one's chances of developing pertussis as well as reducing the duration and severity of symptoms. In addition, it helps reduce transmission in our community."

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Photo of Mount Rainier in the masthead was taken from the dock in Longbranch by Thomas Morgan, a KP News reader and Key Peninsula resident.

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

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PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT • 253.530.1000 • WWW.PSD401.net

PSD Building Administrative Assignments for 2012-2013

District Office Summer Public Hours

The Peninsula School District main office summer public hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 25 to August 17. The main office telephone number is 253-530-1000. Please let us know how we may be of service.

Summer Nutrition Resources

- The Family Food Hotline is 1-888-4-FOOD-WA. Calling this number will give families the location, meal times, and contact information for summer meals based on their full address, city, and/or zip code.
- The Parent Help website is located at www.ParentHelp123.org. This website is easy for families to use, as they can easily access summer meal locations by entering their zip code.
- Text, FoodWA, to 877-877. Users will receive a return text with information on summer food sites based on their zip code.

Gig Harbor High School students will be greeted by a new principal when they return in the fall.

Mr. Leacy comes to Gig Harbor after spending nine years as principal of Decatur High School in the Federal Way School District. Prior to that, he served as an assistant principal at Decatur for three years and spent 16 years in the Tacoma School District as a special education teacher, performing the additional duties of athletic director for five of those years.

Mr. Leacy, who is a Peninsula High School graduate and lives in Gig Harbor, was selected as the recommended candidate after an initial round of interviews, site visits to his school and to the school of another finalist, and final interviews with District administrators. His supervisors in Federal Way describe him as someone who has high expectations for students, staff members and for himself. They have been impressed by his ability to develop and cultivate

effective relationships with students, parents, staff members and community stakeholders. His experience and leadership style will be a good fit for taking Gig Harbor High School forward.

Also new to the District will be the Assistant Principal at Key Peninsula Middle School.

Andrea Bowman will replace Tyrone Robuck, who was selected earlier this spring to be the principal at Minter Creek Elementary School. Ms. Bowman comes to KPMS from Hawkins Middle School in the North Mason School District where she has worked for 15 years, the last six years as the assistant principal.

Two PSD elementary schools will also be under new leadership as Artondale Elementary principal, Kathy Weymiller and Evergreen Elementary principal, Jacque Crisman will be switching assignments. Both of these schools have enjoyed twelve years under the leadership of their current administrators.



Friday Kindergarten Options 2012-2013 - Peninsula School District will continue our all-day, four-days (Monday-Thursday) per week Kindergarten program beginning on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. In partnership with the Peninsula School District, we are pleased to announce the continuation of the Gig Harbor Y Friday Kindergarten Care Program. Please read the information below for more details.

The Y of Pierce and Kitsap Counties is offering Friday Full-Day Kindergarten Care for families in the Peninsula School District. Programs located at Artondale, Harbor Heights and Minter Creek Elementary Schools will include academic and enrichment programming as well as activities that will support your child's growth in the areas of social skills, school readiness, and motor skill development.

Please view the program flyers at www.psd401.net by selecting the link in the article on the front page. We look forward to welcoming your Kindergarten student on September 5th!

SchoolMessenger FAQ - *What is SchoolMessenger?* SchoolMessenger is a rapid notification system. It specializes in school-to-home communication. Schools can use the system to inform parents and staff about a number of things including attendance, lunchroom balances, school closures/delays, among other matters.

How does it work? The system is programmed to call the primary phone number of parents/guardians or staff for a variety of reasons that impact the safety and academic performance of students. SchoolMessenger is used to complement our emergency preparedness procedures and to inform parents/guardians or staff of upcoming school events such as statewide testing and parent meetings.

How do I update my contact information? If you are a staff member, you need to email your district payroll representative who will update your records. If you are a parent/guardian, you need to annually complete registration paperwork making certain your primary contact number is provided. If your number should change, please notify your children(s) schools in order that all records are accurately maintained.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- August
- 23 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. at the District Office
- September
- 4 First day of school (grades 1-12)
 - 5 First day of Kindergarten
 - 6 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. at the District Office
 - 12 WEDNESDAY LATE START BEGINS - Teacher Collaboration
 - 13 Key Peninsula Middle School Open House 6-7:30 p.m.
 - 20 Evergreen Elementary School Open House 6-7 p.m.
 - Minter Creek Elementary Open House 6-7 p.m.
 - Vaughn Elementary School Open House 6-7 p.m.
 - 26 Peninsula High School Open House 6:30-7:30 p.m.

For the complete 2012-2103 Open House schedule visit the PSD website and select the Open House slider at the top of the page - www.psd401.net.

Nondiscrimination Statement Peninsula School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Contact the following school district offices with inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 RCW, Academic Officer for K-12 Programs, 14015 62nd Avenue NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 (253-530-1009) and Section 504/ADA, Executive Director for Student Services, 14015 62nd Avenue NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 (253-530-1080).

(From **Co-op**, Page 1)

Reetz heard about the co-op through Facebook last year and joined toward the end of the farming season. She said she's excited to see new vendors being added since, such as, most recently, a fair trade coffee roaster.

"It is expanding, and that's what I appreciate," she said.

Fresh Food Revolution has more than two dozen vendors on board who grow or produce everything from vegetables and pickles to chocolate and grains. Members place orders online every week, and then pick them up on Wednesdays.

"Members can order as much or as little as they want," said Holly Hendrick, co-founder and board president. "The season is year-round."

Membership costs \$25 per year and members pay for their orders on pickup day, with some exceptions.

"It's a really good deal for \$25 per year for access to all these wonderful farmers, and to get to know all the people who share a common desire for local and organic foods," Reetz said.

Members are also required to volunteer the equivalent of one hour a month, but Hendrick said the co-op is very flexible with how they can contribute. Volunteer options range from weekly sorting and administrative work to one-time projects.

Most producers are members as well but the volunteer portion is waived for them. They pay 10 percent of their sales to the co-op, capped at \$15 per week.

The idea of the co-op was born a couple of years ago when a small group looked for an alternative to the short farmers market season. They tested out the concept for about six months.

"We did it to see if people would take ownership to do what needs to be done," Hendrick said. "It was wildly successful."

To avoid competition with the farmers market as well as make sure producers have as many venues as possible, the organizers selected Wednesday as the pickup day from the start. (Key Pen no longer has the farmers market in Key Center though Drive Thru Feed has opened its site to vendors.)

The co-op became an officially registered nonprofit with the state in June 2011 and eventually it will pursue a federal 501(c) 3 status as well. The logistics of the weekly workings have been evolving. During the six-month trial, producers received



Photo courtesy Holly Hendrick

Fresh Food Revolution Co-Op members and volunteers Lynn Hallowell and Barb Schoos sort produce into members' bins prior to customer pickup.

Fresh Food Revolution open house

The co-op will host an open house 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The event will include chef demos, a recipe and floral arranging contest, giant zucchini competition, food- and farming-inspired art display and an auction of a farmers market 1:24 scale diorama, handmade and donated by Whidbey Island artist Jane Smith, with proceeds benefitting the Backpacks 4 Kids program.

Produce and food items from Fresh Food Revolution vendors will be available for purchase. Resources from regional farming and food organizations to help anyone interested in starting a small farming operation or animal ranch or just expanding a garden to sell through the cooperative will be available.

To enter the recipe, floral or zucchini contest or inquire about displaying your art at the open house, visit www.freshfoodrevolution.org for more information.

money directly from the buyers while now the co-op handles the payments and pays the farmers the following week.

Ordering has been streamlined. Originally, it required hours of manual labor by Hendrick but now, everything is largely automated. The board raised funds last year through the members to invest into software for an online shopping cart.

Producers input their inventory Thursday through Saturday, and members receive an email Sunday morning. They have until Monday evening to shop and place orders and the system keeps track of availability and sold-out goods.

"It's incredibly convenient, in my opinion," said Errika Stanley, a member who

raved about the co-op so much, her mother-in-law recently joined, too.

"The whole experience is fabulous," Stanley said. "It's very similar to going to the farmers market but you can peruse online what's available prior to placing an order. ... It's a treat to pick up the produce."

One of the aspects the co-op is trying to increase is public education — which is also a requirement for their 501(c) 3 application. Plans include workshops and classes both for the public and for the producers. One goal is to educate the public about the benefits of growing their own food.

"Part of what we want to do is encour-

age local people to grow produce and sell it through the co-op," Hendrick said.

That's exactly how Lynn Lloyd got started. A member for about a year, she was inspired to become a small-scale vendor. So far, she's focused on herbs and she's testing the waters for growing more in the future so she could sell at a farmers market.

"A cooperative is a good model. ... (I like) the idea that there's a market locally and I don't have to do it on a larger scale," she said. "It's quite simple to do and it opens the door."

The group is working on a new permit that would allow for the sale of refrigerated foods such as dairy and meats, and has reached out to producers well beyond the Key Pen. Producers also have a voice on the board.

Hendrick said now that first-year basics have been worked out, the board is looking at new ideas. She said the overall mission is to teach people to eat well as well as support the local producers and local economy. And it appears to be working.

"I think it's changed my shopping habits for the better," Stanley said. "My mother-in-law and I have been trying to support local businesses and shopping locally and it's great to be rewarded for it, too, with great produce. It also creates a sense of community and it's connecting people in a different way."



AUGUST 2012

Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

Recreation Coordinator: Jessica Smeall, jessica@keypenparks.com 253-884-9240 x22

REGISTER ONLINE: www.keypenparks.com

FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

- Non-contact league with emphasis on sportsmanship
- Leagues: 1st/2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th/7th grades
- Games at Sehmel Homestead Park and Volunteer Park
- Registration Deadline: 9/21
- Players notified of team placement by 9/28
- Jamboree on 10/6 at Volunteer Park
- Games on Saturdays 10/13-11/17



OTHER FALL YOUTH ACTIVITIES:
Indoor Soccer Clinics/League
SPORTS SAMPLER CLASS
Music 'n Motion

ADULT FITNESS

register online: www.keypenparks.com

OUTDOOR BOOT CAMP



Location: Volunteer & 360 Park Instructor: Shannon Reichl
 Day: Tues & Thurs Time: 6-7pm Dates: July 31-Sept 6
 Fee: \$30 for 1 class/week, \$60 for 2 classes/week

ZUMBA

Location: Civic Center
 Instructor: Kirsten Gallacher
 Day: Sat. Time: 9-10am
 Begins: SEPTEMBER 8
 Fee: \$53 for 6 classes



EDGU: for a healthy spine

Location: Volunteer Park
 Instructor: Grant Glasscock
 Day: Wednesday Time: 11am
 Dates: 8/8-8/29 Fee: \$20 for 4 classes

SUMMER CAMPS

PEEWEE CAMP

August 6-10 • 9:30am-11:30am
 Ages: 4-7 • Fee: \$59
 Sports, crafts, and games!

SERVICE CAMP

August 6-10 • 1:30pm-4:00pm
 Ages: 8-12 • Fee: \$79
 Make a difference in your community!

Lego Camp: Pre-Engineering

August 13-17 • 9:00am-12:00pm
 Ages 5-7 • Fee: \$125
 Build boats, bridges, mazes, cars & more!

Lego Camp:

Engineering FUNDamentals
 August 13-17 • 1:00pm-4:00pm
 Ages 8-12 • Fee: \$125
 Build & design complex engineering projects!

Eco Adventure Camp

August 20-24 • 9:00am-4:00pm
 Ages 5-7 • Fee: \$125
 Canoe trip, hiking, farm tour, all over the KP!

JUNK in-YOUR TRUNK
COMMUNITY GARAGE-SALE
Saturday, Sept. 8
Volunteer Park 9am-3pm
SELLER'S SPACE - #20

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

FREE!

Free Movies at the Park
FRIDAY NIGHTS IN AUGUST @ Volunteer Park
 •Pre-Entertainment starts at 7:30pm
 •Movies begin at 8:30
 Bring your chairs, blankets, snacks, & smiles!



Aug 3 - The Muppets
 Pre-entertainment:
 Make your own Puppets!



Aug 10 - Shrek
 Pre-entertainment:
 Fairytale theater games!



Aug 17 - Madagascar
 Pre-entertainment:
 Make your own animal masks!

Aug 24
Sound & Vision



Aug 31 - The Lorax
 Pre-entertainment: Eco scavenger hunt!

SOUND AND VISION

Pre-entertainment:
 Harbor WildWatch touch tanks!

Peninsula Views

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sad story could have been avoided

I went to the food bank at the Key Peninsula Community Services not long ago to give a message to someone on staff. It was before any food was available but there was a lot of attention in the outside food area. I peeked to see what was going on.

On the shelf, there was a cat carrier with two Russian Blue cats. Someone had just dropped them off in the middle of the night. I opened the cage to pet them and saw something shiny and black on the towel. It was a brand new baby kitten, still wet. It

had just been born!

My heart did flip-flops. How could anyone drop off these two cats, one ready to give birth, in the middle of the night? They had no water and a small bag of dog food was on top of the cage. (Cats cannot survive on dog food; they need cat food with more protein.)

We have two cats and a dog and I certainly didn't need any more cats but what could I do? She was giving birth right then. The food bank people had given them water but

that was gone.

We made a nice home for Mama in the laundry room with all the amenities where she produced four more babies. Anytime Champy, our dog, walked past either cat, they attacked him. Especially Mama. She didn't want anything on four legs near her babies.

It was soon clear that I was in over my head, so when Carlene Easterwood from Animal Talk Rescue called and showed an interest, I was most happy to hear from her. Carlene works part-time for the Animal Talk people in the Roosevelt neighborhood of Seattle.

She said the saddest part of all this is that the spay and neuter truck comes to the food bank once a month. They would have neu-

tered or spayed the animals for free had they been brought to them. Animal Talk will take all of these kitties; they will be spayed (when appropriate), given their shots and micro-chipped. Then they will find them homes.

The main point here is to let the people who need these services know that they are available. Also to thank Carlene for her caring and energy. There is a special place in heaven for people like her!

Claudia Gabard, Trillium Creek Winery Home

Editor's note: See story on page 14 about the spay-and-neuter service at KPCCS. Thank you to Claudia Gabard for alerting us to this opportunity for Key Pen residents.

Election update commentary: More initiatives, candidates

We are up to our arse in politicians this election year. Let's look at what has happened since my commentary last month:

Aug. 7 primary

Pierce County voters will choose among a total of 164 candidates competing for 49 elected offices. The ballot for Key Peninsula voters, however, will show only 89 candidates for 24 positions. No matter how you count them, this is a pot full of politicians. The 136-page Voters' Pamphlet is the largest in memory.

The primary will reduce the field down to 38 candidates competing for 19 positions in November.

Presidential race

For all offices except president, a candidate simply flops down the filing fee and gets his or her name on the ballot. A presidential candidate, instead, must be nominated by a political party convention and a petition must be filed with valid signatures for 1,000 registered voters.

As of July 24, only two candidates for president had filed with the secretary of state's office. Signatures have been verified for one candidate, from the Party for Socialism and Liberation (a Marxist organization). Signatures for the Libertarian candidate are still being verified. The Green Party and the Socialist Workers Party were also expected to

Rick Sorrels The Pragmatic Sophist



file petitions.

The secretary of state says that most conventions have not yet been held, and past experience has been that everybody will wait until the Aug. 4 deadline.

Ballot issues

Four issues were reported last month that will appear on the November ballot: R-74 to revoke or affirm gay marriage legislation, I-502 to legalize and regulate recreational use of marijuana, ESJR-8221 Constitutional amendment regarding debt limits and SJR-8223 Constitutional amendment regarding UW investment funds.

Signatures for two more initiatives have been turned in: I-1240 for charter schools (still counting) and I-1185 to reinstate two-thirds majority requirement for tax increases (signatures verified).

Two additional local issues will appear on the November ballot: KP County charter amendment No. 40 to require two-thirds vote to raise taxes and Fire District 16 property tax levy to increase property tax 44 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. Pierce Transit will

have a levy on the ballot to raise sales and use tax by 0.3 percent but it will not be on the KP ballot, because this area has been removed from the taxing district.

Additional ballot issues are possible, as municipal governments have until Aug. 7 to file for the November ballot.

Most interesting candidate

My vote for the most "interesting" (not necessarily the most qualified) candidate this year would have to be a four-way tie between Dale Washam, Mike The Mover, Dave T. Sumner IV and Robert Hill.

Washam was elected as the Pierce County assessor-treasurer four years ago. He had been a political gadfly consistently running for one office or another for many years, until what many authorities cite as a fluke in a recently passed election law that allowed him to win the vote count.

Over the past four years, Washam has either lost, or Pierce County has settled, a number of multimillion-dollar lawsuits against him, for which the taxpayers will end up paying. At the request of the Pierce County Council, the prosecutor recently obtained a court order to compel him to do his job as required by statute. Washam is running for reelection among a field of five.

Mike The Mover is another perennial gadfly who runs for one office or another. This time he is running for United States senator in a field of eight. Mover did not provide a

photograph or a single word to include in the voters' pamphlet.

Sumner claims his experience as refounding the Neopopulist Party (under which he runs), founding the Hunted Church and being a former Army cook. He claims to be reversing the communistic trend in Washington and is fighting to get state government back to working for the people, not corporations. Sumner is running for governor among a field of nine.

Hill, aka "The Traveler," seems to run for one office or another every election but is currently impeded by his living arrangements behind bars. Hill is serving a 16-month prison sentence for a felony, "intimidating a judge" (making threats), to be followed by another 364 days in the Pierce County Jail for convictions for malicious mischief and three counts of assault. Several protection orders have been issued against him. Hill was unable to run for office this year, but did manage to get himself appointed to write the ballot statement in opposition to the Pierce Transit tax levy for the general election voters' pamphlet.

I wait for the presidential candidates to be revealed, to see what other "interesting" characters will be in the "pot."

Remember to register and vote. This just might prove to be the most important election of your entire life.

Last month's commentary is available at keypenews.com.

2012 GUEST COLUMNIST

When entering nature's cathedral, leave all your technology behind

I truly appreciate the beauty of my home, the Key Peninsula. Trees as far as the eye can see, beaches, wild flowers, state parks, bald eagles, deer, lakes, streams, mountain views — it never seems to end. We are so

blessed to have it all at our disposal. Living in the midst of such natural beauty, however, one can sometimes take it for granted.

For me, this did happen once. Just remembering it makes me hang my head in shame.

One exhilarating fall day, Nellie (my collie) and I went for a walk through the woods at Penrose. Fall inspires me, so we walked the interpretive trail. Nellie was in doggie heaven sniffing around and nuzzling the fallen leaves.

I was looking up, enjoying the cascade of leaves in all their autumn colors. I was completely caught up in the wonder of how one leaf can dance and twirl to the ground with exuberance while another can just sort of float lazily from the tree, taking its time. I was in nature's cathedral, and it was rapturous.

We strolled a bit farther when music started blaring out of the blue. I frantically looked around for the sound that was ruining my quiet moment. I stood still and listened. Sounded so close — in my pocket.

I reached into the pocket and hit "end call" on my phone. How dare someone call me at a time like this. It was my fault for having a phone while walking in nature's cathedral, but I was alone except for Nellie, who is no match for a bear.

The park was empty since it was fall, so I had brought the phone "just in case." It was best to be prepared.

I resumed my cathartic walk, shuffling my feet gleefully through the leaves when the music blared again. I'd forgotten to turn the dumb thing off!

I looked at the caller ID. It was my best friend. "I'll just tell her I'll call her back," I said to myself.

Twenty minutes later, I was still talking on the phone while I sat on a tree stump. I had

Lori Colbo
Key Culture



been so absorbed in the conversation that I had completely forgotten where I was and why. Nellie got my attention by yanking on the leash. As the reality of my error sank in, I said goodbye and we continued.

After finishing the interpretive trail, I decided to take the extended trail that goes all the way to the mooring dock. I returned to my previously enraptured state as I drank it all in — the crisp breeze, the scents, the colors. Moments later the phone sounded again. Caller ID said it was my son, who only calls for important reasons.

Ten minutes later, at the sound of thunder, I ended our trivial argument and looked around, wondering when the dark clouds had arrived. I smelled rain coming and announced to Nellie we had better go home. In the middle of my about-face, a deluge from heaven sent us running. All I could think was, "What about my stroll through nature's cathedral? I never got very far, and now it's ending. It's just not fair."

I never did need my phone to call for help.

Isn't this just pathetic? People make reservations months ahead of time and pay money to camp here so they can get away from the technology-sodden world and spend time in nature. They savor every moment they are here, capture it on film and treasure the fond memories. Shamefully, I had violated the unwritten law that if you live in or visit a place of natural beauty, cherish it, pay attention to every moment of the experience.

I learned the hard way that nature and technology don't mix. I share my story to remind us all not take this beauty for granted, to enjoy every opportunity to experience what God made for us.

Nature is sacred space, to be enjoyed in simple, quiet appreciation.



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All the little things add up to a better world

A stray raspberry vine grew up in our garden this summer. On a warm evening, my daughters and I wandered up there and picked the first ripe berries off it. Together we shared these little bursts of summer sweetness.

I'm always amazed how one taste can unleash such powerful memories, as if all my past summers are hidden away in there — Grandpa's raspberry vine in Seattle, berry picking in Carnation, the magical, mystical sweetness of berries thrown in with my cereal on lazy summer breakfasts. So much warmth, joy and happiness are all there, hidden within that plump, red berry.

A few days later I went fishing at Bay Lake. It was late afternoon when I launched from the boat ramp in my float tube. Soon the sun would be dropping behind the tall fir trees that line the lake's west bank.

Dan Whitmarsh Writing by Faith



I pushed out, kicking my way around the point, and found myself being stared down by a blue heron standing on the decrepit remains of the old dock. He seemed to be a little miffed that I would be in his space, challenging him for the very fish he was hunting for dinner. We had a little standoff before I floated away, relinquishing the space back to him. It was a quiet moment with no other witnesses, our own little corner of the lake hidden away from the rest of the world.

These moments are all around us if we stop and pay attention. Moments when "something more" happens. A connection is made. A memory is stirred. The

peace of time overwhelms us. The madness of life pauses for a moment and our souls touch a deeper place, a place of peace and contentment.

There is something to be said for the large moments — the bombastic explosions of fireworks in July, the cacophony of a brass band at the fair, the roar of jet engines screaming overhead at air shows, the murmur of a large crowd at the summer barbecue. All wonderful moments, to be sure.

But to me, the greatest moments are found in the little things. Sharing fresh berries with my children. Dipping a fly line into the lake. A mandolin duet with my friend John. A quiet evening sitting on the porch, reveling in the whistle of the Swainson's Thrush in our forest. Moments that too quickly pass us by unless we slow down, taking the time to notice and appreciate them.

One could argue that if we, as a society, would learn to recognize the value

in all the little things, this world would be a much healthier place. That salvation is not to be found first and foremost in national policy or regulation, the work of government or multinational conglomerates, but instead in learning the hidden ways of the world right outside our door. In growing in appreciation for all the goodness that exists around us.

It was the prophet Elijah who learned that God wasn't in the heat of fire nor the power of the earthquake, but in the still small voice that is silence. It's a lesson we would do well to learn.

So pay special attention to all the little things, especially as summer so quickly passes by. Grasp these moments as signposts of hope, that God has created a beautiful, rich world. After all, when all these little things are added together, we're left with one amazing place to call home.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Fireworks Stand Volunteers:

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Special thanks to Dale Loy, winner of the TNT fireworks drawing, for donating his prize to the Easter Seals' "Camp Stand by Me."

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SturdyProducts owner Rich Van Engers has developed a demand for his niche pet products.



Photo by Jim Bellamy, KP News

(From **SturdiProducts**, Page 1)

Van Engers and Johnson moved to the Key Peninsula about seven years ago. They worked for a short time out of a barn on their property before moving into Key Center at The Landing. In that building, they received their first container of equipment from a Vietnamese factory. The switch to Vietnam came as a result of being unable to find companies in Seattle to sew their products. They were competing with military contracts.

“We did choose to go overseas and be able to stay in business,” Johnson said. “We were going to be competitive or go out of business.”

In 2007, Van Engers flew 39 round trips to Vietnam to oversee quality assurance at the factory level. Johnson has accompanied him on some of the recent trips.

“I was nervous about developing companies — labor stories,” she said. “I was really impressed with the new factory, the on-site living and meals provided. (It is) up to ISO (International Organization for Standardization) standards that are conducive to a healthy work environment. They hire no one under 18.” Van Engers now travels to Vietnam only for major productions about three or four times a year.

SturdiProducts has grown into an international business, with customers in 25 countries including Russia, Germany, Italy, France, Japan and the Middle East. During the company’s more than two decades in business, the focus on pet travel found

a niche category. It is becoming common for people to travel with their pets. There is even an airline devoted strictly to pet travel, according to Johnson.

Personally, Van Engers’ favorite travel is to his homeland in Holland. He is a Dutch citizen born in Amsterdam and immigrated with his family to the United States when he was 6 years old. With the exception of one brother, Dwight, who works with him at the business, his brothers and sisters still live in Holland.

Van Engers and Johnson had originally planned to expand the business on their resident property but the property didn’t meet permit requirements. Kitsap County approved their architectural plans in April and they estimate it will take at least eight months to complete the move to the new facility once they start.

The pair view the move with mixed emotions. “We love Key Center and seeing people we know at the post office,” Johnson said. “It will be sad to leave Vaughn but it is beautiful in Manchester.”

They plan to have a big open house at their new location, which will incorporate retail space for walk-in customers. “We welcome the occasional visit (in Key Center) but we are not really set up for it,” she said.

The Key Center warehouse is located next door to the Roadhouse Restaurant. The hours are flexible and customers can call 884-2368 for information. The wide range of products for people who travel with pets is also available online at www.SturdiProducts.com.

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

The Minter Creek Elementary School Choir, led by Paula DeMoss, performs at the festival.

Scenes from KeyFest 2012

For more photos from the fair as well as a video from the event, go to keypennews.com.

Story by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Saturday, July 14, the weather couldn't have been better for the annual Key Peninsula "KeyFest" fair. The sun-swept day was quite warm but not oppressively so. Sunday was overcast and spotted with occasional weak sprinkles that were hardly noticeable; temperature was comfortable.

Although the number of attendees was not as large as hoped for, those who came enjoyed good food, great entertainment, huge inflated slide rides for the kids, homemade ice cream, even an Olympic Bird Fanciers' "choo-choo train" to ride free around the fairway.

The usual array of candidates from both sides of the political spectrum were on hand to seek voter support. More than 50 vendors total participated.

Peninsula Light again offered a generous free sampling of items to let folks go home with some economical trophies. A U.S. Marine Corps foursome offered equipment for visi-

tors to engage in some physical activity and a group of U.S. Army personnel were on hand to provide information.

The Peninsulas Emergency Preparedness Coalition shared information to encourage citizens to be ready when the "big one" comes. Other organizations that participated included Lindquist Dental Clinic, which offers dental care to South Sound children in need at, among other sites, the Gig Harbor Boys and Girls Club; Key Peninsula Community Council; Citizens Against Crime; Key Peninsula Fire Department; Longbranch Improvement Club; KP Lions Club; KP Business Association; Food Back Packs 4 Kids and Sportsmen's Club, among others.

Volunteers staffed game booths and vendors sold wares, while various performers entertained the crowds. The fair also included a parade, fireworks and the local talent show called Key's Got Talent.

In the words of Minter Creek Elementary School fifth-grader Matthew, "It's been great."



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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News
Above: Stella Arnett, 3, and Joey LeRoy, 5, are having the time of their lives on the inflatable toy. Right: Members of the Dance Avenue class show off their moves at the Krazy Key parade, which opened fair festivities.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News
Keeth Apgar of The Harmonica Pocket keeps a large Key Fest audience enthralled with his music. He later said he was "surprised by how intergenerational the audience was, from grandmothers to grandchildren."



Photo by Rodika Tollefson, KP News

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COMMUNITY PAGES

Submit calendar items to news@keypennews.com • Deadline is the 15th of the month

AUG. 2

Fuchsia club

The Lakebay Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Ginie, 884-9744.

AUG. 3

Conservation event

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and other local conservation organizations including Harbor Wildwatch, Puget Sound Partnership and Pierce County Shellfish Partners are at Penrose Point State Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is in celebration of an upcoming shoreline restoration project in the park planned for the winter of 2012-2013. The Salmon Enhancement Group will be selecting volunteer biologists to help collect important preproject data regarding the marine creatures currently using the beach. Don your rubber boots and learn what it is like to be a restoration biologist for a day.

Harbor Wildwatch will have touch tanks with local beach residents such as sea stars, moon snails, anemones and more. Find South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group on Facebook or www.spsseg.org or Kristin, 360-412-0808 ext 103.

AUG. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Outdoor cinema

Key Pen Parks features free movies at Volunteer Park every August Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket, snacks and smiles. "Muppets" is shown Aug. 3, "Shrek" Aug. 10, "Madagascar" Aug. 17, "Sound and Vision" Aug. 24 and "The Lorax" Aug. 31. Check the website for pre-movie entertainment at keypenparks.com.

AUG. 4

Postmaster's open house

The public is invited to an open house 2-5 p.m. at the KP Civic Center to honor Joanne Clark as she retires after 23 years as postmaster of the Vaughn

Post Office and 26 years with U.S. Postal Service. Clark wishes to thank all of the patrons and say good-bye. 884-2564.

AUG. 5

Bluegrass jam

The Lakebay Bluegrass and Gospel Jam is the first Sunday at the Lakebay Community Church (11 Cornwall Road KPS) at 12:30 p.m. Bring your voice or acoustic instruments; music and lyrics are provided and most of the music uses G, C or D chords. 884-3899.

AUG. 6-10

Service camp

Key Pen Parks offers a Service Camp for ages 8-12 at Volunteer Park 1-4 p.m. Fee is \$79. Jessica@keypenparks.com or 994-9240 x22.

AUG. 6, 13, 20, 27

Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile is at Albertson's 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

AUG. 7, 14

Story time

Summer story time for babies and toddlers, ages 0-3 with an adult, is at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Build your baby's brain with books, action rhymes, knees bounces, songs and more. 253-548-3309.

AUG. 8

Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden Club meets at 1 p.m. at the Longbranch Fire Station. Francine, 253-569-1381.

AUG. 9

Friends meet

The Friends of Key Center Library meet at 5:30 p.m. at the library. All Friends are welcome.

AUG. 10

Skate night

Friday night skate night for area elementary and middle school students

To submit an event

To submit an event for the Community Works calendar, please email news@keypennews.com, or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394. Briefs must be submitted by the 15th of the month.

is 7-10 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. DJ Will Moody spins tunes, games are in the Whitmore Room and snacks are available. Entry is \$5 and includes skate rental, games and crafts. 884-3456 or kpciviccenter.org.

AUG. 11

Lyme group

The Lyme support group meets 1-3 p.m. at the Key Center Library.

AUG. 13

Nocturnal tales

"Tales of the Nocturnal" is presented by the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium for ages 6 and up at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Learn how animals hunt and hide at night and meet a live nocturnal animal from the zoo. 253-548-3309.

AUG. 13-17

Lego camps

Key Pen Parks offers a pre-engineering half-day Lego Camp for ages 5-7 and engineering FUNDamentals half-day Lego Camp for ages 8-12. Cost is \$125. Registration deadline is Aug. 6. Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240 x22.

AUG. 14

Knit or crochet

Loving Hearts voluntarily knit and crochet hats for chemo patients and the backpack program for kids, baby items and blankets, wheelchair/walker bags and fingerless gloves for veterans in the community. They meet 1-3 p.m. at the WayPoint Church. Yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks and button donations are always welcome. Virginia, 884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@aol.com.

Transportation summit

A summit of agencies, government offices and KP leaders will explore the critical state of public transportation on the Key Pen. The public is welcome to attend. The summit begins at 10 a.m. at the Key Center Fire Station meeting room and is co-hosted by KP Community Council and The Mustard Seed Project. 884-1205.

AUG. 19

Third Sunday jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session is at Longbranch Church (16518 46th Street KPS) 6-8:30 p.m. for all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided. 425-492-4177.

AUG. 20-24

Eco camp

Key Pen Parks offers a full-day Eco Camp for children ages 8-12; cost is \$109. 884-9240 x22 or Jessica@keypenparks.com.

AUG. 24-26

Herding trials

The Packleader Farm hosts three days of herding trials, with four judges, for sheep, ducks and cattle. This event is free for spectators. Volunteers are needed and receive mentoring, continental breakfast and lunch of the day they work. Gabrielle, 360-531-2458.

AUG. 25

Church garage sale

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church hosts its annual huge garage sale, with lots of items at very affordable prices, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the church. Donations are accepted. 884-3312.

More news at

www.keypennews.com

OFF THE KEY

WEDNESDAYS

Draw or paint

Peninsula Art League sponsors "Drawing You in Program" each Wednesday until Sept. 26, 1-3:30 p.m. at Uptown Shopping Center Pavilion (weather permitting). This free program allows community members to draw or paint with a live model using their own drawing pad or easel; there is access for all. Sheila, 253-549-2896 or 253-549-3042.

AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Uptown concerts

Bring your lawn chair to the Uptown Gig Harbor pavilion to enjoy music Thursday evenings 6-8 p.m. A great variety of music by local musicians and bands is presented in free weekly concerts. Aug. 2 features "Common Ground," Aug. 9 is "Austin Radio," Aug. 16 is "Ali Marcus" and Aug. 23 is "Blues Redemption." www.Uptown-GigHarbor.com or Kristin, at 851-4557.

AUG. 3 and 17

Classic movies

Cinemagig Outdoors 2012 features classic movies every other Friday at Donkey Creek Park. "Water Horse" will be shown at dusk on Aug. 3 and "Footloose" (original) Aug. 17. Bring a chair or a blanket. The

movies are sponsored by city of Gig Harbor, MultiCare Gig Harbor Medical Park and Cottesmore of Life Care with assistance from the Gig Harbor Kiwanis, Kitsap Bank and the Gig Harbor Film Festival.

AUG. 4 and 18

Family movies

Cinemagig Outdoors 2012 features family movies at Skansie Brothers Park every other Saturday. "Disney's Earth" will be shown on Aug. 4 and "Happy Feet II" Aug. 18. Movies begin at dusk; bring chairs or a blanket.

AUG. 7

National Night Out

Gig Harbor celebrates National Night Out 5-10 p.m. on the "green" at the GH Civic Center (city hall).

AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28

Library computer classes

The Gig Harbor/Peninsula Library offers the following computer classes 2-4 p.m. on Tuesdays: Aug. 7, drop-in help; Aug. 14, PowerPoint for beginners; Aug. 21, drop-in help; Aug. 28, Cool Stuff with Your Card. Register at library's online calendar @ www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar or call 253-548-3305.

Summer concerts

Summer Sounds at Skansie returns

for the 10th year on Tuesdays. All free outdoor concerts start at 6:30 p.m. on the waterfront in Skansie Brothers Park, rain or shine. Aug. 7 is "Thea Wescott & Timberland Ridge," Aug. 14 is "Funaddicts," Aug. 21 is "Pearl Django" and Aug. 28 is "The Perry Acker Band" with the farewell to summer. Gigharborguide.com.

AUG. 14

Gardening workshop

Pierce County sponsors an edible garden workshop called "Pick-Eat-Store," 6-8 p.m. at Schmel Homestead Park. Call 253-363-1846 prior to the workshop if you plan to attend.

AUG. 17

PYO concert

A fun, free concert is performed by the Peninsula Youth Orchestra String Camp students at the Uptown Mall Pavilion at 2 p.m. String Camp 2012 is open to experienced string students (ages 9-19, 1-plus string experience). Camp activities include daily rehearsals, theme appropriate activities and fun. Regular season classes begin in September and are open to beginners with no prior experience. 253-534-5384; info@harborpyo.org or www.harborpyo.org.

AUG. 18

Bluegrass festival

The Olalla Bluegrass Festival is 10 a.m.-

8 p.m. in Olalla. This event features local and national bluegrass artists, food, handmade arts and crafts, old-time craft demonstrations, activities for children and a berry pie eating contest. Tickets are online or at the gate: \$15/adults, seniors & kids/\$10, parking /\$3(cash only). No pets allowed. olallabluegrassfestival.com.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Historical Society Board

Aug. 2, 11 a.m. at museum

KP Community Fair Association

Aug. 7, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; www.keyfair.org

KP Lions' dinner & program

Aug. 7 & 21, 6:30 p.m. in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721

Peninsula School District Board

Aug. 8, 6 p.m., regular meeting at district office; www.psd401.net.

Key Peninsula Council

Aug. 8, 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station; www.kpcouncil.org.

KP Civic Center Board

Aug. 9, meeting at 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room; www.kpciviccenter.org

Key Pen Parks

Aug. 13, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex; keypenparks.com

Fire District 16

Aug. 14 & 28, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station; www.keypeninsulafire.org

LIC

Aug. 15, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

KP Citizens Against Crime

Aug. 16, 6 p.m. at the home of President Cindy Worden for annual picnic. 851-2401 for directions.

WEEKLY EVENTS

TUESDAYS

TOPS No. 1325

Take-Off Pounds Sensibly meets at 9 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Free child care, fun and support are provided. 884-2554.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Preschool play time

The Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay for as long as you wish. A \$1 donation per child is suggested. 884-5433.

Submit your events to us by emailing them to news@keypennews.com.

WEDNESDAYS

Lakebay writers

The Lakebay Writers meet 1:30-4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-3931.

Watermark Writers

The Watermark Writers present a free writer's workshop 5-8 p.m. in Vaughn. 253-778-6559.

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet from 8-9 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability.

Senior Society

The Key Peninsula Senior Society, aka Yesterday's Teenagers, meet at 11:30 a.m.

for a potluck, fellowship and games at the Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981.

THURSDAYS and SATURDAYS

History Museum

KP Historical Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Current displays feature Penrose Point and KP logging. 884-2511 or 884-5403.

SATURDAYS

Writers' Guild

The KP Writers' Guild meets 9-11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-6455.

Zumba

Zumba for ages 16-plus is offered Saturdays 9-10 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Cost is \$53 for a 6-class punch card, good for two months after purchase date. 884-9240 or jessica@keypenparks.com.

Spay and neuter program available at KPCS

KP News Staff

The Key Peninsula Community Services (KPCS) hosts a spay-and-neuter program every month for local residents. This service is available once a month at no fee for families on assistance and very low fees for others. It is the second year of the service provided by the Pasado Safe Haven program and funded by the Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation.

The van schedule and instructions for spay and neuter visits to KPCS are available at www.pasadosafehaven.org. On the day of scheduled visits, Kathy Gill, the administrative assistant for KPCS, arrives early to open the center and assist the families and pets.

"This is strongly needed out here," she said. "I'm a believer in spaying and neutering your pets. The program will continue until the funds run out."

The Pasado van arrives at 7 a.m. Families with pets should arrive at 6:30 a.m.

"The program will continue until the funds run out."

— Kathy Gill

KPCS administrative assistant

Dogs must weigh under 70 pounds and be on a leash. Cats must weigh more than 2 pounds and be in a carrier box.

Cash is required for all services at check-in. Pets should have no food or water after 10 p.m. the night before. The family will be given a checkout time after the pet is received into the van. There is no charge for families with proof of public assistance. For those not on public assistance, the fees are \$35 for cat neuter, \$45 for cat spay and \$75 for dog spay or neuter.

KPCS posts fliers around the community announcing the next Pasado van visit. Information is also available by calling KPCS at 884-4140.

KP's post offices bid farewell to postmasters

All three Key Peninsula post offices are changing hands, following the retirement of postmasters Joanne Clark and Steve Jorgenson, and the transfer of Dawn Lui to another location.

Clark, who is retiring after more than 25 years in her career, has been the Vaughn postmaster for 23 years. She will be honored at a retirement party 2-5 p.m. Aug. 4 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center (in the gymnasium).

She said she has made a lot of friends and met many great people while working at Vaughn, and fondly recalls being part of the building of the new post office — which, she said, took 12 years, three rounds of bidding and 10 years without running water.

"But together with this community we got it done. My hope is that you all will continue to support your local post office," she said.

Clark said her customers were like her extended family and she will miss them the most. "I was there to hear the good news you received or the not so good. To-

gether you have helped me with my great times and sad times, so if that is not what makes a family, I don't know what does," she said.

She invites all the postal employees and community members to come to her Aug. 4 celebration to share memories and say goodbyes.

Jorgenson, who is retiring after a 34-year career, worked at the Lakebay post office for seven years. He'll be feted at a small family celebration.

Wauna postmaster Dawn Lui has transferred to Yelm.

Community Council applications due Aug. 15

Key Peninsula Community Council seeks candidates to serve on the board. Seats rotate each year and seven positions are up for election. The council is focused on maintaining the quality of life on the Key Peninsula and connects the community, while serving as liaison, to federal, state and local governments.

Deadline for director applicants is Aug. 15. For information, go to www.kpcouncil.org or call 884-6455.

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FIRE DISTRICT 16 CALL LOG

A summary of calls for FD 16 for June 15 to July 15

Total calls: 155
EMS: 113
Fire/service: 15
Other: 27

June 15

A 56-year-old woman in the Minter area experienced seizure activity while visiting with her family. She was in stable condition upon the arrival of the fire department medic unit but was treated and transported to St. Anthony Hospital for further evaluation.

June 16

Crews responded to reports of a 14-year-old male who had stopped breathing following a seizure. The patient had begun breathing prior to paramedic arrival. He was stabilized at the scene and transported by paramedics to a Tacoma hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

June 17

Fire department and state patrol units were dispatched following multiple reports of a tree across the roadway in the 14200 block of State Route 302. A crew arrived to find large pieces of a tree scattered across the highway, which was briefly shut down in both directions as the hazard was cleared from the roadway.

June 19

Several fire department and police units were dispatched to reports of a 13-year-old male having been assaulted by a group of teenagers at Lake Holiday. The patient

was reported to have suffered multiple injuries. He was evaluated and treated at the scene before being transported by paramedics to a Tacoma hospital for further treatment.

June 22

Firefighters were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident at the 14100 block of the Key Peninsula Highway at 3:30 a.m. A Ford Explorer was destroyed but the driver had fled the scene.

June 27

Firefighters responded to Bay Lake for a man who had capsized his small boat and was in the water, calling for help. When they arrived, a citizen in another boat had pulled the man from the water and towed his boat to shore, averting the crisis.

June 30

A 49-year-old North Key Peninsula man was involved in a domestic incident with his son over an argument. The man was not badly injured and drove himself to a facility. The son allegedly had psychological issues and was arrested.

July 5

Crews responded to a residence in Lakebay for a 50-year-old woman requesting EMS transport to a detox facility in Tacoma. Upon arriving at the scene and exiting the ambulance, one of the fire department members stepped onto some trash next to the driveway and twisted his ankle. The firefighter was seen by a physician shortly thereafter and forced to take

the rest of the shift off due to his injury.

July 6

Firefighters responded with a water-rescue craft to a report of a kayaker who had capsized. By the time they arrived, the kayaker had been pulled from the water by a passing boat and a crisis was averted.

July 12

Medics were dispatched to a man not breathing, possibly struck by a vehicle in the 14900 block of 82nd avenue NW.

When crews arrived, they found the man deceased and immediately suspected foul play based on the observations at the scene. The Pierce County Sheriff's Department is investigating.

July 14

Medics were called to the home of an elderly couple who had both fallen and needed assistance. After both were evaluated, the husband was transported to a local hospital.

OBITUARY NOTICE

Edwin Wilbur Fenton

Ed Fenton, raised in the Minter area, died July 16, 2012.

Born in Tacoma on Sept. 4, 1931, Fenton loved the Lord, hunting and gardening. A graduate of Peninsula High School, he became a logger and timber cruiser, as well as working in real estate for a living.

In retirement, he and his wife, Garnet, moved to Idaho, Montana, and Texas, before returning to his roots in the area.

Surviving family members include his wife, Garnet; sons Mike (Vonda), Ronnie (Diane), David (Cheryl); stepdaughters Debbie (Larry) Imes, Maryanne (Preston)Sheppard, Michelle (Vincent) Furtado; sister Dixie (Chuck) Lodholm and brothers Art and Dick (Sue); first



Edwin Fenton

wife, Evelyn Fenton; 12 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

A celebration of life for friends and family will be 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, at the Gig Harbor Eagles.

Keep your nose clean and your hooves dry ...

Assistance is available for Key Peninsula farms to install livestock exclusion fencing and manure bins.

For more information, please contact Erin at the Pierce Conservation District
(253) 845-9770 x 105 or erine@piercecountycd.org

"Do unto those downstream, as you would have those upstream do unto you." —Wendell Berry

Improvements coming to PHS athletic field

By Danna Webster, KPNews

Peninsula School District has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Ben B. Cheney Foundation to partially fund the cost of renovation for the Roy Anderson Field bleachers at Peninsula High School. According to Acting Superintendent Charles Cuzzetto, the home-side bleachers are in need of constant repair and are not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. The project will replace the old bleachers and improve safety.

Cuzzetto hopes the project will be completed this summer, which was the original plan.

“There is still a window of opportunity to complete the project in July and August this summer,” he said, “but it is still in the permit process.”

Postponement of the summer timeline means the work will take place between seasons next year, perhaps between football and track season.

The renovation project includes demolition and removal of the existing bleachers

before the installation of the new ones. The contract for the work has been issued to Outdoor Aluminum, a company located in Alabama and specializing in bleachers, grandstands and renovations.

The district will fund the balance of the cost, \$185,537 plus tax, for the new seating area for families and fans.

Since artificial turf was installed at the Roy Anderson Field in 2003, the field has been used continuously by the school and the community. Beyond district use, which includes athletic programs from both Peninsula and Gig Harbor high schools, the facility is used regularly by many youth athletic organizations.

Roy Anderson, the namesake of the athletic field, attended the commemoration of the 2003 upgrade. Anderson retired from decades of football, basketball and baseball coaching at Peninsula High School.

He is remembered by PHS assistant principal Melissa McNeish as a beloved coach and PE teacher. In the 1960s, McNeish was a student at Harbor Heights Elementary School. “I remember him go-

ing around to all the elementary schools as kind of an overseer of all fitness programs,” she said. “He was a very tall and heartwarming man — really a promoter of fitness and wellness.”

According to Cuzzetto, it is no longer

the practice to name a school facility to honor an individual today. The name of sports fields is a profitable commodity. This improvement project commemorates the dedication of the school district and Roy Anderson to fitness.

PHS alum raises money for leukemia cause

Peninsula High School alumnae Brea Mattingly has set out to make a difference by using one of her passions: running. She will be participating in the Seattle Amica Marathon on Nov. 25 to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation.

She said she wanted to contribute after learning that leukemia was the No. 1 killer for children. Mattingly has pledged to run one mile for every \$10 donated, and with the help of her fundraising website, her Team in Training family and her generous family and friends, she has already raised more than \$1,000, about half of her goal, and has run more than

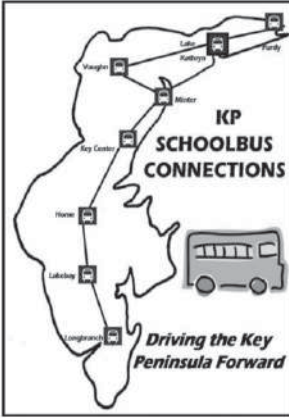
100 miles for the cause.

“Running is the easy part, but getting word out about how much these donations truly are needed is a little trickier,” said Mattingly, past cross-country runner and state competitor with Peninsula High School. “I would run a million miles if I knew it meant a cure for cancer but in a time where money is tight for everyone, asking people to give their hard-earned money to a cause they aren’t always directly impacted by isn’t easy.”

For more information about Brea Mattingly’s fundraising run or to contribute, go to <http://pages.teamintraining.org/wa/Amica12/BREAMATTINGLY>.

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The Lind solar home is red, white and blue

By Danna Webster, KP News

Thirteen mirrored panels sit on top of the Lind family house in Home. The panels have transformed the residence into a generator of power and given the family a new dimension of entertainment: They can watch their electric meter turn backward.

"This is a pretty old house to put on that fancy stuff," says owner Nancy Lind. "I think it's exciting to be a part of the whole ultimate energy idea."

Sustainable living, conservation and self-sufficiency have been the creed of the Linds since settling on their 80-acre property in 1956. Generating electric power and adding to the PenLight power grid was an attractive next step for a family who heats the water with water stoves, has no furnace, pipes in water from a natural gravity-flow pond, composts food waste, recycles under 400 pounds a year, bakes own bread and puts up basic foods, jams and jellies provided by a garden.

"This kind of completes the cycle — this solar. We're exceedingly fortunate to live here this long. Self-sustainability is a lot of work — making bread, garden the vegetables. It's all I can do to take care of my body, which is rapidly falling apart," Lind says with a laugh.

Nancy and her son, David, threw themselves into the solar project with their usual enthusiasm for studying, evaluating, comparative shopping, making choices and justifying them. They selected Brothers Electric Solar of Tacoma. Local products were installed by local electricians.

Master electrician Dave Cozine and journeymen electricians Alan Clark and Alex Cozine (Dave's son) did the installation in two days. "We wanted to buy American and also specifically wanted to buy a product made in



Photo by Danna Webster, KP News

David Lind and his mother, Nancy, are on the front patio of their solar electric home. Newly installed blue solar panels can be seen on top of Nancy Lind's red-and-white house, located in Home.

Washington state," David Lind says. "That system will produce half of their electricity use," says David Cozine, owner of Brothers Electric.

The homeowners have an incentive pay-back. As the Linds generate power, they will earn 54 cents per kilowatt-hour they produce, according to Cozine. If they make 3,000 kwh in a year, they will receive a check from PenLight at the end of the year for \$1,620, plus receive a 30 percent tax credit from the federal government. The Washington state solar incentive is due to run out as of 2020 but Cozine says the state has a history of reinstating it. There is also no sales tax on the solar sold to the grid.

The way the system works, according to Brothers Electric, is the bigger the array of module panels, the more electricity it is capable of producing. When sunlight hits the module cells, DC electricity is generated. The system has a converter that turns the DC to AC electricity, which is then routed to the house for use. When the system generates more power than is consumed, the excess is routed to the PenLight power grid. When electricity is fed to the power grid, the meter spins backward, earning credits on the utility bill.

The cost was more than \$1,000 per

module and the Linds chose an array of 13 modules. "The state pays back the cost of purchase and installation over time," says David Lind, explaining how the Washington energy incentives work. "Over a nine-year period, roughly 70 percent of the project could be recouped." Why did such a frugal family invest in solar equipment at this stage of the game? It's about conservation, Nancy explains. "There's a certain panache out of being part of the land," she says.

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Missouri couple bring talents to Key Pen

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Nathaniel and Shelby Maddux, transplants from Missouri less than a year ago, are growing their businesses at Home.

Nathaniel's company, called SquaWkBox Media, specializes in web production and design. Shelby's business is called Red Filter Photography.

They met at College of the Ozarks, where Nathaniel majored in history and education. Shelby's degree is in mass communication, with an emphasis in public relations and a minor in speech communication.

He grew up on a 1,000-acre cattle ranch. She lived in a town where her father was a university professor.

Nathaniel's previous job was insurance agent in a small town where more than 80 percent of employment was with large boat factories. Shelby was the mayor's administrative assistant, then a paralegal for his attorney son.

When the recession hit, the area experienced 30 percent unemployment. The Madduxes decided last year it was a good time to move elsewhere.



Courtesy photo

Nathaniel and Shelby Maddux share their talents through photography, video and web design services.

The couple had toured the Olympic Peninsula on their honeymoon five years ago and fell in love with the Pacific Northwest. They envisioned living in Seattle or Portland but through fortunate circumstances, found a home on the Key Peninsula with a view of Mount Rainier.

Nathaniel deals in digital marketing with websites and videos.

"There's a huge amount of technology that small businesses can utilize, but simply don't

know how to tap into it," he says. "That's where I come in."

Shelby is a professional photographer; her specialties are family, children and weddings.

"Kids grow up so quickly, it's important to preserve those freckled faces and crooked smiles," she says, adding, "Graduations and weddings come up fast."

They have worked with companies and individuals in Seattle, Portland and smaller places in the state, including Gig Harbor, Vashon Island and Ocean Shores.

Nathaniel is interested in making a historical documentary about the Olympic Peninsula to be used in elementary curriculums. He notes there's a lot of information about Mount Rainier but not much on the Olympic Peninsula.

He plays several instruments and wrote, recorded and produced "Ozark Roots," a collection based on his experiences in the Ozark hills. He is also involved with music programs at their church, Mars Hill.

They've taken many photos and videos at both Penrose and Joemma Beach state parks and are eager to see more of the Key Peninsula places and people.

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Key Pen's Paul serves Toastmasters as district governor

By Karen Lovett, KP News

An actor, acting instructor and screenwriter, former president of Key Peninsula Toastmasters William Michael Paul has added a new responsibility to his already full schedule. He is district governor over the four local Toastmasters branches: Key Peninsula and three in Gig Harbor including one located at the Washington Corrections Center for Women.

Paul joined KP Toastmasters a short 18 months ago. His focus on creating a warm, friendly atmosphere where members are welcomed as "family" has been key to the group's recent increase in membership from about five to more than 20.

Lori Whaley, who met Paul as a student in his acting classes at Tacoma Community College, encouraged him to join Toastmasters. One day she knocked on his door and convinced him to go.

Ann Campy, previous president, asked him to come back with an "ice breaker," a five- to seven-minute speech. He returned the next week and from then on the KP Toastmasters underwent a change.

"William brought so much life, energy and



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

William Michael Paul, Area 24 governor and immediate past president of Key Peninsula Toastmasters, hands the gavel to newly installed President Margit Glenn.

sense of belonging to the group with his warm, encouraging, positive attitude," Whaley said. "He became president and took the ball and ran with it. We wouldn't be where we are without him."

For years, the group was considered to be part of a Gig Harbor club. They met separately but did not have the 20 members required to be officially recognized by Toast-

Weekly meetings

Key Peninsula Toastmasters meet at the Key Center Library every Thursday at 8 a.m. For more information, contact Maria Libner at 884-4422.

masters as an independent club. Six months after joining, Paul became president of the group. Under his direction, the focus and goals changed.

"I couldn't see such a beautiful golden nugget wasted," he said. "Each club has its own personality. We call the meeting the weekly hug. You can be the most amazing speaker in the world. It's an amazing concept. The key is listening. It's about bonding and friendship."

Each week, they have a new theme. One week, Paul promised someone famous from Hollywood would come. He brought Wilson, Tom Hank's soccer ball companion from the movie "Castaway"

"We have grown from a small group with the personal goal of developing skill as public speaking to connect with other groups," said charter member Rosina Vertz. "His biggest

contribution has taken us to the next step to looking out to the community. We are doing fundraising for Chit Chatters, the women's correctional facility club. His real skill has been to do outreach programs and encourage people to be more comfortable with themselves."

Newly elected president Margit Glen said she joined the group to hone her speaking and leadership skills. "It's a wonderful organization, a warm, friendly, inviting environment," she said. "KP Toastmasters exemplify the Toastmasters clubs mission."

The goal of the group is to become better communicators and each member has to present increasingly more complex speeches to earn various milestones.

"It's not about being perfect. It's about being better," said Toastmaster and webmaster Patrick Kelly.

Campy credits Paul with helping the local group achieve President's Distinguished Club status. "Once William got more publicity and membership rose, the organization got behind us," she said. "(The club) achieved all 10 of Toastmasters' goals. Only 7 percent of Toastmasters clubs achieve that goal."

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Slice of KP history: 1904 cabin in the woods

By Colleen Slater, KP News

A Tacoma surgeon wanted a cabin for entertaining his friends, somewhere near the salt water for fishing, with enough forest around it for hunting and not too far from home. The date was 1904.

Dr. Herrman selected a site easily accessible by boat, with untrammled acres of forest, and cleared enough land for his cabin retreat. The cabin, about 36 by 27 feet, just above a medium bank on the east side of the peninsula, consisted of a large room and a stairway to a sleeping loft. The floor of the sleeping loft used lumber from a mill in Eatonville.

A stonemason of Eastern European descent paid for his appendectomy by the doctor by building a huge stone fireplace. Stones and sand from the beach were used, and inside, a large granite H was installed.

The next owners, dentist Russell Perkins and his wife, Ellie, did some remodeling to make the place more amenable for a family summer camping experience. They reroofed the cabin, framed in a large

cooking area and added a bathroom and two bedrooms on the main level.

Perkins subdivided the acreage into eight lots, built a house next door and lived there year-round.

Third owners were Vincent and Shirley Gadbow. Vincent, an attorney, had a building in Tacoma named for him.

Shirley's love was horses but she wanted to get away from their Crescent Valley horse farm in Gig Harbor. They visited the Key Peninsula to look for a vacation property.

Born and raised in Alaska, she loved the cabin and property the first time she saw it. "It reminded me of home," she said.

The Gadbows' remodeling included building a bench with storage along the window wall facing the water, adding modern windows and electricity, turning the cook shack into a real kitchen, plus adding two more bedrooms, a bathroom, a garage and a large deck.

When her husband died, Shirley moved to a manufactured home across the street, where she kept a few horses. She sold her



Courtesy photo

Shirley Gadbow next to the original fireplace, showing the granite H above the mantel.

beloved log cabin home to a couple who wanted to be within commuting distance of their jobs but not in the city.

The couple, Travis Gamble and Lee Quinn, moved in 14 years ago. They discovered the massive fireplace and chimney needed repair, plus they wanted a front door that faced their driveway instead of the beach. They removed two trees, a fir and a cedar, by the door nearest the driveway, added a pleasant foyer and created distinct areas in the loft.

They were able to use the same mantel and some of the original stones in the reconstructed fireplace, several still with barnacles clinging to them, but much of the structure was replaced with fake rock.

Unique features include the ceiling under the loft that still contains the mill markings, and the logs that support it, trimmed to size so the floor would be level.

Each set of owners left their mark but the central "cabin" looks much the same as when it was first built.

This home is certainly one of a kind, with a definite personality and a cheerful history of the people who cherished their time in this special "cabin" near the water and woods of the Key Peninsula.

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GSL hosts campout tourney at Volunteer Park

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Greater Seattle League's Camping Out Tournament hosted 25 teams from Washington, Oregon and British Columbia at Key Peninsula's Volunteer Park July 6-8. Rhett Parker of Seattle, the tournament director, has been involved with the activity for several years and said it is hosted throughout the Northwest.

"(Volunteer Park) is beautiful," he said. "The ball fields are exceptionally good. The weather was wonderful and that helped."

Referring to Murph's BBQ, the food concessionaire at Volunteer Park, he said, "Murph's barbecue is the best in the Northwest."

Asked if the tournament might return to the KP, Parker said, "We are definitely coming back here. Positively."



Hugh McMillan, KP News

In the 13 and under age category, Gig Harbor's "Sting Rays" pitcher Dawson Hallock pitches to the dangerous bats of Tacoma's "Select" team during the Greater Seattle League's Camping Out Tournament.

Master weaver Samuel returns for lecture and workshops

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Cheryl Samuel, well-known in Key Peninsula weaver and artisan circles, will be returning in August to present a free lecture as well as more workshops. Organizers expect the events to draw Samuel's fans from all around the region.

"She is an inspiring speaker and is extremely knowledgeable. She has a big following," said Carolyn Wiley, program chair for Friends of the Library, which is sponsoring the "Perfect Circle" lecture on Aug. 16.

Samuel is a master of the lost Ravenstail and Chilkat weaving techniques that were used by several Northwest tribes. She began her research at the Burke Museum at University of Washington and has been credited with the revitalization of those types of weaving by mastering the lost techniques and teaching them extensively.

She wrote two books about the history and techniques of Northwest weaving and has travelled internationally to conduct her

research.

Samuel, who was the featured artist at last year's annual Fiber Arts festival at Longbranch Improvement Club, has taught several workshops on the Key sponsored by LIC. The workshops attracted weavers from as far as Vancouver Island and Oregon, according to Wiley, who is also involved with LIC.

The LIC is also bringing Samuel back to the Key Peninsula in August for two workshops, which are sold out (call Jan, 884-3959, to be waitlisted). The Friends of the Library event is part of the same visit.

Friends are hosting the lecture at the Key Center Library, and Wiley said this is the second collaboration between the two organizations — the Taiko drummers at the LIC earlier this summer were also a co-sponsored event.

"A Perfect Circle" begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 16. The lecture is free but donations of food or cash for the food bank are welcome. For more information, call 548-3309.

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Nashville group to perform in Home

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Country duo The Jeffersons will drop in all the way from Nashville on Aug. 19 for an outdoor performance in Home. The concert is a production of Watermark Writers, a local nonprofit that supports literary arts including workshops for teens.

Jerry Libstaff, Watermark Writers founder, has been hosting performances at his home in Vaughn for several years. The performances, titled Words and Music and also featuring poets, have drawn musicians from around the country as well as from abroad.

"With Words and Music, Vaughn, Wash., has become well-known. I have over 260 singer-songwriters from around the country and two other countries that want to perform and I can't have them all," he said.

Libstaff teamed up with Lori Deacon, owner of Cape E Farm & Vineyard, to host The Jeffersons. "This is sort of a Words and Music extension. I'm trying to bring more music to the peninsula to different venues," Libstaff said.

Watermark Writers recently used

Concert performance

The concert on Sunday, Aug. 19, begins at 5 p.m. The farm will open at 3:30 and close by dark. Children must be supervised by adults, and the concert is not geared to families.

For more information about The Jeffersons, go to thejeffersonsmusic.com and for details about the venue, visit www.cape-e.com or call 884-4412. Tickets may also be reserved by calling this number.

Longbranch Improvement Club for one such venue, bringing the Brother Sun group in for a concert that benefited The Mustard Seed Project. Libstaff also started A Blend of Words and Wine events at the Blend wine shop in Key Center that include poetry readings and an open mic.

The cost for the concert is \$15 suggested donation. Concertgoers are invited to bring a picnic and blanket to enjoy at the farm, and Deacon encouraged them to stop by Blend on the way for a bottle of wine for the picnic.

Cottonwood Cutups, a bluegrass band, will open the evening.

Deacon's venue is available for events such as parties and weddings, and she said she wants to host more performances on her own in the future.

"It's going to be a really nice location," Libstaff said.

Libstaff uses any proceeds above costs from his Words and Music events to raise funds for his Young Writers program, with the next workshop planned on the Key Peninsula in October.

He anticipates The Jeffersons to be a popular performance. The husband and wife duo of Lisa Brokop and Paul Jefferson have an extensive base of music and radio fans as well as various accomplishments. Brokop's include the Independent Female Artist of the Year title from the Canadian Country Music Association.

"The Jeffersons are outstanding," Libstaff said. "For anybody who likes country music, it will be a wonderful program."

Local girl competes in pageant

Key Peninsula fifth-grader Celeste Rivas has been selected to participate in the National American Miss Washington pageant as a state finalist. Celeste, 10, will compete with other girls from around the state on Aug. 9-11 at Hotel Murano in Tacoma. She is participating in the preteen category (ages 10-12).

The pageant has five categories for girls ages 4-18. The winner receives



Celeste Rivas

\$1,000, VIP tickets to Disneyland, tour of Hollywood plus air transportation to compete in the national pageant in California. The National American Miss Pageants are focused on age-appropriate activities and award \$1.5 million in cash, scholarships and other prizes every year.

Celeste, who attends Evergreen Elementary, also participates in basketball, swimming and soccer.



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Out & About

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Conor Baillie, 5, grandson of LIC President Jeff Baillie, was the youngest passenger aboard Admiral Pete of Kitsap Transit for the evening cruise from Longbranch to Glen Cove in August. Two cruises, fundraisers for the KP Historical Society, entertained more than 150 KP folk. Connie Hildahl read historical commentary as various spots of interest were passed. Captain Tom, a veteran of 32 years on the water (both in the Navy and currently with the foot ferry between Port Orchard and Bremerton), gave guests a smooth ride on a perfect summer day.



Photo by Frank Slater, KP News

Where in the World...



Wauna resident Gail Goedert took the KP News along with her to Holar, Iceland.

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Photo courtesy Tom Zimmerman

Gayle Shriner and her daughter, Hannah, walk with Molly and Melchezidek in the 4th of July parade in Home.



Photo courtesy Ric Hallock

Lakebay residents Thomas Schaefer, right, and his son, 2-year-old Cameron, get an up-close and personal view of Lucy, a baby alligator, while attending the Family Fun Festival at Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor July 14. The alligator was part of the stage show by Scott Petersen, a.k.a. The Reptile Man, out of Monroe.