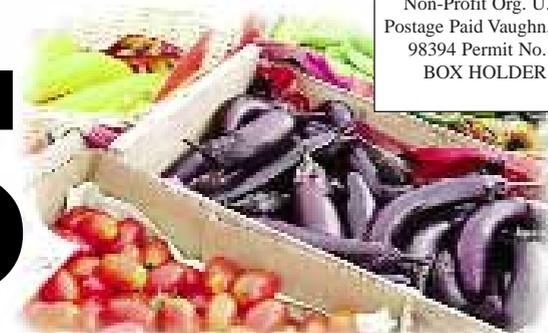


KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



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JUNE 2009

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Photo courtesy of Rebecca Miller

Miller's husband Bill with Persephone, the couple's youngest child.

KP mom spreads word about teen pregnancy, law

By Marsha Hart, KP News

She was raised in the church, was leader of her youth group, her parents were virgins when they married at 27 and 28 years old, and at age 16, she was pregnant.

Rebecca Miller and her then 19-year-old boyfriend got married, and reality struck.

They lived at the Westwynd Motel in Purdy, but couldn't afford the rent. They moved in with his parents while they tried to save money and find another place to live, but being young and not understanding how a lot of things in the real

world work, she said they didn't get their belongings out of the motel in time, and everything was gone, including her baby pictures, and other precious items.

"My husband went from working at a pizza place living with his mom to being a husband with a baby on the way," Miller said. "Rent was more than half of his pay."

The couple had another child, but eventually divorced.

Now at age 28 Miller, a Vaughn resident, has been married to her current husband Bill for seven years. They have a total of five children, including the two

(See LAW, Page 11)

Traffic signal on for Key Center intersection

By Marsha Hart, KP News

It was standing room only during the Key Peninsula Community Council meeting May 13. Residents and business owners gathered for the council-sponsored forum to discuss the fully functioning traffic signal project proposed for the intersection in Key Center. The light will be installed at the intersection of Key Peninsula Highway at Cramer Road and Olson Drive.

Officials from Pierce County spoke to about 40 people, explaining the reasons for the traffic signal project. They also answered questions and listened to concerns.

Mike Baum, a member of the Safety, Transportation and Crime Committee, along with Kevin Flower and Robert Sprague, presented a slide show that addressed a proposed roundabout at the same intersection in place of a traffic



A new fully functioning traffic signal is planned to replace the flashing beacon light at the intersection of Key Peninsula Highway and Cramer Road and Olson Drive.

Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

light. It is something the county officials agreed could be an alternative, but an expensive one.

"It would have a large impact on the adjacent properties," said Brian Stacy, county engineer. "We are wrestling with

the budget and there is already a deficit for this project."

Cost of the project would increase because the county would be required to

(See TRAFFIC, Page 11)

Bridge tolls to be used for bridge expenses

Staff Reports

Senator Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor, sponsored a bill just signed by Gov. Chris Gregoire to restrict the use of toll revenues from the Tacoma Narrows Bridge to expenditures directly related to the financing, operation, maintenance, management and necessary repairs of the bridge.



KILMER

Gregoire signed another Kilmer sponsored bill which ensures that toll violators whose fines are reduced still pay the portion of their ticket that is dedicated to the toll account.

"Every dollar we can save is one less dollar that we have to pay in tolls, and I want to make sure that the dollars going into the Tacoma Narrows Bridge toll account are spent efficiently," Kilmer said. "These bills are about accountability and protecting toll payers."

Kilmer sponsored SB 5795, which passed both chambers of the Legislature on unanimous votes, to ensure that toll funds go directly to paying down bridge debt rather than other overhead costs such as staff training, travel and meetings. It also requires the Washington State Department of Transportation to post quarterly expenditure reports on its web site.

BRIEFS

news

Pilot survives crash

Clifford Howell survived the crash of his Cessna 182 at Thun Field near Puyallup on May 1. His engine died after takeoff. The Sheriff's Department was conducting an exercise that blocked an attempt to land on the taxiway. Howell "opted" to crash into 300 porta-potties to cushion his landing. Howell is relatively injury-free, the airplane not. Howell operates a private airport in Lakebay. See related story on-line from front page of February 2008 KP News.

Fire lid lift to be on ballot

FD16 Commissioners voted to send fire suppression lid lift to the voters for the August Primary ballot. If passed, it would add an additional 22 cents per \$1,000 valuation to the property tax burden. For a \$250,000 home, this equates to \$55 per year in additional taxes.

Fire Commissioner positions open

Two Key Peninsula Fire District 16 Commissioner positions are open. Deadline to file for candidacy is June 5. File at the Pierce County Election Center 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 2501 South 35th Street, Suite C, Tacoma, WA 98409. A packet will be provided that includes a Declaration of Candidacy, Public Disclosure Information, Quick Info for Candidates, Voters' Pamphlet and submittal information, and a 2009 Election Manual.

Two Parks Commission positions open

Two positions are open on the Key Pen Parks Board of Commissioners. Commissioners serve a six-year term and attend one regularly scheduled commission meeting per month, and serve on subcommittees.

Those interested in filing for candidacy must do so between June 1 and June 5. Forms are available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Pierce County Election Center, 2501 South 35th St., Suite C,

Tacoma, WA 98409. Candidates must be verified registered voters in the Key Pen Parks district. All candidates must file a Declaration and Affidavit of Candidacy form, and Public Disclosure Commission Financial Affairs Statement, and Campaign Finance Reports within two weeks after becoming a candidate.

Commissioners are compensated at the rate of \$90 per meeting. Maximum compensation is \$90 per day, not to exceed \$6,720 a year.

For information contact Pierce County Elections at 253-798-7430 or or contact the Key Pen Parks office at 884-9240.

Swine flu precautions

There are still no confirmed cases of Swine flu in Pierce County.

According to health officials, the virus cannot be spread from eating well-cooked pork and pork products.

The World Health Organization advises no restriction of regular travel or closure of borders. If you do not have health insurance or a physician, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) requests you call 253-798-6500 for help.

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

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

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

Switch to digital TV could be difficult for KP

By Rick Sorrels, Special to the KP

According to the Federal Communication Commission, 40 percent of all "full power" television stations are already broadcasting their programs digitally. All remaining full power stations must change over no later than June 12. All "full power" stations will drop analog broadcasts on June 12. Analog is the type of broadcast system used since the 1930s. "Low power" stations, like those used by schools and churches will continue to use the old analog system after June 12.

The government has spent much effort and expense to inform the public of the pending changeover, instructions on what to do, distribution of coupons for purchasing converter boxes, and reassurance that nobody will be left out in the changeover.

All televisions manufactured after March 2007 can receive both analog and digital broadcast signals without any converter box. A manufacture date can usually be found on a paper ID tag on the rear of the set. If no date, then look for

the code "ATSC" which indicates a digital set manufactured after March 2007.

An old analog set will continue to receive analog signals, but a converter box must be used to obtain a digital signal.

Two types of converter boxes are available. An "analog pass-through converter" will allow both analog and digital signals to be received. A converter box that is not an analog pass-through type, will block analog signals. If you have one of these boxes, they must be disconnected before an analog signal can be processed.

Some unsettling facts have recently come to the surface. Fact Sheets distributed by the FCC subtly state, "If the digital signal falls below a certain minimum strength, the picture can suddenly disappear." And that "TV reception can be affected by factors such as terrain, trees, buildings, the weather (rain, wind, humidity), and damaged and deteriorated equipment." The Fact Sheets do NOT clearly reveal that digital broadcasts require more power and are much more sensitive to terrain, trees,

weather, etc than the old analog system.

Lois, an operator at the FCC DTV Hotline (1-888-225-5322) said, "Digital does not travel as far as analog."

An FCC engineer who works on the DTV system, but who wishes to remain anonymous, stated, "Both handheld and fixed (home based) receivers are all affected by these shortcomings. We are attempting to design transmitters to be placed on cell towers to improve reception, but that is dependent upon somebody first designing a satisfactory computer chip to overcome the technical problems."

The DTV web site (DTV.gov) is supposed to have "reception maps" and "gain loss" maps that indicate "calculated" areas of poor reception, based upon signal strength, distance from transmission towers, and terrain contours. Repeated attempts to access these maps have been without success. Another Hotline operator, after consulting these maps, stated, "The maps indicate that the KP is an area of 'poor' reception."

Mark Wigfield, a spokesperson for the

FCC, does not expect any problems.

"A lot of the digital signals now broadcasted are at reduced power, with stations not going to full power until June 12," Wigfield said.

Television reception has been getting much worse the last few months for Lakebay resident Adolf Von Kaenel.

"Channels 4 and 5 come in clear, I barely get 7, and 11 is barely visible. I get channel 13 sometimes and sometimes not, and Channel 9 is acting up," said Von Kaenel. "A new TV did not help, and I have two directional antennas on my roof."

Another Lakebay resident, Hans Quistorff, says he can only receive Channels 4 (ABC), 5 (NBC), 11 (CBS), and 13 (FOX). "The antenna has to be higher than the nearby hill to get any reception at all," said Quistorff.

Ed Bressette Jr. lives just south of Key Center. "I'm playing it safe and have already gone to satellite because I do not want to hassle with it," said Bressette. "It's expensive and Channel 4 is not available on certain satellite providers due to contract issues. With all the paid TV options available, a person really needs to think about how much he watches TV and choose the best cost option."

Dean Draeger has lost nearly all broadcast TV reception at his house in Vaughn. "I switched over to digital early and have only been able to receive Channel 20 and its nine sub-channels, all religious," said Draeger. "The digital signal simply will not reach the west side of the KP. I'm back to analog until I'm forced to switch to cable."

Paid television service (cable, satellite, and Internet) remain an option which is unaffected by the June changeover.

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EDITORIAL



Key Peninsula News file photo

Key Peninsula must rely on others to save Joemma Beach

When word came from the state that Joemma Beach State Park was one of the 40 state parks on the list for closure due to the \$22.9 million state park budget cut, the Key Peninsula responded.

Many showed their support for keeping the park open by sending letters to state representatives, and some sent letters to the editor of the Key Peninsula News. There was a rally in Gig Harbor that combined the efforts to keep both Joemma Beach and Kopachuck State Park open.

The response from the public was such that the state took notice.

The Legislature passed a bill during the 2009 session that will add an optional \$5 fee to vehicle license tab renewals to fund the parks. It is expected to bring in \$23 million annually to the parks system. The fee will be added to license tab renewals beginning in September and if the optional \$5 fee brings in enough revenue, the parks will remain open through 2011.

Now instead of responding with voices, the residents of the Key Peninsula will have to respond with their wallets in order to keep Joemma Beach State Park open and a part of the community. But residents who hope to see Joemma Beach remain open must hope that there are enough people across the entire state who opt to pay the \$5 fee. The Key Peninsula alone cannot save Joemma Beach State Park.

A fun day on the Key Peninsula

There won't be a Key Peninsula Community Fair this year. Some of you might be saying, "So what?" And others of you might say, "Oh, no!" Well, many Key Peninsula residents are still planning a very fun day on the Key Peninsula.

Krazy Key Parade and Summer Family Fun Day will be held at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Aug. 8. This parade (which will start in Key Center) and family fun day is planned for one year as the Key Peninsula Community Fair Board plans for a new 2010 Fair. The plan is for Krazy Key Parade and Summer Family Fun Day also to preview and try out some of the activities, events, entertainment, and parade that could be part of the 2010 Fair. There will be a farmers' market, local bands, and some old time style activities (kid's races, music, games, and food). This will be a fun way to "practice" before the 2010 Fair activities, entertainment, and events are decided upon.

What I truly appreciate about the Key

JUD MORRIS
FROM THE WATER'S EDGE



Peninsula is the "can do" attitude of the residents that then becomes "will do." Whether it be the beginning of the Key Peninsula Community Fair in 2001 or many other community projects, Key Peninsula people work together to get things done. This is the strength of the people living on the Key Peninsula.

So, I have great news, good news, and possibly "bad" news. The great news is this special fun day for Key Peninsula residents will be loads of fun, and several people, organizations, and churches are doing whatever it takes to make this Fun Day really be fun. The good news is that the chances this day will really be something people on the Key will like is very good, but this is also possibly the "bad" news, too. What if Krazy Key Parade and

Summer Family Fun Day is extremely successful? Then what happens in 2010? I know the organizers of this day would like to have this problem. But the problem will be how to coordinate this event with the 2010 Key Peninsula Community Fair, so that the parade and family fun day still might happen, but not detract from the energy and organizing of the 2010 Key Peninsula Community Fair. Can they coordinate and keep successful both events in 2010? I say, yes, most definitely! In this situation competition is definitely not a good thing for the Key Peninsula. I know with Old Timers' Day and the Longbranch Church's Salmon Bake, and various events at the Longbranch Improvement Club, and the Key Peninsula Civic Center that with coordination of event dates, all the events take place and are very successful. So, let's everyone get out on Aug. 8 and help make the Krazy Key Parade and Summer Family Fun Day a super success. Be there, or be square. Enjoy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enough Socialist talk

Concerning "Key Pen residents speak out about property taxes": Why is that the first thing that comes up is "Progressive Income Tax". More taxes to those who make a decent living to cover those who don't pay taxes. I'm not one of those +\$250,000, not even close, yet when over 50 percent of Americans pay no income tax at all the fact is that anyone making over \$70,000 will be paying the freight for those that don't pay taxes. I'm sick and tired of all this Socialist talk. Enough already!

Norman Groenig

From Key Pen Parks

Thank you for Supporting Parks Appreciation Day 2009

We would like to thank our community for the support of the 2009 Parks

Appreciation Day. We had a total of 152 volunteers at five sites with 400 hours in volunteer time. We want to extend our gratitude to our site leaders and other local community groups who helped make this a success. Site Leaders: Bill Snider, Michael Simmons, Loyd Miller, Bruce Nicholson, Marilyn & Jerry Hartley. Groups: LDS Key Center, Belfair, and Olla Wards for your continue support and for lunch prepared by the Key Center Ward, Cara Cross for the 25 trees, Weyerhaeuser, Key to Sobriety, Lakebay Fuchsia Society, Key Peninsula Civic Center Board, Costco, Boy Scout Troop, Ravensara, CenturyTel, Albertsons, and again to our great community members. Thank you!

Thank you for making our Touch-A-Truck event a success

We want to extend a personal thank you to Jeff Charboneau for allowing the use of his space for Touch-A-Truck 2009. With your help we were able to give our community a place to explore and learn

about the different trucks we see every day.

Thank you Peirce County Public Works & Utilities, Peirce County Road Service Purdy Division, Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Bethel Towing, Key Peninsula Fire Department, Peninsula Light Company, and Asplundh Tree Service for displaying your trucks.

To the organizers and drivers of the trucks. Thank you for taking part in this event. You were the ones who created an outstanding display of expertise, knowledge, and fun for the community.

To the Winner of a Touch-A-Truck T-shirt and box set of trucks, Wyatt McKail Congratulations!!!

To submit a letter

To submit letters to the editor, please email letters to news@keypennews.com, or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394. Letters to the editor should be no more than 250 words and include full name and contact information for verification.

Swine flu, parks, taxes, and a little escape

SWINE FLU

Lots of hype. No substance. Contagious yes, deadly no. The actual death toll is miniscule compared to the 36,000 flu-related deaths expected in any given year.

Potential deadly pandemics wait in the wings. EDR/TB, Ebola, and Avian Flu all have reported death rates of 90 percent, only an airplane ride away.

Swine flu is only a nuisance now, not deadly, but flu bugs mutate quickly. Conduct business as normal, but keep alert for new developments.

JOEMMA PARK

If the Governor signs the bill into law that will add \$5 to vehicle registrations, then Joemma Park will stay open for at least one more year, but will then be at the top of the closure list if sufficient funds aren't generated for this "voluntary" (opt out) statewide parks tax.

FIRE LEVY

FD16 Commissioners voted for a fire

RICK SORRELS
THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



suppression lid lift levy to appear on the August Primary election ballot.

Voters will be torn between no money for increased taxes, angst against Commissioners, and protection of life and property. There had better be unanimity among the Commissioners (not very likely) and a far better PR campaign than ever before for any hope of passage.

Expect an EMS replacement levy in 2010, and another fire suppression lid lift in 2011.

OTHER ECONOMIC NEWS

1) Sales tax rate just rose to .087 here and .093 in Tacoma. Our sales and gas taxes are both among the highest in the nation.

2) Pierce County has another \$13 million budget shortfall. More cuts in service expected (better than higher taxes).

3) BOMAC Concrete, which was the closest and biggest concrete supplier for the KP, was bought out by its arch-competitor, Miles. Miles has terminated all eight BOMAC employees. Expect higher prices.

ESCAPE

Boating season is upon us. Renaissance Faire is back, and can provide escapist fantasy if you can afford the trip to Buckley. Puyallup Fair always has something. Maybe you can dust off that old board game or deck of cards if you can still find them, but explanations might be needed, as the kids may not recognize what they are.



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The KP on Facebook: Find your Neighbors in Cyberspace

Do you participate in social online networks? You know, like LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter? Those are just the ones you hear about the most. The list of social networks is long and confusing. For example, there's also Bebo, Flickr, Xanga, Tagged.com, Skyrock, Orkut, Last FM, hi5, Friendster, and Yammer, just to name a few of the most popular. There are literally hundreds of these sites springing up over the globe. Many folks don't have time for them, and either talk to humans face-to-face or don't want more human interaction than they've already got, no matter how remote. I use a number of them, but some I just don't have a need for, like Twitter. I know Oprah uses it as do people with cool iPhones that I wish I could afford, so I signed up to see what all the hubbub was about. I got two Twitter "Followers" (people that follow what I'm doing every second) and read a

KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



few "tweets" (text-based status posts of 140 characters or less that tell readers what you're doing) before I drifted off. I just don't have a need for Twitter yet. Maybe someday.

Facebook is a bit more intuitive and user-friendly than most of these sites, and there are enough people signed up and using it that's it's pretty fun to use. You can find some kid you sat behind in second grade before he moved away, perhaps, or an old friend that you've lost contact with. You can also network with your friends, and form groups around most anything, such as a hobby, favorite band, school, or geographical location. You can "Become a Fan" of bacon, beer, thimbles, Barry Manilow, knitting, skydiving, or just about anything you want, including, as of this

month, the Key Peninsula.

Yes, that's right, now the Key Peninsula has its own Facebook page! Just what we needed, right? Well, maybe. As of this writing we had 143 members. If you're on Facebook, just type in "Key Peninsula, Washington," and you'll get the page. Join up, see who's out there that you know or maybe haven't seen in a while. You can post links of local interest, make a comment that all the other members will be able to see, and post your favorite KP photos. One cool thing is the discussion board. Anyone can start a new topic, and then other folks on the site can add their two cents to the topic. For example, maybe you'd like to discuss whether you want a roundabout or a traffic light to go in at Key Center, or nothing. You might want a running/bike path to go along the road from Home to Wauna. Maybe you're mad at all the growth, or want to form a Full-Contact Chess Club. You may be into local history, area food,

Facebook is a bit more intuitive and user-friendly than most of these sites, and there are enough people signed up and using it that's it's pretty fun to use.

environmental issues, social events, or government things. Maybe you're a local businessperson looking for some down-home feedback on something. Post a topic and see what you get. This is just another way the community can see itself and communicate. As one Facebooker who joined the KP group puts it, "I guess we're not in the boonies after all LOL." For all you non-computer types...LOL means, "laugh out loud." And she's right. We ain't in the boonies no more. The KP community is in cyberspace!

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



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The June general meeting and picnic cancelled. 7pm Wednesday July 17

Coming soon
July 11 - Celebrate 39 Years Afloat at the Longbranch Marina. This will be a once-in-your-lifetime event with fun for all. Art, music, raffles, a meal at the Virginia's, all topped with a BBQ dinner and dance featuring The Daily Flash at the Clubhouse. Dinner/dance tickets on sale soon but mark your calendar for a full weekend of fun, a week after the Full Sail July 11 at the Marina's Clubhouse

Aug 1 - Beyond the Borders sponsored by Two Waters Arts Alliance at The Longbranch Improvement Club. Free international music concert all day with juried art show, world food and fun vendors. Plan this one for the whole family!

253 884-6102 for LIC information
253 884-9157 for event info or tickets
LIC Clubhouse at 4812 Key Pen Hwy S, 5 miles south of the Home Bridge
www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

Bus route changes begin in July

By Rick Sorrels
Special to the KP News

The Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners voted to implement a "transit service reduction" which will affect nine service areas throughout Pierce County.

The vote was taken at a regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting on

April 13, after holding 10 public forums at various locations, an extensive public hearing at the Commissioners meeting in March, and distribution of 2,000 rider surveys, with 700 responses returned.

Route 113 on the KP will remain unchanged from Purdy to Key Center. Bus Plus will still deviate up to 3/4 mile off route for pick-up and drop off, provided that 24-hour notice is provided by the rider.

Route 113 will end at Key Center. Service between Key Center and Home will be eliminated starting July 13. There will no longer be any route deviations more than 3/4 mile past Key Center.

"Route deviations have been used primarily by seniors and disabled persons," said Kelly Hayden, Director of Scheduling for Pierce Transit. "But the off route pick-up and drop off service is actually available to anybody that requests it 24-hours in advance. You do not need to be a senior or disabled to make use of this service."

"Route 113 will also be extended past Purdy, directly to St Anthonys Hospital. We are still waiting for a response from St Anthony to our request to enter hospital grounds so that we can provide service to the hospital door. If we do not obtain permission to do so before the route changes are implemented, the bus stop will be on the street as close as we can get, but it would entail a long uphill walk to the hospital."

Route changes were driven by the economic downturn. Councilmember Terry Lee, who also serves on the Transit Board, stated, "Nobody on the Board wanted to cut any service at all, but strong budget pressures forced the cuts. The very few riders south of Key Center could not justify the expense of the extended run. These changes allow for needed bus service to the new hospital, which otherwise would not have bus service."



LEE

Key Peninsula Farmers Market ready to serve

Staff Report

Spring is here, and the Key Peninsula Farmers Market just began its season with opening day May 31.

With a rotating schedule of artists and crafters, the market expects to offer a greater variety of goods this year. A schedule of artists and crafters is available on the web site.

Look for Master Gardener clinics hosted by Washington State University once a month, and new to the market this year: WIC, Senior Nutrition vouchers and EBT redemption. This is made possible in conjunction with Washington's Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Health, and the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, and with a grant from the Pierce Conservation District.

"The Key Peninsula Farmers Market Board and Manager, farmers, and food vendors are pleased to participate in these programs to increase access to fresh from the farm produce, bread, honey, and seafood to all our community members," said Holly Hendrick, the market manager.

WIC and Senior Nutrition Program vouchers can be spent at participating produce vendors; for more information about these program qualifications, please visit <http://nutrition.wsu.edu/markets/> or call the Department of Health for WIC (1-800-841-1410) or the Department of Social and Health Services for Senior Nutrition Program (1-800-422-3263).

EBT market shoppers will use their cards at the Market Manager's Booth to purchase tokens or vouchers for redemption with the produce and food vendors; for information about applying for the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, please visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/> or call 877-514-Food (3663).

Visit the website for more information, including the archive of the 2008 newsletters at www.kpfarmersmarket.org.

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The Key Peninsula "Buy Locally" Campaign Wants to HELP Your Business!!

If you have a business serving the Key Peninsula Area this is your opportunity to have your business be included in a "Buy Locally" business directory. As to community service, The Key Peninsula Business Association (KPB A) is sponsoring this "Buy Locally" business directory. You do not need to be a KPB A member or agree to KPB A membership to have your business included in the Directory and, there is no charge to have your business included.



Listing in the Directory requires an application. The form is available at the KPB A website, <http://www.kpba.org>. Again, this is only an application to be listed in the Directory. Your application for inclusion must be in to the KPB A Web Master no later than September 15. Your business can be listed in up to two (2) categories.

There are some caveats: First, to be listed, your business must be registered with the State of Washington. Second, if there is an overall poor business response or unanticipated funding issues, the Directory plan may be aborted.

Key Peninsula Business Association (KPB A)



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Say goodbye to tobacco, new support group at St. Anthony Hospital

By Marsha Hart

Tobacco smoke and tobacco products are the largest cause of illness, disease and preventable death in the country, so Dr. Patrick Hogan decided to do something about it.

As a neurologist, Hogan, founder and medical advisor of the Freedom From Tobacco program, saw that smoking had more to do with the brain than many people realized. So he started a method to not only help people stop smoking, but arm them with the tools they would need to stop for good. That was in 1992.

Since that time he has continued to provide support to a group that meets Thursday nights at St. Joseph Hospital in Tacoma. When he started the group, he said there was a push to eliminate smoking in society, but no real support for smokers who wanted to quit.

"People were being told to stop smoking, but were not given the tools," he said. "Through all that time we were trying to make it more difficult to smoke, and telling them not to smoke, but not giving them a good way to stop."



Photo courtesy of Scott Turner

Want to stop smoking? A successful program meets at St. Anthony to help community smokers kick the habit.

A new support group meets at St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor. The group, which just began meeting May 19, meets Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Jane Thompson Russel

Cancer Care Center in the Milgard Pavilion.

"I'm really hoping the group will reach people on the Key Peninsula, and into Port Orchard and Kitsap County," said Heidi Henson, a psychotherapist who facilitates the group meetings at St. Joseph Hospital in Tacoma.

By combining a support group with education and medication, she said those who really want to quit can be successful.

Stephen Carlson was a smoker for 50 years, and joined the group about three years ago.

"It was getting kind of expensive and of course it was getting a bunch of bad press too," Carlson said. "It was getting harder and harder to find a place where you can smoke. When I was a kid we were out behind the barn smoking, now when I'm an adult I'm out behind the barn smoking, and I started kind of going 'what the hell is going on here?'"

He took the prescription Wellbutrin, attended the support group, and hasn't smoked in 3 1/2 years, he said.

"I started going to one of the support

Support meetings

Freedom From Tobacco support group will meet Tuesdays beginning May 19 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Jane Thompson Russel Cancer Center in Milgard Pavilion at St. Anthony Hospital. For more information call Heidi Henson at 253-223-7583.

groups every week, one thing led to another and within a month I quit smoking, and so I kept going to the meetings," he said. "Support groups, what it really does for your psyche I don't know, but I kept going."

What it does for the psyche is exactly why it works, according to Henson.

"We found an extremely high success rate if they follow the formula and come to group while they work on a quit plan and practicing, and then from the final quit date if they attend for one year after, they don't relapse," she said. "Recommitting once a week keeps it

(See SMOKE, Page 22)

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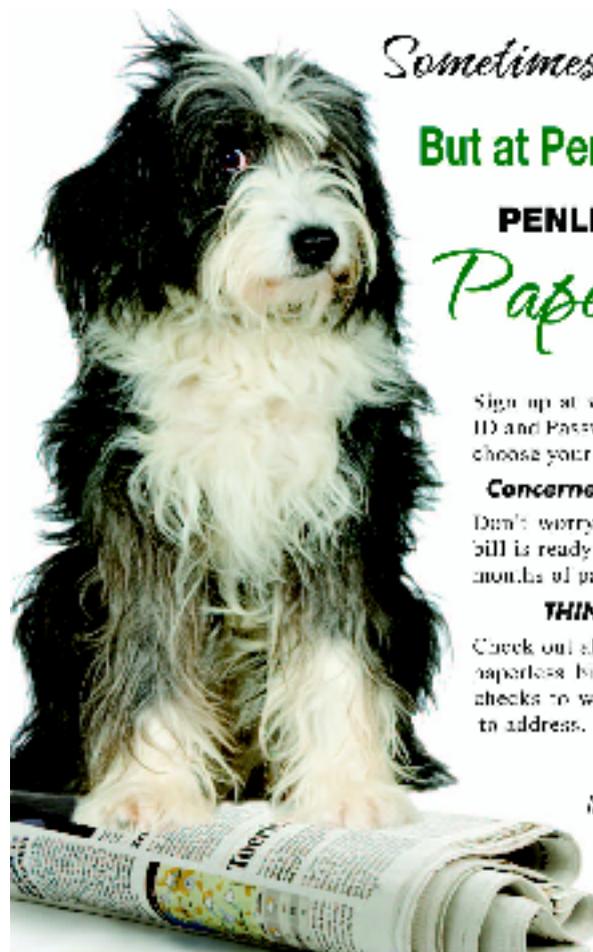
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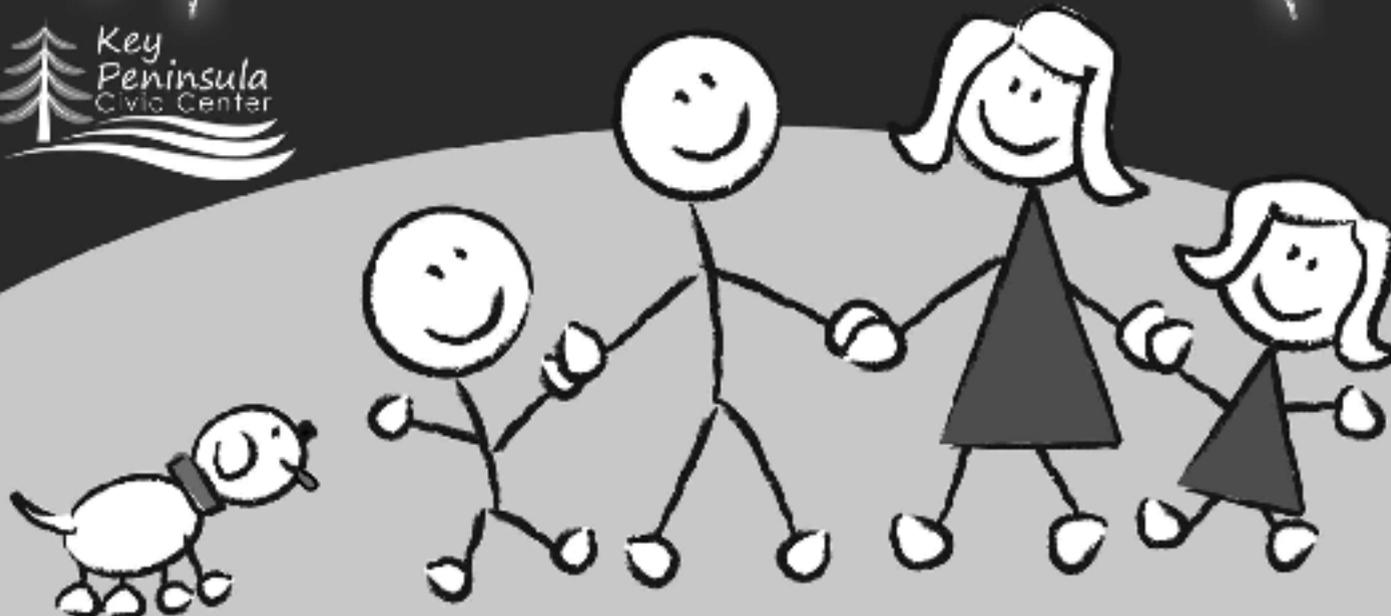
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Longbranch mercantile project on hold

By Marsha Hart, KP News

When Michael and Denise Hays purchased the old Longbranch Mercantile store five years ago, it was their dream to reopen a store in that location with a café. The project is Denise's vision, and will be her project. Michael said he has a full time job working for a plastics company.

"I am the minister of finance," he said.

That original parcel was one acre, Hays said. The couple has continued to purchase lots and now have nearly six acres, he said. Their latest purchase is a parcel on the other side of the street, next to the Longbranch Marina.

"The mercantile project is still alive, we're just going to wait until next year to see what the economy does," Hays said. "We're under no pressure. We plan to have a store, but also a café."

Hays said they want to wait until the economy is at least neutral, and he expects it to be better next year.

"If it doesn't make sense next year, we'll wait until 2011," he said.

The architects have finished the building design, and Hays said \$50,000 was spent on engineering to get the site ready.

"We plan to grow it one piece at time, and ultimately plan to have a bed and breakfast and cottages there," he said. "We want to make it a really multi function destination spot."

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New lavender farm opens in Vaughn

By Colleen Slater, KP News

A bed of small plants is visible from the road, but several fields are planted, planned, or in process already behind the buildings. This area, Field No. 2, is planted to Grosso, a most prolific producer.

Field No. 1, on the slope south of the main house, features seven varieties, including pink and white, planted to make a colorful display visible from the road at peak season of bloom.

Bill and Tracy Ketts arrived on the Key Peninsula four years ago to be land caretaker for their long time friend, Mike Walsh, of Vaughn.

Ketts, who spent over 25 years in the ministry, was also asked to do some local ministry with Walsh and his mother Dorothy. This includes a weekly Bible study in Walsh's home.

The Ketts searched for a tent-making business to fill their time, enhance the

New farm

Blue Willow Lavender Farm will hold a Grand Opening June 20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The farm is located on the east side of Wright Bliss Road at Vaughn, between the intersection of Wright Bliss, Olson, Hall, and South Vaughn Roads, and the intersection of Wright Bliss and Elgin Clifton Roads.

acreage they call "God's Farm," and bring in a little extra income.

Creating a lavender farm seemed to fit their requirements.

Tracy chose the name of Blue Willow because blue is her favorite color, and the willow is graceful and elegant. "It reminds one of our posture for the Lord," she says.

Ketts, who describes himself as a practical person, wasn't sure that name was appropriate. Tracy searched the



Photo by Colleen Slater

Bill and Tracy Ketts stand beside their sign off Wright-Bliss Road.

Internet and discovered a plant called Blue Willow, because the underside of the leaf has a bluish tint. She then ordered one so the name could be accurate. The willow is planted just above the sign in the front bed.

"True" English lavender, *lavandula angustifolium*, is crossed with other lavenders, *lav. lanata* (Spanish lavender) or *lav. stoechas* (French lavender) to produce plants called lavandin. These crosses produce sterile plants, but many that are called lavender are these hybrids. Grosso is a good cross, with a high yield of oil, a pleasing fragrance; it dries well and keeps well.

Other varieties they will grow for sale include Royal Velvet, Lodden Blue, Folgate, and Melissa, a very sweet pink.

Ketts' "Big Garden" is rimmed with 82 lavender varieties, each with its own

nametag for quick identification and comparison. Their flagship plant, the first one planted, is Buena Vista – good view.

This garden, 40 feet by 90 feet, includes six grape vines; several clumps of rhubarb, and individual beds for growing vegetables are in process. A special feature is what Tracy calls the rock farm, a broad curving path of rocks culled from the lavender fields.

The orchard includes apples, peaches, pears, cherries and plums that will be offered for sale from their roadside stand at harvest season. Vegetables will also be available there.

The Ketts grow everything without chemical fertilizers and sprays, but emphasize they are not yet certified organic growers.

They plan to plant a new field each spring and fall until they achieve a total of 10. Each field will have only one variety. They have about 800 plants to date, and will have a total of about 2,300 by the end of this year.

Their lavender harvest will be modest this year, with both fresh and dried bouquets for sale.

"We want to let people come on the farm," says Ketts, "to know we're here, and who we are."

Between fields 3-6, a gazebo is planned, where Tracy hopes to hold teas, and perhaps other kinds of celebrations. They had a wedding on the property this spring.

Regular times after the opening will be Wednesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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(From LAW, Page 1)

she had with her first husband, and she is now in nursing school.

As a nursing student with five children ages 1, 2, 3 ½, 9 and 11, and a household to run, it is difficult, and she said if she could she would go back in time and do things differently.

But her life is what it is. As a nursing student at Seattle Pacific University, Miller said she is required to choose an organization to work with during her first year.

She chose Safe Place for Newborns because she has a passion for young mothers.

Safe Place for Newborns is an organization dedicated to educating the public about the law that allows newborns to be dropped off at either a manned fire station or a hospital. Miller said it is crit-

ical for young mothers to know this, and she believes the law will help prevent tragic situations that lead to abandonment and murder of newborn babies.

"There is a lot of fear and denial and embarrassment," she said. "With this law, the mother can leave a baby anonymously without fear of prosecution."

The first 72 hours of life are critical, she said. The law states that newborns must be less than 72 hours old, unharmed, and must be handed over to an employee, not just dropped off, she said.

Recently Miller spoke to several health classes at Peninsula High School. She said it is important to educate young people.

"This is not intended to replace birth control," she said, "it is just in place for the girls who find themselves in this desperate position."

(From TRAFFIC, Page 1)

pay fair market value for the property and relocation of the businesses, he said. The current budgeted project calls for \$260,000 in right of way acquisition, a number Stacy said would climb unless business owners step forward and offer their land for free to the county for a roundabout.

The fear is that delaying the project would increase the cost, and the ability to get funding for the project could become even more difficult. As it is, the \$1.9 million project is at a deficit of \$800,000.

The rest is coming through a grant and traffic impact fees, Stacy said.

Lance McMillan, a member of the Key Peninsula Community Council, said it isn't a risk the community should take. He said stepping back could mean the intersection would sit as is for many years.

Greg Calahan said cars routinely cut through O'Callahan's parking lot to avoid the intersection, and Jessica Smith of ReMax Red Door echoed that complaint.

"It is dangerous to even go out to get in your car," she said.

Mitigation measures are included in the traffic signal project to build up the curbs and gutters, which project designer Pat Baughman said would help with that problem.

"The curb and gutter will limit the number of accesses adjacent to the signal," Baughman said.

Ann Larson, a resident who attended the meeting said she hates traffic lights.

"Couldn't it be possible to have a stop during busy hours and a blinking light on off hours," she asked.

In addition to this suggestion, Stacy said he heard a few others he will consider as good options. One of those suggestions is a second crosswalk that would allow pedestrians to cross the road from the Key Center Library. It is something that can be accomplished separately from the project, Stacy said.

"We want to digest all that we heard here," Stacy said.

The project has been in the planning stages since August of 2004. It originally began as a study to replace the existing flashing beacon with a new one, Baughman said.

However as the study continued, it became clear the intersection needed more than a flashing light.

Associate traffic engineer Marlene Ford said the intersection needs improvements.

Tests indicate the level of service is low at the intersection, she said.

"Today with the two-way stop there is a level of service at C on one leg and D on the other," she said. "An A indicates lots of mobility, and F is stop and go and very poor conditions."

By 2020, Ford said the level of service would be F at the intersection on both Kramer and Olson.

Council will resume discussion of the traffic signal during the next Key Peninsula Community Council meeting June 10 at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library.

COMMUNITY WORKS

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

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29- Bloodmobile schedule

The bloodmobile will be at the Albertson's from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays. See the online calendar for more dates, times and locations.

June 6-Car care offered

A free oil change is offered by Lakebay Christian Assembly of Home for single mothers living on the Key Peninsula. Make the required appointment with Sharron Dean, 884-9948, no later than June 4.

June 6-Ashes sale

The Ashes (KP Firefighters Auxiliary) hold their annual rummage sale from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. Donations may be dropped off at the Key Center station anytime the office is open by June 5. 884-5430 or 884-3771

The KP Firefighter Association offers their famous Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 - 11 a.m.

June 7, 14, 21 & 28- Farmers market

Key Peninsula Farmers Market is held from 12 - 4pm in O'Callahan's parking lot. "Edible Bowl" and kid planting activities with Master Gardeners are featured on June 14. A plant identification clinic is featured on June 21. www.kpfarmers-market.org

June 10 & 24- Natural yard care

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and the Pierce Conservation District presents fun, free, and informative "Natural Yard Care" workshops, which will address a variety of yard maintenance issues. The first workshop, on June 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., will be about garden design and building healthy soil.

The second workshop, on June 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., will be about natural yard care and garden management. Both will be held at the Key Center Fire Station. Space

is limited; register with Geoff Rinehart at 798-4587 or grinehart@tpchd.org

June 13- Yoga

A yoga class from 6:30-8:30 a.m. will be held on Diane Bunting's waterfront deck, which is near Home. Diane has 33 years of yoga experience and will teach Kundalini yoga and meditation to welcome the birth of the day. Register by June 6 by calling Diane, 853-5221.

June 13- Club celebrates

The Bayshore Garden Club celebrates its 60th anniversary from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with a dedication of the Longbranch Blue Star Memorial Marker and Memory Gardens at the Longbranch Fire Station. All veterans and their families are invited. The Key Singers, the Down Home Band, the Longbranch Firefighters, and the members of the Bayshore Garden Club will be participating. The Blue Star Marker program is officially sponsored by the National Federation of Garden Clubs and honors all veterans. The second memorial garden honors past Key Peninsula women garden-club members, who helped shape the community. Snacks will be served. Francine Minor, at 253-569-1381

June 18 - Community forum

The Mustard Seed Project's third Thursday community forum from 10 a.m. to noon at the Key Center Library focuses on Senior Health & Wellness. Guest speakers will include Karen Hausrath, Pierce County Long Term Care Ombudsman, and Pat Witt of Lutheran Community Services' "Caregiver University." All are welcome to learn how these two programs support at-risk elders. 884-9814 or ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org

June 19- Soccer deadline

Receive a free British soccer jersey when signed up online for soccer camp before June 19. Camp will be held at

Volunteer Park on upper fields 2 & 3 from Aug. 3-7. Choose from three camps- First Kicks (ages 3-4) held from 9-10 a.m. -\$60; Mini-soccer (ages 4-5) held from 10:30-12 a.m. - \$75; or Player Development (ages 6-15) from 1-3 p.m. - \$100. Camp includes a free ball and t-shirt. For a free jersey, register at www.challengersports.com

June 20- Low tide event

The Shellfish Partners host the annual guided low tide beach event from 10 a.m.-noon at Purdy Spit. This free tour of the tidelands is geared for the whole family. Don beach shoes to walk along as marine education and outreach specialist Alan Rammer describes life in the tidal zone and explains the plants and animals that call it home. Touch tanks will be stocked by Harbor WildWatch naturalists for up-close and personal encounters. Information booths will be set up to demonstrate recent accomplishments by local groups working to improve water quality and the steps we can all take to make it a reality. Erin, 884-9474

June 26-softball sign-ups

Key Pen Parks is accepting registrations for weeknight co-ed softball for a 9-game season plus a double elimination tournament scheduled for September. Fee is \$625 before June 26; \$650 after June 26. 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

June 26-Teen dance

An outdoor dance for teens will be held at Volunteer Park from 8-11 p.m. The dance is sponsored by Key Pen Parks, whose staff will supervise to ensure a safe and secure environment. Cost is \$10; concessions will be furnished by On the Way Concessions.

Tuesdays - TOPS meets

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

Wednesdays-Walker schedule

Key Peninsula Parks sponsors Wednesday Walkers each week from 10-11:30 a.m. at different spots on a rotating schedule. Adults 18 and over (dogs must be on a leash) are welcome to meet at Penrose State Park for an easy/moderate walk on June 3. The next walk, an easy/moderate one, is at Rocky Creek (SR 302/150th Ave) on June 10. The walk on June 17 is at Maple Hollow (48th St/Van Beek Rd in Lakebay) and is rated difficult. June 24 is an easy walk at Volunteer Park. The walks continue to rotate on the above schedule. Chad, 884-9240 or www.keypenparks.com

Thursdays-Toastmasters

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

Thursdays- Senior Society meets

The Key Peninsula Senior Society, aka Yesterday's Teenagers, meet at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck, fellowship and games at the Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981

Saturdays-Writers meet

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

July 20-24-VBS

WayPoint Vacation Bible School holds registration at 8:45 and school from 9-12 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. To pre-register, call the church office 884-2269.

Help the Lions Club

Key Peninsula Lions Club supports parks, youth baseball and solving sight and hearing problems. Visit our web site at: <http://keypeninsulawa.lionwap.org>



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Patty Cusick and her sons, Adrian, 8 and Joey, 6, with Gracie the goat.

Life on a KP farm

Local couple open their heart and home

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

Animal lover Patty Cusick had always wanted and her dream came true when she and husband, Dan, purchased 2.25-acres north of Vaughn in 1996.

The Cusicks purchased a half Arabian gelding followed by a foal and mare. They named their new place Epona Farm after a Celtic horse goddess.

Starting as a hobby, a miniature donkey and miniature horses were added in 1997, and later a mini Appaloosa. Miniature horses are less than 38 inches tall.

As their entourage, grew two pygmy goats were added. Deciding that wasn't enough, Nubian goat twins, that had to be bottle-fed, joined the family.

From there, Cusick added Nigerian dairy goats and currently has six or seven of each kind.

Gracie, a Nigerian goat, was born two years ago but had no heartbeat or pulse. Patty immediately began CPR for some time and the little baby came to life, sleeping in Patty and Dan's bed to keep

warm. She also had to be tube fed every hour. She moved from the bed to a basket and spent the next three to four weeks in the house and was semi 'potty trained' in a kennel.

During the ensuing years since the first goats, the Cusicks have had a Vietnamese Pot Belly pig named Tiffany but nicknamed Piggy Sue. Ducks, chickens, geese and last spring, seven turkeys were added.

Cusick says her goal is, "to start scaling back so I can give quality care to my six miniature horses, two Shetlands, my boarded Arabian, Chipper, who is now 24 years old, a few chickens for eggs and goats for milk."

In 2005 the Cusicks adopted two boys. Adrian and Joey love helping feed the animals and Adrian refers to his mom as "the animal expert." Though Patty says she's not and has to "be prepared for heartaches and trips to the vet."

When school friends are over, Gracie will play "Mary had a little lamb" then do a turnabout and lead the boys and their friends home. Two dogs and three cats occupy the domestic household as well.

The Cusicks also enjoy camping, hiking, biking and trail riding with the aging Chipper. Patty volunteers three days a week at Vaughn Elementary and leads a life that is hard to keep up with since starting a hobby farm 13 years

OFF THE KEY

June 6- Art walk

The Gig Harbor Art Walk from 1-5 p.m. is held in historic downtown Gig Harbor. 888-843-9444

June 6 & 7- Gig festival

The Maritime Gig Festival is held all weekend on Harborview Drive and includes the fun run, the Kiwanis pancake breakfast, the grand parade, the regatta, and the round rock contest. The bloodmobile will be present from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gig Harbor Chamber, 851-6865

June 9- Drawing class begins

A class in drawing is being offered from 6:30-8 p.m. for eight Tuesdays beginning June 9. Draw inspired by the flora and fauna of a garden by the sea using pencil, pen and a touch of color as taught by Janice Wagner. Cost is \$175. Call 253-225-8514 to reserve a space and make a deposit. www.janicewagner.com

June 6, 13, 20, 27- Farmers market

The Gig Harbor Farmers Market is held from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. It includes local produce, arts and crafts and live entertainment. Dale Schultz, 851-7397

June 20-Victor flea mart

The Victor Flea Mart is held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. behind the Victor Fire Station on Hwy 302. Proceeds go to the maintenance of the building, the food bank and local scholarships. Contact Debby, 360-275-1364.

July 10-Welcome club picnic

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club will hold their Annual Picnic from 3-8 p.m. at Crescent Creek Park in Gig Harbor. The menu includes fried chicken, salads, and watermelon. Present members or folks interested in becoming a member are welcome. Please contact Marcia Nolan at 857-5324 if attending.

JUNE PUBLIC MEETINGS

- KP Metro Parks, June 8, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, June 9 & 23, 3 p.m.

at Key Center Fire Station

- Key Peninsula Community Council, June 10, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library
- Peninsula School District Board, June 11, regular meeting, 6 p.m. at Voyager Elementary;
- June 25, 6 p.m. to finalize budge at district office; 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor

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Citizen Advisory Committee Report Complete

The Citizens Advisory Committee has completed their review of the Fire District. The report has given us better insight into the perspective of our customer, you. Overall the committee found that we are "professionally staffed with highly motivated and competent career and volunteer personnel."

They made several recommendations including updating our "in-house disaster response plan" and to "give serious consideration to opportunities for merger and consolidation".

They also recognized the bleak financial future facing our fire district without the help from the voters. They recommended we put forth a lid lift levy for the "minimum amount necessary to continue steady funding of operations" with the hiring of "two to three additional personnel".

We would like to say "thank you" to those citizens that stepped forward and assisted. Their report is available at the Key Center Fire station for your review.

Prepare Your Home from Summer Fire Hazards

Now is the time to prepare for your home against this summer's fire danger. Remove brush and other flammable items from around your home. We recommend that you create an area around your home of thirty feet as a "defensible space". This 30' buffer will help prevent wild land fires from spreading to your home and give firefighters an area to work in as they defend your home if the need were to arise.

Business Office Hours

In an effort to control costs we will be closing the business office for one hour each day for staff lunches. To serve our customers during their lunch breaks we will be keeping to front office open from noon to 12:30 and closing from 12:30 to 1:30pm.

Fundraiser—June 6th

Pancake breakfast and
ASHES Rummage Sale
will be held at the
Key Center Fire Station



Calendar of Events

*Our new meeting room is available for public use.
Contact Vanessa to schedule at 253-884-2222*

Commissioner's Mtgs @ 3 pm June 9th & 23rd
CPR/1st Aid June 13th

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ruth Brambhall

Ruth is Chairman of the board of Fire Commissioners. She first stepped forward in 1990 to assist in a future planning committee. She has since served two terms on the board and was appointed to fill the vacancy, created by changing to a five member board. She is active in many organizations including the KP Business Association, the Jackson Lake sportsman's club and Longbranch Church to name a few.



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Fire Facts:

**National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends
a fire engine to be staffed with four personnel.**



Photos by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Above, KP community volunteer Tom Boardman and Peninsula High School Band Boosters Brady Jacobs and Christina Thomas-Smith chat with Melinda Reando at the Boosters booth.

Right, Nolan Littleton, a kindergartener at Vaughn Elementary, gets a look down a sewer pipe while being photographed by a pipe crawling tractor video camera device used by the Pierce County Public Works Department to detect flaws in the pipes of the sewage system.

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Volunteers needed for Habitat homes on Key Pen

By Hugh McMillan, KP News



Brooke and Abram Chambers with their children, Kyan, 5, and Kaisa, 2 attend the Ground Blessing ceremony. Right, Kerry and Jennifer Bennett with children, Ariel, 10, Robert, 15, and Bobby, 16, attend a Ground Blessing ceremony on the site of their new home.

Photos by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Two new Habitat for Humanity home sites received a blessing ceremony by pastor Sheryl Biegert of Agnus Dei Lutheran Church in Gig Harbor. Rich Phillips, Chairman of the local Habitat chapter led the families in a ceremonial groundbreaking.

The homes are planned for construction this summer on the Key Peninsula, and volunteers will be needed May through September.

With the addition of these two homes, the local Habitat chapter will have built homes for 11 families with over 30 children.

As in the past, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be the primary sponsor for one of these new homes. Members of local Lutheran churches are contacted through their church organizations regarding volunteering and building schedules.

Soon to be new home owners, Kerry and Jennifer Bennett have been involved in Habitat for Humanity for some time and have already accumu-

lated nearly 400 hours of sweat equity toward their new home working on other Habitat projects. They and their three children, Bobby, 16, Robert, 15, and Ariel, 10, currently reside in Port Orchard in a two-bedroom single-wide mobile home that has mold damage.

In 1998 Kerry suffered a significant head injury, which he said continues to cause him head and back pain. Despite the effects of his life-changing accident, Kerry and Jennifer continue to persevere, working hard to create a stable, permanent home for their family.

Brooke and Abram Chambers, who both grew up in the Tacoma area and moved to Gig Harbor before marrying five years ago, have two children, Kyan, 5, and Kaisa, 2, with a third child on the way.

The Chambers were referred to Habitat through a friend. Once they are settled into their new, larger home with a yard, reliable heat and lower monthly payment they will also be required to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

The couple said they are looking forward to the effort and to moving into



their new home more suitable for their growing family.

While some site work is currently underway, volunteer building was scheduled to begin in May with completion planned for early September.

Volunteers will be needed on Fridays and Saturdays May through early September. If you would like to volunteer, contact the Habitat for Humanity affiliate office at (253) 627-5626. Members of area Lutheran Churches should contact their church representative for information on volunteering.

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Larry Higer
2009 Golf Classic Chairman



Date: Sunday, June 27th

Time: 7:00 am registration

7:30 am Tee Time

Location: Horseshoe Lake Golf Course

Registration forms can be found at these locations:

- Sunny Crest Nursery
- KP Community Services
- Horseshoe Lake Golf Course
- Online @ <http://www.keypennews.com/communityservices/cfs/>

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KGHP, PHS host second annual radio conference

By Keith Stiles
Special to the KP News

For the second year, KGHP-FM and the broadcast communications program at Peninsula High School have hosted The Washington State High School Radio Conference and Awards Convention. The Convention, held May 14, included students and instructors from seven Washington High School radio stations including KNHC (Seattle), KMIH (Mercer Island), KAHS (Aberdeen), KCTV (Tri-Cities), KASB (Bellevue), and KGHP (Gig Harbor). Those addressing the overall convention were led by KZOK's personality Spike O'Neil, and also included Peninsula

High School graduates Jeffe Wierick and Micah Anderson.

The Conference featured educational workshops led by industry professionals and the judged competition centered on student entries submitted in such fields as radio news, on-air performance, sports, audio production, and public service.

In the competition among the groups at the Convention students from KNHC (Seattle) again took first place in General Excellence, followed by KGHP (Gig Harbor) in second place. The student group from KGHP won first place in the Radio News competition, based upon an entry by announcers Gabby Fiano, James Neilson, Jake Ross,

Ashley Robers, Brian Templet, Andy Wolf, and Dan Wickens.

Leland Smith, PHS radio instructor who produced and managed all of the Convention activities pronounced the Convention a huge success and paid tribute not only to the quality of the student work submitted but gave enthusiastic thanks to the members of the industry who donated their time as honored speakers and workshop leaders.

As the Convention Host, KGHP is now in its 21st year of service to the Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula, and the South Sound areas and is heard on 89.9 and 93.7 FM, and also streams "live" on the Web at KGHP.org.

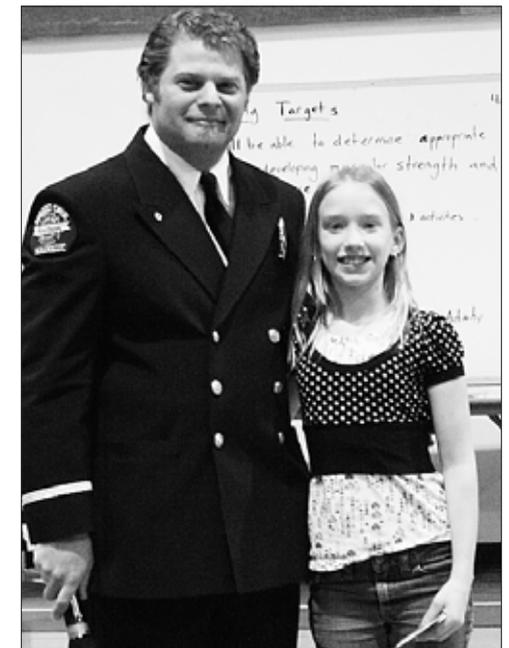


Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Key Peninsula Fire Lt. Bill Sawaya shares the stage with KPMS' 6th grader Victoria Brown-Miller whom the Department recognized for the role she played in saving her dad's life. The KP Fire Fighters Association and Local 3152 awarded the aspiring young artist the artist's easel and supplies seen here for her quick and cool response to the emergency.

Local government class places nationally

By Rick Sorrels
Special to the KP News

"We the People" are the very first words stated in the U.S. Constitution. It is also the name of a school curriculum created in 1987 by the Constitutional Bicentennial Commission for studying the history and principles of our constitutional government.

Danny Cobey, a lifelong KP resident and Senior at Gig Harbor High School, was a member of the "We the People" team which placed 24th in the national competition held in Washington, D.C. April 25-27.

"I plan on attending the UW majoring in political science with a goal of working for the State Department," said Cobey. "I didn't know what to expect from this class, but the competition and the trip to D.C. was way cool. I'd recommend the class for anybody wanting to learn about the mechanics of government."

The 20 students involved in "We the People" at Gig Harbor High School won the State competition for "We the People" in Olympia on Dec. 9.

There are six areas of competition. The GHHS team placed second in the nation for the section on the "philosophic origins of the Constitution," and in the top 10 in two of the other areas.

"These students know as much or more about the Constitution than most

politicians," said Ken Brown who teaches the class. "At competition, all 20 students work as a team, answering questions from prestigious panels of judges and arguing the application of Constitutional provisions to specific circumstances."

"There were a few truly outstanding efforts during the competition," said Brown. "These students were very impressive."

Spending two hours with Fred Beuttler, the Deputy Historian for the House of Representatives, was a highlight of the trip, they said.

"He knew everything about Congress," said Brown. "The students were spellbound. We learned why Capital Hill is on a Hill, why Congress is the 'Supreme Branch of Government', that the President must be invited into Congress and sits in a lowly seat on the floor of the House, and we saw the bullet holes in the ceiling from a terrorist attack."

Students in the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics class must complete the Junior Social Studies class with at least a B+ grade, or obtain permission from the instructor to enroll.

Tim Knudson, who teaches the Advanced Placement class at Peninsula High School, stated "PHS will not be offering the 'We the People' program in the foreseeable future."

A "We the People" curriculum is also available for 4th and 5th grades.

The "We the People" team members were: Katie Bergus, Claire Betterbed, Danny Cobey, Chelsea DeMoss, Jennifer Duffy, Allyson Gibson, Spencer Graffe, Eli Greenfield, Jeff Gronewald, Katie Jendry, Eric Lund, Natalie Morningstar, Robby Paige, Jessica Park, Deven Ropes, Rachel Seibert, Grace Shaw, Evan Smith, Matt Smith, and Selina Sosa.

In 2007, the GHHS "We the People" team also won the State competition, and went on to place 19th nationwide.

For more information, go to www.civiced.org, www.tvw.org, and www.teachwithtw.org. The last site contains a video of the State competition in December.

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Family 'love'



Photo by Marsha Hart, KP News

Mother and daughter Arlene Babbitt and Bonnie Massara of Gig Harbor enjoyed a game of tennis on the courts at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Memorial Day weekend.

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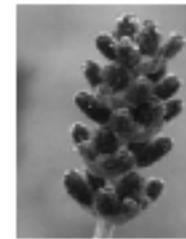
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Collaboration Time Brings Successful Results

Just weeks away from summer break, Peninsula School District principals and teachers are reporting the positive impact of Collaboration Time on improving student achievement. Throughout the year, teacher teams at each school spent an hour on Wednesday mornings discussing ways to improve student success—and many administrators are calling this opportunity a great gift to their teachers.

Vaughn Elementary Principal Mike Benoit says without the collaborative time carved out on Wednesday, it would have been difficult to complete as much work as the teachers have on aligning and refining instruction and creating goals in areas of math, reading, writing and student behavior. "The goal of collaboration time at Vaughn has been to improve our instruction and ultimately student achievement," he says.

At Gig Harbor High School, teachers were able to set learning targets and bring back results of

students work to see the impact. They examined questions such as what the common expectations are for student learning, how do teachers know that students have learned, and how do they respond consistently when students have not learned.

"The change in focus this year to student learning has elicited incredible discussion and confirmed the need for teachers to work together for the benefit of students," says Principal Greg Schellenberg.

Cornie West, Harbor Ridge Middle School principal, says the teachers have been able to refine learning targets, plan for program changes in subjects like arts and physical education, gain better understanding of the



Vaughn Elementary teachers are having a schoolwide discussion during a recent Collaboration Wednesday.

newly mandated Classroom-Based Assessments in social studies, and monitoring progress on the School Improvement Plan.

"Teachers share strategies and techniques that are successfully addressing all of our student needs," she says. "We have evidence from student work that the teacher effort and time working together on Wednesday mornings is making a difference for our students in their support classes."

2009-2010 Kindergarten Schedule Change

Due to budget constraints, PSD Kindergarten continues to be all day and tuition free, but for 2009-2010 it will be four days per week. Do you know families that have not yet registered Kindergarten students? Please help us connect with them by encouraging them to register their child and by directing them to the PSD website at www.psd401.net where they can learn more about the budget.

The Kindergarten schedule will be as follows:



Monday-Tuesday	9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (teacher collaboration and training)
Thursday	9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Friday	NO KINDERGARTEN

June Events

- 2 Kindergarten 2009-2010 Orientation @ Evergreen 4-5 p.m.
- 4 Kindergarten 2009-2010 Orientation @ Minter 3-4 p.m.
- Gig Harbor High School scholarship awards assembly in the main gym 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- 9 PSD skills test @ PHS in Room 512 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. for classified employment. Register with Deb Bennett 253-530-1044.
- 10 Last day for high school seniors. Community Transition Program Graduation @ Henderson Bay High School 6-9 p.m.
- 11 School Board regular meeting 6 p.m. at the District Office
- 12 Henderson Bay High School Graduation @ The Gathering Place at Chapel Hill 7-9:30 p.m.
- 25 School Board study session 6 p.m. at the District Office

Annual Audit

The PSD received a 'clean audit' with no findings from the State Auditor's Office regarding our financial statements and internal control system. The Business department staff work hard to ensure accurate and timely financial information is available to key decision makers in the district.

YMCA & Collaboration for 2009-2010

The YMCA is partnering with PSD to continue providing Wednesday morning care at all eight elementary schools! Teachers will continue collaborating on Wednesday mornings with late start on most Wednesdays.

KP Baptist Church calls new pastor

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Key Peninsula Baptist Church, meeting at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn, just called a new pastor.

W.H. "Butch" Hall, a Texan who prefers to be called "Pastor Butch," lives in Silverdale. He quotes the old saying, "You can take the Texan out of Texas, but you can't take the Texas out of a native son!"

He thinks the peninsula a beautiful place and loves the people he's met.

Hall's background includes 23 years of active military service, pastoring in several states as well as Japan, mission work in Venezuela and the Philippines, and police chaplain in Virginia and Bremerton.

Hall's military duty included U.S. Air Force, Army Special Forces, and in the white House military office.

He enjoys studying the word of God, scuba diving, golf, working out in the gym, doing mission trips and writing his



Photo credit

Pastor W.H. Hall and wife Regina.

Blog at pastorbutch.blogspot.com.

Regina, his wife of 30 years, was a Naval officer serving in the Medical Corps. She volunteers at the West Sound Wildlife Center, stays fit, and sings with the Kitsap Community Chorale.

Hall plans to be a "community" pastor, getting acquainted with many as he serves the Lord and the people on the Key Peninsula in his new capacity.

(From **SMOKE**, Page 8)

number one on your list."

By having that positive reinforcement and support from peers who know exactly what the others are feeling and experiencing, the group member walks out feeling positive about what they are trying to accomplish.

However, Henson said it is important to note that part of quitting is practicing quitting.

"It involves relapse for a majority of the people," she said. "When you aren't getting support it leads to more use."

Without the support, the person feels negative emotions about the relapse, she said.

"It steals your self esteem, they feel guilty and as if there is something wrong with them and they should have more will power," she said. "This spirals to a person who doesn't feel worthy of living a full life."

"The most exciting thing is when they get off of tobacco. I get to see in front of me that they become the person they were meant to be."

Hogan would like to take the model to other locations and branch out as much as possible, he said.

"We do need more medical help from someone who could come by and give medical advice," Hogan said. "It is tremendously gratifying to see them finally get control of the addiction. The greatest loss of freedom is to have an addiction."

Even if smokers have tried to quit before and have not been successful, Hogan said joining the support group at St. Anthony Hospital will provide the tools for success.

"Never stop trying," he said. "The only people who fail are those who have stopped trying. The idea is persistence. We have people who come for two years and relapse, the idea is never stop trying and eventually anyone can be successful."

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Out & About

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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Guests on the balcony at the KP Civic Center gather for buffet dinner provided by the Outback Steak House at Vaughn Elementary School's fundraiser in mid-May.

Longbranch Improvement Club Sailors and visitors prepare for the Opening Day Race. Opening Day for Washington Sailors often is cool and wet. May 2, was with the tradition but did not stop Longbranch Improvement Club sailors and visitors from coming out to celebrate a new sailing season with an Opening Day race.

Photo by Ron Cleveland

Little League player Ben Goins, of the Key Peninsula Lion's Club minor prep team, pitches his first game May 15. Mailo Baca plays first base (in the background). Minor Prep players start partial player pitching half way through the season instead of coach-pitch only.

Photo by September Hyde



May Day found Vaughn Elementary School's Dolores Lund and Jeanne Griffin assisted by student Nick Bychkov stomping aluminum cans into recyclable flatness on behalf of the school's recycling program. *Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News*



Middle, Dick Raymond 87, shows off the king-size tomato plants he sells out of his Wauna home where he's lived for 21 years.

Photo by September Hyde
Left, Key Peninsula Fire Lt. Gary Way hefts the new 39 pound hydraulic cutting tool purchase of which was made possible thanks to a grant from the KPFD Auxiliary, the Ashes.

Photo by Hugh McMillan