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Photo courtesy of David Ahola

Former Key Pen resident Michelle Ahola sifts through the remains of her cruiser home after the Gig Harbor Marina fire.

Marina fire destroys home of former Key Pen resident

By Danna Webster
KP News

The difference between the destruction of homes in New Orleans and those destroyed by fire at Harborview Marina, of course, is magnitude, with an exponent of about 200,000. But the stages of motions and emotions are the same: the alarm and fear, escape, help and rescue, the miracles, loss and grief, supporters and recovery, celebration and gratitude, bills and blame, acceptance and moving on.

A loud "POP" and a woman's voice

shouting, "Fire!" woke Michelle Ahola on Wednesday morning, Aug. 31. She could see a ball of fire between her boat-home and the landing. She reached her cell phone and called her husband, David. "Get on John's boat," he instructed. It would be three hours before the husband and wife would be in contact again. All the things that "only happen to other people" began to happen to Michelle Ahola, who lived in Lake Holiday before she moved on board the boat.

(See **FIRE**, Page 14)

Herring pens remain in operation

By William C. Dietz
KP News

The herring pens in Mayo Cove remain in operation. For the moment anyway. That's the word from Mark Luppino, a code enforcement officer for Pierce County. The pens, which belong to Lakebay Marina owner Derwin Hostetler, have been the subject of controversy in a community where

some local residents see the containments as a problem and others view the pens as part of life on the peninsula.

The whole thing came to a head when the county served Hostetler with a cease and desist order. Then, in the words of Jill Guernsey, deputy prosecutor for Pierce County, "he (Hostetler) appealed that, and the

(See **HERRING**, Page 30)

Signs of the times

Illegal signs litter the Key Peninsula

By Irene Torres
KP News

As cars zoomed by Key Center one day in September, a passenger exited a vehicle stopped at the intersection. He was intent on removing a yard sale sign that had blocked his driver's vision. He cleared the view for the next driver, but left the sign on the ground to blow away with the next gust of wind from oncoming traffic.

The proliferation of various signs has turned the drive along the Key Peninsula into an eyesore. Signs ranging from garage sales to day care openings, foreclosure help and tree cutting abound on trees, light poles and road markers. Most

(See **SIGNS**, Page 29)



Photo by Mindi LaRose

This sight at the intersection of State Route 302 and Danforth Street is typical of signs scattered around the Key Pen.

KP volunteers help hurricane victims

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

A crew of self-starting Key Peninsula volunteers set up a car wash in the parking lot of the KC Coral in Key Center in September to raise funds in support of the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"This all started when I was on the phone with my daughter, Hillary," said the group's organizer, Mindy Hand. "Both of us (were) feeling so helpless and horror-stricken by the news coming from New Orleans. We knew we wanted to do something to make a difference, but what? We decided to hold a car wash the next two Saturdays in the parking lot of the KC Coral, where my shop is located. We put out a half a dozen flyers around town and

hoped for the best."

The two Saturdays netted \$1,300, with "every penny raised" to go to the American Red Cross.

"My husband, Robert, came home from work and said his employer, CenturyTel, had agreed to match everything we bring in. They wrote it up in their employee newsletter," Hand said. That brought the fund to a total of \$2,600.

"We are a tired bunch, but feel better than we have in a week," Hand said after the carwash.

And she didn't stop there. Her next project is "a drive for clothing and supplies such as soap, shampoo, diapers, etc."

"People will be invited to drop off things at my barber shop, CutterBug, in Key Center and my daughter will take the items



Photo by Hugh McMillan

A swarm of Key Peninsula volunteers washed cars at the KC Coral in Key Center in September to raise funds in support of victims of hurricane Katrina. Seen here finishing up on a pickup owned by Joe Myrick (not in photo) are Ericka Arnold, Robert Hand, Pete Arnold, Gary Richardson, Mindy Hand and, holding the sign, Hillary Brocenos. Also helping but not in the photo: Nathan Brocenos and Virginia Bryant, Mindy Hand's mother.

to a drop-off place in Seattle," she said. "We give our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this car wash such a success. The kindness and generosity shown by the people of the Key Peninsula was over-

whelming. And CenturyTel's offer to match our funds made all the difference in the world! Your donations will go a long way to help ease the suffering of thousands of people affected by Hurricane Katrina."

CISP holds successful picnic dinner fund-raiser

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

The most widely heard comment at the recent Communities in Schools of Peninsula fund-raising picnic dinner, called Denim to Diamonds, was, "Can you believe this incredible weather?" It couldn't have been better for the organization's first-ever fund-raiser. The location, the lawn at the home of Peninsula School District School Board President Jill Johnson and husband Cliff, played host to an array of delightfully arranged linen covered tables-for-eight, each for contributing guests.

"Its purpose was to raise awareness of CISP and create new friends to support our work," said CISP Executive Director Colleen Speer. "Board members were committed to inviting people who were not familiar with CISP — and they did."

The 94 guests enjoyed dinner by LeGarmache Catering, which is owned by graduates of Peninsula High School. Socializing and dinner were accompanied by excellent, subtle jazz music provided by the highly accomplished Almost Handsome Band, made up of students from Peninsula and Gig Harbor High Schools.

Connie Rose, CISP vice chair, challenged guests to contribute dollars, saying

that "100 percent of all individual donations go towards programs and services of CISP within the Peninsula School District." CISP board President Dexter Reuhl explained what CISP is all about and how its involvement with students with learning problems has resulted in improved grades and test scores. The successful CISP programs have worked well at Evergreen and Vaughn Elementary schools.

Speer spoke of organizational goals for the upcoming year, thanked everyone for attending, and expressed special gratitude to the event's sponsors, Columbia Bank, Tides Tavern, Alaska Distributors, Le Garmache Catering, Benchmark Event Equipment, Peninsula School District, AV

Equipment, and Dennis Montgomery Bar Tending Services, each of which helped make possible the evening's successful raising of about \$10,000 in CISP support funds.

Speer said, "CISP is now heavily recruiting volunteer adults to work with children who need additional assistance in reading or math for one hour a week after school. No prior teaching experience is necessary; we have excellent, brief training programs for our volunteers." She was pleased to note that five of those attending the event volunteered for the program that evening.

For more information, call Colleen Speer at 884-5733.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Three Key Pen principals who enjoyed the Communities in Schools of Peninsula fund-raising picnic dinner: Peninsula High's Patricia Scott, KPMS' Sharon Shaffer, and Evergreen Elementary's Jacque Crisman.

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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Celebrating 80 years of power to the Peninsulas

By Irene Torres
KP News

Peninsula Light Company (PenLight) will host an Open House on Oct. 5 from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. to showcase its history and future.

In 1925, a small group of community leaders lived their vision, bringing electricity to Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula. At the time, pioneers had only a vague idea of how to accomplish the task of bringing electricity, a new commodity, to their rural communities. Several months of planning and preparation involved raising capital, recruiting technical expertise and choosing a form of government to oversee the utility. The community decided to form a cooperative run business.

Now nonprofit PenLight serves about 28,000 member homes and businesses, covering 112 square miles in Western Pierce County. The territory extends from the Tacoma Narrows (on the south) to the Kitsap County line (to the north), and forms the second largest cooperative in the state of Washington.

The Operations Department is respon-

sible for building, operating and maintaining the entire power distribution system for PenLight. During the past five years, they undergrounded 43.6 miles of overhead cable and replaced 51.9 miles of aging underground cable. They storm-proofed over 504,240 feet of cable. Providing members with reliable power with a minimal amount of interruptions is their No. 1 priority. The annual goal is to replace 7 miles of aging underground cable and 10 miles of overhead line. The conversion of overhead lines to underground helps beautify neighborhoods. A Power Reliability program includes vegetation management (controlling trees under power lines), conversion of overhead lines to underground, replacement of aging underground cables, and automated outage reporting systems. All improvements are designed to ensure that members are provided with reliable and consistent power.

Member services also include the sale of surge suppression devices, generators and power backup equipment, energy-saving lighting, water heaters, or emergency preparedness kits. PenLight offers the highest quality, commercial / indus-



A lineman is working on the cable undergrounding project. Peninsula Light started a 20-year undergrounding project in 1998. So far, nearly 44 miles of overhead cable have been placed underground, and nearly 52 miles of aging underground cable were replaced.

Photo courtesy of Peninsula Light Co.

trial grade products only to its members in order to maintain nonprofit status.

The spirit of the community founders of Peninsula Light Co. lives on in the co-op membership. The families Danforth, Rickert, Lodholm, Smythe, Knapp, Goldman, Skansie, Hunt, Nichols, Uddenberg, Peyran, Alvestad, Vernhardson, Sisson, Thompson, Freeborn, Pearson, Welch, Olson and others are proud of PenLight's accomplishments over the past 80 years. PenLight will honor the pioneers and the

achievements of its cooperative business model at its Open House. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. Tours of the facility will be offered, as will giveaways and door prizes.

"October is National Co-op Month — what a perfect time to celebrate PenLight's long history of membership," said PenLight CEO Rob Orton. "I'm looking forward to meeting with members that can attend our Open House, and hope many will come out."

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For more information about Lincoln Center visit www.jazzlincolncenter.org. For more information about KGHP-FM call (206) 857-8318. KGHP-FM is the Peninsula area's educational and community radio station. KGHP-FM's mission is to offer Peninsula School District students a complete and balanced education and enrichment program. We are proud to be a part of the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas with valuable community information and entertainment.

A few of the community partnerships and charitable contributions PenLight has supported over the years:

- Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Area Chamber of Commerce - "Community Service Award," 2003
- Maritime Gig Festival
- Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor & Islands (KI) Watershed Council
- Operation Help: Peninsula Light helps fund, and matches dollar for dollar contributions made by members in assisting needy families pay their power bill.
- Safety education: PenLight journeyman linemen have for years conducted safety education demonstrations at local elementary schools.
- Cancer Relay for Life
- HEROES Program: Helping elders through referral and outreach services
- Peninsula School District Foundation -

High School Scholarships

- Peninsula Athletic Association: Youth team sponsorships, 1997 to present
- Key Peninsula Little League: Youth team sponsorships, ball field construction assistance
- KGHP Radio Station: Assisted Peninsula School District establish and fund the station. The station is also used as the emergency broadcasting center for the light company (broadcast facilities on-site). Members can tune in at the top and bottom of every hour to hear updates on severe outages, storms or disasters.
- Pierce County Fire District 16: "Ten Years Award" (fire safety education), 1995.

Editorial

When questions linger, it may be time for action

It's been noted before that secrets are hard to keep on the Key Peninsula, and news gets delivered faster than the next day's mail. The toughest part is not keeping in the loop, but trying to separate fact from fiction.

Last month's rumors about the Key Peninsula Community Services were no exception, adding faster than it was possible to figure out what, if anything, was true. Following the departure of the center's executive director after just a few months on the job, the allegations heard around the neighborhood ranged from thousands of dollars missing from the center and a cover-up conspiracy, to the building being unsafe and closing doors.

There are almost without exception two (or more) sides to the story. Some of the allegations against KPCS have already been proven false. But other questions continue to linger in the minds of local community leaders, who are looking for ways to understand what is happening at the center and how they may help.

Regardless of the turn of events in the next few months, one thing is clear: The services the center provides for seniors and local families are a community asset that may take the entire community to protect. Whether that means getting involved at KPCS by volunteering or attending board meetings, or whether other groups will need to step in to pick up those services, some questions will remain until the organization conducts an audit and proves its accountability.

The KPCS has proven one thing: It has many longtime volunteers who have seen the organization through many difficult times in the past, and they are determined to continue serving their community.

Perhaps all they need is a little more help from new volunteers, a little more fresh energy, and a little more involvement — perhaps even scrutiny — from the community.

As for the rumors and allegations, we can just say is that it always seems easier to be destructive than constructive. Those rumors are hurting not just the center, they are hurting everyone because the community center belongs to us all.

Tacoma Power lacks accountability in seeking road solution

By Joe Geier
Special to KP News

The superintendent of Tacoma Power, Steven J. Klein, has a wonderful imagination but appears to lack a handle on the facts. Tacoma Power's proposal to landlock 60-plus parcels of land including home sites is an 80-year-old dilemma. Superintendent Klein has no plan for resolving this dilemma. Mr. Klein has stated that he will not meet with the subject landowners and there are no alternatives to his plan.



If there were an easy solution to this debacle concerning alternative roads, it would have been resolved many years ago. 144th Street KPN, or "Pole-Line Road," known at an earlier time as CD Rowlings Road, pre-existed the 1923 legal action to establish a right-of-way for the power transmission lines. Access to the home sites and land parcels in question has never been denied and/or interrupted. Within the 1923 pleadings the stated purpose of the condemnation action was "as an addition, extension and betterment of its existing electric generating plant ... and other public purposes, in a manner authorized by the laws of the State of Washington." Not once in the 1923 condemnation action was the taking of "any" road ever mentioned. Pierce County has maps showing the many home sites where a road accessed land parcels as early as 1915. Mr. Klein's proposal to close the

road to its residents is beyond the scope of any of Tacoma Power's previous superintendents.

In 1969, the city of Tacoma Department of Public Utilities proposed a portion of the transmission line right-of-way for use by Pierce County as part of a county road right-of-way. After numerous discussions and meetings, over several years, Director of Pierce County Engineers Wm. R. Thornton signs a letter to a Mr. Jack Evans stating that "Pierce County is not willing to take over the road and spend the nearly \$400,000 to construct it to the standard required by the County." Recently, Mr. Klein denies that an offer of the right-of-way ever existed, or that the road should be turned over to the county. Council member Terry Lee, in an August citizens' meeting, stated that Pierce County is unable to financially accept the road as is. Pierce County postponed a \$400,000 construction project in 1974 to a multimillion-dollar project today. There are numerous files of superfluous documents and data within both Pierce County and Tacoma Power Co. offices concerning this topic, without a solution in sight. Mr. Klein's proposal to use electronic gates for two years after the residents sign a boilerplate license is a band-aid for a life and death injury.

In July 2003, I informed the offices of Pierce County executive, Tacoma city manager, Pierce County councilman from the 7th District, and others about my concerns that my property may be landlocked by the actions of Tacoma Power, and Pierce County has placed unreasonable restrictions as to the devel-

Pierce County postponed a \$400,000 construction project in 1974 to a multimillion-dollar project today. There are numerous files of superfluous documents and data within both Pierce County and Tacoma Power Co. offices concerning this topic, without a solution in sight.

opment of my property. Executive John Ladenburg's office answered my appeal of county's decision refusing building permits to property owners with a letter stating that the services of an attorney may be necessary to resolve my concerns.

Some of my friends and neighbors have lived on this road for nearly 50 years. Nearly all of us have property titles without access restrictions and we all pay taxes. Mr. Klein's assertion that by allowing citizens to continue to use a road that has been used for eight decades is a security risk, liability issue and financial burden is absurd. This fact is certain, this road has been used for over 80 years without any restrictions to its access. Mr. Klein's actions have caused my friends, neighbors, and myself financial hardships, restricted police surveillance of our neighborhood, caused our children to walk extended distances to catch school buses, limited emergency vehicles access to our homes and much more.

Joe Geier lives on the Key Peninsula.

Letters to the Editor

Doctor encourages a vote for I-330

Citizens of Key Peninsula will increasingly need health care services as the population grows, and development depends on access to timely, quality medical care. That medical care may not be available unless Initiative 330 passes this November. The state Legislature has failed to meet the needs of patients and physicians by failing to pass meaningful Tort Reform. As a result, frivolous lawsuits by aggressive personal injury lawyers are forcing medical liability

premiums up and good doctors out of the state, even if they have never been sued. This directly impacts a patient's ability to receive good medical care.

Patients and health professionals in Washington have been forced to respond through initiative I-330. I-330 will set reasonable "caps" on pain and suffering damages at up to \$1 million with unlimited economic damages, allow doctors and patients to choose arbitration and mediation instead of costly court battles, and limit attorney fees so injured patients get more of any money awards. To make matters even worse, those same personal injury lawyers are confusing the issues for tort

reform by introducing a counterinitiative numbered I-336. I-336 was written by lawyers. It will create a government program with more bureaucracy with a large "pool" of money that lawyers can constantly draw from. In addition, I-336 allows personal injury lawyers to extort more lucrative settlements from good doctors by threatening their licenses.

I-336 seems to be an attempt to confuse voters and if it also passes, along with I-330, it will add significant confusion to the issues of liability in this state and negatively impact medical care availability and costs.

*Matthew M. Rice, M.D.
Gig Harbor*

Family Resource Center manager resigns

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News



"I'm taking some time to spend in reflection."

-Edie Morgan

Key Peninsula Family Resources Center Program Manager Edie Morgan announced her resignation in September, effective Oct. 1.

Morgan, who has been with the center for more than seven years, including three as program manager, said this is a good time to leave because the center has overcome some challenges in the past year, and she felt she needed a change.

Morgan planned to leave last year, but reconsidered in order to help the organization through challenges with funding. Now, the Family Center is in good shape, she said, and it's a good time for her to finish her work so someone with fresh energy and professional skills could step in to move the program forward.

"I'm taking some time to spend in reflection," she said. "I hope to serve the community in the future, in some capacity which uses what I've learned

over my career as a social worker, and my experiences with people of all ages and backgrounds."

Morgan began her involvement with the program as a volunteer. She was asked to help set up a second site for the summer program, and the next year she became an employee.

Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resources Center has five part-time and full-time staff in addition to the program manager and a public health nurse. In addition to the summer program at the Civic Center and Evergreen Elementary, it organizes a Little Buddies program using teen mentors for younger children, an indoor park for preschool children, and a holiday program serving several

hundred children and families. The center offers a variety of other resources and support programs for families with children.

"It has been an honor to serve the community in this role," Morgan said. "I fully appreciate the support the community has given the staff and myself at the center."

Morgan said her best memories are of working with the children and the teens.

"I've seen kids grow up. I've seen Little Buddies grow into Big Buddies," she said. "It's been precious to me to be part of so many lives."

Morgan is leaving her options for the future wide open, and will follow "whatever seems to call me strongly after my time of rest and reflection." In the meantime, she continues her community involvement, as an organizer of Civic Center's fall fund-raiser, Oktoberfest, the chair of the pastoral search committee at the Longbranch Community Church, and other commitments.

Local teen competes in Seattle pageant

Amber Lynn Hubbard of Lakebay was recently selected to participate in the Nationals' 2005 Miss Teen Seattle Pageant competition that will take place on Oct. 15.



Hubbard will compete for her share of more than \$20,000 in scholarship prizes and specialty gifts that will be distributed to contestants. She will compete in the Miss Teen division, one of three divisions that includes young ladies between 10 and 19 years old. Personality is the most important aspect in which each contestant is judged.

The winner of Miss Teen Seattle will represent Seattle and the surrounding communities at the Cities of America National Competition in Orlando, Fla.

Community businesses, organizations and individuals are sponsoring Hubbard's participation in the competition. Interested sponsors should call Patty Neidert at 800-569-2487.

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KPCS changes leadership amid allegations

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Uncertainty may be the best way to describe the turn of events at the Key Peninsula Community Services in September, following the departure of Executive Director Luke Snyder after only a few months on the job.

According to the KPCS board of directors, Snyder was "terminated" after his 90-day probation period because he "didn't perform to our requirements." KPCS' procedure is to hire the director for 90 days, after which a review board looks at the performance, said Bud Ulsh, KPCS president, at a September board meeting. "We found out after the review he wasn't the right person for the job; his performance lacked in many areas."

Snyder, however, tells a different version. He says he quit the day before the board tried to fire him. "To save face, it was better to make it look like they fired me," he said.

Snyder said he had made the decision to leave a few weeks prior to that, and has even contacted county officials to alert them about problems at the center. "I asked (the board) for an audit for five months," because grant applications required certified audits, Snyder said. "It wasn't getting done...I officially quit Wednesday night (Sept. 7), when they OK'd an audit and then put a hold on it." According to KPCS, Snyder was officially terminated on Sept. 7.

Since Snyder's departure, various allegations have been circling the community, ranging from financial problems like missing funds to attempts on the part of the board to conspire to hide problems. Asked about the allegations in an interview, Ulsh said, "I know he's trying to get even and spread rumors about the center. A lot of it isn't true at all."

One of the things the board disputes was brought up by Snyder while he was still in the position. In an August article in the Peninsula Gateway, Snyder was quoted as saying the center might close its doors if "there are no more (cash) donations in the near future, in two month's time."

One longtime board member told the KP News the board was surprised to see the article, and even had to explain to Peninsula Light Co., which uses KPCS for a program helping low-income residents to pay for electricity, that the center was not in jeopardy and it was fit to continue administering the program.

"The rumors going around, the one especially that we are going to close doors

in a month—this is not only hurting the center, but the whole peninsula," Ulsh said at the board meeting, which was attended by several community members. "At one time, our finances got very critical...but now things are looking up."

One of the sources of income the center was counting on, however, may be on hold. Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee had just earmarked \$12,500 toward the center's operating expenses from the surplus budget when he, too, was contacted by Snyder. "I have held on to the money until I understand what the future of KPCS is," Lee said. "I'm going to try and understand what the concerns are... I've been told (by Snyder) they are being audited and there are no existing records of past activity. I am curious, as I'm sure the community will be, what the audit shows."

The county's Aging and Long-Term Care division, which was also contacted by Snyder, however, is not doing an audit currently. The agency, which supports the center with more than \$35,000 for various programs, performs audits once a year. The last "monitoring visit," in February, did not have any major findings. Sally Nixon, manager of the agency, said staff made an unannounced visit to the facility after receiving the allegations, spending an entire day there on a Friday, when senior meals are held. Senior meals are one of the programs funded by the grant.

"We are working with the board," Nixon said. "We are pleased it's such an active board and they're doing what's appropriate to head the center in the right direction."

Nixon said the visit highlighted some problems that are correctable, including the need for an outside accountant and the implementation of tighter management practices—but said no formal report will be issued. The agency has also not required an outside audit.

"At this time, we have not determined there has been any wrongdoing or anything of this nature," Nixon said. The agency has offered KPCS technical assistance in correcting some of the problems, and will follow up, she said.

Another project put on hold indefinitely is the Community that Cares Center, spearheaded by Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets. As part of that project, Taylor was looking into funding for the center's remodeling, so that a program supporting drug addicts in recovery could be headquartered at KPCS.

"I am fully aware of the rumors and allegations and until those things can be sorted out, it's not appropriate for Safe

Streets to run a program at that facility," Taylor said. "Given the status of the agency and the allegations, we're not pursuing the project at this point. I have enough concerns about the history of the board that we cannot have further contact until the allegations are addressed."

The Civic Center executive committee has also been approached by Snyder, who is back at his job with the Northwest Medical Teams, about their interest in serving as the host site for the organization's dental van, which has been coming to KPCS regularly for more than one year. The Civic Center board, however, is not taking any action on the proposal, said President Phil Bauer. A representative of the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor, which sponsors the van, was not aware of any discussions about moving the site, but said Northwest Medical Teams has the authority to make that recommendation to the church as necessary. A Northwest Medical Teams coordinator did not return KP News calls.

Snyder told the KP News he will continue to look out for the local seniors and make sure they have enough activities. "It's my community," he said. "As time goes

by, I plan to do what I can to help the seniors. ...I hope people look at what's going on and (realize) there is a center that needs help."

Snyder said the center needs more young people — most board members and volunteers are seniors themselves. "It's my goal to get the community to realize it's their center. The board represents them. If the community doesn't agree with something, they can make the statement."

KPCS said the board is reorganizing, and office manager Linda Hubbard will serve as the executive director on a temporary basis, until the board is ready to discuss the hiring of a new director.

Lee met with the board on Sept. 22, and told the KP News after the meeting that he is committed to supporting the senior program and food bank services in the community, but for now is not clear whether that means at KPCS or through a different avenue. The funding he secured remains on hold.

"It's more about the service to me, than who is doing it," he said. "I have to make sure it's the best use of the taxpayers' dollars."

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Taking a break on a September Sunday are Key Peninsula Middle School students Tyler Marshall, Jesse Hawkins, Kayla Cox and Brandon Reed, who shared their views on how to create a skate park on the Key Peninsula with Key Peninsula Fire Department Capt. Chuck West.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Skate park dream moves ahead

By Hugh McMillan
 KP News

Sunday, Sept. 18, Key Peninsula Fire Department Capt. Chuck West and wife Sharon hosted a barbecue for supporters and interested parties to air views on how to proceed with the efforts to create a skate park on the Key Peninsula for, as the Wests put it, "all kids, not just those on the KP."

The Wests are spearheading the project and hope to have the skate park built as a memorial to West's son Zech, a skateboard enthusiast who, with his wife of three weeks, perished in a tragic accident in the Cascades just a year ago while on leave here from the U.S. Navy.

There have been some fund-raising events thus far but the major kick-off fund-raiser for the skate park will be a dinner dance and auction at the KP Civic Center Nov. 12 with music by the Almost Handsome Band.

"The barbecue today was to thank a couple of key people who helped with fund-raising car washes and also to recruit interested people, particularly of the age group who would be using the skate park," said the Wests. KPMS students Tyler Marshall, Brandon Reed,

Kayla Cox, Andrew Fallon, Jake Marrero, Mike Allen, Chelsie Hawkins, Travis Cox and Jesse Hawkins participated in the day's planning session.

Among supporters at the affair was Victoria Hawkins, longtime kids' activist and PTA leader at Minter Creek Elementary and the KP Middle schools, who will oversee collection of raffle and auction items for the dinner dance.

"We are also looking for interested people who would like to help with setup and cleanup," said Sharon West.

Hawkins' mother, Debbie, a professional interior decorator who flew here from California last year at her own expense to assist with the cleanup and redesign of the faculty lounge at KPMS as a surprise to faculty members, now lives in the area and does interior decorating for the owners of a company making clothing for skaters. She videotaped the attending KPMS kids' comments on the skate park project for a section of a video she is assembling for solicitation of a sponsor.

Those wishing to contribute auction and raffle items for the event should contact Victoria Hawkins at 884-4883, or to help with the project, call Chuck or Sharon West at 884-1366.

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Civic Center, Community Council host forum

By Irene Torres
KP News

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA) hosted a Candidate Forum on Sept. 6 for park commissioner, fire commissioner and KP Community Council (KPCC) races.

Moderator Bruce MacDonnald, KPCCA President Phil Bauer, and Jeff Harris, president of the KPCC, were there to make introductions, explain the rules of the event, and maintain order. Others in attendance were interested in campaign positions and platforms, and to learn about the candidates and their intentions for office.

First introduced were 12 candidates for the KPCC. There was a spirit of volunteerism expressed during their three-minute platform summaries, and in their answers to audience questions.

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee announced the availability of up to \$200,000 for funding of two community councils, one of which is the KPCC. Lee said the KP and Anderson Island councils are models for the rest of Pierce County, and that that County Executive John



Photo by Irene Torres

Key Peninsula Community Council candidates share their views at the forum.

Ladenburg is supporting the funding in the 2006 county budget.

Harris later the council should be cautious about any new financial relationship with the county but added that the earmarked funds give the council better potential to achieve results for the community.

Next on the agenda were three Fire District 16 commissioner candidates, Keith Stiles, Ben Thompson, and Allen A. Yanity. Each presented a three-minute summary of their platform, then took questions from the audience. The question of a "clean campaign" arose, and Thompson discussed a "wakeup call" from the office of the state Public Disclosure Commission about illegally placed campaign signs.

Three Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District candidates were introduced near the end of the forum. Kip Clinton (incumbent), Ross Humberd, and Austin Miller fielded questions from the attendees after a three-minute statement about their candidacy and plans for the office. All candidates expressed interest in devel-

oping new park acquisitions, maintaining existing park properties, and providing additional recreational activities for all age groups. They unanimously stated they would not favor imposing any taxation on the residents without a public vote. They were also unanimous in stating they will refuse the per diem payment authorized under the law for their service.

The KPCC election was held on Sept.

Unofficial FD-16 results

Sept. 20 primary election results for Fire District 16 commissioner race, as of Sept. 27 (results are not official until certified):

Allen Yanity:	1,293;	48.87%
Ben Thompson:	841;	31.78%
Keith Stiles:	494;	18.67%

Unofficial KPMPD results

Sept. 20 primary election results for Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District commissioner race, as of Sept. 27 (results are not official until certified):

Kip Clinton*:	1,368;	54.55%
Russ Humberd:	681;	27.15%
Austin Miller:	447;	17.82%

*incumbent

17 (see results on page 9). One candidate from the Fire District and the KPMPD were eliminated in the primary election of Sept. 20, leaving two to vie for each position (see side box for preliminary results).

Commissioner candidates' forum scheduled Oct. 18

The Key Peninsula Civic Center, in conjunction with the Key Peninsula Community Council, will present a candidates' forum for Fire District 16 and the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District commissioner elections. The forum will be held at the Civic Center in the Whitmore Room on Tuesday, Oct. 18, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This is your opportunity to meet and ask questions of the two candidates for each office who will be on the Nov. 8 ballot.

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Community Council seeks input on strategic plan



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SCHELLINGS

By KP News staff

The Key Peninsula Community Council, established in 2004, has drafted a strategic plan and is seeking the community's input into the draft. The KPCC is comprised of 14 directors who represent four Key Peninsula districts. The Strategic Plan outlines the council's priorities, issues and concern.

The following are the highlights of the plan under each committee developed by KPCC (to request a complete copy, call 884-0557):

Community planning and economic development: Keep informed on actions that may potentially affect KP citizens; provide information regarding involvement opportunities for local residents; assist KPCC in any identified actions as needed; ensure that KP residents' interests are represented when the county's shoreline regulations are updated.

Human services: Support the formation of a Youth Community Council; address community health issues; consider assisted-living and senior citizen issues; support the Promise to Youth program (coordinated by the Peninsula School District).

Safety: Support the establishing of a shoulder/bicycle lane on KP Highway; support efforts to improve State Route 302; facilitate planning with law enforcement for eliminating meth; review emergency preparedness and make informa-

Key Peninsula Community Council Election Results (winners in bold)

District One

Russ Humberd (incumbent) 196
Write-in 1

District Two

Danna Webster (incumbent) 186
Jerry Davis 134
Julianna Solandros (write-in) 36
Other write-ins 10

District Three

Frank Shirley 65
Lance McMillan 57
Michael Palumbo 46
Kyle Chapman 35
Craig Hanson 32

District Four

Christine Fitzgerald 150
Steven Schellings 97
Kathy Johnson 92
Ross Bischoff 90

tion available to residents.

Communications: Produce a newsletter and annual reports for members; develop a referral directory; develop a welcome kit and form a committee to introduce the community to new residents; educate the

public about KPCC; increase voter turnout and the number of registered members.

Executive: Participate in a network of major KP organizations; facilitate and sponsor community forums on various issues, candidates and initiatives; lobby

First annual KP Community Council meeting

The First Annual KPCC meeting is on Oct. 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Middle School. A short business meeting to seat the newly elected directors will be held at 6:30 p.m.

The annual meeting will briefly summarize the past year and present the draft Strategic Plan. The majority of the meeting will allow members (persons 18 or over who live or own property on the Key Peninsula) to comment on the Strategic Plan or identify their issues of concern.

People interested in seeing the complete version of the Strategic Plan before the meeting may call 884-0557 and request a copy via email.

Pierce County Library to expand the Key Center branch; play a key role in developing Pierce County budget as it pertains to the Key Peninsula; strive to unify KP residents and organizations in order to achieve a single voice for the area.



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All contributions are tax deductible, and if you need a receipt please let the KPCCA office know at 253-884-3456. If sending a cash donation please make all checks payable to the Key Peninsula Civic Center (KPCCA) and on the memo line write "Halloween Donation". All donations needs to be in the KPCCA office by October 15th. Any questions, call Gloria at 884-2554 or call the office at 884-3456.

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Mississippi family makes Key Pen home after hurricane

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

For Kristin Eastburn, the worst part about making it through Hurricane Katrina is perhaps the separation from her husband for the first time while she cares for their two young daughters. Or perhaps the fact she will have to undergo surgery for a hernia she got while in a temporary shelter, while her husband, a registered nurse, cannot be by her side. Or it may be the fact she does not know when she will be able to return to their home, which they bought just a year and a half ago.

But Eastburn is trying to keep in good spirits. "We were so lucky, and so many families weren't lucky," she said.

Lucky, in their case, means their house remained standing, albeit with a damaged roof, a busted window and sandblasted front door — along with their family van and another car flooded. Lucky also because they found a safe place during the hurricane, and a temporary home in Longbranch, where Eastburn's parents have lived for about 10 years.

Eastburn's husband, Chris, is in the Air Force. The couple and their two daughters, Kate, who will turn 5 in October, and Claire, 11 months, had barely unpacked and started enjoying their new home in Biloxi, Miss., where Chris had been stationed. They had moved there from his previous assignment in Arizona. Kristin was aware of the possibility of hurricanes, which she had never experienced before.

A warning comes as early as a week before. The military ordered all dependent families to the base. Bring food and supplies for three days, they said. On the second day at the makeshift shelter, which was the base hospital, the hurricane hit. Eastburn says they didn't feel it inside, but she could see the water seeping

through the window. The hospital soon flooded, including the second floor where her family was staying. They were moved to a second building, and eventually a third.

There was no electricity. "It was very dark and very hot — that was the hardest part," she said. Eastburn's husband would visit when he could in between his work. Kate, the 4-year-old, made new friends and was doing well except for coping with food allergies and limited food choices. Because the floors were wet and dirty, her mom toted her little sister around, and later would learn she got a hernia.

Without communication or television, most families had no idea of the magnitude of the calamity. Some had working cell phones, and gossip was flying about things happening outside. Some "rumors" were too unbelievable — like people shooting at rescue helicopters. In the meantime, Eastburn's parents were watching the news reports, worried sick. On the third day, she was finally able to send them an email, then call the next day.

Kathy and Rich Lohrman decided they would fly to Mississippi to bring their daughter and grandchildren back to Longbranch. They met in a parking lot at a Wal-Mart five days after the hurricane, and the drive there was the first chance for Eastburn to see the devastation. Furniture, overturned cars and debris littered the streets and parking lots. By then, she knew her house was mostly OK, as her husband left the base with a friend to check on it on the third day.

"The first thing she (Kate) said to grandma was, 'Nana, is your house still standing?'" Eastburn recalled. It was a difficult thing to hear, since she's been trying to shelter her daughter from the bad news as much as she could.

On the Key Peninsula since Sept. 3, the stay-at-home mom still doesn't watch televi-



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

L to r, grandma Kathy Lohrman with Kate, and Kristin Eastburn holding Claire.

sion news until the kids go to bed. As she understood the immensity of Katrina's wrath, she feels lucky, even as she left home with only a scrapbook, a small wedding album and the girls.

The military ordered all the dependent families to leave Biloxi, as it became clear due to damaged facilities they could not care for them there. The families were asked to register with other bases, but even bases like McChord are overburdened due to Reservists being put on call.

Eastburn does not know when they will be allowed to go back home. She talks to her husband every day, and has tried to create a routine for the girls. Kate is enrolled in pre-school at Evergreen Elementary. While the first few weeks felt like being on vacation, the uncertainty is becoming more difficult to cope with now. And they all really miss Dad.

With Eastburn's surgery scheduled for

the end of September, followed by at least a two-week recovery, the trip home would be postponed for now anyway. In the meantime, Chris tells her stories about Biloxi's fate. The neighborhood appears to have fared generally well. A road that led to Kate's pre-school is gone, so a seven-minute commute would become an hour long. Many roads and parts of the main highway were washed away.

"While he wants me to come home, he's trying to prepare me that things are not as they used to be," she said.

It will be a while before the Eastburns' life and the lives of her neighbors — and millions of others affected by the country's worst national disaster — would return to normal, if at all. She's been told that Biloxi had been hit by a hurricane in the recent decade or two. "They say people down there are resilient, and they will rebuild," she said.


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Women's fitness center opens



Photo by Danna Webster

Certified fitness trainers Deanna Hunter, Kristen Bottiger, and Rene Bullock, with Sue Bottiger, Kristen's sister-in-law.

By Danna Webster
KP News

A new fitness center was slated to open on the Key Peninsula by Oct 1.

Called Key Fitness, the center promotes health and feeling good for the women of the Key Pen community. It is located in Key Center, across from the library and high on a hill. From the front porch of the building, there is an excellent view of beautiful downtown Key Center. Around back is a large deck that overlooks the yard work recently done by owners, Kristen Bottiger and her husband, Pat. When they cleared the blackberries, they discovered two trees and portions of a fence that hadn't seen the light of day for some time. More plans are developing for backyard beautification but inside the remodeling had already taken shape.

A crew of friends and family worked steadily to get Key Fitness ready for business by Oct. 1. Freshly painted spacious rooms await the action of treadmills, bicycles, punching bags and free weights.

Bottiger's business is not a franchise, and it is important to her that she is independent.

"I like it because we don't have to follow any corporate outline," she says. "I don't like rules —I like things to be flexible."

The fitness program includes a circuit room with resistance machines for a workout to music and cue tapes. Three

certified circuit trainers will lead the program: Deanna Hunter, Rene Bullock, and Bottiger.

Her flexible philosophy is applied to the topic of diet. Bottiger believes there is no single diet that works for everyone. Key Fitness will promote healthy recipes, eating right, and talk about why dieting is difficult. There will be daily recipes, motivational quotes, group weigh-ins and group weight-loss recordings.

Good health, taking care of the heart, and toning the body are lifelong lessons taught to the Key Peninsula resident by her father, a physician, and her mother, a nurse practitioner. As a result, she has always done some type of workout, and, through the years, she has realized the physical and mental importance of fitness.

"You're never too old to work out," she says.

Bottiger was inspired to start a fitness center convenient for the KP community after she became "sick and tired" of going to Gig Harbor to get a workout.

"I think this is going to be a really good community place to go," she says. A place for "meeting people you like, and meeting new friends."

In the opening weeks, the Monday through Friday hours will be 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. The Saturday hours are from 8 to 11 a.m.

Convenient location and convenient hours means "no more excuses now," Bottiger says.

Angels on the move



Photo by Frank Slater

Angel Guild member Nancy Korseck inside new store with new racks. The Angels were busy trying to complete the move in short time.

The Angel Guild Thrift Store will soon have a new home, with 1.5 times the current store space. But they are not moving far—only next door.

The organization has talked about the need for a bigger store for a while. When the space next to them, formerly occupied by MVP Physical Therapy, recently became available, the Angels decided to hold discussions. At a specially called meeting in September, they voted narrowly to make the move. "It was a heart-wrenching decision," said President Pat Kunzl, because members had to decide between the need for more space and the extra cost for rent.

The move will allow for more items to be displayed in the store at one time, which in turn will increase the storage space in the back building. The new store will be wheelchair-accessible. The goal was to open the new place by Oct. 5, and the current store will remain open for shopping in the meantime.

"I think it's going to be such a wonderful improvement for the community," Guild member Frankie Johnson said.



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May the luck of the Irish be with O'Callahan's

By Danna Webster
KP News

Greg Calahan is the new owner of the saloon property next to Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center. The new name is O'Callahan's Pub and Grill. Calahan intends to find a good balance between the old ways of the Key Center Saloon and the beginnings of a new pub. He says he has "met a bunch of really good folks" and thinks he has inherited the "best staff in the country." He is enthusiastic about his business keeping the community flavor.

Remodeling projects have begun for O'Callahan's. The front rooms on the east side of the building are getting extreme makeovers and may become rental space. The pull-tab bar is extending into its own room. A video surveillance system is up and running; and the point-of-sale computerized inventory is in full operation. Plans for

re-establishing the beer garden with a pit for horseshoe pitch, a nice lawn and attractive landscaping along the Sunnycrest fence are forming.

By springtime, Calahan expects to host bike runs and hot-rod shows. Within the first year, he intends to establish a separate restaurant area, where parents and kids can come in, eat and play games. There are plans to extend the beer taps and offer more micro-brews; and, because Calahan and his wife and co-owner, Raina, are fond of wine and wineries, they intend to develop a good wine menu.

For three years, Calahan has owned the North End Tavern in the Procter District of north Tacoma. His earlier career was as an aerospace consultant, a job that required a lot of travel. He ticks off places like New York, Baltimore, Atlantic City, and states like Ohio and Texas, where he always visited the local bars and especially the Irish pubs.

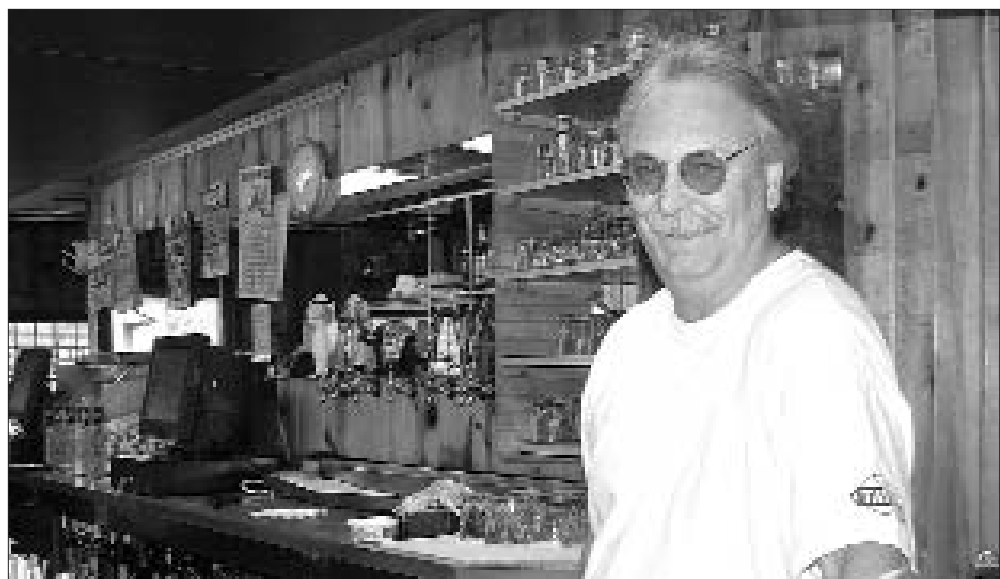


Photo by Danna Webster

Greg Calahan at his newly purchased saloon, renamed O'Callahan's Pub and Grill.

"Never found a bad one (bar)," he says. "I've done a lot of traveling, and never found a bar I didn't like."

The Calahans have friends and family living on the Key Peninsula and they have visited the KP regularly for 28 years. While working on the pub, Calahan divides his time between the family residence in Puyallup and staying with his father-in-law in Home.

He sees the KP as a growing community

and wants to add to it with new staff to assist with the business changes. "It's a store like everything else," he explains. "You've got your product and that's the way it works." He encourages interested applicants to call O'Callahan's at 884-9766 or come in and fill out an application.

The goal for O'Callahan's Pub and Grill is to keep the Key Pen community flavor while adding a bit of the Irish in the stew.

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(From FIRE, Page 1)

Though the Aholas had never practiced it, they had an evacuation plan from their boat-home, the LaSerina. Michelle put it into effect. She grabbed her wedding ring and Tuba, the cat. There was no sign of her other cat, Jetta. She ran in her pajamas to the end of the dock where the commercial tuna boat, Kathleen, and the owners' live-aboard boat, Kathleen II, were moored. She set up a clamor that awoke the boats' owner, John Holt.

It was at this stage that time went into slow motion for Ahola. What seemed like at least 20 minutes actually took five, for the fire to reach and melt the dingy on the back of the Kathleen II. During those five minutes, while Holt struggled to untie the Kathleen II, Ahola returned to the LaSerina for Jetta. Questions of whether to shower nagged in her mind. Jetta was nowhere to be found. Ahola searched frantically, taking care not to scratch the finish on her cupboards where Jetta loved to hide. No cat. On her second exit, she spotted her purse, grabbed it and ran back to the Kathleen II. The fire was rolling under the dock roof and bellowed toward her as she ran. Later she would discover the heat burns on her skin and that her purse, pajamas, wedding ring and Tuba were her sole possessions from home.

Two crewmembers from the tuna boat, dressed in hazmat gear, jumped on the pier to assist Holt with fire extinguishers. The task to untie the boats from the dock cleats proved impossible. Holt burned his foot and the back of his neck in the process. He opted to power up the Kathleen II and try to escape by pulling out the cleats. An aluminum fishing boat blocked his bow so reverse was the gear that had to do the job. It worked.

Once out in the harbor, they dropped anchor. The upper windows of the Kathleen II were blown out, the dingy had melted, and sunlight could be seen from

some portions of her portside but she was a safe haven for Holt, Ahola and two crewmen. They watched as 50 boats, along with the Harborview pier, roof and marina, dissolved.

When Ahola's husband, David, saw the Kathleen safely in the harbor, his intuition told him, without a doubt, Michelle was on board. But his cell phone and all lines of communication were devoted to handling the harbor emergency, since David was the dockmaster for Harborview. That day, the fire that took his home also took his job.

Michelle's first phone call was to her work at Shear Magic in Key Center. She asked owner Gaye Williams to cancel her manicure appointments. With that call, the next stage was set into motion. Her clients, employer and friends went through their closets, found outfits, and collected money. The clothes, funds and a bottle of whiskey were taken to the Best Western Motel where the Red Cross arranged three-nights' lodging. And, when that proved too short a time, the motel gifted the Aholas two more nights. Dinner Wednesday night was an "it's good to be alive" celebration at El Pueblito.

The day after the fire, Ahola's daughter flew in from Boise to lend moral support because she knew her mother would be tending to the needs of everyone else. On Saturday, boat owners gathered for a barbecue. They talked, cried and hugged, and began the stage of debriefing and grieving together. At the party, Ahola was given a sewing machine to continue her boat canvas work. Other friends brought the Aholas a key to their vacant mother-in-law apartment.

Eventually, the stories formed around the series of miracles that resulted with nobody dying that day. David Ahola, Kathleen Holt, and Sally Harkness all had reasons to leave the dock early that morning. The desperate act of John Holt powering the Kathleen II out of her moorage took the spotlight. Gratitude

and appreciation were expressed for the extraordinary work by the Gig Harbor Fire Department, other departments and fire boats that came to assist. They contained the fire to one marina. Credit for controlling the debris was given to Gig Harbor Police Department, GHPD Officer Kelly Busey and the Gig Harbor Marine Service Unit boat that set the first booms, and to the National Response Corp. out of Seattle. Their work allowed the cleanup to finish way ahead of schedule, according to David Ahola.

One week later, the boat owners were permitted to examine the salvage that was taken to a Tacoma shoreline. Owners refer to that day as "The Viewing." About 25 people went through the wreckage. "We knew everyone on the dock," Michelle says. "To see them go through it was just awful."

Neighbors rejoiced for the owner who found his wedding ring. The Aholas could identify the shapes that were once their washer and dryer, and Michelle found a cast iron Dutch oven intact.

In the meantime, on Sept. 1, John Holt went ahead with a previously scheduled surgery. When Michelle visited him in the recovery room, he turned to his nurse and said, "That's the woman that saved my

life." And Michelle responded, "That's the man who saved mine."

Now when Ahola talks about the fire, she has reached closure. "It happened and I lived—and John's alive," is how she sums it up. She credits having an evacuation plan for saving her life. She is convinced that a home evacuation plan is essential to every family. "Have your mental fire drill done," she counsels.

She also has had a lot of time to think about her priorities in life and that people are the most important. "So many people helped us out. So many fantastic people," she says. "The Angel Guild even gave me shopping credits...The hard part is all the thank-you cards I have to write."

Michelle Ahola looks beyond the devastation, the insurance hassles, shopping for a new boat-home. Living aboard her cruiser home was not a glamorous lifestyle. "Our boat was not a yacht by any means," she says. "It was just home."

And Jetta is missing, a white, orange, and gray cat with a small head and big body, who may have been seen near Anthony's restaurant on the Gig Harbor waterfront.

"I've done my grieving. It's going to work out," Ahola says. "I couldn't have survived for it not to work out."

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Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Key Peninsula Middle School Principal Sharon Shaffer with students during "honors time" in the commons.

New KPMS principal is district veteran

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Key Peninsula Middle School's new principal, Sharon Shaffer, comes to her new building with about 30 years of experience in education.

For about 20 of those years, she has worked at two other Peninsula School District middle schools: as a teacher for many years at Harbor Ridge, and as assistant principal at Goodman for the last three.

"I love middle school," she said. "I've been in middle school as an educator all my career."

Shaffer said she comes to KPMS at a "prideful time." Standardized test scores have been increasing over the last few years, a trend she hopes to continue. And the recent designation of KPMS as the first NASA Explorer school in the state has brought the building a lot of positive attention. In October, even Gov. Christine Gregoire is expected to attend this year's NASA program kick-off assembly.

But for Shaffer, the most amazing part is the community support and the staff. "This is such a supportive community, and passionate staff, and that's the kind of place I like to work in," she said. "The additional community support blows me away."

The community support comes in many forms. Groups like the Kiwanis, Communities in Schools of Peninsula and Angel Guild have been longtime contributors through funding and

"I love middle school. I've been in middle school as an educator all my career."

-Sharon Shaffer, KPMS principal

volunteers. CISP, which last year piloted an after-school math program at KPMS, has expanded its involvement at the school this year, bringing back the math program as well as a "readers' theater."

Shaffer said she doesn't have plans for big changes, and sees her mission as supporting her staff. "I'm incredulous of the energy these people are putting into their jobs," she said.

There are many challenges in education, she said, and every topic she considers goes back to the question of how it will impact the students. The main challenge is keeping them active and engaged citizens of the community, she said, and striking the right balance between things like math and hands-on activities that help develop the whole child.

Shaffer has also been part of the school district from the other part of the desk—her daughter attended PSD schools, and her son is a junior at Gig Harbor High.

"I've seen incredible teachers everywhere," she said. "And they are here (at KPMS)."

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News briefs

Home Park project gets county boost

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee said he has earmarked \$2,500 from a budget surplus for the picnic shelter project at Home Park, organized by the Key Peninsula Lions Club. The funds will go toward the cost of materials for the shelter. Lee intervened on behalf of the park district after the project encountered problems with county permits, and asked the Pierce County Parks department to help with the permitting process.

However, the delays will likely push the completion of the project into next year due to weather, according to KPMPD Director Scott Gallacher.

Vaughn resident receives Association Service Award

Vaughn resident Joe Dervaes recently received a Service Award for his professional educational contributions on behalf of the Association of Public Treasurers. The award, announced in Chicago at the APT's annual interna-

tional conference in early August, recognized Dervaes for his work in developing a fraud training course that will be used throughout North America by the organization's training arm, the Public Treasury Institute. He wrote the training manual and prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the course titled "Stop That Fraud! — The Public Treasurers' Handbook on Fraud Deterrence and Detection."

Dervaes said: "The APT Service Award is the highest honor a nonmember of APT may receive for service to the organization, and I'm very proud to have received this professional recognition."

Citizen of the year nominations wanted

Now is the time to select nominees for the 2005 annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards dinner. Nominees must be residents, property owners, or employed on the Key Peninsula and be selected for their volunteer activities in support of the KP community, whether on an ongoing basis or for a special one-time accomplishment.

Nominations should be mailed to P.O. Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394 or emailed

to hcmnp1000@cablespeed.com. Include the name, telephone number, and mailing address of the nominee, a brief statement describing the nominee's contribution to the community, and the name and phone number of the person making the nomination.

KIRO Radio's Dave Ross will be the event's keynote speaker at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn (date and time to be announced).

The sponsoring KP Lions Club says, "The event, as always, is open to everyone, particularly friends and relations of the nominees," and everyone is encouraged to attend "to demonstrate appreciation to these fine citizen volunteers who make ours such a fine community in which to live." For details, call 853-2721 or 884-3319.

CISP partners with schools for new programs

Building on the past year's successful math and reading mentor programs for students on the Key Peninsula, Communities In Schools of Peninsula has partnered with four local schools this school year to offer programs aimed at helping struggling students.

New this year is a Reading Mentor

program at Minter Creek Elementary School, as well as an additional Math Mentor program for sixth- and seventh-grade students at KPMS.

Continuing programs include Reading Mentor programs at Evergreen and Vaughn elementary schools, and math mentoring for eighth-grade students at KPMS.

"It's the adults in our community that make these programs possible," said Executive Director Colleen Speer. "Last year we had more than 50 adult mentors involved in our programs; this year we seek an additional 25 adults. Most of our mentors stay with our programs. They see that by giving one hour once a week, students build confidence and their grades improve greatly. It's a gratifying experience for both adults and youth."

Programs will gear up in October and November. Those interested in mentoring should call Communities In Schools of Peninsula at 884-5733.

Lions hold forum

The KP Lions Club will host Charter Review Commission candidates for Council District 7 on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Everyone is invited to attend.

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Library hosts history program

The Friends of Key Center Library presents "Reliving the History of the Key Peninsula" at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13. Everyone will have the opportunity to watch our much-loved peninsula area develop as a community. There will be pictures, and, best of all, lots of stories about the people who were wise enough to make their homes in this place of remote, lush beauty. Dale Skrivanich, an active and enthusiastic member of the Key Peninsula Historical Society, will bring our history to life with imaginative narration. Mark your calendar for Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Key Center Library. —By Mary Watson

KP Lions Club hold fund-raiser raffle

The KP Lions Club is raffling a cord of firewood, split and delivered on the Key Peninsula. The drawing is Oct. 26 and you don't need to be present to win. Tickets cost \$1 each. If you can't use the wood, gift it to a needy family through one of the local charities. Winter is coming. How many tickets would you like? Any Lions Club member has tickets to sell. Contact Allen Twidt at 884-1038, or email atwidt@juno.com for more information.

Former Mary Bridge Hospital patients wanted

Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild is seeking KP families who have received care from Mary Bridge Hospital. The Guild is sponsoring a major fund-raiser for the hospital on Nov. 10 and would like to share the experiences local families have had with the hospital.

Please call the president of the Dr. Penrose Guild, Marlies VanCise, at 884-5607.

Angel Guild ready for business once again

The Angel Guild Thrift Shop is open for business once again. If you haven't been in to see how nice it looks, and how fresh everything is, you should do it soon. Fall merchandise is on display. Something new has been added: We now have some antiques and collectibles. Halloween will be here before we know it. You can find very original costumes for a nominal cost at Angel Guild. Our infants and toddlers clothing department always has good buys of very gently used clothing, blankets and toys.

It takes a dedicated group to do the renovation and cleaning that has been done in our shop. The Angel Guild members are hard workers and motivated to display our wares to the best advantage. Our thanks to all of you.

—By Betty Barkubein

Key Peninsula Historical Society meeting

The Key Peninsula Historical Society (KPHS) quarterly member meeting and potluck will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Civic Center. Virgil Reames will present a slide show with a narrative on the "History of Sidney and Port Orchard." Any friend of the Key Peninsula is welcome to come and join. Membership to the KPHS is \$10 annually, which helps support the KPHS Museum. Come visit the museum Thursdays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. or by special appointment. Contact Leona Britt at 884-3272 for further information.

Lakebay Fuchsia Society meeting

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6 at the Key Center Library. The speaker for the evening will be Jackie Crossman of Magellanica Gardens in Olympia. She brings a host of information on "Preparing Our Gardens For Winter, Putting Our Hardy Fuchsias To Bed, and Making Fall Cuttings For Next Year." Guests are welcome.

Parenting classes held at KPMS

"Parenting with Love and Logic" is scheduled to begin Oct. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Key Peninsula Middle School. The seven-session course will take place every Wednesday evening through Nov. 23. Childcare is provided at no cost. To register, or for more information, call Communities In Schools of Peninsula at 884-5733.

Community Planning Board sets October meetings

The next meetings for the Pierce County — Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 4, Tuesday, Oct. 11, and Wednesday, Oct. 26. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library. The meetings on Oct. 11 and 26 will include opportunities for citizens seeking site-specific rezones to

present their proposals to the planning board.

The Community Planning Board is working on policy development for the Key Peninsula Community Plan regarding Land Use and Zoning. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the meetings. For more information, see www.piercecoun-tywa.org/landuse.

PHS Booster Club holds annual dinner and auction

Peninsula High School Booster Club will hold its 12th Annual Dinner and Auction, "The Best is Yet to Come," on Nov. 5 at Canterwood Golf and Country Club. This fund-raiser benefits all Peninsula High students in all areas: clubs, arts, sports, and academics. For more information on donating and/or attending, please contact Margie Franzheim at 253-858-2429 or Jane Ostericher at 858-6011, or email phsauction05@yahoo.com.

News for TOPS, Chapter 1019, Vaughn

We're moving! Starting Monday, Oct. 3, we will be meeting at the Wright-Bliss Fire Station No. 5 on the corner of Elgin-Clifton Road and Highway 302, across the street from the Union 76 station. Same time, 7- 8 p.m. Monday nights. Weigh-in starts at 6 p.m.

Summer is slowly fading and fall is on the horizon; the kids are back in school and things are beginning to slow down a bit — a perfect time for us to be thinking about doing something good for ourselves.

If you have been dragging around some extra poundage, TOPS might be just the thing you need to get the encouragement, information and support you need to shed those extra pounds. We have no gimmicks, no fads, no pressure — just good information, good company, and good fun! Nobody ever said it would be easy but we can have some fun while trying.

Come join the rest of us on our journey to better health and thinner behinds! Check us out at our new digs at the Wright-Bliss Fire Station, come visit us at TOPS (that's Take Off Pounds Sensibly)! —By Jo Wickline

TWAA presents Art Show

The Two Waters Arts Alliance presents an Art Show featuring a slate of 19 local artists for your pleasure, prior to curtain time, at the Longbranch Players presenta-

tion of "Bully!" Sept.30, Oct. 7 and Oct. 8 at LIC.

Celebrate Two Waters' fourth year of classes in the community and the schools, as well as special events for the people of the Key Peninsula, all supported by a generous community. Help make the Key and the arts synonymous. Call 884-2029 for information on membership and classes.

KP teams go for championships

Eight teams from Key Peninsula Metro Parks Summer Coed Softball League battled for end of season tournament championships. In the upper division, Hy-IU-Hee-Hee played Gig Harbor Vets for the championship and won 10-3, claiming the upper division championship, as well as the league championship.

In the Lower Division, Judkin's Drywall came through the losers' bracket to beat Key Center Saloon twice in two very close, one-run games, to claim the lower division championship.

Key Peninsula Metro Parks would like to thank all the teams for a successful season. Other teams were Bayside Animal Lodge, Kids-Reloaded, Key Center Auto Repair, and Pyramid Concrete (Creeters). For more information, contact Scott Gallacher, director of KP Metro-Parks, at 884-9240.

Camp Seymour plans Folk Arts Retreat

Camp Seymour's Fall Folk Arts Retreat, "Unplugged," is Oct. 7-9. Join family, friends and friends-to-be for a weekend of music, storytelling, dance, crafts and all of Camp Seymour's traditional program areas (boating, climbing wall, hiking, marine science center). This event was conceived by Leif Hansen, Camp Seymour's new group programs director, in hopes of bringing together the region's folk-artists (and folk-art enthusiasts) for a time of retreat, creativity, networking, and mutual enrichment.

Registrants will have the opportunity of stating whether they wish to teach, perform or simply enjoy what others have to offer. Whether you come for a drum-circle, an informal guitar jam-session, to learn to tell stories, or to dance and play —the staff looks forward to seeing you. Visit www.campseymour.org or call 253-460-8884 for more information, to register over the phone, or to request a registration packet.

Retreat costs: 2 Nights/ 6 Meals —\$87

adult, \$57 Child or Sat Night / 4 Meals — \$55 Adult, \$35 Child or Day Only / 2 meals — \$30 Adult, \$20 Child.

KPVI helps veterans displaced by Katrina

Members of the Key Peninsula Veterans' Institute have voted to send two shipments of personal care items to aid displaced veterans in the wake of the Katrina Hurricane. One shipment is being sent to veterans in Alexandria and a second to veterans in Tuscaloosa.

The KPVI is made up of KP veterans and their families, and meets at the Community House. For information on becoming a member, contact President Roxyanne Woldridge at 884-4407.

Pee Wee Youth Indoor Soccer begins

Pee Wee Sports is a program designed just for the little guys and gals. This class gives kids ages 3-5 the chance to learn and improve their skills and fundamentals of basketball, soccer, floor hockey and baseball. Scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all kids. Parent involvement is encouraged during the weekly classes.

Indoor Soccer will run six weeks on Saturdays starting Oct. 15 at the Civic Center from 10-10:45 am. Cost is \$29 per youth. Price includes shirt, certificate and end of program party. Minimum of 10 participants, maximum of 30.

For more information or to sign up, call the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District at 253-884-9240.

Little Buddies need Big Buddies' help

The Little Buddies Program, sponsored by the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, is looking for mentors, and is perfect for high school youth who want to make a difference. Each Big Buddy will have the chance to build relationships with elementary age kids who want to have fun. The program is free, and the kids come ready to learn something from their mentors.

Volunteers can participate the entire year, or for a minimum of 12 weeks. Training is included, and volunteers earn community service credit hours for school. The program meets twice a week during the school year from 3:30 to 5 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Tuesdays and at Evergreen Elementary on Thursdays. To volunteer, call Kim Bauer at 884-5433.

To Your Health It's flu shot season

By William F. Roes M.D.

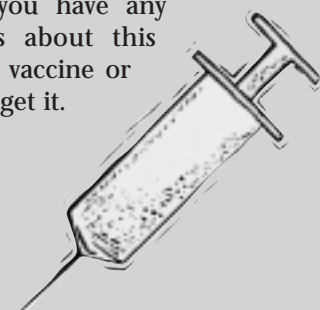
Time flies, and once again we're gearing up for flu shots. It looks like this year there will be plenty of doses, and we already have ours on hand. Each year the Center for Disease Control selects the three strains of influenza virus they feel are most likely to cause widespread infections. This changes every year, so the vaccine also changes, although it frequently has two of the three strains from the previous year.

This year's vaccine will cover A/ New York, A/New Caledonia, and B/Jiangsu. We plan to start giving flu shots this year on Saturday, Oct. 15 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Key Medical Center (15610 89th St in downtown Key Center). This flu shot clinic will be open to all residents of the Key Peninsula, not just the patients in our practice.

Once again, the vaccine is recommended for virtually everyone over 65, as well as younger residents with chronic

health problems such as diabetes or lung disease. This year's strategy is to provide the vaccine to senior citizens first. The vaccine takes several weeks to take effect, and its protection usually lasts four to five months. They are also suggesting that infants from 6 months to 2 years should receive the vaccine, and we will be attempting to get the pediatric vaccines as well.

We will also be providing flu shots at the Key Peninsula Community Services and on Herron Island for the community as well as our patients. We will be at the senior luncheon at Key Peninsula Community Services in Home at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 19, and at the fire station on Herron Island on Monday afternoon, Oct. 17. Look for a sign on the road in front of the Key Center Library announcing when community shots will be available, or call us at 884-9221 if you have any questions about this year's flu vaccine or where to get it.



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Volunteer spotlight: Bill Macaras

Story and photo by Danna Webster

It is difficult to find a community service organization on the Key Pen that hasn't been helped by Boy Scout Troop 220 and Venture Crew 220.

Scoutmaster Bill Macaras started the troop in 1992 with Cub Scout Pack 220, and over the past nine years, they have helped numerous organizations and private individuals. According to Macaras, the troop and crew are all about community service and environmental work in the outdoors.

"The scouts themselves look forward to community service," he says and adds that the annual Easter egg hunt is a particular favorite.

Macaras' interests in scouting began in the 1950s, when he first joined up as a Cub Scout. He continued as a Boy Scout and carried his interest in scouting through his 20 years service in the Navy.

Macaras moved to the Lakebay area in 1983 and commutes to Silverdale,



Bill Macaras

where he is a high school math teacher at Olympic High School.

His two children have inherited their father's interest in scouting. They are

both college students, but when his son, Matthew, returns home he serves as assistant scout master. His daughter, Christy, who was the first Ventures Crew president, has remained active with that organization.

The Ventures Crew is a Boy Scout affiliate for both boys and girls ages 14-20. Members participate in backpacking, canoeing, white water rafting, and climbing excursions.

October is busy for the 220's Scouts and Crew. This is the fourth year for them to assist the LIC dinner-theater Oct. 7 and 8, and they have volunteered to help the Key Pen Civic Center with Oktoberfest on Oct. 22 and the Halloween carnival on Oct. 31.

Macaras credits the parents and adults who help his scouts and crew. "Adult volunteers make it happen," he says.

Families are welcome and encouraged to drop in and visit the Boy Scout meetings, held Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center.

Those interested in any of the scouting programs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts or Venture Crew may contact Macaras at 884-3133.

Key Peninsula heroes continue to fight for freedom

By Linda Anderson
Special to KP News

Patriotic sacrifice

Coming from a long line of family members who served in all branches of the military, Key Peninsula brothers Mitchell and Trevor Pomeroy have stepped up with patriotic fervor.

Mitchell Pomeroy, 23, graduated from Peninsula High School in 1999 and worked at the local Safeway for a time before joining the Army. A combat engineer, Mitch has had assignments in Germany, Kosovo and Iraq.

"On August 22, 2003, the phone rang in Lakebay" said mom, Kathy Pomeroy. "It was the Army notifying us that our son may have been seriously wounded in Iraq, where he was fighting with the 555th."

The days dragged by until Mitch returned home at last to continue his recovery process. A proud moment for all was when he met with President Bush and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Still recovering here at home with his

Saluting our HEROES



Photos courtesy of Pomeroy family
Mitch Pomeroy with President Bush at the Madigan Rehabilitation Center. The president later signed the photo.

family, Mitch is saddened that he will not be able to continue the military career he'd planned.

But his brother continues the tradition. Boatswain's Mate Trevor Pomeroy, 21, is currently serving aboard the U.S.S. Nimitz



TREVOR POMEROY

off the coast of the Middle East. Trevor decided to join the Navy and take advantage of the educational opportunities available during his enlistment, as well as later on. He has been in the Navy for two years and is already making plans for his re-enlistment when time comes. Trevor has a sense of patriotic duty to his country and plans to serve as long as possible. Trevor's wife, Mallory, remains at home on the Peninsula while her husband is overseas.

Serving around the world

With a heart to support and defend his country, Christopher L. Switzer, 22, joined the Marine Corps following his graduation from Peninsula High School. He is a mechanic on F-16 jet fighters and his duty stations have included Iraq, Japan, Australia, Singapore and Hawaii.

Earlier this year Switzer lost his best

Salute KP soldiers

Do you know a local resident or a family who has an active military member, or someone who has recently returned from serving overseas? Please let us know so we can give them recognition.

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friend — his older sister. "He has remained strong through it all," says mom, Debbie Bresser. "We are all proud of Chris."

Switzer's enlistment is up in November 2006. He has yet to make his final decision about re-enlisting. He is eager to stand up for his country and its leadership. Should he decide to pursue a civilian career after next November, his plans are to enter the field of law enforcement.

Switzer's unit is currently in Buford, S. C., where they have been involved in hurricane assistance. They will be deploying back to Iraq after the holidays.

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Community volunteers' efforts enhance Henderson Bay High School grounds

The grounds at Henderson Bay High School were beautified over the summer, thanks to a group of community volunteers from Gig Harbor's Windermere Real Estate.

In June, more than 30 real estate agents cleared brush, weeded flower beds and helped expand the outdoor play area of the school's day care. The project was part of Windermere's annual Community Service Day. Melissa Moller, real estate consultant, said the company wanted to support the school district, and they teamed up to focus on Henderson Bay.

After spending a day in June working on the grounds, Moller asked Principal Dan Gregory if any attention should be paid to the small outdoor recreation area.

'Windermere did a great job in June,' Gregory said. 'When Melissa asked me about the areas of bark and weeds, I told her about my idea to put in grass and picnic tables.'

In August, a small crew from Windermere returned to prepare the area for the picnic benches. With the support



'We wanted to create an environment for students that's comfortable for them and is a positive place to be.'
- Principal Dan Gregory

of school staff, they spent several hours shoveling soil and laying down sod.

'We wanted to create an environment for students that's comfortable for them and is a positive place to be,' said Gregory. 'The more positive places and the more positive activities we give students to participate in, the greater the likelihood that they will make good

choices.'

Several local businesses contributed to the project's success: Erin Rockery delivered top soil, United Rentals donated equipment, and Rosedale Gardens provided the sod.

'We are very appreciative of their contributions to the project and their support of our students,' Gregory said.

October events

- 10 No School
Columbus Day
- 10 2005 Foundation
Breakfast 7:00 a.m.
PHS
- 13 School Board
Regular Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Goodman Middle
School
- 20 GHHS
Homecoming
Football Game
- 21 PHS Homecoming
Football Game
- 22 Purdy Elementary
School Dedication
1 p.m.

November events

- 5 PHS Booster
Auction
Canterwood
- 9 School Board
Regular Meeting
6:30 p.m.
District Office
- 11 No School
Veterans' Day
- 24 & 25 No School
Thanksgiving Break
- 26 & 27 WinterFest at PHS
Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

December events

- 3 & 4 TickFest at GHHS
- 15 School Board
Regular Meeting
6:30 p.m. ESC
- 19 - Jan 2 No School
Winter Break

Photo of the month



Teachers, school district staff and community members network at the annual "Let's Get Acquainted" event hosted by the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce as a way to welcome the school year.

At a glance

PHS is undergoing remodeling during the 2005-2006 school year. For further detail please visit the school's website to view the remodel schedule. A link to the schedule is at the front page of the site. Please go to www.psd401.net and choose the school's website available at the left of the District's main page.

Did you know...

It is required that all grades kindergarten through twelfth grade participate in substance abuse curricula and/or activities that address the goal for safe and drug free schools.



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- Key Peninsula Middle 530-4200 NEW!
- Minter Creek 530-4300 NEW!
- Peninsula High School 857-3530
- Vaughn 530-4700 NEW!

From Pioneer Stock Bud Ulsh — 72 years in one place

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Bud Ulsh never left home. His house stands on the site where he was born in 1933.

His great-great-grandfather emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania before 1849. Bud's grandfather, James Woodburn Crawford Ulsh, moved to Nebraska, where he met and married Annie Patton in 1874. They went to Tacoma in 1882, built a sailboat and sailed to Lakebay with three small children.

They were one of the first four families to settle in Lakebay, where they had five more children.

J.W.C. Ulsh built their first home on waterfront property, inside the sandspit now part of Penrose Point State Park. A large lilac bush and some apple trees remain on the land where the house stood and later burned. Phil Johnson's home is on that site now. Their next house still stands, and is Edyth Johnson's residence.

J.W.C. had a farm and worked in the Lorenz brothers' sawmill at the head of Mayo Cove.

J.W.C.'s house, and later his son James', were built from lumber milled there.

J.W.C. had a workshop where he built rowboats and some furniture, and did repairs. He did carpentry work for the Penrose family, and also built a concrete seawall on the tip of the point to prevent bank erosion. Remains can still be seen many feet out from the bank.

James C. Ulsh, Bud's dad, married Marvel Mattie Leavitt in 1912. At age 6, she sailed with her family from Maine to Boston, then came to Tacoma by train.

They had eight children; five survived

James was called 'the seagoing cowboy' because of his unique way of coming in to the docks.

to be adults. Those left are Bud, Minnie, in Tumwater, and Bob, in Bremerton.

James started work in the sawmill at 17, and also worked on the "Arcadia," "Burro," and "Sentinel" — Mosquito Fleet boats.

Bud remembers the "Arcadia," called "Arc," best. It ran from Lakebay to Tacoma daily, stopping at Fox Island and Gig Harbor, picking up mail in Tacoma. His dad hauled the mail to the post office on his way home, after unloading the freight. Co-op night meant feed sacks, which took longer. His wife learned how to time dinner from the boat whistle being blown.

James was called "the seagoing cowboy" because of his unique way of coming in to the docks. He never tossed the rope with a loop in the end to someone on shore. They knew better than to try to catch it. He lassooed the tall piling. A Tacoma Times reporter once asked what would happen if he missed. James replied, "I don't know because I never miss."

The Ulsh family usually made two shopping trips to Tacoma each year on the "Arc," one in summer and one just before Christmas. Otherwise they shopped through Sears and Wards catalogs.

After high school and a year in the Bremerton shipyard, Bud spent four years in the Air Force, discharged with the rank of staff sergeant.

He was a carpenter for 25 years, mostly self-employed. A short-term job at Faraway turned into 11 years.



James Woodburn Crawford Ulsh, grandfather to Bud Ulsh, seen with the Lakebay dock in the background.

Photo courtesy of Bud Ulsh

There, he met Delores, his wife of 32 years and granddaughter of Axel and Helena Johnson of Longbranch. Delores says her grandmother went to school with Chief Sealath's daughter, Angeline.

Bud retired after being a rural mail carrier for 19 years, "the best job I ever had," he says.

He was also a volunteer fireman for 34 years. When he started, "We had one

station and one fire truck for the peninsula," he says.

Bud says he thinks their family has controlling stock at the Lakebay cemetery because at least 14 relatives are buried there. He plans to stay where he is until he, too, is "planted" there.

Bud has no idea why his grandparents came to Lakebay, but as he surveys his home there, he's pleased they did.

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At the helm with a ferry boat captain

By Gretchen Lippert
Special to KP News

Jim Siburg developed love for the water and all things related at an early age.

"When I was a little guy, if it floated, I was on it," he says.

Siburg, a Key Peninsula resident and captain for Washington State Ferries, grew up primarily in the Puget Sound region. His first boat was a rubber raft, though he had access to the family's several small craft. Since then, he has been boating his entire life.

Upon graduation from high school, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard and served for four years as a "Boatswain's Mate" ("a jack-of-all-trades, a master of none," Siburg notes). Afterward, he held a variety of jobs, which included work as an underwater construction diver on various oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico and the North Sea. Then, in 1979, he returned to the Puget Sound and went to work for Washington State Ferries. Subsequent schooling earned him his Unlimited Master's license, which means

Siburg can operate craft of any gross tonnage.

Siburg says handling the ferry is the easy part of the job because, for the most part, he is in control. When asked about the most difficult aspect, he quickly responds, "Personnel." For him, there is so much unknown in that area; plus, he dislikes reprimanding crew members. Despite that, he likes the camaraderie among the crew and compares it to a very tight-knit family. He says that the relationship the crew has goes far beyond the relationships co-workers have in a typical workplace.

A trip aboard the Rhododendron, the ferry that runs the Pt. Defiance /Tahlequah crossing, reveals a relaxed and low-key atmosphere on the bridge. With another crew member at the helm, Siburg briefly explains the radar and AIS systems and demonstrates them by selecting and tracking a vessel that appeared on the system's screen. He also shows his log book, explains the difference between tide and current, and talks about his methods for guiding the ferry into the dock. About a quarter-mile out,



Jim Siburg
aboard the
Rhododendron.

Photo by
Gretchen Lippert

he slows the ferry from its cruising speed of about 8 knots, and then gets a "feel" for the way the vessel is acting as it approaches the dock. Because the ferry has rudders at both ends, and the bow rudder can be used as the ferry slows down, Siburg has amazing control of the vessel at slow speeds.

Siburg moved to the Key Peninsula 12

or 13 years ago, a few years after securing his position of captain for Washington State Ferries. He wanted to have a place where people weren't, in his words, "breathing down my neck." His favorite things about living here are the residents and the "old-fashionedness" of the Key Peninsula; it reminds him of the way Vashon Island used to be years ago.



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Vaughn builder races against clock in TV reality show

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Sounds like the impossible scenario: Take five strangers who have never met before, fly them over to some location, and on the spot give them the task of remodeling part of a house, in a certain theme, in five days. If they're successful, they get \$8,000 worth of tools each. And, the entire affair — successes and failures — is taped, to be aired later on television.

"They try to take a mix of people to create drama, but also get the job done," says Vaughn resident and construction company owner Ben Taylor.

"They" are the producers of a show called "Monster House," which airs on the Discovery channel every Monday night. "The job," in this case, entails transforming a house into a "pirate ship," complete with a captain's room. The "mix of people" includes Taylor, along with a remodeler, a set builder and two artists, all coming from different areas of the country. As for the drama — yes, there is plenty.

"They give you a picture of the project (on the first day) that is not to scale and say, 'Build this,' and leave it up to us to do



BEN TAYLOR

it," Taylor says. No directions, no hints, no blueprints — just the ability to get whatever materials are needed.

For a builder like Taylor, a house project means having a plan, knowing what every stage requires. A construction worker of 10 years, including six as the owner of Aggressive Construction, he is used to deadlines and hard labor.

When his wife, Jennifer, learned about

Watch Monster House

"Monster House" airs at 8 p.m. every Monday on the Discovery channel. The "Pirate House" episode was filmed in August and is expected to be aired on or after Oct. 10.

the show and they decided to fill out an application, he didn't think much of it. Then a year later he got a call, and in another eight months he was flying to San Fernando Valley in California.

"It was definitely a group of different people," Taylor says. "They (show producers) didn't think we would finish."

The four-man, one-woman crew worked 14-hour days, doing some demolition, building a new deck and trellis, digging trenches. A construction crew was available to answer questions and supply the materials, but was not involved hands-on. So the five only had each other for the physical work. "Building was not the tough part, visualizing was," Taylor says.

It took about three days to visualize and figure out where the project was going. "It was really stressful. Once we got a handle on it, we knew we had it in the bag," he says.

Taylor recounts several other stressful moments, like an inspector setting them back nearly a day because something had to be redone, or him confronting the show's host because he was...well, not nice to the team.

The show will condense five days' worth of footage into one hour (which includes host narration and footage of the owner), but Taylor hopes what comes across is a hard-working crew that did something impressive. "I hope they show we worked together and somebody on the set knew what's going on, not a bunch of goofballs," he says.

Did they make the deadline for those prizes? Was the homeowner pleased? You'll have to watch the show for the ending. But Taylor will say he is considering auditioning for a new show he heard may be launched.

The experience, while it hasn't changed his building methods, has broadened his horizons and showed him he could do other things in construction, he says.

"It was a good time. Hard work, frustrating, but I met some good people, and that's what made it an experience for me," he says.

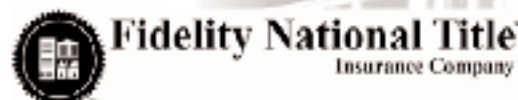


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News briefs

Vaughn Bay Cemetery vandalized again, citizens' help requested

On two occasions in the last six weeks, the Vaughn Bay Cemetery was vandalized, with headstones knocked off their bases, and one older one broken from the fall.

Peggy Dervaes, cemetery sextant, reported 10 gravestones were pushed or pulled over.

During the last incident, a statue of the Virgin Mary was left at the cemetery. Since that was not in the cemetery before, it is considered stolen property by the sheriff's department. Dervaes notes it is a heavy statue, with some maroon paint on it, possibly from a vehicle.

Vandalism in the cemetery previously involved vehicles being driven across the lawns when there was snow on the ground, and stones stolen last spring when the new area for military flags was being constructed.

Dervaes asks that citizens in the area, or those willing to drive by in late evenings or during the night, to be aware of anything going on in the cemetery, and report unusual happenings to the sheriff's department on the non-emergency line at 798-4721. Dervaes may also be called for more information at 884-9303.

County offers Wauna park, including historic building, to KPMPD

The Pierce County Parks Department sent a letter recently to the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, offering it to take over the Purdy Sandspit Park that also includes the old Wauna post office building effective Jan. 1.

According to KPMPD Director Scott Gallacher, due to legal matters involving the tidelands and costs associated with demolishing the building, the KPMPD does not have resources to take over the property unless the county addresses those two issues. Commissioners were planning to write a letter to the county outlining those concerns.

The Pierce County Landmarks Commission recommended delisting the building from its historic registry, and the county council will now vote on the recommendation.

However, county parks officials said earlier this year that no funds were available for the demolition.

Stirred by the skirling of the pipes

By Paula Moore
KP News

The bagpipes skirl, the drums beat rhythmically, as Pipe Major Van Bradley leads the Clan Gordon Pipe Band strutting down the street. The crowd grows hushed as the band breaks into "Amazing Grace." There are a few tears wiped away as the band marches off.

"My favorite part of our band is the enjoyment of the music, but even more the enjoyment of watching the crowd's faces as they listen to the music," says Harold Gwynne, the band's secretary.

The Clan Gordon Pipe Band has roughly 35 members from neighboring communities around Tacoma. Some dedicated members come from as far away as Ellensburg. It meets once a week for practice, with its goal to be ready to play for Highland Festivals and Games, march in local parades like the Daffodil Parade, and parties by invitation.

Two of the band's members come from the Key Peninsula area. Kyle Watts, 19, plays a snare (side) drum. He got interested in becoming a drummer



Key Pen residents Kyle Watts and Jenny Hoepfner in their parade uniforms.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

around sixth grade because of his dad, who played. In high school, friend Richard McGregor told him about the pipe band. Watts has been playing with the group for about two years.

His mother, who is interested in genealogy, investigated her family tree, and found they go back to the 1300s, when the original clan Houns became the Colquhouns. This information helped fuel his interest in all things Scottish.

He said, "I love wearing a kilt. People like seeing someone wearing a kilt. Wow!" The pipe band's uniform consists of a glengarry cap, dress shirt with tie, and the green and blue tartan of the kilt. Watts really likes the change in the type of music they play compared to today's music. He feels there is advantage to play different styles of other cultures. He also enjoys the trips the band has taken to Portland, Vancouver, B.C. and sometimes overseas.

Watts said he likes playing at VFW halls and watching the older men wipe away tears as they listen to the music. They remember times when a lone piper stood on a hill and played a memorial to their fallen comrades. They really appreciate it.

Jenny Hoepfner, also 19, came into the band through her friend Watts. They played together in high school, and Watts invited her to one of his practices. Hoepfner liked it and decided to join the group. She has been a member for a year, and also plays the snare drum. She said it was hard at first, especially when there was a long parade in the rain. It was hard on her shoulders, which were really sore, and she was cold and tired. But when asked was it worth all this, she replied, "I love it. Great!"

Hoepfner, who is not a Scot but has an Irish heritage, feels her Celtic background, which includes bagpipes, gives her an edge. She really enjoys the uniform and dressing up. She is looking forward to competitions and festivals that are coming up soon. She and Watts will be marching with vigor as the pipes skirl and the drums beat.



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The historic church in Allyn sits on the picturesque waterfront.

Photo by Colleen Slater

The history of the 'little white church' by the side of the road

By Colleen Slater
KP News

The little white church in “downtown” Allyn was built in 1909 as Ebenezer Congregational Church. The bell tower is visible some distance down Case Inlet, and is marked on navigational charts.

Church services were held in Allyn as early as 1893 by Presbyterian minister the Rev. Thomas Weeks, but there was no church building.

Weeks, who lived in Tacoma, traveled to Vaughn every other week by freighter. He stayed with the Alfred Van Slyke family, and preached Sunday morning. He then walked to Rocky Bay, was given dinner at the J.C. Corbin home, and was taken by rowboat to Allyn to preach an evening service. The following day he returned to Tacoma by freighter. He did this for about 12 years.

In 1914, a pump organ was given to the church by a family in Grapeview, with the stipulation that it remain in the church building. It is still there.

Over the years, other denominations used the church building, including Nazarene and Pentecostal congregations in the 1930s.

Donald Maddox, a young priest who studied at St. Hugh Cathedral in Lincoln, England, returned to his home in Seattle when his mother became ill in the mid-1960s. He organized Episcopal Missions at Allyn, Hoodspout, and Tahuya, and visited each once a month while serving as rector at St. David in Shelton.

Maddox named the Mission in Allyn Saint Hugh of Lincoln, in honor of the English cathedral he loved. The Allyn Community Church Organization gave them a quit claim deed, with the provision

that if they outgrew the building, it would be deeded back to the community.

Members of the congregation installed heat, rebuilt the bell tower, and added a basement with a social hall, kitchen alcove and restrooms. They began worship there in 1969, and deeded the building to the Diocese of Olympia in 1970.

By 1988, the congregation had expanded to the point of needing more space, but they could neither expand on the site, nor purchase adjacent land to build a larger church.

They eventually decided to buy other land, built and moved into their new church, higher on the hill, in 1995. Virginia Thompson of Lakebay wrote a book on the Saint Hugh history in 1999.

The historic church was deeded back to the community of Allyn. A six-member Board of Trustees handles the operation of the building. Seating capacity is listed as 50 to 60, but that many people make it feel pretty crowded, says Dorothy Griffey, current president of the board.

The little church is used for community events — weddings, memorial services, family celebrations— and for beginning churches. A quilting group, TOPS, AA and other support groups meet in the basement. St. Ita's Celtic Catholic Mission currently uses the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

The building is open on Allyn Days each summer when the board has a yard and bake sale. Board secretary Barbara Stormo bakes her cinnamon rolls in the kitchen that morning. Last year the group raised \$800 from the bake sale.

As it nears its centennial, the little church by the side of the road is a familiar landmark to all who pass that way, by road or by water.

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"In the Heart of the Key Peninsula"



Will the Bubble Burst?

As nearly everyone has heard, the real estate market has been spectacular in recent years and the Key Peninsula has shared in this meteoric rise in price and activity. Our average sale price on the Key Peninsula has risen from \$221,500 for the first eight months of 2004 to \$241,500 for the first eight months of 2005. There are also nine properties listed on the Key Peninsula for over \$1 million dollars with 2 sales over a million this year. We have had multiple offers on some properties and bidding wars as well.

Can this frenzy of activity continue? No, the frenzy has already slackened and the bidding wars are now limited to some very specialized properties.

But, will the bubble burst? Will our prices fall dramatically? The general consensus is: probably not in this area. Pierce County and South Kitsap County generally seem to have a very vibrant economy, and locally on the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas we have a very optimistic outlook. The new bridge, of course, is a basic element of that optimism, but even more important are the jobs created by the businesses in Gig Harbor North and the probability of a new hospital to give medical reassurance to our population.

Our prices have leveled off and, in some cases, dropped some from earlier in the spring. But, generally activity remains high and prices fairly stable and it is still an excellent time to buy or sell on the Key Peninsula.



HERRON ISLAND \$375,000
Old made new! This charming waterfront cabin has been completely remodeled and has a large deck - great for entertaining. Enjoy a private sandy beach and excellent views of SE Case Inlet to the Black Hills. Private ferry to the island. MLS 25131112



PALMER LAKE \$188,500
Very well built home on a cul-de-sac with attached 2-car garage. Nice lot, well maintained home, roomy back yard with terraced flower beds. Beach rights - enjoy fishing, non-motor boating and swimming on this peaceful lake. MLS 25132548



LAKE HOLIDAY \$325,000
Fantastic custom home on 100' of lakefront in a gated community. The rooms are large and airy with central vac and many extras. 5 piece bath in master, loft study area off bedrooms. Enjoy fishing, paddling and swimming! MLS 25108704



LAKEBAY \$99,000
Older mobile unit, on a nice acre. Outbuildings, possibility to build home. Good soils, fruit trees, lots of room for play area. MLS 25120092



MECHANIC'S DREAM! \$260,000
This immaculate 2-bedroom rfg home has an additional dwelling unit (ADU) attached plus a detached garage. For the mechanic or woodworker, there is a huge shop plus RV parking. When you relax on the deck, enjoy the mini pond and neatly manicured yard. See this one to believe!! MLS 25056236



LAKEBAY ACREAGE \$232,000
Horses welcome on this fenced, level, 5 plus acres with a 4-stall barn, dog and kennel run. This comfortable 3 bedroom home features a jetted tub in master, kitchen with a large pantry, eating bar, skylights and is located on a dead end street. MLS 25134245



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(From SIGNS, Page 1)

of those signs are illegally placed, as defined by laws at both county and state levels.

Key Pen resident Tim Kezele said, "The Key Peninsula Highway used to be designated as a scenic right-of-way," where signs are allowed by paid permit. That designation seems to have been disregarded, considering the number of signs placed recently, as a drive in either direction on the KP Highway will show. Kezele said he has a stack of 50 to 60 signs in his garage that he removed from the roads.

A 1971 Washington state law, the Scenic Vistas Act (RCW 47.42), provides for the sign removal by the Department of Transportation. "The Department will only enforce commercial signage if someone complains," Kezele said.

"I haven't been on a campaign in a while," pulling down what he calls "litter on a stick," he said. "There are garage sale signs that have been up for over a year. Everything from tires to cheap health insurance to pizzas are advertised on sign posts and telephone poles. There is even a sign in the middle of the oyster beds on the Purdy Spit, the gateway to the Peninsula...It is eye litter."

Peninsula Light Company is especially concerned about illegally-placed signs, which present a danger to linemen. State law RCW 70.54.090 makes it a misdemeanor to attach objects to utility poles, including: advertising signs, posters, vending machines, or any similar object that presents a hazard to, or endangers the lives of, electrical workers. Any attachment to utility poles shall only be made with the permission of the utility involved, and shall be placed not less than twelve feet above the surface of the ground.

"We view them as litter, too."

-Steve Bennett, WSDOT traffic operations engineer

"We view them as litter, too," said Steve Bennett, traffic operations engineer with the Washington State Department of Transportation. "Any sign that obstructs sight distance at a corner, our crews will remove it. Part of the difficulty in enforcement is that any sign removed will reappear the next day. It's a tough issue to keep up."

Not the county auditor, but the Office of the Attorney General enforces the state laws (RCW 42.18.020) for election signage and political advertising, which includes any displays, newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids, flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, or other means of mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing for votes or financial or other support in an election campaign.

Campaign signs are less a concern to Kezele, "because the candidates remove them right after the election—usually." That may be to his credit. Signs promoting political candidates and ballot issues are under constitutional protection by the United States and Washington state. RCW 29A.84.040 protects political advertising. The defacement or removal of each sign constitutes a separate misdemeanor violation.

The King County Bar Association (KCBA) states on its Website, "Courts have consistently acknowledged that "the First Amendment has its fullest and most urgent application to speech uttered during a campaign for political office."

Under state statute and county code, signs may not be placed in a road right-of-way. This invisible boundary includes the paved road surface and a strip of land on either side of the road reserved for should-

ers, drainage ditches, sidewalks, traffic signs, electrical traffic signal control boxes, utility lines and future road expansion. The width of the right-of-way varies, sometimes extending only a short distance beyond the paved roadway — past the shoulder. Or the right-of-way may extend well into what appears to be someone's front yard. It may be impossible to identify the right-of-way without detailed legal maps or a formal survey. Property owners, not knowing exact right-of-way boundary, may have maintained, landscaped or fenced this area.

Signs placed on private property are treated differently than those located on public land. Public property is placed into various categories under the law. The most important category covers "places which by long tradition or government fiat have been devoted to assembly and debate"—traditional gathering places as streets, sidewalks and parks, "held in trust for the use of the public and . . . for purposes of assembly, communicating thoughts between citizens, and discussing public questions," according to the KCBA.

Signs posted on private property are covered under the Fifth Amendment. Courts recognize political signage displayed at one's home carries special importance with ensured constitutional protection. Political campaigners depend on signs to demonstrate a resident's support for a particular candidate, party or cause—often an advertising impact that money couldn't buy. Governments regulate the size, location and duration of such signs. Well-known restrictions forbid vehicular or pedestrian traffic blockage, limit square footage for each sign face, and prohibit the display of campaign signs on public property beyond a specified post-election period.

While some signs are subject to constitutional protection, others are subject to local and county regulation and fines up to \$475. Department of Planning and Land Services (PALS) supervisor Diane

To find out more:

Call the Washington State District Advertising Representatives for Pierce County, Department of Transportation, at (360) 375-2620.

The local WSDOT contact number is 798-7250.

To file a complaint with the county, call 798-7210, or go online to www.co.pierce.wa.us/cfapps/pals/psr.cfm.

Ranes said in an email to KP News, "We do receive numerous calls about illegally placed signs. PALS Code Enforcement Section enforces illegally placed signs on private properties only. We conduct investigations on a reactive, not proactive, basis... Most of the complaints we receive, however, concern signs illegally placed along or within state or county road rights-of-way and we direct complainants to file those with the appropriate agencies."

Ranes added, "Any signs placed along or within a state right-of-way are the responsibility of DOT. Signs placed along or within county right-of-way are enforceable under PCC Title 12.28 which falls under authority of the county engineer in Pierce County's Public Works & Utilities Department. We do not patrol for signs violations."

The Department of Ecology posts anti-litter messages using roadway and retail signage. Its Website states, "These are critical communications elements because they provide vehicles for reaching people at the scene of the crime: either when they're littering, about to litter, or when someone has a chance to report the act of littering. WSDOT has partnered with Department of Ecology to put up 138 new highway road signs featuring the campaign slogan, 'Litter and it will hurt,' and the toll-free number to report littering, 866-LITTER-1."

"People need to advertise, but they need to do it tastefully," Kezele said.

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FREE Public Mask Making Workshop - Bring the family and join us for an afternoon of mask making. All materials provided but feel free to add your own embellishments. Sunday October 30th, 12 - 2pm in the Drama Room at the KP Library.
Kumihimo with Ann Bucloy - This ancient Japanese bead making technique will be taught November 5th 9am - 11:30 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. \$40 per person.

Call Brynn Nydell 884-2029 or email trjones@aluminum.com for information and registration

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(From **HERRING**, Page 1)

appeal hearing will be before the hearing examiner on Oct. 13. In the meantime, there's the question of whether the cease and desist order will be in force while the appeal takes place—and the hearing examiner ordered the cease and desist order stayed during pendency of the appeal." Which means the pens can remain in operation while the legal process goes forward.

But, as Luppino points out, "that determination could be appealed by either side."

Members of the Mayo Cove community disagree over whether the herring pens should remain or go. "I think it's not ideal for the people on our side of things, but I don't want anyone to lose income associated with the situation, and this is part of the legal process," says property owner Dylan Stanley. "Some people say we're newcomers who are just trying to stir things up. But that's not the reality of the situation. Some of the people who signed the complaint letter have been in the community for a long time. In fact, the majority of property owners around Mayo Cove signed the letter."

Resident Art Olson disagrees. "I've known Derwin Hostetler for 40 years.

"I may sell to the (Puyallup) Tribe if I lose and they would be able to put it (the marina) into tribal trust lands. That would take it off the tax rolls and everything else. Then everyone would have to live with the tribe."

-Derwin Hostetler, Lakebay Marina owner

He's just an old guy trying to make a living," he says. "Herring fishing has been going on for years. People should let him be."

Olson knows there's the possibility that Hostetler won't be allowed to operate the herring pens, however, and when asked about that, he's philosophical. "The law is going to be what the law is," Olson says. "I don't know which way it will go." Nonetheless, it's clear that Olson, and residents like him, would be happy to see the pens remain in Mayo Cove, should Hostetler win his case or some compromise be found.

Does Olson see some sort of schism between those who have lived in the area for a long time, and those who have



Photo by Mindi LaRose

The battle over the herring pens at the Lakebay Marina continues.

arrived relatively recently? He laughs, and says, "Yeah, sure."

As for the man at the center of the controversy, he remains defiant. "I've checked with two other marinas," Hostetler says, "and they don't have any clauses in their leases from the Department of Natural Resources forbidding herring pens. We're getting affi-

davits from the other marinas."

When asked what he would do should he ultimately lose the case, Hostetler says, "I may sell to the (Puyallup) Tribe if I lose and they would be able to put it (the marina) into tribal trust lands. That would take it off the tax rolls and everything else. Then everyone would have to live with the tribe."



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Celebrate Oktoberfest at fund-raiser

By Edie Morgan
Special to KP News

Little Bill and the Bluenotes, one of the Northwest's favorite blues bands featuring Dick Powell, returns to the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Saturday, Oct. 22, for an Oktoberfest evening of "Blues, Brews and Brats."

This is the Civic Center's fall fundraiser. If you attended last year, you know what a great community-building event it was. Nearly 250 friends and



neighbors savored the handcrafted dinner, quaffed specialty microbrews from the Hood Canal Brewery, and joyously danced their cares away en masse.

Just over \$6,000 was raised to help offset the high cost of keeping the doors open at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. A lower-cost insurance plan has been secured since then, but the ongoing costs of running and maintaining the historic building are a continuous challenge. This event is one of the main fund-raisers of the year.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center houses the WIC (Women, Infants, Children) nutrition program, the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, the Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum, Two Waters Arts Alliance, the community outreach program of Comprehensive Mental Health, the KP Senior Society, several church programs, Boy Scout troops, Friday Night Skate, Indoor Park parent-toddler program, and numerous other groups, programs, classes, and community events. It is a virtually irreplaceable community asset, built in 1907. The gym

was built by the WPA in the 1930s.

Little Bill Englehart and the first Bluenotes started out in Tacoma, as a garage band in the 1950s. Their recording "I Love An Angel" rose to No. 40 on the Billboard Top 100 Chart in 1959, the first rock 'n roll/R&B hit out of the Northwest. Since then, the band has become a fixture on the regional music scene, playing hundreds of clubs, festivals and concerts each year.

In 1988, they were among the first inductees into the Northwest Music Hall of Fame. They are featured in the Northwest Passage of the EMP (Experience Music Project) Museum in Seattle. As individuals and as a group they have won numerous awards from the Washington Blues Society, including Best Band, Best Traditional Act, Best Northwest CD, and others. Dick Powell was awarded the 1999 Washington Blues Society Lifetime Achievement Award for his excellence on harmonica and keyboards, which he often plays simultaneously.

"Blues, Brews and Brats" promises to be a flavorful event to be savored by all, for the benefit of the community.



A German-style bratwurst dinner, presented by chef Oliver Coldeen, will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22. Music and dancing start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for dinner and dance, \$15 for the dance only. Must be 21 or older. Tickets are available at Framers Workshop in Gig Harbor (858-1624) and at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center (884-3927). For more information call the Civic Center at 884-3456, or call 884-3920.

For more about Little Bill and the Bluenotes, visit www.havemusic.com/littlebill.

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Teddy Roosevelt comes to dinner at LIC

By Danna Webster
KP News

This fall, the LIC dinner-theater presents "Bully!" starring Canadian-born veteran actor and director of last year's Longbranch Players, Rick May. It is a one-act monologue, presenting the adventures of Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt.

The first show is Friday, Sept. 30 and includes dessert and coffee. The following weekend, Oct. 7 and 8, will be dinner-theater presentations. After the performances, May stays on stage in character and answers questions about the life and times of Teddy Roosevelt.

May has appeared in a wide variety of shows ranging from Shakespeare to musical comedy and has a long list of directing credits. He is a television spokesperson for Great American RV, and his voice has been heard in radio commercials and on CD-ROM games.

Prior to curtain time, the audience is invited to enjoy the works of local artists presented by Two Waters Arts Alliance. This is the third annual TWAA art show in cooperation with the Longbranch



Photo courtesy of Longbranch Players
Rick May as Teddy Roosevelt in "Bully" talks with Robert Mazur on stage after the performance presented by the Driftwood Players at the Wade James Theater in Edmonds on Sept. 17.

Theater Players productions. It is a new show. There were 11 artists last year and there are 19 this year.

Tricia Thompson, chef and TWAA artist,

will take the culinary lead for the kitchen staff. Friday night, Sept. 30 is dessert night offering chocolate-, carrot-, and cheese-cakes with juice and coffee beverages. On Oct. 7 and 8 the dinner theater will include a lemon-garlic chicken entrée. There will be a cash bar at all shows.

Volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 220 will serve the guests.

The production manager for "Bully!" is Kim Gebhardt. It is a brand new role for the popular Longbranch Players' star as Sylvia in "Sylvia" (2003) and Suzette in "Don't Dress for Dinner" (2004).

Gebhardt's first try at acting was the "Sylvia" audition. She thinks of her theater adventure as her once-a-year affair when she gets to be somebody else for that time.

"I want to act," she says and admits, "I was a shy kid in school...I did all my dancing and singing in my bedroom mirror."

At the same time as the "Bully!" production, Gebhardt's family is in the process of building their dream house on their acreage in Longbranch.

"As much as I like producing, and

enjoyed the experience — (maybe) if I wasn't busy with a house, I would do it again," Gebhardt says.

A great number of KP residents and organizations support the theater's production, including Boy Scout Troop 220, artists from the Two Waters Arts Alliance and many LIC members including former production manager Mary Mazur who, according to Gebhardt, is guiding her through step-by-step.

"The club (LIC) won't let me fail," she says.

Both Gebhardt and Mazur look forward to working with Rick May again and to the presentation of "Bully!" Looking ahead to the future, they want to see the Longbranch Players go on with great plays and more theater experiences for the Key Peninsula.

Tickets for the Sept. 30 show cost \$15, \$10 for students with ID. The Oct. 7-8 dinner theater costs \$35. Show times are 8 p.m. all dates; buffet on Sept. 30 starts at 6:30 p.m. and Oct. 7-8 dinners start at 6 p.m. Call 884-6575 for reservations.



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Multitalented artist shares her passion with children

By Jerry Libstaff

Local teacher Jan Buday has been instrumental in the art scene on Key Peninsula for many years. A multi-talented, multi-media artist, Buday comes from an accomplished family. Born in Ann Arbor, Mich., she traveled extensively for many years. Her father's work as a professor took the family to exotic locations far from her mother's original home of Tacoma.

Buday's father was chosen by the government as part of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission when Jan was 7. Through his position, she lived and studied in Japan for two years while he completed his work. The family returned to the Midwest and after a time transferred to Los Angeles. When she was 16, fate would take them to Hawaii, where she spent the next 20 years. Buday says the experience "was absolutely



The Genuine
ARTICLE



Photo courtesy Jerry Libstaff

Jan Buday creates a variety of art using her many talents.

wonderful."

In Hawaii, Buday continued her education and developed a love for the arts. Art became her focus and she was awarded a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Hawaii.

During that time her parents returned to Washington and settled on the Key Peninsula. Buday remained in Hawaii and

made a living as an artist but found possibilities on the islands limiting.

Eventually, in 1989, she joined her family on the Key Peninsula. To augment her bachelor's degree, Buday earned a teaching certificate and received endorsements in both English and history for kindergarten through eighth grade.

Five years ago, she joined Key Peninsula Middle School as an art teacher, specializing in both art and photography classes.

About that time she was invited by Dennis Taylor to an initial meeting with a group of artists. Taylor worked with kids at risk and believed the youth of our community needed an organization that could enhance their education by associating art with academics. Those initial meetings brought the kids together with area artists as mentors. Buday says the eventual creation of Two Waters Arts Alliance was "a wonderful idea and our community has been enriched by helping kids and bringing art to them on a more individual basis."

Buday has worked with the TWAA Artists in Schools program in an effort to bring additional artists to Key Peninsula Middle School classes.

Buday creates lampworking, or glass beads. She also teaches a Japanese braiding technique called Kumihimo. Her father fashioned a Marudai, a traditional, donut-

October TWAA classes:

Oct. 4: Glass Bead Making with Brynn Rydell;

Sept. 30, Oct. 8 and 9: TWAA Art Gallery at the Longbranch Players Theater;

Oct. 30: Free Public Mask Making Workshop.

For information or to register for a class, call 884-2029.



shaped loom used in Kumihimo. Buday studied books to learn the intricacies of the loom. She creates beautifully woven braids to which she attaches the glass beads.

Buday has taught many to do Kumihimo, from first graders to senior citizens. She says, "The students often try to outdo the teacher. They weave with more strands and create extremely intricate designs." She smiles with pride when she talks about learning from "the dedication of her students."

"Many times young people have a freer way of thinking. They can envision new designs because they don't have an adult's barriers and limitations," she says.

Buday also paints with acrylics. She recently completed a study from an ancient Japanese Kabuki print. She says she loves "the amazing textile patterns of the Kabuki." Her vision is a Kabuki painting of huge dimensions.

Buday recently transcribed a journal, written by her brother, Tom Nishimura, as he sailed from Hawaii to Kumamoto, Japan, in 1984 to discover his past and his future. Tom passed away in 2000 and the book is a tribute to his dream.

Jan and husband John will travel to Japan this month to touch her past and better know her future.

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

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Key Peninsula Metro Parks District Invitation to Bid Concession Building Heating Bid

Sealed Bids will be received by
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(KPMPD) until 4:00 PM on Friday
October 21, 2005 at KPMPD office
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Out & About



Photo by Hugh McMillan

KP resident and Vaughn Elementary third-grade teacher Marci Jo Cummings exchanges wedding vows with Brian Patrick Cohoe on Sept. 10 at the Fox Island Yacht Club. The day opened with a not too promising torrential downpour but blossomed into bright sunshine for the outdoor event. Cummings intends to continue her career. "I'd never leave my kids," she said. Cohoe will continue to serve as project supervisor for Gary Howe Construction. The couple will reside in Vaughn.

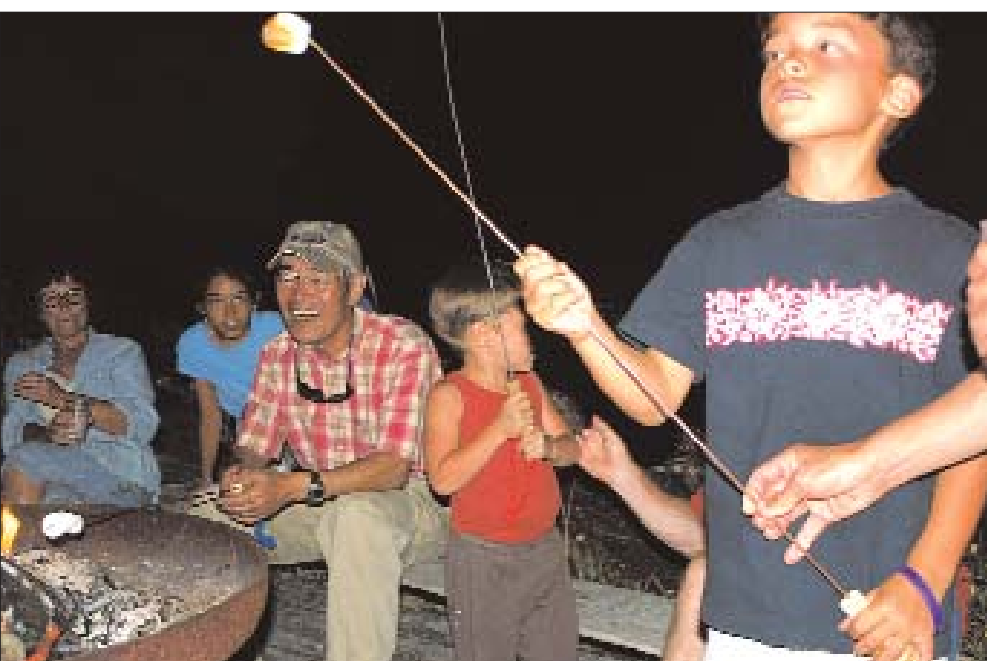


Photo by Hugh McMillan

S'more lovers gather around the beach bonfire to create the summer delectables in the evening as part of a recent Two Waters Arts Alliance's kayak and canoe picnic fund-raiser.

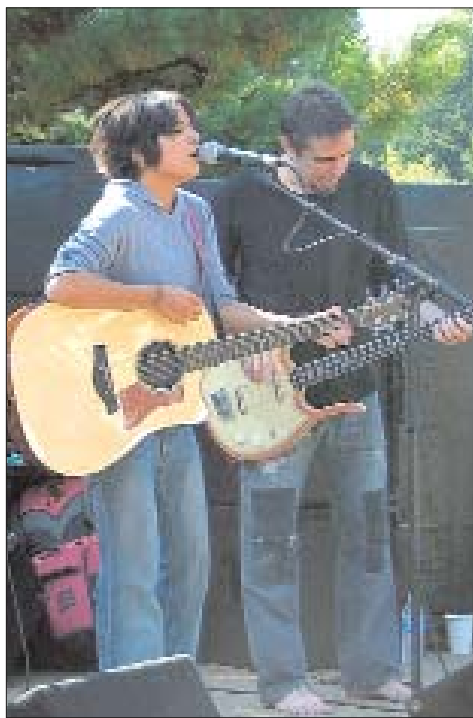


Photo by Hugh McMillan

Expert Sean Nguyen of National Hose Testing, Inc. of Dallas, Oregon, tests Key Peninsula Fire Department's 50-foot lengths of 2.5-inch fire hose. The lines must be tested periodically on an NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) schedule to meet operational requirements. Occasionally, the hoses will burst under testing pressure. KPPD Training chief Paul Bosch pointed out that, "you don't want the hose to burst at the scene of an emergency. That's why we test to ensure that they are safe for emergency actions."



Above, Co-owners of the recently opened On The Way Deli in Key Center, Lisa Larson (right) and Kathy Moran invite everyone to stop by and try out the food and treats. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Top left, Key Peninsula's own Irene Torres was among the nominees for "Women of Influence 2005," a leadership recognition program established by the Puget Sound Business Examiner. Among her outstanding contributions to the Key Peninsula, Torres was nominated for her work as president of the Publishing Board for KP News. In her own words, Torres stated she is dedicated to the protection of the natural environment of the Key Peninsula. "Giving valid information through our media will increase awareness of the pitfalls of uncontrolled growth," Torres said. *Photo by Danna Webster*

Left, The talented Vicci Martinez Band performs at a TWAA-sponsored concert at the Art Barn in September as part of the Open Studio Tour event. *Photo by Danna Webster*