

# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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Postage Paid Vaughn,  
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Happy  
Halloween!

The voice of the Key Peninsula

Flavor of  
Fall,  
page 8

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Vol. 35 Issue 10 • Circulation 9,000

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October 2007



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## Extreme makeover, Key Peninsula style Volunteers band to help injured woman

By Danna Webster, KP News

**O**n a popular television show, an extreme makeover of a family home is achieved in seven days with a crew of hundreds of people. Out here on the Key Peninsula, a similarly miraculous makeover was achieved for Sue Gorman's home in two days with a few more than one hundred volunteers. When the work was done, television trucks, newspaper reporters, cameras and microphones all showed up to record the revelation of a complete makeover.

Gorman suffered a brutal dog attack in her Minterbrook Homes neighborhood on Aug. 21. She was asleep when two pit bulls entered her home through the sliding door on her back porch. It was left partially open for her

(See **GORMAN**, Page 28)



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Sue Gorman sees her home made over for the first time after the crowd yelled, "Move that bus!" and her blindfold was removed. Her friend Leana Beasley, and Bruce Bodine, who helped organize the makeover, lead her to the house while surrounded by television cameras. See more photos at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com).

## First KP Harvest Fest

Foods, wines, farm  
tours and good times

By Danna Webster, KP News

The first annual Harvest Fest is an all-day tour of local farms and Key Center restaurants featuring foods and products from the Key Peninsula. The event is sponsored by the Washington State University Extension services and the Pierce County Farm Board.

"This is a real opportunity to meet, and get to know, resources in the area of agriculture — to know where your local provider of food and fibers are,"

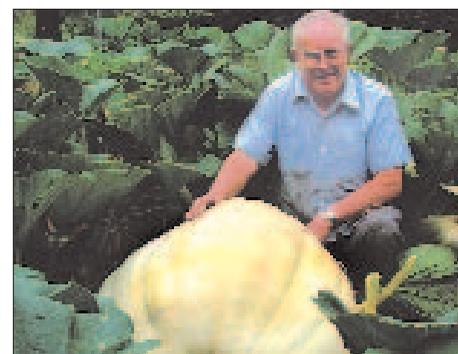


Photo by Danna Webster

Pumpkins—giant or otherwise—will be among the stars at Harvest Fest.

said Jennifer Harte, Washington State University faculty member at the

(See **TOUR**, Page 29)

## Devil's Head activity raises concerns

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Rumors and protest letters from neighbors have been flying for over a year regarding a large tract of land at Devil's Head, acquired by Timothy Jopp for \$2.3 million in November 2005. The property had long been eyed by local supporters for a park. While park proponents were trying to acquire sufficient grants to purchase the property, Jopp stepped forward with a proposed purchase amount significantly

(See **CONCERNS**, Page 27)

# District accepts Nelsen's resignation

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

At their Sept. 11 regular meeting, Fire District 16 commissioners voted to accept a resignation letter from former Chief Eric Livingood-Nelsen. The resolution, approved by unanimous vote, withdraws Nelsen's discharge, reinstates him as chief and then accepts his resignation.

The letter was received after commissioners approved a settlement with Nelsen over his firing. Nelsen did not sue the district in court, and according to the district's lawyer, the settlement does not admit guilt on the part of the fire district. The settlement totaled more than \$200,000.



NELSEN

Nelsen's resignation letter was not included with the meeting documents. Christina Bosch, FD-16 administrative manager, said based on the settlement, Nelsen must approve the disclosure of any documents related to his employment. When documents are requested, a public records request are submitted to Nelsen, who then has 14 days to object to their release. At press time, the Key Peninsula News was awaiting the results of its request to view the resignation letter.

The commissioners did not discuss the resolution in public before proceeding with their vote. When asked by an audience member how much the settlement has cost the district, commission Chairman Rick Stout referred all inquiries on the matter to the FD-16 attorney.

The resolution reads, in part: "The discharge of Fire Chief Eric Livingood-Nelsen is hereby withdrawn and Livingood-Nelsen shall be, and is hereby, reinstated as of January 1, 2006. However, Livingood-Nelsen has submitted his letter of resignation, which is hereby accepted, effective July 31, 2007. The administrative staff... shall take all necessary steps to implement the settlement agreement including but not limited to all actions related to the pension aspects of the agreement."

District attorney Joe Quinn could not be reached for comment on the confidentiality clause and other aspects of the settlement.

# Drowning saddens neighborhood

By Danna Webster, KP News

A young Tacoma woman was the victim of a drowning accident Labor Day weekend at Palmer Lake. Divers recovered Lan Phong Le-Nguyen's body about 24 hours after the accident. The 22-year-old was visiting members of her family for a housewarming celebration.

Divers began their search in a 20-foot diameter around the area where witnesses believed she went under. According to rescue diver Deputy Bruce Johnston of the Pierce County Metro Dive Team, a 16-year-old cousin of the victim was on a blow-up floating island and Le-Nguyen was swimming to the raft with a noodle under each arm because she was a poor swimmer. The cousin grabbed her to help her onto the float but was pulled into the water. That action caused the island to squirt off and the cousin swam to retrieve the island. The cousin held the island and looked back but the woman was gone. No one saw the actual spot and it was difficult to know how far the raft had moved.

Fire District 16 water rescue personnel were first on the scene and searched the surface and shore during what is called the golden hour. That is the time when there is a chance the victim can be revived. After the first hour, the rescue mode shifts to a recovery mode. Four divers from the sheriff's dive team responded at 2 p.m. and searched until dark. They were unsuccessful. They brought the boat back again the next day, Labor Day Monday.

The mood of the neighborhood was somber and still. As family members watched from the porch deck of the lake house, neighbors watched from a pier and along the shore.

About 2:30 p.m., two divers were



Photos by Danna Webster

Left, Pierce County Metro Dive Team veteran Bruce Johnston checks timers and oxygen equipment while preparing to make one final attempt to recover the drowning victim at Palmer Lake. Above, the sheriff's dive team worked two days to recover the body of the victim. The exact location of the incident was unknown. Divers checked logical points and searched within a 20-foot diameter circle. See more photos at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

making a final attempt to locate the body. "I went out first, and made four more passes," Johnston said. Then Deputy Brent Van Dyke went out and saw what he thought was a pink handkerchief, finding the body. She was 150 feet south of the original search area in about 7 feet of water.

The crew was careful to keep the body from the view of the family and asked them to return to the house rather than watch the recovery. Johnston said the family was very helpful and considerate of their work

Read about the Metro dive team in a feature article in the November issue of KP News.

through the entire effort.

Ten members of the Pierce County Metro Dive Team dive team worked on this recovery effort. Two Key Peninsula divers, Deputy Brian Stepp and Officer Joshua Boyd, are members of that team but neither was on duty at the time of the accident. The recovery effort took a total of 80 hours worth of work.

## KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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Unsolicited submissions deadline including press releases:  
17th of each month

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# Interim geoduck ordinance passes committee

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

At a packed Pierce County Council meeting on interim aquaculture regulations in Tacoma on Sept. 10, participants heard three new amendments to the ordinance, two of which were approved.

One amendment removed the issue of dock length and joint-use docks from the combined docks/geoduck regulations, and passed unanimously.

A second proposal addressed bonding and circumstances of revocation of geoduck permits in the event of grower default.

Jim Gibbons, Seattle Shellfish owner, began his opposition testimony by stating, "One aspect of this I find amazing is that anyone can say anything while offering nothing in support of what they are claiming." He accused the council of "choosing to ignore" legislative action establishing a process "to deal with the geoduck issue this last spring."

Councilman Calvin Goings repeatedly asked Gibbons if he was going to address the amendment, and finally told him he would have to "speak to the amendment



Photo courtesy Laura Hendricks

This photo, showing a crane used for geoduck farming in North Mason County, was presented to Pierce County Council members during the Sept. 10 hearing.

whether you like it or not."

Richard Wooster, president of the newly formed Case Inlet Shoreline Association (Dutcher's Cove) on the KP, urged passage of interim regulations. He said the organization's mission is "ensuring the protection and preservation of the pristine Case Inlet through

community stewardship, education, and scientific research." He spoke in favor of the bond/revocation amendment so "bad actors can be effectively dealt with and their permits revoked."

Diane Cooper of Taylor Shellfish said, "We do not approve of the amendments... Shellfish beds are critical salt-water habitat, and whether they are recreational or commercial, they should be protected. We recommend that this process be put on hold until..." At that point, Goings interrupted. "You are not speaking to the amendment," he said, "so I'm going to ask you to take your seat please." Councilman Dick Muri addressed the audience, saying, "People from the shellfish community are not doing themselves any favors by not speaking to the amendment."

The third amendment, proposed by Muri, addressed expanded seeding and harvest of geoduck to include weekends when accessed only from the water. Gibbons came back to the podium and said, "I think it's a bad idea... I don't see why somebody who owns property can't allow somebody to cross their property and harvest shellfish on their property if they want to."

Wooster spoke against weekend operations when waterfront owners are most likely to be enjoying their properties with family and friends. "That proposal should be rejected regardless if they (industry) are coming by sea or by land; the danger of weekend operations and the intrusion and impact upon the community is much greater." Wooster also called for night seeding and harvesting to be "strictly limited."

Laura Hendricks, president of

Henderson Bay Shoreline Association, testified last on the issue. She distributed to the council a photo she said was taken two weeks before and held up a copy for the audience. "This is a great big crane on a boat that came from the water that would be able to be done on the weekends. It is tremendously disruptive. This is the kind of thing that is going to come into our neighborhoods and it's outlandish." She also distributed a photo of a Taylor Shellfish truck and other multiple vehicles on the beach, at water's edge, or in the shallows at a site on Oakland Bay. Hendricks asked rhetorically why waterfront owners and beachgoers were urged to "walk softly," when the same environmental care is not observed by the aquaculture industry.

After Hendricks left the podium, Muri said, "I guess even the industry doesn't want this then; (this amendment) less restrictive to the shellfish community probably shouldn't be passed. They testified against it, I guess we should all vote against my amendment. I'll be voting no." Terry Lee stated he represented 179 miles of shoreline in his district, and it was "dangerous, destructive, and obtrusive to the people who want to exercise freedoms on the water to try and allow this type of commercial activity to occur when you most likely would be using that water frontage, and so I'll be voting against the amendment and would encourage my colleagues to as well." The amendment received a unanimous "no" vote.

This hearing was dissimilar from others on this topic; residents concerned about aquaculture from east of the Narrows were present and spoke passionately to the council about protection of shorelines throughout the county beyond the peninsula. This was also the first hearing in which two private lessees of Taylor Shellfish spoke favorably about their dealings with the company, followed by testimony to the contrary by neighbors.

Peter Downey, of Pacific Shellfish Institute, said, "The biggest threat to Puget Sound today is not aquaculture, it is upland development. By putting this regulation in place, what you are doing is encouraging waterfront urbanization and discouraging aquaculture that needs a clean and healthy environment."

The amended ordinance was passed with the addition of the two new amendments and will now go to the full council with a "do pass" recommendation.



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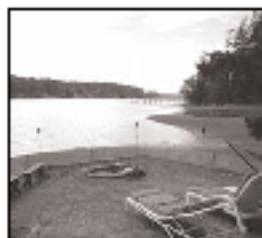
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# EDITORIAL

## Kudos to CIS-P reading mentors

Lt. Gov. Brad Owen will visit the Key Peninsula in October to honor work being done by outstanding local volunteers. They are mentors with the Communities In Schools of Peninsula, which for several years has provided one-on-one reading and math afterschool help for local kids. Bank of America's Mentoring Initiative and Washington State Mentors are behind the celebration, and will award CIS-P a \$5,000 grant at the event. CIS-P is one of 12 programs in the state and one in Idaho funded by the initiative.

CIS-P and the mentors it recruits and trains are highly deserving of this honor. The improvement demonstrated by the students they mentor is a testament to the impact of their outstanding efforts. The community is invited to celebrate with CIS-P on October 26 at 3 p.m. at Vaughn Elementary School, where the mentoring program got its start as a pilot project a few years ago.

# A take on ballot issues

It's that time of year again when you're expected to choose between incomprehensible issues with who knows what results that may come back to bite you at a future date. Let's take a look:

- I-960: An initiative that makes it more difficult for the Legislature to pass new taxes. Pro: Greater accountability. Limit cavalier imposition of taxes. Con: Services may suffer if legislators can't reach consensus. Accountability and consensus sounds good. Vote yes.

- R-67: A referendum to revoke law passed by legislators that would make unfair and deceptive insurance practices illegal and subject to triple damages. Pro: Bad law that benefits only trial attorneys causing rates to climb to cover legal expenses and fines. Con: Good law, keep it. Regulates insurance industry and penalizes bad conduct. Regulation sounds good, but these laws tend to bite back in the end. Flip a coin.

- Resolution 8602: Amendment to state Constitution; requires Legislature to put 1 percent of general state revenues into a rainy day account. Pro: Protects against economic fluctuations. Con: Less money available for necessary services now. Vote yes — keeps us out of trouble.

- Resolution 8212: Amendment to state Constitution, reversing currently prohibi-

**RICK SORRELS**  
THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



tion of contracting with private businesses for convict labor. Pro: Provides work experience and employment of prisoners at less cost to state. Vote no: Ripe for abuse and exploitation feared by founding fathers.

- Resolution 4204: Amendment to state Constitution, establishing simple majority (50 percent plus one) vote to pass school levies instead of supermajority (60 percent). Pro: Fairness requires simple majority to ensure funds for schools. Con: Fairness requires supermajority because nonproperty owners will force tax burden on property taxes they don't pay. Vote no: There's good reason our founding fathers required a supermajority.

- Resolution 4215: Amendment to state Constitution, reversing current prohibition of investment of school trust fund in stocks and bonds. Pro: Stocks and bonds allow greater return on investment. Con: Founding fathers recognized that stocks and bonds are a gamble. Market can be manipulated by large quantity of state dollars. If you have great confidence in

the stock market, vote yes. If not, vote no.

- Charter Amendments 1-3: Amendments of Pierce County Charter to allow three consecutive four-year terms instead of two terms for sheriff, auditor and assessor-treasurer, and make them nonpartisan. Pro: Allows good person to stay in office longer. Con: Harder to get rid of an incumbent. Recommendation: Flip a coin.

- Charter Amendments 4-7: Instant runoff voting (IRV) was passed by voters in 2006. County Council has authority to establish details for implementation. Amendment wants voters to micro-manage the implementation. Pro: Council wants to make sure it does what the voters want. Con: Voters don't care about the details. Just implement what voters have already passed. Definitely vote no on all four.

- Charter Amendment 8: Charter allows citizen referendum to challenge bad laws. No filing fee currently required. Amendment proposes filing fee same as for state referendum. Pro: Establishes higher threshold for filing referendum. Con: Surrenders citizen/voter rights. Vote no.

- Proposition 1: Increase number of fire commissioners for Fire District 16 from three to five members. Pro: Desperately needed for a variety of reasons (see news articles). Con: Minor additional expense. Definitely vote yes.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### For 302, it's 'not to be'

"To be or not to be, That is the question, whether tis nobler of the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or to take up arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing end them." My question is, what to do about Highway 302? Should we upgrade this antiquated, dangerous road with no shoulders and many curves, or bypass the whole mess? My suggestion is, bypass the whole thing, and build a new, straight road from Burley to Allyn, then another straight road from the new road to Key Center. Waste no money on 302. Regardless of how much money you spend on 302, it would still be inadequate.

*David G. Till, Lakebay*

### Levy failure a shame

What are you people thinking who

rejected the firefighters levy? It is us, the residents who will be suffering for this rejection! Key Peninsula is growing. Our fire departments need to keep up with this growth! It is you who will suffer if they do not have enough emergency staff to respond to your heart attack or fire. I guess you do not understand the word "shortage." I hope the commissioners and their stupidity have not won your side. Shame on you for not supporting our "life line" in the Key Peninsula.

Two Key Peninsula fire commissioners should do their community a big favor and resign. Allen Yanity and Jim Bosch have already done far too much damage. Their antics undoubtedly played a major role in the failure of the levy.

*Gail Learned, Gig Harbor*

### Article clarification

Your coverage of activities on the Key Peninsula is excellent, and I enjoy reading the newspaper from page one to the last.

As a "tech advisor" for Paint Tacoma/Pierce Beautiful I noticed that

the article by Mindi LaRose stated two houses were done on the Key Peninsula when there were actually five plus one at Purdy.

*George Moergeli, Rocky Bay*

### Thanks to all who contributed to skate park

It's great to see that the new skate park is being used so much. We all worked so hard and we did it!

I want to thank everyone who helped wash cars and wait tables during the fundraising. To the crew of Lystad Concrete, Oliver and Heather Lystad, Adam and Ben Hinthorn, Santiago and Valentine Topete and Steven, I say thank you for a job well done. I can't forget Scott Gallagher and the staff at the park, Mark Conniff and Josh Pizzano. A big thank you to Tim Jopp, Bette Jopp and the crew at BoMac for the great service and great deal on the concrete.

Among the many who helped whom I want to thank, as best I can remember, the Hawkins family, Jake Marerro, the

girls at Peninsula Market, Bob Black, Bob Gondara, Ruth Bramhall, Ryan Ambler, Alex West, Cindy Johnson, John and Amy Marerro, Sharon West, Janice McMillan, Debbie Allen and so many others but I can't name them all.

I also want to apologize if I missed contacting you; my briefcase was stolen with all the contact information. There were so many who did so much, all I can say is thank you, thank you. I am so proud of this community for your help.

*Chuck West, Key Center*

### Studio for a day

A thank you to the Friends of the Library, the Key Center librarians and Rosina, the organizer. As you drive along the roads on the peninsula, there she is, a painter and her easel alongside her van in the valley with the llamas, on the beach at the Purdy Sand Spit, or sitting in the brush painting the local old wooden bridge. Recording the visual images that

(See LETTERS, Page 5)

# Coping with spider season

I'm sure most of you have noticed that September here is Giant Spider Season, which is just in time for Halloween. Spider eggs in all their majestic forms typically hatch in early spring or summer, and then the adorable spiderlings have all summer to brutally catch and devour as many hapless insects as they can lay their legs on. They gorge all summer, get big and round, and become irritatingly more confident.

I hardly ever see spiders. Then in August, usually while hiking with the dog or doing yardwork, I'll notice a few thin strands here and there going across my face or legs. These webs are too small to warrant the use of a "spider stick," an all-natural tool shameless people wave in front of them as if conducting an invisible orchestra, to avoid having spider webs draped across their faces while they hike.

Suddenly, it's September, and "Kafwacko!" there they are everywhere, populating every nook and cranny. There are thick, sticky webs every 5 feet or so across the trails, cleverly woven at

## KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



face height. Instead of wondering what kind of spider made each web while walking calmly through the sunlit woods and relaxing, that information is now provided for me via snapshots of terror when I see a bulbous brown thing an inch from my eye mere seconds before my head is shrouded in web strands that are sometimes so strong I can hear them snap. I jump back, wave my arms around frantically, flap my hands across my head and face, and look around — like I'm going to see something. Sometimes I find the spider on me, but most often she repels to safety as if she's the star of a bad action movie. If I'm lucky I find her clinging to a branch and looking up like, "What the hell were you thinking! It took me all day to spin that thing you mindless, biped idiot!"

So this time of year I use the Spider

Stick when hiking. If I hear people coming, I quickly toss it in the woods and stride proudly past them until they are out of sight, then frantically scramble to find another suitable stick before hiking on. The webs that go across the path are typically made by a brown orb weaver spider about an inch long, with long barbs on her legs and a butt that gets bigger and rounder every day. She moves like lightning for an added chill-effect on your soul.

The upside-down-bowl-spinner spiders (yes, that is the correct scientific name), are much more considerate beings. They spin large, complicated domes of web under which they reside and wait for their hapless victims. These spiders build their architectural masterpieces off the beaten path, perhaps because they are harder to make than a standard orb weaver web (I'm speculating). I looked them up, and they're called filmy dome spiders (or, as you were likely thinking, *Neriene radiata*). They're actually quite attractive looking with their green, yellow, brown and black coloring.

I came across some sites online about the Giant House Spider, *Tegenaria gigantea*. They typically have a body

length of 12-18 millimeters with leg spans up to 75 millimeters. This spider and its infamous relative, the hobo spider, are common household spiders in the Northwest. Being somewhat new to the area, I'd never heard of the dang giant house spider before. It sounds terrible. At first I thought it was a joke, but no sooner had I concluded my research than I went into my bedroom to go to sleep and there, perched on the wall directly over my wife's head, was a *Tegenaria gigantea*. True to its name, it was giant, and it was in our house. It cast a long shadow, like something out of a movie. I usually let insects and spiders out of the house without injury, but the sheer unexpected size of this behemoth, coupled with the late hour of the night, forced me to hit it with a copy of the KP News, and parts of the thing flew all over. Later I learned that September — of course — is the big month for both the giant house spider and hobo spiders stalking around in houses as males cruise around looking for hot babe spiders.

But this is all to our benefit, because spiders eat insects, and because they creep us out just in time for Halloween, free of charge.

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(From LETTERS, Page 4)

most people have abandoned for progress, keeping these memories in our hearts. But not on Saturday, Sept. 15. That's when the KC librarians opened their reception room to me for the afternoon for an open house studio. This is the first one in a series by the Friends of the Library and happened to be on the same day as the open studio day for the peninsula artists. Years ago I had my first exhibit at the library, so it was fitting. Light refreshments were offered in the

room filled with artworks in all stages of progress, along with a large painting of the Wauna barn located off Sydney road. I also toured the group through the library exhibit with a lively discussion. The group left with an overview of the typical day for the dedicated artist, whatever the season, the subject matter, or the materials on hand, which may be only a pencil and tablet. The collaboration between the librarians and artist worked so well they are looking forward to the next future event.

*Tweed Meyer, Wauna*

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# 94th Street goes uptown



Work on the site of the upscale development is in full swing in mid-September.

Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Asphalt crews cut the roads in on a new seven-home development, Belmont Meadows, in mid-September. The 14.84-acre site, located on 94th Street a short jaunt from State Route 302, is owned by B. Reid Construction, Inc. The builder expects to begin breaking ground on the first \$700,000 to \$900,000 spec home by the first week of October.

"We're trying to be eco-friendly, creating our own erosion control with materials now onsite. (This is a) low-impact development; we are trying to be 'green-sensitive,'" Brad Reid said in a telephone interview.

The development is the greatly amended end result of a long and

contentious effort by a former owner (Mansfield Davis of San Francisco) to subdivide the acreage in 1994 into 24 lots under the then-current classification of "Rural Sub-area of the Sensitive Watershed Environment." The development was reduced in size once, and reduced to its final seven-home limit through the 1999 formal conclusions of Terrence McCarthy, deputy hearing examiner at the time. He wrote in his decision, "The applicant's request to subdivide 14.84 acres into 18 single family residential lots is denied. The applicant shall be given the opportunity to resubmit a site plan providing for seven single family residential lots..." Reid purchased the property in 2006.

# 7-year-old credited with saving mom's life

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Key Peninsula's emergency responders say a September accident revealed a 7-year-old hero, whose fast and adult-like thinking may have saved his mother's life.

According to medics at the scene, shortly after midnight on Sept. 13, the Key Peninsula Fire District was called to respond to a one-vehicle rollover accident in Home on A Street. The driver, a 27-year-old woman, had been thrown out of the vehicle and was barely conscious. The woman's 7-year-old son, who was not in a car seat, was able to unbuckle his seatbelt and crawl out of the side of the vehicle. He ran, barefoot, to nearby houses, but no one was home. He then walked a couple of blocks to the Key Peninsula Highway, where he flagged down a passer-by. The boy, himself injured, was bleeding from a head wound.

"It was pretty impressive, what he did in the pitch black of the night, even after being hurt," said Lt. Bill Sawaya, who was one of the emergency responders at the scene. "All he could think about was his mom getting help. He was a real hero. If he hadn't found help, chances are she wouldn't be around today."

The woman was in critical condition, and transported by helicopter to a trauma center. The child, a student at Evergreen Elementary, received lacerations to the head and was also rushed to a hospital. Alcohol was believed to be a factor in the crash. According to the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, the driver received a ticket for driving on a suspended license, but no other citations were issued and the case was not under investigation.

Although the boy's name has not been released due to privacy issues, the fire department hopes to honor his bravery with a special award at a future date.

## BRIEFS

news

### Park district holds special public meetings

Key Peninsula Metro Park District will hold a series of meetings to discuss the district's six-year comprehensive plan and to obtain public comment. The meetings will be held on Oct. 30 at Minter Creek Elementary library, Nov. 7 at Key Center Library, and Nov. 8 at Evergreen Elementary's library.

All meetings will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

A copy of the comprehensive plan will be available Oct. 26 at [www.keypeninsulaparks.com](http://www.keypeninsulaparks.com) or by calling the district at 884-9240.

### KPCCA updates bylaws

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association has updated its bylaws. Interested individuals can obtain a copy of the changes by contacting the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association office at 884-3456 or by visiting the office during business hours.

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# Road shop, sheriff's detachment may move

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Key Peninsula may become home to Pierce County's road shop and the sheriff's Peninsula Detachment, if plans to build a new county facility on 144th Road move forward. The county hopes to replace the building the two departments currently share in Purdy.

According to Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, the county acquired property adjoining its gravel pit (located near the Lake Holiday development, off 144th) last year with the goal to build a facility there. Now, the plan hinges on funding. At its Oct. 2 meeting, the council is expected to vote on an ordinance to surplus its property off State Route 7 in Graham (known as the Elk Plain Road Shop and Pit). Once the council agrees to surplus it, Lee hopes \$5 million from the future sale will be used toward the construction of the Key Peninsula facility.

"I'm encouraged we are having the conversation of surplusing the (Elk Plain) property," he said. "Once we agree on it, things could move faster."

The plan to build a new road shop is

**“ With the sheriff's precinct bursting at the seams (and the need for a new road shop), it's an opportunity to solve both problems.**

— Terry Lee, councilman

part of the county's efforts to modernize all four of its Public Works road maintenance facilities. Brian Ziegler, Public Works and Utilities director, said a cost-benefit analysis showed the county would save as much as \$8 million over 20 years by replacing the outdated facilities instead of renovating them. The Elk Plain Road Shop as well as a second shop are already being replaced by a new central maintenance facility currently under construction.

The Purdy shop is responsible for maintenance and emergency responses for unincorporated Gig Harbor and Key

Peninsula, but participates in countywide operations as needed. It employs about 25 people, and the county leases a nearby property from Tacoma Power for its equipment.

"The building is old and needs life safety improvements," Ziegler said. In addition to a need for renovations, Ziegler said there has been some interest from commercial entities in the property. A Key Peninsula site would be ideal, he said, because most of the work done by the shop is either on the Key Peninsula or north end of Gig Harbor.

A new facility would also house the sheriff's detachment, which has added new personnel in the last few years and has outgrown its space. "With the sheriff's precinct bursting at the seams (and the need for a new road shop), it's an opportunity to solve both problems," Lee said.

Ziegler said in the best case scenario, if supplemental financing is identified, design work could start next year and construction could move ahead in 2009. However, neither an exact timeline nor the cost is known at this time, and depends on whether the council sets aside funding for the project.

## BRIEFS

news

### Key Peninsula Community Plan goes to council vote

At a meeting of the Pierce County Community Development Committee on Sept. 10, two minor amendments were proposed, passed, and added to the Key Peninsula Comprehensive Plan document. The committee voted unanimously to approve the amended plan and forward it to the full council with a "do pass" recommendation. The final hearing date for the KP Community Plan is scheduled for Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. in council chambers.

### Flu shots available

The office of Dr. William Roes, M.D. begins giving flu shots on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Key Medical Center. This adult flu shot clinic will be open to all residents of the Key Peninsula, not just the patients in the practice.

Dr. Roes says the flu vaccine is recommended for virtually everyone over 65, as well as younger residents with chronic health problems such as diabetes or lung disease. There is a vaccine for children from 6 months to 5 years and a nasal flu vaccine, but neither is available through the flu shot clinics. The vaccines take several weeks to take effect, and the protection usually lasts up to five months.

The clinic will also provide flu shots at the KP Community Services' senior center (noon on Oct. 31) and on Herron Island (afternoon of Oct. 29). Call 884-9221 with questions.

### Two organizations host candidates' forum

The Key Peninsula Community Council, in conjunction with the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, will host a town hall meeting for the public and candidates for public office in the upcoming Pierce County elections. The forum is on Oct. 23, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Civic Center located at 17010 S. Vaughn Road in Vaughn. Candidates for the school, parks and fire districts as well as Port of Tacoma will make a brief opening statement, followed by citizen questions. All interested Key Peninsula residents are invited to attend; refreshments will be provided.

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# Flavor of Fall a fine affair

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

At the September Civic Center board meeting, Flavor of Fall co-chairwoman Claudia Loy reported that 21 of 25 tables were spoken for with paid reservations. At news deadline a few days later, all seats were filled for this peninsula extravaganza's return after a four-year hiatus.

Loy and her team work on details of the function all summer. Had Two Waters Arts Alliance not initially approached her with bringing the event back, it would not have happened, she said.

Four years bring change to the Flavor of Fall, although one primary part of the evening harks back to the first event in 1988: The menu will replicate that first effort, with chanterelle tortes, Cornish game hens, wild rice, and fall vegetables. "It was very exotic back then," Loy said with a laugh, adding that such a menu is still "above and beyond" most fare at KP functions.

Longtime gala supporters will be greeted by a nice surprise — a newly renovated front entrance. Crews have been working for the past few months to expand and enhance the front porch, and were trying to finish in time for the event.

This Oct. 6 event marks a "first walk into sponsorship," Loy said. Franciscan Health System has contributed truffle desserts for the affair, a gift equal to a \$400 donation. Loy expects to explore more sponsorship opportunities for future events hosted by the Civic Center. Catering the semi-formal affair will be Ty Shaver, chef at Madrona Links Golf Course in Gig Harbor. Britta Brones said the event is semi-formal. "This is a nonjeans and cowboy hat affair," she said.

The auction will be streamlined through use of a new computer program that tracks bid sheets, assigns paddle numbers, receipts, etc. Although the silent auction

takes place throughout the evening, the live auction begins at 8 p.m. Loy and Brones said individuals who do not attend the dinner may attend the auction. A no-host bar will be available all evening, and additional seating will be set up in the balcony for late-arriving guests. All auction participants receive a numbered paddle and auction catalog when they arrive.

Brones and Loy stressed that "even if you are not here (that evening), you can still contribute." They said halfway through the live auction, estimated to last about one and a half hour, a Powerpoint computer presentation will be shown, illustrating the community contribution of the Civic Center and Two Waters Arts Alliance.

The purpose of the Flavor of Fall is to raise funds for stage renovation, curtains, and lighting for theatrical productions under the auspices of Two Waters. The volunteer team hopes to exceed what was raised at the last Flavor of Fall four years ago, which was \$30,000. "We will be building on this program," Loy said, adding that donations beyond the event would be needed to transform the Civic Center into the facility envisioned by these hard-working volunteers.



Organizers Claudia Loy, Britta Brones and Anna Brones show off some of the decorations volunteers have been creating for the gala.

Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

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# Lake Holiday water rights dry up

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Lot owners in Lake Holiday may be met with an unpleasant surprise if they apply for new construction, or remodeling permits that increase the number of bedrooms of their current residence. Although vacant buildable lots still exist in the development, additional water shares do not, effectively halting building permits for the foreseeable future.

During a standard "sanitary survey" on group A water systems (Lake Holiday's system) approximately every five years to check well capacity, operations and other aspects, the Washington State Department of Health discovered a discrepancy in the Lake Holiday water system. Only three of four operating wells were approved by the state. Well No. 4, operating with three others to provide 320 connections (residences/use-units both developed and potential) in the development, was never approved and had no water rights assigned by the Department of Ecology.

According to Tony Trotter, water distri-

bution manager for Lake Holiday and Lake of the Woods, there were originally 348 lots in Lake Holiday, and it was thought all those that could be developed had been; however, a handful of developable lots remain. John Ryding, Washington State Department of Health regional engineer working with Pierce County private water systems, says legal action may be needed to acquire water rights to the remaining lots. He says the association may have some liability to provide water, which could result in an assessment of all landowners in the development, since they all "own" the systems in place in the development.

One undisclosed landowner has consulted an attorney, according to Ryding. Resolution won't be easy, or quickly forthcoming. The Washington State Department of Ecology, which issues water rights, looks at specific criteria: whether water rights will be put to beneficial use, whether there is adequate water (to grant new/more rights), and whether granting of additional water rights will impair someone

else's existing rights. The DOE application process is so slow (decades-long), the state Legislature created a "cost-recovery process" to assist applicants. Through this alternative process, applicants can "pay their way to the front of the line" by paying the costs of all the applicants ahead, as well as their own costs. Although this speeds a review of the water rights application, it does not guarantee granting of the rights.

The Lake Holiday Association has hired a consultant to assist in finding a solution; they are "trying to figure out how to get more water rights," Trotter says, also acknowledging the DOE review is "a glacial process." The association is looking at possibly purchasing or trading some water rights with another private system, a solution Ryding indicates is unlikely to succeed, due to the nature of water systems and group ownership within a development.

Lake Holiday came into existence in mid-1966 when a handful of landowners created and sold over 300 lots in four divisions around Stansberry Lake. The original development covenants, applicable to all divisions, are specific in easements and rights granted to all utilities – except water. The only drinking water reference in the original protective covenant recorded on July 26, 1966, states the Lake Holiday Association objectives include "to appropriate, purchase, divert, acquire and share water from lakes, streams, wells or any other sources, and to distribute the water to its members for use upon the land and for domestic purposes." The 40-plus pages of covenants, conditions, and restrictions, and the amendments attached as additional plats were added beyond the first one, do not mention the

source of domestic water, how its use will be prescribed, by whom managed and maintained.

The latest DOH water system permit issued Sept. 1, 2007, states, "Systems in this category (group A) are considered adequate for existing uses and adding new service connections up to the number of approved service connections (314)."

Ryding says Washington water rights are becoming more and more restrictive; some areas of the state are closed to new applications. "I view this as an issue between the (LH) association and the property owners," he says. He acknowledges that lack of water connection adversely affects the value of land, reducing it to essentially "recreational use." "No permit will be issued for structures in Lake Holiday today," he says. That is, any permit to construct a new residence, replace an existing two-bedroom home with a three-bedroom home, add/renovate a residence that results in more bedrooms (thereby indicating a potential increase in water usage), or create an accessory-dwelling unit, will be denied by the Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department.

The only concession made for homeowners caught in this battle for water rights is small. Ryding says DOH and the county health departments will look at "like for like" replacements (two-bedroom cabin to two-bedroom manufactured or stick-built home, for instance) on a case-by-case basis. Ryding said anyone potentially purchasing property connected to a water system should take a close look at the covenants and deed language to determine the status of the water system.

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### Communities In Schools of Peninsula mentors honored

Communities In Schools of Peninsula's "Mentoring Our Students to Success" program will be honored by Lt. Gov. Brad Owen and executives from Bank of America and Washington State Mentors at a festive event in the Vaughn Elementary Library on Friday, Oct. 26, at 3 p.m. Community members are encouraged to attend and celebrate the outstanding mentoring being done by the Key Pen-based Communities In Schools of Peninsula. A \$5,000 grant from the Bank of America Mentoring Initiative and Washington State Mentors will also be accepted at the event.

"Mentoring is a potent agent for positive change in society," Owen said. "Research has shown that a structured and trusting relationship between a young person and a caring adult is related to reductions in youth pregnancy, violence and substance abuse. At the same time, mentoring is associated with improved academic performance."

The Bank of America Mentoring Initiative funded 12 programs in Washington and one in Idaho. Communities In Schools of Peninsula was the only recipient in Pierce County.

# Fire district budget to include cuts

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Between the levy failure in the August election and decreased revenue from new home construction, Fire District 16's 2008 budget is taking a double hit, according to district administrators. At the same time, various costs are going up, from 4 percent cost of living increases for employees to fees for Fire Comm (emergency response communications system).



LIQUE

The district is in the process of establishing its budget for next year. "If we ran the same budgets (as last year), we would have had a huge deficit," said Fire Chief Tom Lique. Instead, Lique is looking at making cuts to various programs without affecting core services. The district will also tap into its reserve account, where funds were deposited this year in anticipation of a future shortage. Even so, preliminary numbers show about \$37,000 in cuts will be needed.

### Budget meetings set

The first budget meeting took place on Sept. 27. October's meetings are as follows: Oct. 11 at 1 p.m., Oct. 18 at 1 p.m. at the Key Center fire station.

Among the considered cuts is the maintenance and moorage of the district's 44-foot boat that was donated by the state last year. Lique said it costs as much as \$12,000 for upkeep, but the boat is used rarely. "We will still have a water response team" but without the boat," he said.

The estimated increases include a \$15,000 rise in Fire Comm fees and a \$28,000 increase in commissioner compensation (which includes a per diem raise authorized by the state Legislature this year, and compensation for two additional commissioners in the event voters approve in November a proposal to increase the board of commissioners to five members from three).

"Things are going to be tight," Lique said. "It's not that we're hurting very

badly, but what it does is restricts our potential to grow... As we add 10 (percent) to 15 percent more calls per year, it's stretching (us) a little thinner each time."

The general budget is not impacted by the recent hire of four EMS personnel (three of whom are still in academy training) because those costs are covered by the EMS levy approved by voters last year.

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Surveys show that the longer a house is on the market, the greater is the discount from listing price when it finally sells. The buying public eventually sets an accurate price. The overpriced house

lingers on the market, requiring a price adjustment before it attracts a buyer.

"We can always come down" is a phrase agents don't enjoy hearing. It implies a slow start, wasted advertisements, unpleasant discussions with the homeowner, and eventually, a shopworn property. Knowledgeable buyers ask how long a house has been on the market and why it hasn't sold. Even when the agent explains that only the price was wrong, buyers may remain suspicious.

If you have your heart set on trying a high price "just to see," first work out a written plan to drop the price at intervals. If the house hasn't attracted enough attention in two weeks, the price will be cut to a certain level. If you haven't had an offer within a month, you will lower it again. Make sure that you will be down to estimated market value within six weeks. Such a commitment at the beginning ensures a logical handling of the problem.

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# Home Park shelter moves forward

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

After more than two years of planning and red-tape maneuvering, a community service project to install a picnic shelter at Home Park is ready to move forward. The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District was notified at the end of August that permits for the shelter have been approved, although they have not been received as of mid-September.

"As soon as I see the actual permit and approved drawings, we'll plan out a sequence (for the work)," said George Robison, a member and former president of the Key Peninsula Lions Club, which spearheaded the project as a community service. Site preparation has already started and will involve logging several trees.

The park district has been trying to obtain permits from Pierce County for about two years, and had to submit several revisions. At one point, they requested that Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee intervene. Frustrated with the proceedings, Robison last year called it quits and resigned from the project. With the approval in hand, he is now ready to lead the Lions' efforts in constructing the shelter this fall.

"I'm glad we're finally able to move forward with it," he said. "It's the only community service project I ever had where we had a problem dealing with county — or city — government... and so much red tape," he said.

The club raised funds for concrete that will be poured as a foundation, and Robison said it was not yet known whether those funds would be sufficient or more would need to be raised. The roofing and hardware were purchased with a \$2,500 grant secured from the county through Lee in 2005; the lumber is from milled trees logged from the "agri-vision" corner of Volunteer Park; and the labor will be donated. KPMPD had to spend about \$4,000 to hire an engineering firm after Ed Robison, who volunteered his services, was deployed to Iraq, when the county requested more site plan reviews.

With cooperative weather, Robison anticipates work to start as soon as the permits are received. "We hope to have (the shelter) ready to be used by early next year," he said.

# Church building gone to the history books

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The end of an era arrived on Sept. 17, when the historic Vaughn Community Church building was razed.

The church, built in 1898, served the community for 108 years.

The original design resembled a Swiss chapel, with a high peaked roof and a bell tower. The Rev. Leigh Applegate, an Episcopalian archdeacon, bought the property from Alfred Van Slyke, an early Vaughn pioneer. He also bought Van Slyke's mill, where lumber for the church was milled. The community pitched in to help construct the unique building, later called "The Chapel by the Sea" in a 1939 book by Josephine Welch.

When Applegate's mill burned, he sold the church to the Presbyterians, who also worshipped there, and left the area. Congregationalists purchased the church in 1908. It became a nondenominational congregation with Baptist pastors from 1949 until 1963. Village Missions followed them, so it has been a place of worship for several denominations, although many of the same families remained in the congregation.

A fire on Palm Sunday 2006 made the



Photo by Frank Slater

The demolition of the "Chapel by the Sea" is in progress in mid-September.

building unsafe, and after months of assessments and decisions, the church members voted to sell rather than remodel. The Vaughn Community Church congregation plans to build a new church on Elgin-Clifton Road.

The Stockdale family of Woodinville, who purchased the building nearly a year ago, hoped to maintain the exterior, and remodel the inside to suit their needs. Architects and builders advised against it. Toxic fumes and some basic structural

damage influenced the decision to raze the old church and start anew.

The new building, including a place of honor for the refurbished 800-pound bell, will be large enough to hold the extended Stockdale family for family gatherings and special occasions.

The Stockdales have begun to learn local history about their new property and the surrounding area and said they look forward to being part of the Key Peninsula community.

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# Scoutmaster Bill Macaras retires

By Cameron McMillan  
Special to KP News

Called the "father of scouting on the Key Peninsula" by many, Bill Macaras, beloved scoutmaster of KP Boy Scout Troop 220, stepped down in September after 11 years.

Macaras began his involvement with local scouting when his son, Matthew, became a Cub Scout. It wasn't quite intentional, says Macaras, but he began volunteering more and more, until he became assistant den leader for Pack 220. Eventually, Matthew became a Webelo, the highest rank a Cub Scout can achieve.

Without an existing Boy Scout troop on the Key Peninsula, Macaras decided to found one. Designated Troop 220 by the local Council of the Boy Scouts of America, it started out with just five boys, all former members of Matthew Macaras' Cub Scout pack. However, Troop 220's membership rolls quickly grew; at its high point, it had more than 30 active members.

Shortly after the troop started up, Macaras recruited his friend, Mark



Photo courtesy Lance McMillan

Left to right, Assistant Scoutmaster Mark Burris, outgoing Scoutmaster Bill Macaras, and new Scoutmaster John O'Dell at an awards ceremony in September.

Burris, to join as an assistant scoutmaster. Burris is still with the troop today, as are many other parents of scouts who once were part of the troop but are now too old. Macaras noted it is this exceptional level of dedicated parental involvement that has made Troop 220 successful.

During Macaras' tenure as scoutmaster,

Troop 220 promoted 13 of its members, including Matthew in 2002, to the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is one of the most difficult achievements for a scout to obtain, requiring long-term commitment, mastering skills in a number of different fields of study, demonstrated leadership abilities, and the completion of a major community service project. Macaras says his greatest sense of accomplishment as a scoutmaster was helping so many boys make Eagle Scout.

Macaras has many fond memories of his activities with scouting. Particularly noteworthy were the "High Adventures" that Troop 220 organized for some of its more experienced scouts, including a weeklong bicycle excursion through the San Juan Islands, several 50-mile wilderness backpacking expeditions, and two trips to the National Boy Scout Camp in Philmont, N.M. He's also very proud of the many service projects Troop 220 has done throughout the Key Peninsula and the dedication the scouts continue to display in serving their community.

Macaras said his decision to step down as scoutmaster was a difficult one.

However, after his son left scouting several years ago, he began to feel it was time to allow others, with boys who were still active in scouting, to make decisions about the direction of the troop.

Even though he'll no longer be an official member of Troop 220, Macaras said he intends to remain involved with scouting, helping out when and where his talents can be most useful. "Once a scout, always a scout," he says.

Macaras feels his involvement with scouting has been one of the most rewarding, high points of his life. He says he is thankful to the many members of the community who have provided such overwhelming support to the Boy Scouts and Troop 220 over the years.

John O'Dell, a former captain in the U.S. Coast Guard, is the new Troop 220 scoutmaster. Troop 220 continues to meet every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn. Troop members encourage any boy interested in scouting to drop by and see what the adventure is all about.

Cameron McMillan is an eighth-grade student at Key Peninsula Middle School.



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"Faith is the ability to not panic." Author Unknown



# Life savers' fast-paced world: Behind the scenes of Fire District 16

By Sharon Hicks, Special to KP News

Volunteer and career firefighters and EMTs of Fire District 16 have a job that is both high-pressure and rewarding. Although no two days are alike — calls per day could be as few as one or two and as many as a dozen — a look at a typical day shows a strong need for more paramedics and career men. Many incidents are delayed if the paramedic is on one call when another emergency is called, or if the emergency call involves traveling to the other side of the peninsula.

The volunteers are the backbone of the district, currently numbering about 30, eight of whom were sworn in to duty in September (there are only 23 career staff including the two recently hired and undergoing training for the next couple of months). Many of the volunteers end up getting hired by the district when a job opens up.

One of those former volunteers is Lt. Bill Sawaya, the youngest paramedic for District 16. He is assigned to Station 1 in Wauna, one of the two stations staffed 24 hours. Sawaya grew up in Minterwood and attended Peninsula High School before graduating from Tacoma Baptist High School. After attending college in California, he returned to the Peninsula, and soon became inspired to be a firefighter after coming across a serious accident on Key Peninsula Highway.

"Feeling helpless to do anything due to lack of training, it was then I knew I wanted to be a career paramedic and firefighter," he says.

In 1994, at the age of 21, he began his volunteer training. From there he attended the one-year Westside Fireman's Academy in Gig Harbor and became a resident firefighter for two years before getting hired.

On a recent afternoon, Sawaya was getting ready to start his lunch when a medical call came in from Station 3 in Longbranch for a walk-in accident victim. About 80 percent of calls the district receives are for medical aid and occasionally some of those are walk-ins from the street. Putting his lunch on hold, Sawaya was off to Station 3 with EMT Tim Davis at the wheel. As the lights and sirens were going, once or twice an oncoming vehicle would not pull over, so on came the loud blasting horn operated by Sawaya from the dashboard, which was filled with all kinds of instruments for every possible need. Sawaya notes, "When a vehicle sees an

emergency vehicle approaching, it is the law for them to pull off the road and come to a complete stop, not just slow down." When Sawaya and Davis arrived at Station 3, Division Chief Chuck West was already there to oversee the circumstances; after determining that the injury was not serious enough for a paramedic, the victim was transported to the hospital by two EMTs.

It takes an average of two hours from the time a medical call goes out until the return from the hospital. If the medic on duty has to accompany this call, the department is understaffed until the medic's return. In this case, the duty chief would have to disperse the call to another district. The closest hospital is Allenmore, then Tacoma General or St. Joseph's. With only one paramedic on duty, that distant significantly cuts down the response time for other calls.

To help with the shortage, the district has an extensive volunteer program. To apply as a volunteer, the applicant must clear a background check, be at least 18 years of age and a high school graduate. The screening process includes an interview, a physical and medical evaluation, and a basic written test. West says that about a third of those who apply don't make it. Volunteers are not required to have EMT training.

The majority of career personnel start as volunteers, and only the "cream of the crop" are hired by the department when an opening exists. Basic training for an EMT is 120 hours; the EMT is an assistant to the paramedic, giving first aid including basic medical checks, splinting broken bones, etc. The paramedic can start intravenous fluids, give basic medications and make major decisions.

After basic training, the staff are on probation for one year before becoming eligible for various areas of specialized technician training such as rope rescue, water rescue and wildland fires. For water rescue, they must complete the Coast Guard Auxiliary or Power Squadron navigation classes and have basic lifeguard training, then complete 40 hours of swift-water rescue training. Rope training is a rigorous 80 hours.

The wildland team endures 40 hours of wildland firefighting and receives extra training by assisting with fires outside the area. Last year, they responded to a fire in Eastern Washington. The wildland team studies fire behavior and all the logistics of a wild fire. On a wildland call, the firemen will more likely dig a fire line



Lt. Bill Sawaya is one of many Fire District 16 career personnel who started out as volunteers.

Photo by  
Mindi LaRose

downwind to prevent the fire from spreading when it's apparent that water alone won't get the fire out.

A normal day at the fire station begins at 8 a.m. with a thorough rig check for fuel, needs for restocking and overall cleanliness, followed at 9 with an hour of physical-fitness training. The afternoon sees the firemen going through another hour or so of training in one form or another. The firemen work nine-day workweeks, working a total of 72 hours in 24-hour increments during the nine days.

All stations have one fire truck and all but one have a tender. The process of getting another tender is under way. West says, "There are plenty of vehicles at each station but we don't have the staff to operate them all at once."

The fire trucks are equipped with 1,000 gallons of water and the 1,500-gallon tender usually follows where the fire truck drops the hose to hook up to the tender while the men search for a hydrant to hook up to with the big truck. All aid cars are equipped with automatic external defibrillators, which undergo extensive safety checks weekly.

Asked about his most rewarding experience, Sawaya recalls several. "(One) was when a car went into Glen Cove with two

people in it. One managed to escape whereas the other was under water for 27 minutes. Using the jaws of life divers were able to free him and then resuscitate."

Sawaya recalls one more call as an example of what makes his work so rewarding. Medics were called to help a man with a cardiac arrest. As they left, his granddaughter, about 6 or 7 years old, came out of the house and handed Sawaya a rock she had painted for "helping her grandfather." "That was very touching and moving," he says. The firemen come to the rescue of animals, too. Sawaya once rescued a dog from a 24-foot well. The dog was unharmed, though he was scared and required oxygen. "The usual 'cat in a tree' will always be there for the firemen to rescue, to the relief of the owner," Sawaya says.

## Volunteers sworn in

At the Sept. 11 FD 16 commissioners' meeting, seven new volunteers took the oath of duty after completing training. They are all local residents: tender operator Gerry Eckardt, EMT Amber Payment, and firefighters Scott Gribble, Brent Adams, Mike Reed, Jeremy Underwood and Danielle Hooper.

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# BRIEFS

news

## Councilman Terry Lee changes course

Pierce County District 7 Councilman Terry Lee announced in September he is withdrawing from the 2008 Pierce County executive's race to enter the county's assessor/treasurer race for 2008. About his decision, he told KP News in an email, "My greatest interest is to serve the community, but term limits prohibit me from doing it much longer as a councilman, and so with having a long history in public service on land use issues and being an outspoken advocate of private property rights, the position of county assessor will be a better fit for me in the future rather than the executive."

## Tollefson recognized as '40 Under 40'

Key Peninsula News executive editor Rodika Tollefson was among 40 area professionals selected for the "40 Under 40" Class of 2007. "40 Under 40" is an annual event sponsored by the Kitsap Peninsula Business Journal to recognize outstanding young business and community leaders. Tollefson, 34, has been the editor of KP News since February 2003, and is a writer and editor for other local publications.

More than 70 nominations were received from public and private sectors. Judging was done by American Marine Bank CEO and President Rex Townsend, JCM Property Management owner Jeff Coombe (current president of the Home Builders Association of Kitsap County) and Kitsap County Commissioner Jan Angel.

Awards were presented at a September banquet, with a keynote

address given by Bremerton Mayor Cary Boseman. Winners included Allisha McVay, manager of Columbia Bank's Gig Harbor branch and vice chair of KP-based Communities in Schools on the peninsula.

## Teens take on cops

The Gig Harbor Police Department, Pierce County Sheriff's Department and Young Life will host a softball game with high school students playing area police officers. Any high school student — private, public or home school — can play. This event focuses on building positive relationships between law enforcement and teens. The game begins at 2:30 p.m., Oct. 20, at Peninsula High School with a barbecue to follow.

## Search & Rescue volunteers wanted

The Pierce County Explorer Search and Rescue unit is looking for new members age 14 or older. The ESAR program gives members the opportunity to help law enforcement agencies during search and rescue operations in both wilderness and urban settings. SAR Explorers also serve during disasters and community events and are trained in wilderness living, search and rescue and leadership.

So far this year, ESAR had been mobilized for 14 missions. The unit is considered one of the best equipped and trained units in Washington. High school students can receive community service credit after completing the required training in survival, leadership, problem solving, program management, communications and process improvement skills.

An orientation session will be held on Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. at Peninsula Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Road SW, in Gig Harbor. Other sessions will be held in October throughout the county; call 752-3727 or visit [www.pcesar.org](http://www.pcesar.org) for details.



Photo courtesy Jud Morris

John Dionas with his wife, Melinda, during this year's golf benefit on Sept. 21.

# Golf tournament benefits Key Peninsula families

By Irene Torres, KP News

The Key Peninsula Family Resource Center will reap benefits from a Sept. 21 golf tournament sponsored by Gorst-based Peninsula Subaru and Peninsula Suzuki.

John Dionas, the car dealership's owner and president who lives at Horsehead Bay, has been a longtime supporter of the Children's Home Society (CHS). When he took over the dealership seven years ago, he and his wife made a commitment to find a charity to "help take care of kids in need here in our back yard." (Dionas is a father of four.)

This year was Dionas' fifth annual golf event held at the Trophy Lake Golf Course in Port Orchard. Last year's event netted \$15,000 for CHS, and Dionas said he hopes to increase the donation this year. At press time, the total raised was not available.

Jim Cayton, assistant golf pro, said, "John is a high-energy guy. He bought the golf course for the event — (which could accommodate) 144 players. This is one of our 20 biggest tournaments."

Jud Morris, executive director of the Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, told the KP News, "What John Dionas does for kids on the Key Peninsula is not just the money he and Peninsula Subaru and Suzuki donate, but it is the opportunities created by the donations. The funds pay for mentoring for kids, increased parent involvement in the education of their children, helping keep Key Peninsula kids safe and healthy, and fun activities. John has also donated a van so we can transport

“

**John is a high-energy guy. He bought the golf course for the event — (which could accommodate) 144 players.**

— Jim Cayton, asst. golf pro

”

children to services they would not be able to get to without this great resource."

In addition to that mentoring program, Little Buddies, CHS provides adoption resources, parenting classes and residential care facilities for at-risk youth.

During the tournament, Morris stood on the 18th green to meet and thank the players, and to take photos of each foursome. Dionas includes those photographs when he sends his "thank you" notes to players.

Dionas' personal philosophy, remembering his roots and giving back to others, is made possible by the success of his car dealership. He said, "What goes around comes around — it's not about the money, it's what you do with it."

Credited with publicizing CHS through donations, in his television commercials and print advertisements featuring the charity, Dionas' business was named Children's Home Society's Regional Philanthropic Corporation of the Year in 2002. At that time he said, "I...enjoy helping the cause and I believe in the organization."



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# COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) • Deadline 17th of the month

## Oct. 2 – Key Singers rehearse

The Key Singers, starting rehearsals for the Christmas season, welcome new members. They meet every Tuesday at the Longbranch Church, 6:30 - 8 p.m. 884-5615

## Oct. 3 – Pioneer Clubs begins

Pioneer Clubs begin Oct. 3 and go through May. These midweek activities for preschool through fifth graders offer a Christian-based curriculum with healthy activities, crafts, games and music.

6:20-8 p.m. at Lakebay Community Church, 11 Cornwall Rd KPS; Tracy, 851-4123

## Oct. 4 – Fuchsia Club meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society's monthly meeting is Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. The club fuchsia, variety Applause, grown by all the members, will be critiqued. Join the club to learn about growing fuchsias. 884-9744

## Oct. 5 – Mustard Seed Project schedules meetings

The Mustard Seed Project invites everyone in building an elder-friendly Key Peninsula, by joining one of four task groups gathering information, reviewing possibilities and creating options for "aging in place." Meetings are held at the Key Center Library.

Senior Information & Referral Group - Friday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.

Transportation & Mobility for Elders Group - Friday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m.

Elder Health & Wellness-related Services Group - Thursday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.

Housing Options for Aging in Place Group - Friday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m.

Edie, 884-3920 or [ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org](mailto:ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org)

## Oct. 6 – 'Preparing for the Storms' workshop

Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care, Pierce County Emergency Management and Associated Ministries

jointly sponsor "Preparing for the Storms," a free workshop intended to help residents, especially seniors and disabled, get ready for autumn and winter storms.

The workshop focuses on the needs of vulnerable people, but all residents are welcome. Participants receive information about supplies to have on hand, local networks, neighborhood programs for safety and reassurance checks, area evacuation needs and emergency services.

Saturday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m., Gig Harbor Methodist Church (7400 Pioneer Way) or 2 p.m., First Christian Church (602 N Orchard St, Tacoma); contact the Pierce County Aging & Disability Resource Center at 253-798-4600 or Bob Riler, Aging and Long Term Care, 253-798-7384

## Oct. 12 – Bulkheads and buffers workshop

Pierce Conservation District and KGI Watershed Council host a workshop focused on shoreline formation, dynamics and stability. How bulkheads work, as well as recent effective alternatives will be reviewed, as well as natural landscaping for view, habitat, water protection, shoreline buffers and bank stability. A tour of a nearby shoreline will be conducted immediately afterwards, weather-permitting. Register early; limited seating. Fox Island, 4-6 p.m. Rene' 845-9770 or Erin 884-9474

## Oct. 13 & 30 – Bag sale dates at SAVE

On Saturday, Oct. 13, all clothes and shoes will be sold for \$5 for a shopping bag, and on Tuesday, Oct. 30, the bag sale price is \$3. Add your name to our email list to receive the monthly sale calendar. SAVE is located on Purdy Drive just below Peninsula High School. All proceeds benefit the scholarship program at PHS. Shoppers, donors and volunteers are always welcome. 857-2800

## Oct. 13 – Artist's reception

Friends of the Key Center Library host a reception and painting demonstration by Watercolors "R" Us, a fine-arts collective including M.D. Campbell of Lakebay. Original artwork will be available at the event, and at a show mounted in the library. 2-4 p.m.

## Oct. 13 – Rebel Voices sing for peace

The Key Peacemakers host musicians and inspiring entertainers, Rebel Voices, as they help celebrate the history of peace and justice through song. Join Rebel Voices for an evening of song and humor to sustain folks through the struggle yet to come. ([www.rebelvoices.com](http://www.rebelvoices.com)) A \$10 donation is suggested, however, all are welcome.

7 p.m. at the home of Leif and Anna Hansen, 9604 Cramer Rd KPN; Kimberly, 282-6711, for directions

## Oct. 13 -Pee Wee Soccer starts

Indoor soccer runs six weeks on Saturdays at the Civic Center. Boys and girls grouped by age play for \$35 each, receive a shirt, certificate and end-of-program party. 884-9240 or [www.keypeninsualparks.com](http://www.keypeninsualparks.com)

## Oct. 14 – Fall Adult Basketball begins

Key Peninsula Metro Park District is accepting team registrations for adult basketball with Sunday evening at the Civic Center. Cost is \$ 375/team. The league will use association officials. Registration deadline is Oct. 9. 884-9240, [www.keypeninsualparks.com](http://www.keypeninsualparks.com)

## Oct. 18 – KP writers read at O'Callahan's

The KP Writers' Guild presents the New Beat Generation at O'Callahan's Pub. Writers, poets and storytellers will read to the early evening crowd. Food, beverages, and live music will be available. The beat will be provided by the drums of Dale Loy. The over-21 community is invited to the 6 to 8 p.m. event. Call Danna for information and auditions at 884-6455 or [danna004@centurytel.net](mailto:danna004@centurytel.net)

## Oct. 19 – Key Peacemakers present SOA

An educational film program and discussion of the SOA (U.S. Army School of the Americas) from Fort Benning, Georgia, where Latin American militaries are trained. In November the Key

Peacemakers hold a rally in concert with the national one. SOA Watch was formed in 1990 to close the SOA.

Friday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; Dory, 884-9299

## Oct. 27 – Key Pen Historical Society

The fall meeting of the Key Peninsula Historical Society features Robin Paterson of Gig Harbor and "Steamboats of the South Sound." Paterson is co-author of a forthcoming book on the Mosquito Fleet. Mike Stork, author of "Foss Maritime Company," will also be present. Bring your own table service and something good to share.

Saturday, Oct. 27, 11:30 a.m., Key Peninsula Civic Center -Whitmore Room; 884-3272

## Oct. 27 – Two Waters offers mask-making

Two Waters Arts Alliance offers its free fourth annual mask-making event for families. This workshop provides all the materials and guidance needed to create an original mask just in time for Halloween. Several different mask types will be available; bring all ages for this memorable and fun event. 3:30 p.m., Key Center Library-Brones Room, free

## Oct. 31 – Harvest party at Lakebay Christian

Lakebay Christian Assembly invites all to a country-themed Costume Harvest Party with games, face painting, fun, prizes and candy. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Lakebay Christian Assembly; Holly, 884-1155

## Oct. 31 – Halloween party at Civic Center

A fun night for all ages will occur from 6-8 p.m. on Halloween. Costume contests are held at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Admission is at least one nonperishable food item. (17010 S Vaughn Road)

## Mondays- Ongoing

TOPS WA #1019, Vaughn, is seeking new members to join a dynamic weight-loss support group with fun programs and

incentives. It's \$24 to join and \$5 for monthly dues for TOPS, a non-profit organization. Meetings are at Fire Station #5 (302 and Wright-Bliss Road.)

Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 884-4102

## Tuesdays – Ongoing

TOPS WA #1325, Lakebay Chapter, meets Tuesdays at McColley Hall at 9 a.m. A baby sitter is provided and snacks are available for children. This friendly group welcomes all from 7 years and up. 884-2554 or 884-1335

## To submit a brief

To have your brief on the community pages, mail it to: Key Peninsula News, P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394 or email it to news@keypennews.com. Deadline is the 17th of the month.

# OFF THE KEY

## Oct. 17 – Seedlings Club prepares for Halloween

The Seedlings Club-Gardening 4 Kids will hold a jack-o'-lantern carving/painting session from 4 p.m. Enjoy all the perks of the covered pumpkin patch, including hayrides, scary stories, a pirate ship, goodies and stay to carve or paint a jack-o'-lantern. 851-8115; Peninsula Gardens, Gig Harbor

## Oct. 27 – Senior Health Fair and Expo

The Gig Harbor United Methodist Church (7400 Pioneer Way) holds its 5th Annual Senior Adult Health Fair

and Resources Expo from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be flu shots, bone density screening, vision and hearing screenings, balance and strength testing and blood pressure checks. Get information about senior care issues, household services, fall prevention, hospice and the Pierce County Division on Aging and Long-Term Care.

## SalmonChanted Harbor returns

Key Peninsula's elementary schools will be among the beneficiaries of a new tradition called SalmonChanted Harbor. Fifteen artists volunteer their time to create beautiful salmon sculptures,

which are displayed in downtown Gig Harbor for several months. The salmon are then auctioned off, and the proceeds benefit two nonprofits—Hands On Art and Harbor Wildlife.

The first SalmonChanted, in 2005, reeled in more than \$70,000. Last year, Vaughn Elementary was among four Peninsula School District schools that participated in Hands On Art.

Harbor Wildlife is a grass-roots organization focused on environmental education.

The salmon will be displayed around downtown until Oct. 15; brochures/maps are available at the Visitors Center on Judson Street. The auction is on Nov. 10 at Best Western Wesley Inn. Key Pen's artist Adria Hanson is among this year's 15 artists; her sculpture, "Salmon in Obscure Places," (pictured here) is on display at Gallery Row on Harborview Drive.

## Sam Stewart's memory lives on



*Photo courtesy American Cancer Society*

Children at Camp Goodtimes East at Ross Point, Idaho, are enjoying paddle boats purchased with donations from Key Peninsula's Stewart family. The family held the first annual Sam Stewart Memorial Walk on May 12, 2007, to honor Sam, who died of leukemia on May 17, 2006, at age 14.

"Sam would have loved it! His family and friends together sharing love and laughs, tears and memories, walking, releasing balloons and raising money for a great cause," said his mother, Donna. "The loving effort and heartfelt donations raised enough money to bring a lot of fun to kids on treatment for cancer."

The memorial walk raised nearly \$2,000, which was used to purchase 10 GPS units for a high-tech scavenger hunt named "Sam's Big Adventure," as well as two paddle boats. The boats were named "Hello Beautiful" and "Hello Beautiful II." Donna Stewart said when Sam got home from school, she would shout even from the farthest corner of their small home, "Hi, you," and every day, he would answer, "Hello, beautiful!"

The family's goal is to form a nonprofit, Friends of Sam, to keep his memory alive by supporting causes Sam was passionate about. He loved animals, and while he celebrated his last Christmas with his family, Sam and his younger brother, Joe, donated their present money to the Mercy Corp. The family donated some of the money from the memorial walk to Mercy Corp. as well as the Humane Society.

The Stewarts say they are grateful to all of their friends and neighbors who showed up with hugs, memories, and generous support, and are already planning for next year's memorial walk, which will take place on May 12.

## Correction

A recipe in the September fall special section of the Key Peninsula News had an error in a recipe from Amy Shaver. The story should have stated that Shaver's great grandmother, Minnie Rickert, died in 1994, at the age of 96. We regret the error.



## Carnival Theme Halloween Party

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Key Peninsula Civic Center

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# NASA program continues at KPMS

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Key Peninsula Middle School, the first NASA Explorer School in Washington state, finished its three-year NASA partnership at the end of the last school year. Despite concerns on the part of many people regarding the program ending, KPMS is continuing many parts of the program this year.

Karen Borders, KPMS science teacher and leader of the school's NASA team, recently wrote in an email to the KP News, "We are excited about continuing the NASA program! The NASA team and all of KPMS has worked hard in order to sustain most parts of the program. We feel that family and community involvement are crucial. Therefore, we are continuing and expanding the components that involve families and the community."

Those components will include NASA Family Nights, Lunar Challenge for sixth graders, community outreach lectures, and an afterschool program in collaboration with Harbor Ridge Middle



Jenice Carey, Stephanie Stevens, and Haley Bertrand calculate their "position in space" during a trip last year to the Museum of Flight for the "Rendezvous with a Comet" program.

Photo courtesy  
Karen Borders

School. One event is already scheduled: Apollo 12 astronaut Capt. Richard Gordon will visit KPMS Oct. 5.

Borders said the astronomy and aerospace course will continue to incorporate the physics of aviation, history of aviation, a pilot panel, participation in the Museum of Flight Challenges and Women Fly, space exploration, robotics, rocketry, planetary science, and much more. The sixth-grade mission specialist class will continue to be offered this school year as well. NASA also keeps many opportunities open to alumni schools, including teacher professional development, access to NASA resources, and student investigation opportunities.

One of the many NASA-related activities last year was a visit by the aerospace class to the Museum of Flight in Seattle, where they participated in the "Rendezvous with a Comet" program. Brenson Ward, an eighth grader at the time, said, "The best part of it was that we got to sort of experience being an

astronaut and I learned that that job is not simple and would take lots of training."

"This experience facilitated intense problem-solving skills, scientific process application and teamwork," Borders said. "I was so proud of the students... In order for the students to successfully complete the challenge, they had to work as a team. This is much like the real-world and NASA; teamwork is essential. They also used math and science skills to analyze the incoming data."

Borders, who last year was selected as the Washington State Air Force Association Teacher of the Year, was nominated for the national awards program of the National Air Force Association by the McChord Chapter of the AFA. In July, she was honored with third place nationally. "This is especially meaningful to me because I have so much respect and appreciation for our men and women in the service," she said.

## BRIEFS

school

### Toddler class offered at Vaughn Elementary

Bates Technical College will offer a class at Vaughn Elementary School on Fridays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. for toddlers 18-36 months old and their parents, starting Oct. 5. The class is taught by local teacher Laurie Stafke and provides a safe, supervised environment for children and a learning experience for parents. The cost of each eight-week session is \$76. Partial Kiwanis scholarships are available. Call 680-7500 for more information and to register.

### PC Library launches Live Homework Help — free

Live Homework Help uses instant messaging to help students in real time. The program provides 1,300 tutors from throughout North America. Tutors include certified teachers, college professors and professional tutors, all with proven subject experience in their fields.

The online service is geared toward fourth through 12th graders, but anyone with a Pierce County Library card may use it from 3 to 10 p.m. Spanish-speaking students may get help in math and science Sunday through Thursday, 3 to 7 p.m.

"The student and tutor communicate in a virtual classroom," said Judy Nelson, coordinator of youth services for the library. "Using two-way whiteboards, the tutors guide students from solving geometry and trigonometry problems to writing essays."

Tutor.com, an award-winning tutoring company, launched Live Homework Help in 1999. Since then, 1,600 public libraries have offered the service.

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Day	Band/Event	Time
Every Tuesday Night	Open mic with Billy Farmer	7-11pm
Every Wednesday Night	Junkyard Jane Unplugged in the Beer Garden (if possible)	6-9pm
Oct. 5	Junkyard Jane, Swamp & Billy Rock & Blues	8pm
Oct. 6	Pacific Breeze Old Rock & Roll	8pm
Oct. 6	Harvest Fest Celebration Oyster BBQ	11am-4pm
Oct. 12	Polly O'Keary Blues & Blues & More Blues	8pm
Oct. 18	To Be Announced	8pm
Oct. 18	Beat Night: Poetry Readings & Music Sponsored by KP Writers Guild	6pm
Oct. 19	Renegade Train Country Rock & Roll	8pm
Oct. 20	Blues Attitude Rock and Blues	8pm
Oct. 26-27	Pacific Breeze Old Rock & Roll	8pm

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Thursday - Steak Night \$8.99	
Friday - Prime Rib \$10.99	

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# A new yurt is rising on the Key Peninsula

By Danna Webster, KP News

Suzanne Dircks, owner of Frog Creek Lodge, spent the early fall days of September on a yurt building project. This is the second yurt on the Frog Creek property and will be used as a meeting room for conferences and retreats hosted by Dircks. Frog Creek Lodge is a popular vacation rental and retreat house near the water. It has hosted university and college faculty retreats, wedding parties, family reunions, business and church retreats. Currently, the lodge is preparing to facilitate "green wedding" parties.

On Aug. 19, a fundraiser was held at the lodge to offset building costs of the yurt. Music, art, an auction, and tarot card readings were part of the gourmet dining event and \$3,200 was raised from art sales and donations. The Get 'er Done contractors began erecting the yurt on Sept. 13 and learned quickly the expected one-day job required seven.

"I really appreciate the great support of the friends of Frog Creek, especially the Get 'er Done yurt raisers," Dircks



Suzanne Dircks and her dog, LuLu, in front of the new yurt frame at Frog Creek Lodge.

Photo by  
Danna Webster

said.

The first yurt on the property is Dircks' personal residence and a showcase for a beautiful and quaint lifestyle. She plans to dedicate some of the calendar time for the new yurt to hospice training and staff meetings, and

also intends to make it available for nonprofit organizations that serve the Key Peninsula.

For more information, contact Suzanne Dircks via email to frogcreek@earthlink.net or call 884-3188.

# Big changes at Key Peninsula restaurants

By Danna Webster, KP News

Two restaurants moved out of the Key Peninsula during the same week of Sept. 16. Blondie's posted a fuchsia pink sign on the window that read, "To our loyal guests, Saturday, Sept. 15 will be Blondie's last day of business on the bluff in Key Center. Check our Website for our new upcoming location in Port Orchard. Your patronage has been appreciated..."



DE LA CRUZ

Blondie's is relocating in the new Bethel Centre in Port Orchard, a half block north of the Fred Meyer store.

Huckleberry Inn owner Martha Swanson sold her restaurant to Pablo and Cathy de la Cruz, owners of El Sombrero in Port Orchard. Swanson said she checked out the food at their Port Orchard location to make sure Key Peninsula folks would like it. "It was good; real nice people, too," she said. Friends and employees held a retirement appreciation party for Swanson on Sept. 16, two days after signing of the sale paperwork was complete.

The de la Cruzes started working on the Key Center premises the week of Sept. 24 and plan to introduce a Mexican décor. "I had been looking for a location on the Key Peninsula for a really long time and then I made this deal with Martha. I look forward to doing business there," said Pablo de la Cruz, whose commute to Key Center is shorter than to Port Orchard.

Pablo and Cathy de la Cruz have owned the El Sombrero restaurant in Port Orchard since 1990. Pablo is originally from a village near Guadalajara, Mexico, and Cathy is from Anacortes. The couple has three children, one in elementary school, a junior and a senior in high school. The two older children help in the restaurant and will help at Key Center, also. De la Cruz plans to close the old Huckleberry building for remodeling and licensing updates. The opening timeline will depend on county approvals.

"Our philosophy is a family place," he said. "Grandma, grandpa, all the kids — everybody is welcome. Families don't have to drive far like to Port Orchard or Gig Harbor."



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WSDOT presentation 6 pm

OS&A and potluck dinner 6:30 pm

LC General meeting 7 pm

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BYOG (Bring your Own Goblins)

Community Halloween event

Wednesday evening, Oct 31

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253-884-6022 for LIC info or rentals

253-884-9157 for event info or tickets

LIC Clubhouse at 4312 Key Pen Hwy S,

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www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

# FROM PIONEER STOCK SOUERS FAMILY HOLDS ON TO ITS ROOTS

By Colleen Slater, KP News

William Harrison Reeder, an Oregon wheat farmer, retired to Tacoma to live in a large Victorian home. His great-grandchildren delight in a Tacoma News Tribune clipping of real estate information of 100 years ago. Reeder bought three lots, including the house, for \$6,000 on Jan. 3, 1905.

He purchased 40 acres of Lakebay waterfront in 1911, and cleared five acres for garden and orchard. By 1914, a new house was built for a summer home. Reeder, who sailed around Cape Horn as a 4-year-old with his family, remained a farmer. His produce was first on the market, according to the Souers siblings (Reeder's great-grandchildren) Juel, Orrin, Ona, and Jod. He built a greenhouse with glass from an old Tacoma school, and these descendants still find bits of glass where that stood. They have a receipt for strawberries sold to Mrs. Delano, who operated the Delano Beach Resort in the 1930s.



Photo courtesy Souers family

The houseboat Ava Bagley moved from Lake Union to Lakebay served the family well for 50 years. Shown here are Ed Hollwyler in front, Lulu McMaster, Ava Bagley, two Hollwylers, and LaVern Souers. Right, eating watermelon in 1949 are, l-r, Suzanne, Jean and Jim Hollwyler, Juel and Orrin Souers.

Reeder married America Alice Leedy, daughter of the Rev. David Leedy, first minister in the Willamette Valley. When they moved to Tacoma, their youngest daughter, Ava, came with them. She



married a veterinarian named Bagley, and moved to Chehalis. She returned every summer with her children, and for many years, her Bagley Beach sign hung by the road.

Grandma Bagley bought a houseboat on Lake Union in the '30s, had it towed to the Lakebay beach and set down above the shoreline. Orrin says Bill Creviston set it up, and later added logs on the water side. The family used it for years, until the beach eroded, the building tilted, and it was no longer usable.

The houseboat had electricity, while the big house had neither electricity nor plumbing until 1969. Jod still remembers the smell of kerosene lanterns from those days.

The old wood cookstove in the main house is still used when the power goes out. Ona's husband, Cliff Reinke, brags about cooking a 26-pound turkey in it last Thanksgiving.

The Souers spent every summer at their grandparents' home, and their mother, LaVern, moved to the property permanently in the '70s. Juel lives in Seattle, but the other siblings live on the ancestral land. Orrin started building his own home, a log house overlooking the water, five years ago. When Reinke retired, he and Ona came back to live with Jod in the original house. After spending eight years in Saudi Arabia, Ona says, "Every day is beautiful, regardless of the weather." She loves the rain after those years in the desert.

They all work at restoring their great-grandfather's garden to become as self-sustaining as possible. Some of the old orchard trees still produce apples for their annual cider making, although they have to scrounge from friends and neighbors to get enough now. Orrin has rebuilt Reeder's cider mill more than once, but the innards are original.

Members of the Reeder family still farm the Oregon acreage, and the Souers siblings each have a portion of that land. They visited the old farm together recently, and think one of the cousins may choose to retire near them.

They hope the next generation will continue to treasure their great-grandfather's land the Souers love so much.

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## Local volunteer campaigns for two young boys

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Karry Jones, a passionate campaigner for funds to fight leukemia and lymphoma, planned to participate in a 26.2-mile marathon in San Francisco this year. Due to a foot injury, she changed venues. Jones will be content this year to walk the 3-mile Light the Night Walk on Ruston Way in Tacoma on Oct. 6 with her husband and four children. This family-oriented event is a walk, not a race. Red and white balloons will decorate the walk, and participants are encouraged to carry lit candles.

Two delightful little boys, Cole, 5, and Issac, 3, have captured Jones' heart. Issac was the youngest ever to walk the Relay for Life survivor lap in Olympia just before he turned 3.

Jones joined Team in Training (TNT) to raise \$2,600 on behalf of these boys. Flyers and a donation jar are at O'Callahan's, and an account for contributions is open at

Sound Credit Union in Key Center. Donation jars are also available at the Sit & Sip tavern and St. Anthony's Medical Center coffee bar in Gig Harbor. Her tax ID number is on the flyer.

Jones' 4-year-old son's middle name is Isaac, and like Issac with leukemia, he is a blue-eyed blond. Jones can't imagine one of her children having to battle one of these diseases, but in her research and training as a TNT volunteer, she has become "aware of someone else's journey," and it's made a big difference in her life.

Personalized fitness training by certified coaches for up to five months is provided to volunteers by TNT prior to the marathon events. Jones' coach is in Gig Harbor.

Additional information about TNT is available at [www.teamintraining.org](http://www.teamintraining.org) and Jones' personal notes and photos of Cole and Issac are at [www.active.com/donate/1tnWA-AK/2179\\_pr31lady](http://www.active.com/donate/1tnWA-AK/2179_pr31lady).

## Dinner dance and auction to benefit local family

A fundraising dinner, dance and auction to raise funds for Joseph Lindhartsen's family will be held on Nov. 10, 4:30 to 10 p.m., at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn. Lindhartsen was diagnosed with multiple myeloma/plasmacytoma in October 2006, a cancer that has no known cure. A silent auction will follow a casual spaghetti dinner that includes salad, bread and dessert served by Kyle Katers, who is donating its catering serv-

ices for the benefit.

The dance will follow the auction and features local musician Steve Smith and his band, donating their services. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at KC Computers in Key Center. Sheryl Mirenta, who is organizing the benefit, hopes to raise enough funds to purchase a new mini-van for the family. Funds obtained from a benefit car wash organized by Mirenta in August will be used to purchase food for the dinner.

Lindhartsen and his wife, Sarah, have four children and live in Palmer Lake (his story was featured in the July edition of the KP News, which can be downloaded from the online archives at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)).

Mirenta is seeking items for the auction and donations may be brought to KC Computers (in the KC Corral) between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Cash donations are also accepted and checks may be made payable to Joseph Lindhartsen. For information, contact Sheryl Mirenta 884-5150, or e-mail her at [Sheryl@KCComputeronline.com](mailto:Sheryl@KCComputeronline.com).

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# Timber company welcomes equestrians

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Horse ownership and equestrian recreation is on the upswing in the rural communities of the Key Peninsula and surrounding areas. Pierce Conservation District estimates horse ownership on the KP alone at several hundred head, yet seldom are riders seen along increasingly congested country roads. More traffic on even formerly quiet side roads, residential construction and division of large tracts of land continue to challenge equestrians' search for trails and other riding opportunities beyond the arena. Fortunately, local horse enthusiasts eager to ride without the interruption and potential danger of traffic have a "friend in the timber industry."

About five years ago, according to Rod Reid, president and manager of Alpine-Evergreen Co., Inc., a Christmas-tree-turned-timber enterprise, the Port Orchard-based company came up with a win-win solution to the challenge of trespassing. Alpine-Evergreen owns

some 4,000 Kitsap County forest acres, and another 1,000 across the south county line in Pierce County. Often heavily-wooded and filled with animal trails and old logging roads, the private woodlands had long been a favorite with equestrians willing to risk an encounter with the patrolmen who consistently chased them out.

One day, Reid says, the company decided to stop fighting the riders and took a different approach. He realized the forestland was attractive to equestrians, who did no vandalism and were good transient stewards. Rather than trying to think of better ways to keep horses, walkers who enjoyed the peace of deep woods, and bicyclists out, Reid said, "Let's see if we can join them." The company came up with the "Walk and Ride Permit System," which quickly became a hit with riders, walkers, and bicyclists, with no advertising or public offering whatsoever. An individual annual pass is \$25; a family of three or more could purchase a \$65 pass. The permits run from Jan. 15 to Dec. 31 and

## More information

Some of the trails may have availability restrictions due to logging operations; other conditions may apply. For information call (360) 674-2303.

are not pro-rated. Reid says the 15-day delay allows company discussion about raising the rates; none are planned for 2008. From just a few riders when the program began, Reid says "so far" this year, 425 people have obtained permits.

The fees help pay for a patrolman. Reid says, "The riders are like another security system for us." This innovative system has become mutually beneficial. Users call to alert the company about potential problems within the vast areas, and the patrolman is occasionally called upon to assist. Once, a fall from a horse necessitated ambulance service at the trailhead; another time, a horse became lost after the rider, walking, lost control of the reins and requested help (the horse was found the next day).

There are no posted entries, and the only guide to the entire 5,000 acres, which are not contiguous, is a small, low-quality topographical map. (Reid mentioned they were "hoping to make a better map soon.") He marks potential horse-trailer parking areas with a red "x" and offers this advice for would-be woodland riders: "We don't own the parking areas. Before you trailer your horse to our areas, drive around a little bit and become familiar with them." He reports no vandalism to trailers, and adds, "You park at your own risk."

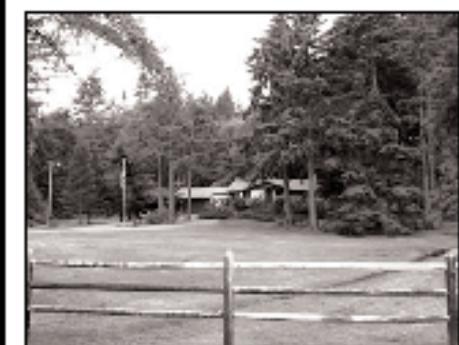
Primitive and natural, the land does not offer any facilities, and is home to abundant wildlife. It is "working" forestland, and occasionally logging prevents access to one section or another for a few weeks, according to Reid.

This wilderness "for rent" draws riders hungry for deep woods' peace yet not quite ready for truly remote adventuring. As long as users abide by Reid's request to "be careful out there," this little-known equestrian gem will likely remain open to equestrians.



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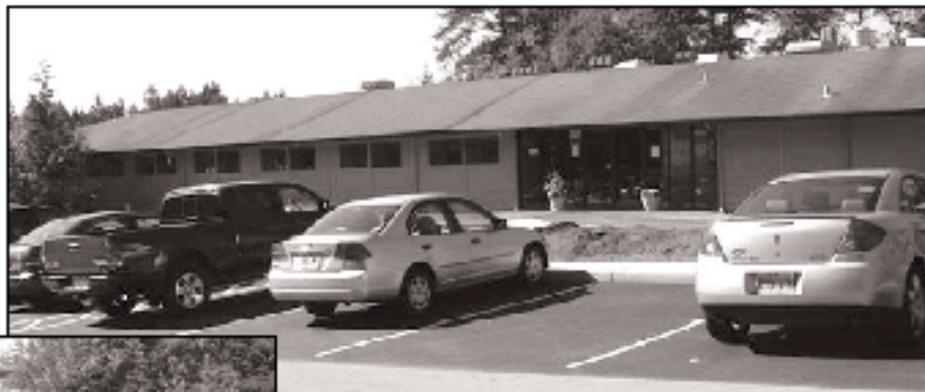
## Bond-funded Capital Projects Completed

This summer, Peninsula School District finished the majority of the last improvement projects funded by the 2003 voter-approved bond. Summer work included parking, landscaping and lighting improvements at several schools as well as at the Education Services Center. New portable classrooms were also added or replaced at Harbor Heights and Purdy Elementary schools.

The capital improvement projects, which totaled \$45 million, included several major school renovations as well as various upgrades district-wide.

Among the projects funded by the bond were:

- Purdy Elementary modernization
- Harbor Ridge Middle School final phase
- Peninsula High School upgrades, including classrooms, library and front entrance
- Gig Harbor High School auditorium



*The ESC is more visible and accessible creating a welcoming affect for visitors and staff members alike. Inset photo shows ESC prior to improvements.*

- upgrade
- Replacement of all pre-1980 portables
- HVAC upgrades
- Technology and telecommunications updates at all schools.

"Overall, we've stayed with the bond allocation, and have been able to accomplish what the taxpayers wanted to be done," says PSD Associate Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto. "We've had great oversight by the

school district's audit committee throughout the entire process."

The projects were focused on enhancing building safety and access district-wide, extending the physical life of facilities, ensuring educational equity across all schools and enhancing instructional and support space while providing an improved learning environment.

"We're proud of what we were able to accomplish."

### October Events

- 1-5 Transportation Bus Rider-ship Week!
- 10 School Board Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m. Vaughn Elementary
- 12 No School—Teacher Inservice
- 16 Henderson Bay Open House 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Peninsula Schools Education Foundation Breakfast 7:00-8:30 a.m. Canterwood Golf & Country Club
- 24 Evergreen Elementary Reading Night 6:00 p.m.  
Key Peninsula Middle School NASA Family Night 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- 25 School Board Study Session 6:30 p.m. District Office

### November Events

- 3 Peninsula High School Boosters Auction 5:00 p.m. Canterwood Golf & Country Club. For more information contact: Jane Ostericher 858-6011.
- 8 School Board Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m. District Office
- 12 No School—Veterans' Day Observed
- 22-23 No School—Thanksgiving Break

### Bus Rider-ship Week

Transportation Bus Rider-ship Week October 1-5. All of the students riding the bus to school in the morning will be counted. For those of you who are not familiar with count week, this is the one week the district can count the ride to school and receive reimbursement dollars from the state for transportation. If you currently ride the bus to school in the morning, please make sure you ride to school during this week.

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Winter Creek Elementary practices a fire drill on the first day of school. Pictured is Principal Steve Letz addressing the students and staff.

### Anonymous Tip Line for School Safety

The Safe Schools LifeLine is a completely anonymous, toll-free tip line that anyone can access 24 hours a day about any potential incident such as school violence, vandalism or theft, drug and alcohol issues, gang activity, suicide, fights or discrimination. It is offered free of charge through the Washington Schools Risk Management Pool. 1-866-LIVE-TIP is toll-free and when you call you will be asked to enter the district code: 162. All callers are assigned a code, allowing them to call back and check on the status of their issue. Do your part to keep our schools safe. Report any dangerous or threatening activity by calling 1-866-LIVE-TIP (1-866-548-3847).

## Softball season wraps up

Softball fall tournaments are drawing to a close at Volunteer Park. The U.S. Specialty Sports Association will present final events in October and November at Volunteer Park and O'Callahan's Pub.

The public is welcome to watch the games and enjoy the fun, as follows:

Oct. 27-28, O'Callahan's "Full Moon" Halloween Bash III, a USSSA co-ed tournament that included 18 teams last year. On Saturday, the teams play in costume.

Nov. 10-11, 5th Annual Tri-Fetica with three areas of emphasis: pool, darts, softball. This is a nonsanctioned-co-ed event with eight teams played on ball fields and at O'Callahan's.

Nov. 17-18 is O'Callahan's Turkey Trot II, a USSSA co-ed event that is "a lot of fun, with weird rules for this tournament," says tournament director Gary Helt.

The 23rd annual Mud Bowl was held Sept. 5-16. The co-ed event had about 18 teams from as far away as Monroe. According to KP Metro Park Director Scott Gallacher, this clean and sober tournament has more campers at Volunteer Park than any other event of the year. Nine of the 18 teams were from the GH/KP Peninsula area with Chafey Homes defeating Hy-Iu-Hee-Hee for the championship. Results for Key Peninsula teams were: Division B: Walkabouts 4th and Team Aro 5th; Division D: Lakebay Roofing 2nd and Laddy & The Ringers 3rd.

## KP artists recognized

Several Key Peninsula artists won awards at the Puyallup Fair art show.

Chris Bronstad received a fourth place prize, and Jeanne Crider, Marcia Horan, and Beverly Pedersen received honorable mentions in the competition.

# Youth orchestra provides broad opportunities

By Jeanette Brown  
Special to KP News

Key Peninsula resident Paula Vander Poel is the new executive director at Peninsula Youth Orchestra Association. Vander Poel moved to Lakebay from Bonney Lake with her family four years ago. And yes, she is Dutch — coming from the Amsterdam area.



VANDER POEL

"Land reclaimed from the sea" is the meaning of the name, according to Vander Poel, and she and her family enjoy living near the water. She knows how developmentally important music is for children, and began her relationship with the Gig Harbor-based string orchestra when she enrolled her youngest daughter, Kristine, now 12, in the program.

Kristine had fallen in love with the violin and pretty soon all three of Vander Poel's children were playing: Ashley, 15, plays the cello and Luke, 13, plays the viola. Vander Poel soon found herself volunteering for the organization.

"I would sit in on the classes and it was just natural for me to help," she says. "When the executive director position came open this past April, I put in my application, interviewed and accepted this paid position."

Vander Poel, who grew up in the Milwaukee and Green Bay areas of Wisconsin, attended Ambassador College in Texas, then a four-year program in Pasadena, Calif., graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1990. Her major was theology and she minored in German. College is where

## PYO details

Scholarships are offered through a confidential application based on need.

PYO is currently enrolling and will accept students into October. Midseason registration will be held Jan. 15-Feb. 15. The organization may be contacted by phone at 534-5384 or e-mail to [info@harborpyo.org](mailto:info@harborpyo.org). The office is located at Harbor Covenant Church, 5601 Gustafson in Gig Harbor, and is open Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

she met her husband; the couple wed in September 1990 after graduation.

She says she always had an interest in music. The new position allows Vander Poel, who home schools all three of her children, to work from home. She has also set up a mini-office at the rehearsal location at Harbor Covenant Church, so she can assist parents and work at that location. All PYO's instructors are state certified, making it easy for home-schoolers to document credit, and this past year the group also started offering high school credit.

The career move seemed like a natural fit for several reasons. "I love the orchestra," Vander Poel says. "I want to see it progress and expand. It's easy to promote something I believe in so strongly."

No. 1 on the agenda is to make sure that those in the local community are aware of the program.

"We have at least three concerts per year and another goal is to add to our free concert mailing list," she says.

Vander Poel tells a story about an early experience she had at PYO when she was sitting in on her daughter's class: "Mrs. Epperson seemed to envelop the kids. They loved her



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Camille Walther waits for her turn to play during the recent Peninsula Youth Orchestra auditions. See more photos online at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com).

grandmotherly energy and excitement for kids and music. She teaches them from the very beginning, 20 or so in a class, how to hold an instrument — not to let your wrist touch and keep your shoulder under the violin, how to hold the bow. Mrs. Epperson is a professional cellist, so she always has funny little comments about how the cellists have more fun — the violins, violas and basses always counter that strongly. Anyway, as we are sitting in class, my older two children picked up on what was being taught and the following year decided that they all wanted to be involved."

Vander Poel stepped into her new position as the PYO is entering its 10th year. The nonprofit organization was started in 1998 by Paul and Karen Pew to provide local students with string instruction, something they found missing in public schools. Now students come from as far away as Port Orchard and Puyallup to participate.

PYO offers string instruction and opportunities to perform throughout the school year for all four orchestras and is one of the only youth orchestras to offer instruction to total beginners as well as more advanced students. In addition, every summer the PYO runs a weeklong string camp.

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# Author/entrepreneur to publish historic book

By Jerry Libstaff

Peninsula author/entrepreneur Craig Olson is on his way to another major achievement. Co-founder of Rivals.com, a leading Website for collegiate athletics, and CEO of Discovery Bay Games, Olson is about to see his biography of one of Franklin Roosevelt's most deeply placed undercover agents in World War II hit the market.



**The Genuine  
ARTicle**

Olson spent years researching Ernst "Putzi" Hanfstaengl, who became Adolph Hitler's pianist as a top secret spy for Roosevelt. Hanfstaengl, one of the most obscure figures in WWII, was said to be one of the few people in the world who could claim friendship with both FDR and Hitler.

Olson earned an undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Washington and ventured into the business world. After 10 years, he wanted to further his education and entered Harvard to earn a graduate degree in history. While researching subjects for his graduate thesis, he ran across brief references to Hanfstaengl. Since Hitler's pianist seemed a minor character, German historians hadn't documented much information about the man.

In the late 1980s, U.S. classified information on Hanfstaengl's role as an undercover agent for FDR was released. Olson began to dig into the man's role, and his position as a key player began to unfold. Hanfstaengl kept the allies advised about Hitler's idiosyncrasies and the people with whom he surrounded himself.

Since Olson was the first scholar to write about Hanfstaengl's work with Roosevelt, members of the Harvard faculty suggested Olson expand the thesis into a book.

Olson, who speaks and reads German, made four trips to Germany and spent months investigating available documents on Hanfstaengl. At one point he was given access to 12 trunks of family papers in the Munich basement of

Hanfstaengl's descendants. The month spent examining that information proved to be extremely valuable to the book.

Investigations at the National Archives in Maryland, The FDR Library, as well as research at the universities of Wisconsin, Wyoming and Delaware, added great insight. Olson also had the opportunity to interview Hanfstaengl's son, Egon, on half a dozen occasions. Egon was born in the United States in 1921, when his father lived in Manhattan after graduating from Harvard in 1909. Putzi met Hitler soon after his return to Germany in 1922, and came to know him as "Uncle Dolph."

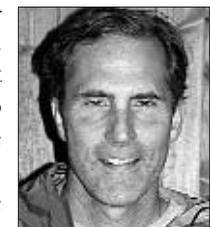
After Harvard, Olson migrated to La Jolla, Calif., but both he and his wife were from the Northwest and they began to miss their roots. They wanted to be near relatives and start their own family on the Olympic Peninsula. The Olsons were familiar with the Key Peninsula and decided this area was the "best of all possibilities." Three years ago they returned to find a home and discovered a house in the Vaughn area. They have since become deeply ingrained in the neighborhood.

Olson's Discovery Bay Games, based in Port Townsend, has won 20 national awards for its first release, "Bafflegab." The product was awarded "Game of the Year" in the United States and is now published in both French and Spanish. The game was launched through Borders Book Stores and won the "Breakout Product of the Year Award" for marketing. Discovery Bay Games has three new releases coming out soon.

Olson still finds time to write and has spent the past two years refining and promoting his book. The working title is "Hitler's Pianist, Roosevelt's Spy"; the book is due for release in early 2008. Olson's agent helped land the contract and hopes to turn the book into a motion picture.

Olson is very happy he chose to live here. He says, "The Key Peninsula is a great place to write."

*Jerry Libstaff is a writer who lives in Vaughn.*



**OLSON**

# OBITUARY

## Cristy Ann Schlag

Cristy Ann Schlag was born on Feb. 11, 1943, in the waterfront home of Albert and Joy Quistorff in Wauna, on her grandmother Garetson's estate. The next year the family moved to Horsehead Bay, where she grew up and developed

her well-known skills as a horse woman and gardener in the Nanny & Nag 4-H club led by her mother.

Schlag lived in a small house between Second Street and Key Peninsula Highway for a time until she married John Schlag.

She is survived by her brother, Hans Albert Quistorff, and his wife, Jeannette, who live in Lake of the Woods, and their son, Kristopher, of Redmond. A memorial service was held in Home on Sept. 8.



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*"KP Heron" in left photo also offered for auction.*



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(From CONCERNS, Page 1)

above an existing appraisal done on behalf of conservation efforts.

Nowhere in the application file, several inches thick at Pierce County Planning and Land Services, is mention of Jopp's intent to create a casino, heliport, housing development, or private resort at Devil's Head. Nevertheless, rumors abound around the suspected plans of his holding company, "Inspiration Inn, LLC."

Over 20 protest letters from concerned neighbors urge planning staff to keep close watch over the actions of the new landowner, who applied for a Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices logging permit, and began logging seven acres in February 2006 after the original 40-acre logging permit was denied. According to an email from DNR to county planners in December 2006, Jopp's original request was disapproved because "it was located on glacial soils above a deep-seated landslide. Landowner did not want to spend the money to have a geotechnical report done."

Included in the permit process was a "Bald Eagle Site Management Plan" from the Department of Fish and Wildlife that Jopp signed. The plan identified two eagle nests and the "no-cut buffer" the landowner, by signing, agreed to honor. One of the plan's objectives is "to protect bald eagles and their habitat, including nesting, perching, screening, and foraging trees." Jopp received a mandatory "Notice of Moratorium" in connection with the logging permit, which he signed in February 2006, that states "I/we declare that the land subject to this...will not be converted to an active use (development of any kind) incompatible with timber growing within six years."

Subsequent to logging, Jopp to started a gravel pit operation. In August 2006 he sent a letter to adjacent landowners Judson and Georgia Matthias, who reside in Arizona. The letter reads, in part, "I plan on developing the site as a gravel pit for a period of at least 10 years... I would like to... buy your property..." The Matthiases sent a copy to the county nine months later with a cover letter stating, "We are very concerned with any plans he has to develop this site."

According to county code enforcement officials, Jopp illegally removed approximately 802 cubic yards of gravel from the site before he was stopped. An "open violation" was filed in September 2006 for "grading property and extracting gravel without permits, and clearing near eagle nest and forest practice violation." A "stop work order" was issued. A second Planning document states, in capital

letters, "Do not issue any permits until this violation is resolved."

According to Scott Sissons, environmental biologist for Planning and Land Services, an application from Jopp was received in January 2007 to remove the six-year development moratorium. In May, a letter requiring wetland and fish and wildlife review was sent by the county to Jopp, with no response to date.

Shortly thereafter, Shane McWilliams made an inquiry to the county about all the logging trucks coming from Devil's Head, and sent Sissons an email asking why wetlands were "being logged right through with no regards to their sensitivity." McWilliams lives on a farm in Longbranch, and is an outspoken opponent of development in a very specific area — from Home to the end of Devil's Head. "This area should never be used for development," he said. "Our peninsula is but a sliver of land jutting out into the water...a maximum of two miles wide." He speaks passionately about the "fragile ecosystem" of wetlands and woodlands he has explored on foot for a lifetime.

Sissons responded to McWilliams via email on June 7, writing, "If there are impacts to regulated wetlands and/or drainage courses, mitigation will be required to restore the impacted areas. There will be a public hearing to lift the development moratorium on the parcel."

In an interview with the KP News, McWilliams displayed aerial photographs he paid to have taken of the Devil's Head property, illustrating the size of the gravel pit operation, and wetlands drainage resulting in discernable silt run-off into the small cove below the site. In a statement to the KP News, he wrote, "Our fresh water tables are fragile and affected with every cut into the land and logging developers are doing who have no regard to wetlands, wildlife, wind/water erosion into the salt waters, or the quiet way of life 95 percent of the people who live here cherish."

Diane Marcus Jones, the planner assigned to Jopp's file, said the violations remain on file and active, with no resolution to date. Jones said, "I have also heard the rumors," and added that Jopp had not disclosed his plans for the property.

Janna Manson, who represented herself as Jopp's development assistant, initially told the KP News the entire 95 acres would be for sale within the week with her new real estate company, but then called back to say Jopp was "indecisive; he is in the process of making some decisions." When asked about county records regarding the property, Manson said, "The county doesn't update their system; their information is wrong." She said Jopp did not plan to return a call from KP News.

(From **GORMAN**, Page 1)

service dog, Misty and for Romeo, a neighbor's Jack Russell Terrier, who often stayed with Gorman when his family was away from home. Romeo was killed in the attack. Gorman and Misty escaped from the house.

"It was the most vicious animal attack I've seen," says Lt. Bill Sawaya, Fire District 16 paramedic who responded to the call. "It was lucky she put her hands up to guard herself, or it would have been her throat and that would be life threatening."

Gorman's story came to the attention of the local Safe Street Mobilization Specialist Andrea Jerabek and to construction contractor Bruce Bodine, whose organization, Need-A-Break, offers home repair assistance. Jerabek had just started the third week on her new job and her main task was to find office space. When she went to Gorman's home and saw the damage, her priorities took a drastic shift. She began organizing help to clean the house. She admits it was an extremely difficult undertaking, almost overwhelming.

At about the same time Need-A-Break learned that a fence was needed to secure Gorman's property. Bodine contacted Jerabek and said he would like to help with the fence. When Bodine visited Gorman's home, it was clear to him that much more than a fence was needed. The house was a mess. Rooms were splattered with blood. Pepper spray residue contaminated the furnishings. It had been difficult for the emergency rescue crew to locate the house because the shrub and brush had grown over the house numbers. What was needed was an extreme makeover. That was a new dimension for Bodine's organization, but he decided to join Jerabek and make it happen.

Bodine's daughter, Julie, began



Photo by Danna Webster

Sue Gorman with Rex, who was given to the neighbor family whose Jack Russell Terrier was killed in the attack.

working with Jerabek to organize volunteers. Bodine contacted the many professional contractors, painters and roofers who had worked with him previously on home repair projects. On the second weekend in September, nearly 150 volunteer workers showed up to work with the truckloads of tools and equipment belonging to the professional team. In two days, they achieved an extreme makeover from roof to roots. All new shingles, carpet, cupboards, appliances, light fixtures, furniture, drapes, windows, doors, a custom-made doggie door, patio, driveway, inside and outside paint, flowered paths, pruned trees, a landscaped corner lot with 30 bird houses, and a cedar fence were ready to surprise Gorman on her homecoming by 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9.

A new storm door was hung and the glass was shined as the car bringing Gorman home turned down her street. The driver was Gorman's good friend, Leana Beasley, who made her wear a blindfold and told her to expect a big surprise. Beasley led Gorman through a hushed crowd to stand before a huge

bus blocking the view to her house. When the blindfold was lifted, her first surprise was the size of the "welcome home" crowd. Many of them were the volunteers who had worked on her house for the past two days. As she tried to adjust to the people and a battery of cameras, the crowd shouted, "Driver, move this bus!" The diesel engine roared, the bus drove away, and there was Gorman's beautiful home welcoming her.

Gorman walked shakily up the new concrete drive. "It's like my dream home," she said. Lt. Sawaya was there to greet Gorman. She tucked her arm under the paramedic's and led him around the front yard to see the pruned trees, new flower beds and sculptured paths. "She expressed her gratitude to the fire department, said she had been really scared and was glad to see us pull up," Sawaya says. "She commented she never knew she had so many friends in the neighborhood, never felt so cared-for in her life. For her, it was overwhelming."

Out on the street, a jubilant crowd shared stories of the work days and the miraculous changes to the house. Mostly strangers to one another, they were from Tacoma, Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula. All were inspired to help a woman erase a nightmare experience and replace it with the testimony of good will. One of the workers, Mark Wagner, was a friend of Bodine from the Life Center church in Tacoma and had worked with him before. "He's my hero," Wagner said while watching Bodine shake hands and thank the volunteer workers. "He's as good a person as they come."

Andrea Jerabek's husband, Edward, was one of the volunteers. The Safe Streets office is temporarily located in their Gig Harbor home. He found his wife's first month on the job at Safe Streets remarkable. "I'm very proud of

## Contact information

Safe Streets Community Mobilization Specialist Andrea Jerabek may be contacted via email to [ajerabek@safest.org](mailto:ajerabek@safest.org) or by calling 278-8898.

her. She's taken this whole thing by storm," he says.

Gorman suffers recurring nightmares and sometimes the television triggers frightening memories. She is afraid because the dogs have not been surrendered for destruction but remain at the Humane Society. Gorman and Beasley are actively advocating that Layla's Law, RCW 9.91.170, be enforced with regard to this attack. According to Beasley, the law protects the safety of service dogs and their disabled owners. Conviction of breaking Layla's law would find the dogs' owners responsible for the full restitution of all damages to Gorman, her dog, her home, and her personal property.

As for Jerabek's first experience with Safe Streets, an organization she had never heard of until they hired her, she says this "project" was all about on-the-job training. "I don't want to take a whole lot of credit. I've just been falling into things," she says. "This is like a separate event. This is about Sue... to come home, to come to a safe home."

The first month was a "whirlwind" for Jerabek but she says the real job with Safe Streets hasn't even begun. "This was not an isolated incident about loose dogs and vicious dogs," she says. "I need to get people to the table — the sheriff, law enforcement and community leaders — and ask what we can do for the long haul. Having a dog running loose is not acceptable, no matter how nice the dog."

The long haul will require community awareness and community commitment. "That's education and education is slow," Jerabek says.

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(From TOUR, Page 1)

Pierce County Extension. "Farming is a part of culture — part of life."

Many Key Pen farmers will present their resources at the Event Center in Longbranch hosted by the Wong Family Farm. Visitors may browse tables of honey, jams, jellies, dahlia bouquets and smoked and fresh salmon. The Sherman Family Petting Zoo will entertain kids of all ages. At 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., the herding dogs of MacDonald's Eweful Acres will demonstrate their skills. Chuck Kraft will astound the audience with his psychology of horse training demonstration at 2 p.m. There will also be a live music serenade.

In beautiful downtown Key Center, O'Callahan's and On the Way Deli will feature local foods on their menus. O'Callahan's will be grilling Minterbrook Oysters for lunch and the deli will offer pumpkin soup, pies and desserts from Shiloh Farm. The Steve Smith and Friends Band will pick up the beat in front of the deli.

In addition to the Wong Family Farm, other farms participating in the tour event are Fred's Dairy Barn and Toy Box in Longbranch, Fairview Acres in Lakebay, Shiloh Farm and Trillium Creek Winery in Home.

Fred's Dairy Barn and Toy Box is a state-of-the-art barn with antique tractors and cars in its stables. Guests may walk through the barn and the adjoining lot to enjoy beautifully restored and mint condition vehicles

**Enjoy the tour**

The KP Farm Tour is on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Event Center is located at the Wong Family Farm at 3421 Creviston Road in Longbranch. Maps of participating locations will be available at the event center as well as other participating farms and online at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com). Lottery coupons will be available at each tour site for a gift basket drawing.

such as a 1924 Franklin rambler and 1937 Cadillac. At Fairview Acres Lavender Farm, guests may stop and enjoy the whir of the spinning wheel inside the gift shop, which is filled with lavender lotions, berry jellies and piles of colorful home spun yarn. Outside, the gardens and greenhouse are open for a stroll. The Howden Biggie pumpkins at Shiloh Farm combine a large size (35 to 60 pounds) with thick dark orange walls and have a true attractive pumpkin shape just right for the season.

The Cinderella pumpkins are great in your favorite recipe and, of course, the giant pumpkin will be camera-ready. Shiloh also has a large decorative gourd garden.

The tasting room at Trillium Creek Winery will be open. Chardonnay, merlot, fruit wines and raw-milk, French-style cheese from the Estrella Family Creamery are available from their deli. Tours of the vineyards and wine cellar will be ongoing throughout

**Farm Tour**

**1 O'Callahan's Restaurant**

Downtown Key Center — 15610 92nd St.

Grilled oysters from the Minterbrook Oyster Company.

**2 On the Way Deli**

9017 Key Peninsula Hwy N. • Lakebay, WA 98349

Outdoor music, pumpkin soup, pies & dessert, provided by Shiloh's Farm.

**3 Fairview Acres**

14512 24th St. KPS • Lakebay, WA 98349

See spinning demonstrations, sewing accessories, lavender products, jams, mustard, soaps and candles.

**4 The Wong Family Farm**

3421 Creviston Rd KPS • Longbranch, WA 98349

Dog herding, horse training demonstration, animals, including chickens and rabbits. Taste some sweet honey from the Bee Lady, or some Minterbrook Oysters, Rolf's smoked salmon, Bischoff jams, jellies, pies. Dahlias, antique trucks & live music

**5 Shiloh Farm**

1127 188th Ave. KPN • Home, WA 98349

The KP giant pumpkin

**6 Fred's Dairy Barn & Toy Box**

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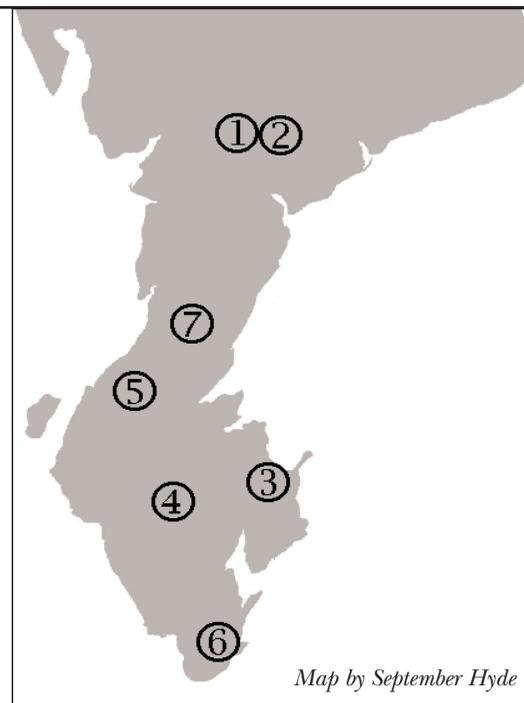
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Antique cars & tractors

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Vineyard & cellar tours and wine tasting. Picnic area



Map by September Hyde

the day.

Bringing Harvest Fest to the Key Peninsula was Claude Gahard's idea. Gahard is the owner of Trillium Creek and a member of the Pierce County Farm Board. When he learned that the first weekend in October is celebrated by farm tours throughout the state, he was certain Key Peninsula should be included. And he put the plan in motion. "We have a lot of talent on the Peninsula," Gahard said. "We have some lovely food resources here on the Peninsula that we offer to the public-at-large in Pierce County, including oysters

and shellfish, which are coastal area resources."

County rules and regulations had to be met by participating farmers for the Harvest Fest and some favorite farms and produce stands not on the tour this year hope to join the event next year.

"Harvest Fest is coming together very well thanks to the generosity and offerings of our community," Gahard said.

The hopes and purpose of the event are to make the public aware of the fresh and local food resources available on the Peninsula and make it a part of the KP community's lifestyle.

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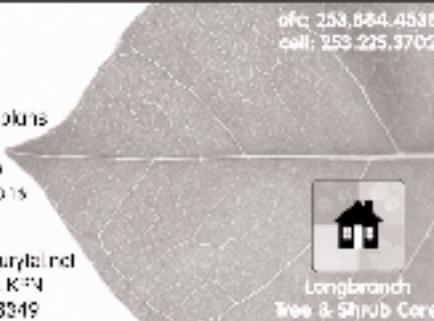
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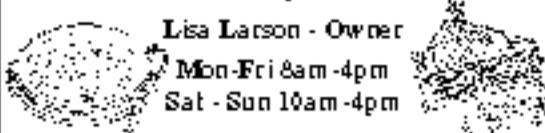
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# Out & About

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Above, PHS cheerleaders volunteer their time to put on cheer mini-camps for elementary students. The students here are practicing for their performance at the Puyallup Fair. Minter Creek Elementary students, l-r, Allie Wojtanowicz and Emily Frier, with teachers, l-r, Kaity Pickard, 11th grader, and Whitney Young, 10th grader.

*Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Right, The first day of September, while visiting grandparents Larry and Mardie Nicholson, who live near the Herron ferry landing, John and Sarah Hires of Parkland fish from the Herron Lagoon bridge with their children, Samuel, 3, Nehemiah, 4, and Miriam, 6 months.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Pierce Conservation District Farm Planner Erin Ewald hosts a pasture-enhancement workshop at Shane McWilliams Longbranch farm, with additional help from Daisy the dog and pasture enrichment information provided from Warwick Bryant, owner of Kiwi Fence Co.

*Photo by Chris Fitzgerald*



Spirit was high at the PHS Fishbowl assembly held at school before the annual game between Peninsula High and Gig Harbor High; here, ASB officers present the "Tides Prisoners" to the crowd's delight. L-r: Lyndsi LaRose, Aleesha Wilson, Dan Wickens, Clare Guthrie and Kaila Kent. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



A circle tie of the Roche Harbor Yacht Club, and a few other boats anchored out on Labor Day weekend at Filic Bay. *Photo courtesy Mark Runions*



Carolyn Scott Arnold, right, shows one of her paintings to Eilleen Jacobs of Portland, Ore., during September's Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Open Studio Tour. Jacobs traveled all the way from Oregon just for the two-day event, after receiving information in the mail. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

The Vipers, who are fifth and sixth graders from Vaughn and Evergreen elementary schools and KPMS, give a team cheer before going to salute the rivaling team at the end of a soccer game at Gig Harbor High School's field in September. The teams are part of Peninsula Athletic Association.