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gives practical
advice, page 36

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FROM THE
KP NEWS

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Citizens of 2006 are appreciated at Lions' Club 23rd annual event



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Phil Bauer accepts his plaque naming him the 2006 Citizen of the Year from KP Lions President Marv Keizur, while receiving a standing ovation from keynote speaker, Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck and his wife, Kristina.

Phil Bauer chosen Citizen of the Year

By Danna Webster, KP News

In an area like the Key Peninsula, the work of the 30 volunteers honored at the Citizen of the Year banquet has an impact on every man, woman and child who lives here. That is the view of Dick Hassan, a first-time nominee for the citizen award. He brought 120 orchid corsages to the banquet and gave one to each woman who attended, including an 8-year-old Girl Scout.

“There comes a time in your life when you can do it.”

— Phil Bauer

Presenting flowers has long been a trademark of Hassan, who was nominated for his work and financial contributions toward the repair of a retaining wall at Volunteer Park. “It was a surprise that people thought to put me in that category,” Hassan says. “I felt blessed to be a part or even to be invited.” He believes the awards ceremony is an absolute necessity in order to honor the volunteer workers of

(See **AWARD**, Page 6)

The long road from addiction to sobriety

A Key Pen man shares eye-opening story

Editor's note: This is part 1 of a two-part story. Next month: A look at local efforts to help people struggling with drug addiction and recovery.

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

One look across his tidy desk to the silver-haired man sitting easily back and listening intently to his visitor's story gives an observer the impression Randy Viers has always been a member of the helping

profession. Viers, a Key Peninsula resident, is a program director for Olalla Recovery Centers, with facilities in Olalla and Gig Harbor. The organization provides alcohol and drug counseling on either an in- or out-patient basis to area citizens in need of help and ready to receive it.

Almost two decades ago, when Viers needed help with his own spiraling drug and alcohol addictions, treatment was in its infancy. Having experienced both the devastation of addiction, and the rejuvenation of life after leaving his

(See **VIERS**, Page 31)

Key Pen News sponsors Geoduck Forum

By KP News staff

As part of its ongoing mission to report news affecting local residents in a fair and balanced manner, the Key Pen News has joined forces with the Key Peninsula Community Council and Shellfish Partners (a cooperative consisting of Pierce County Water Programs, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Pierce Conservation District) to sponsor a gathering at which Key Pen residents can learn more about the issues surrounding geoduck aquaculture on public and private tidelands. The public forum will be held on Thursday,

(See **FORUM**, Page 33)

Injured paramedics credited with saving crash victim's life

By Jeanette Brown
Special to KP News



Photo courtesy Fire District 16

The cab of the ambulance was totaled in the accident, and fire district officials do not know if the back part will be reused.

ambulance. Robert Smith, 49, was transported to Harrison Hospital in Bremerton with minor injuries, and later taken to Pierce County Jail and booked on two counts of vehicular assault, including one count for the injury of his wife.

In a press release, WSP reported, "According to witnesses of the collision, Smith did not slow or stop at the stop sign crossing directly into the path of the oncoming ambulance." Troopers at the scene believe "alcohol was a contributing factor in this tragic and preventable collision." The highway was shut down for more than five hours while authorities investigated the scene.

The driver of the ambulance, EMT Dean Junell, had the lights and sirens activated and spotted the approaching SUV before the impact, thus enabling him to warn the crew in back to brace for the accident. According to West, paramedic Michael

Riegle was just about ready to connect his patient to the heart monitor when the impact occurred. EMT Andrew Tilley, of Fox Island, stayed in the ambulance with the original patient while Riegle and Junell "dug through ambulance debris," in order to find the equipment to provide emergency care to the injured couple.

West said, "I am very proud of the ambulance crew and the way they acted under extreme emergency conditions. The men had to be reminded that they were also patients and needed to be hospitalized." They were transported to a hospital with minor injuries and released.

Riegle and Junell, both of Port Orchard, were back to work by March 20; at press time Tilley was expected to return to his volunteer post soon. Junell and Tilley are unpaid resident volunteers, each working two days per month while also holding other jobs. They are part of an in-house

“I am very proud of the ambulance crew and the way they acted under extreme emergency conditions. The men had to be reminded that they were also patients and needed to be hospitalized.”
— Chuck West, division chief

training program for those interested in a career with the fire department. West said the department is looking for more resident volunteers.

As for the fate of the ambulance, West said, "Insurance investigators are still working on repair/replacement estimates and the cab is completely totaled, but there is a possibility of taking the back box off and reusing that." The cost is expected to be almost as expensive as buying a new ambulance, and while it was necessary to bring in another ambulance that night, it was the lack of staff to drive and respond to emergencies that had West worried, not the lack of fire equipment.

"Bringing in another ambulance is not that unusual, but a more immediate problem is shortage of trained firefighting staff," West said, noting that Reigle was the only paramedic on shift that evening.

Next month: A closer look at this dangerous stretch of State Route 302, where lives have been lost.

KPCCA Upcoming Events

April 7
Easter Egg Hunt

May 4
No Skating

May 12
KP Liveable Community Fair,
Lakebay Fuschia Society Plant Sale

May 18
Medical Van
coming by appt. only
253-984-5433

Questions? Call 253-884-3456
Key Peninsula Civic Center

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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

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

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KP community plan heads for planning commission

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

For more than two and a half years, a small group of Key Peninsula citizens has met regularly to help shape future growth for the next 20 years, discussing issues ranging from land use and environment to community character and transportation. After two more April meetings, the group's work will officially conclude — and the Pierce County Planning Commission will start taking the plan apart, putting it through a series of questions and public hearing sessions.

Although the plan is nearly complete, several issues have come back to the table at the last few meetings, including discussions about previously proposed forest land designations, and previously approved commercial zone boundary lines.

At its March 21 meeting, the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board reversed an earlier decision to use the forest land resource zone. The issue had become controversial, following a letter to the affected property owners outlining the proposed changes, which, if passed

Meeting schedule

The final meetings for the Pierce County - Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are scheduled for April 4 and April 18, 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library.

The draft plan will be available at an open house between 4-7 p.m. on April 10 at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, McColley Hall, 4213 Lackey Road KPN in Lakebay. The planning commission meetings will be held every Wednesday, starting May 2, at 7 p.m. at the same location.

by the county council — the final approving authority over the plan — would prevent them from subdividing their land. Although the board had finished the proposed land-use map more than a year ago, many property owners were not aware the discussions were taking place.

"There was no intention to take away folks' opportunity to subdivide their properties," Pierce County Senior

Planner Mike Kruger told a packed audience. He then told the board, "You can do your own thing (that's different from the county criteria), but you have to justify your zoning."

The board voted to change the proposed land-use map by designating the earlier forest land zones either Rural 10 (allowing one residence per 10 acres) or Rural Sensitive Resource (based on a current watershed map).

"I'd recommend you continue to follow the process because it's not a done deal," Kruger said, referring to the upcoming discussions by the county planning commission. That same statement, in fact, applies to the entire plan — the commissioners' job is to make sure the plan follows Growth Management Act requirements, and if challenged in court, can be justified. Kruger said the planning commissioners as well as the county council members give great weight to the community's plan and ideas, but at the same time they have to make sure the plan meets certain criteria.

At the last two remaining April meet-

ings, the board will discuss the community character and design element. Kruger encouraged business owners present at the meeting to review the draft of the section and provide feedback.

"This board is about economic development, and we don't want to do anything that will stifle growth," he said.

An open house on April 10 will give community members an opportunity to review the draft and provide feedback. "The plan is done, but this is an opportunity for people to comment and make a few tweaks," Kruger said in an interview.

The Pierce County Planning Commission begins review of the plan at a work session on April 24, at which time no public comment will be taken. The commission will then hold four or five meetings starting May 2, allowing for citizen comment. The commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the Pierce County Council, first going through the Economic Development Committee, and later to the entire council. Kruger estimates the plan to be officially approved by this fall.



ARBOR DAY

The community is invited to the 7th annual
Arbor Day Celebration!
Saturday, April 28th
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Gig Harbor Civic Center at 3510 Grandview St.

- FREE ADMISSION and trees for all who drop by.
- Poster, poetry, and photo contest awards.
- Environmental and art booths.
- 2007 Good Stewardship Award presented
- Tree planting
- Arborist to answer your questions
- Children's activities
- Refreshments
- Raffle drawings throughout the afternoon

Sponsored by the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Arbor Day Foundation
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EDITORIAL

Community plan discussions all but over

For more than two and a half years, a small group of Key Peninsula residents has examined statistics, maps, regulations, demographics and other data to create a plan that directs the growth of the community for the next 20 years. The

community planning board has dealt with a wide range of issues, including controversial subjects that have often led to packed rooms and, at times, passionate comments.

In April, the board will finish its work, allowing the public a chance to review its entire draft at an open house. The board will also finalize the last element of the plan, community character, which will include proposed commercial design standards.

The discussion, however, is far from

over. The plan now heads to the county's planning commissioners, who have the discretion of making any changes they see fit. Although county officials say the community-drafted ideas are usually supported by the planning commissioners, the commissioners are looking at the plan through a different lens. Where the community board members wrote proposals based on how they want their community to look in the future, the planning commissioners have a less personal approach that is focused on

meeting state-mandated requirements.

Citizens who want to make sure their interests are represented and their views or proposals are included in the final plan should continue to keep an eye on the process and attend the commission meetings, which will conveniently be held right in our back yard. And for those citizens who did not get the chance to comment yet, it is not too late to be heard.

The future of the Key Peninsula depends on your input.

Steps to reduce bridge tolls

SEN. DEREK KILMER



commuters would pay a toll to pay a tax fails the basic fairness test, particularly on a project paid almost entirely by tolls. Senate Bill 5681 would shave off roughly \$40 million to \$60 million from the cost of the bridge for toll payers.

Applying fines for violators to the toll account: Motorists who use the "transponder-only" lane without a "Good to Go!" pass on their windshield will be fined, but under current law, none of the money generated from those violations would go to the Narrows Bridge Tolling Account. Senate Bill 5391 would direct a portion of the fine (equal to three times the amount of the toll) to the Narrows Bridge Tolling Account. Over time, this bill could generate an additional \$15 million to \$20 million for the tolling account, money that law-

abiding commuters won't have to pay.

Offering discounts to motorists who sign up for transponders: When we left Olympia last year, the Legislature had appropriated \$1.3 million for this year and budgeted another \$8.7 million to create a discount for Tacoma Narrows Bridge users during the first year the bridge is open. I fought hard to get that money in the budget, and this fall I joined my Kitsap and Pierce county colleagues in asking Gov. Chris Gregoire to keep that \$10 million in the budget. I'm grateful she delivered. Now it's the Legislature's turn. Beginning this summer, bridge users will face a toll even while retrofitting work is undertaken on the existing bridge. For much of that year, the bridge will be at limited capacity. Commuters shouldn't be asked to pay a full toll for a project that

doesn't deliver full benefit. Indeed, during this period commuters may face a commute that's even worse than it is now. Using the \$10 million to offer discounts to transponder users not only gives commuters a break but provides an incentive for people to avoid tolls booths and keep traffic flowing.

None of these proposals would eliminate the need for tolls. But each can make them easier to bear. And for those who use the Narrows Bridge on a regular basis, small savings here and there will add up to a big difference over the long haul.

Sen. Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor, is vice chairman of the Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee and a member of the Senate Transportation Committee. He represents the 26th District, which includes Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor, Port Orchard, and parts of Bremerton.

Many residents of Key Peninsula don't have a lot of choice when it comes to their daily commutes. Crossing the Tacoma Narrows Bridge is a part of their daily lives.

The least the state can do is give them a break.

I've proposed a package of bills that do that. The first three would reduce bridge tolls by:

Exempting the sales tax on construction: The prospect that bridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Little League effort appreciated

On Saturday, March 17, over 60 Little League players and parents participated in the 3rd annual Key Peninsula Little League Volunteer Day at Key Peninsula Sports Complex and Fairgrounds (Volunteer Park). Volunteers provided over 150 hours of community service to prepare the park for Little League Opening Day on March 24. Volunteers installed posts, cleaned tennis courts, picked up rocks, downed tree limbs, and other debris, raked up leaves, installed fencing, and trimmed blackberries and other bushes. This effort proves what a strong community this is.

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District would like to extend a very big thank you to all those who helped.

*Scott Gallacher, Director
Key Peninsula Metro Parks District*

Fire chief expresses gratitude

On Sunday morning, March 11, a Key Peninsula Fire Department ambulance was involved in a collision with a vehicle driven by a Lakebay resident. The crash occurred at the intersection of SR-302 and 118th Avenue NW. In all, six people were injured, including three firefighters, a patient in transport, and the two people in the other vehicle. We would like to express our concern for Christine Smith as she recovers from her injuries and offer our sympathy to her family. We are following her progress with great hope for her full recovery.

The KPFDF is proud of our firefighters following the collision. They overcame confusion at the site and performed their duties, despite their own injuries. After checking his crew, and calling for additional help, captain/paramedic Mike Riegle went to the other vehicle and began emergency medical aid to those two patients. He and his crew were also transported to Tacoma General Hospital, treated for their injuries, and later released. They are off-duty for several days during recovery from minor injuries suffered in the severe impact.

We greatly appreciate the help and support of Gig Harbor Fire & Rescue, Kitsap County Fire District 7 and Mason County Fire District 5. The outpouring of concern for our firefighters has been awesome. It means a lot to know the Key Peninsula community cares so much for our members. We feel very fortunate to be surrounded by the wonderful people here

on the Key and Gig Harbor Peninsulas.

*Tom Lique, Fire Chief
Fire District 16*

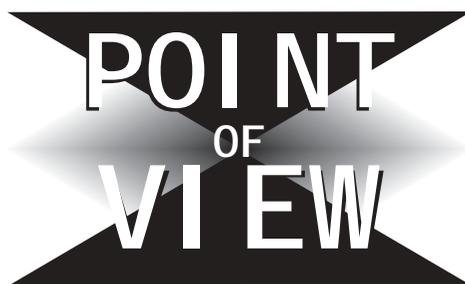
Features a hit with reader

I have been meaning to write to tell you how much I enjoy your paper. It is wonderful to read "local" news. My procrastination stopped with your February news on Glenda McQueen ("Glenda knows mops, treasures moppets"). That's a beautiful story, and she is a super hero and true live angel. Thank you so much. Also in February you wrote an article about Dr. John Olsson. He is our dentist and we love him, his work and staff. It's all so "down home" and friendly. One thing is for sure, he is a true Christian; walks the walk, not just talks the talk. Keep up the good work.

*Darlene Taunt
Wauna*

Varoom! Can you hear it?

By Jud Morris
Special to KP News



NASCAR has for South Sound communities. NASCAR is very big bucks. It is the fastest growing sport in the United States. I used to live in South Carolina and have been to the Darlington Motor Speedway (Darlington Too Tough To Tame). NASCAR will want to put on its best face for the South Sound communities. There will be a very hard-sell marketing and public relations campaign.

So let's get some of those NASCAR bucks. The Key Peninsula is isolated, basic services are scarce or nonexistent, and many individuals and families are living in poverty. There is no doubt there are needs. Maybe with some of these funds, there can be increased health care, recreation, employment, economic

development, social services, educational opportunities, and public services (fire, law enforcement, and library). Some would say we are just belying up to the bar, grabbing the pork, but NASCAR is a business (a very profitable business). I know you get my idea.

More importantly, what are your ideas? Just as important, what are our plans (if any)? An old business adage is, "You've got to spend money to make money." If the cost of doing business for NASCAR's new race track in Kitsap County is spending money for marketing and public relations to residents of the South Sound, then I say the "Varoom" you hear should be Key Peninsula residents being first in line to get the money for services we desperately need. Hopefully, these funds come with earplugs so if the speedway is built, you will not lose your hearing when you see Danica Patrick grab the checkered flag.

Jud Morris is a Gig Harbor resident who works on the Key Pen. His views are his own and do not represent those of his employer or affiliated organizations.

Call for columnists

Fresh, original voices are wanted — The Key Peninsula News is looking for guest columnists to contribute bi-monthly columns over the next year (total of 6 columns).

The columns may be entertaining, informative, humorous or serious and must pertain to topics relevant to Key Peninsula readers. Previous published work is not a requirement for this position, which is unpaid.

To be considered, please submit the following: a one-paragraph biography or background summary, a one-paragraph proposal outlining your column ideas and potential topics, and at least two proposed columns (500-600 words or less).

Submissions must be electronic (on disk delivered to our office at the Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road in Vaughn, or emailed to news@keypennews.com). For questions call 884-4699.

The finalists will be selected by a panel. Deadline is May 15; with the first columns to be featured later this summer.

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

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OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, April 10, 2007
4:00 - 7:00 pm



You are invited to review and comment on the proposed Key Peninsula Community Plan. Pierce County staff and Community Planning Board members will be on hand to answer questions and take comments.

Find out about:

► Land Use ► Transportation ► Zoning/Revised Zoning Map ► More



For more information or future notification contact:
Pierce County Planning and Land Services (253) 798-2785.



HONORING VOLUNTEERS

(From **AWARD**, Page 1)

the Key Peninsula.

Phil Bauer, who was selected as the 2006 Citizen of the Year, says, "It is good to honor people. The KP is unique. There are so many nonprofits, 501-C3s and churches all out here to help people on Key Peninsula." (See related story about Bauer, page 7.)

Bauer compliments the many local volunteers, saying, "There comes a time in your life when you can do it." It is his view that the plaque belongs to all of them. His first words, as he received his plaque, were, "I'd like to share this with the other volunteers not nominated and deserve it, and with all the other nominees."

The keynote address by Terry Bouck, superintendent of the Peninsula School District, emphasized the volunteer workers of the many community groups and school organizations that make the Peninsula unique. He said two words come to mind that apply to our volunteers: impossible and energized.



The youngest Citizen of the Year attendee, 4-week-old Grace, came to the banquet to support grandpa Don Zimmerman, one of the nominees. Grace is comfortably snoozing in the arms of her dad, Drew Zimmerman, next to mom Allison and older sister Kathryn, 17 months. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

"Impossible isn't in your vocabulary," he said. "And energized means bringing to action. You're bringing it (that action) around every day."

Bouck was presented with the Lions Club Certificate of Appreciation. President Marvin Keizur told him, "The Key Pen could not function without your efforts." Another salute was given Bouck from Master of Ceremonies Hugh McMillan with regard to the technology used for the presentation. "A first — first time we ever had a presentation in PowerPoint (software)," McMillan said.

In closing, Keizur expressed the sentiment in the Lions Club logo, "Together We Are Greater." He announced to the nominees, "You are all winners."

The unique spirit of KP volunteers was alive and well at the banquet, according to co-chair Patricia Medveckus. Two of the nominees from the KP Community Services did the dishes that night. Ruth Bramhall, former Citizen of the Year, sold 600 raffle tickets. Two Scout troops and the KP Youth Council worked the setup and cleanup details. LuLu's Homeport provided a bartending team, and Hassan sent eight orchids back to Blondie's restaurant crew in appreciation for their help with the dinner.

Hassan shared the view that all the nominees were winners. He is known as the inventor of a game that celebrates success and winning. He called the game "T" ball. It is a game for very young children where hitting the ball creates a sense of winning, and working together with a team can win a whole game. It is a similar situation for volunteers who do many separate tasks but together contribute to the success of the whole community. "Everyone has a job to do, but all of them working together make a mountain," Hassan says.



Far left, The event was filled—in fact, more people showed up at the door than expected.

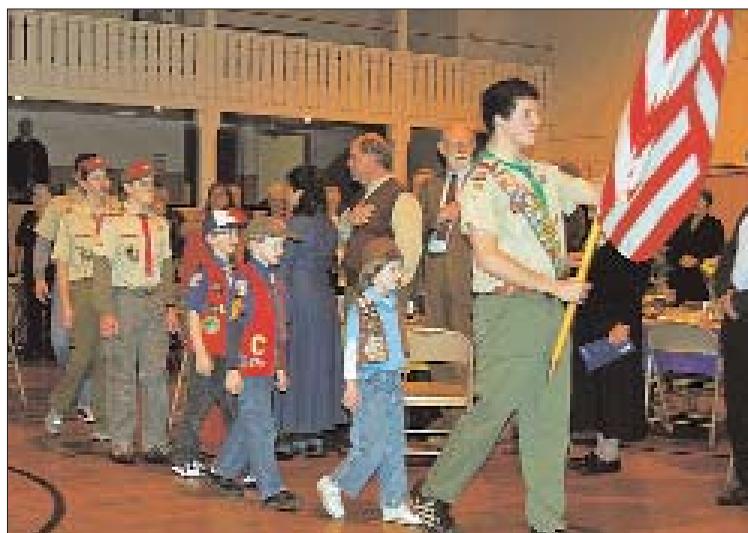
Left, Keith Stiles (left) and John Glennon share a warm greeting.

For more Citizen of the Year photos, visit www.keypennews.com.

Photos by Rodika Tollefson



Left, Superintendent Terry Bouck congratulates Kathy Bauer on her husband's award. Right, KP Lion and MC Hugh McMillan visits with Key Peninsula Middle School Principal Sharon Shaffer. *Photos by Rodika Tollefson*



The local Boy Scout start the ceremony by presenting the colors.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Left, several hours before the event, Lyn Williams of Blondie's is preparing the evening's dinner.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Phil Bauer: A man of many talents, dedication

By Danna Webster, KP News



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Phil Bauer accepts his 2006 Citizen of the Year award by saying the award belongs to the entire community and other volunteers.

once a week to supervise the 6 p.m. session of Friday Night Skate Night. Currently, he is busy organizing the May 12 Livable Community Fair, and remains the "ultimate paperboy" who distributes the KP News issues to each local post

office for mailing.

Vaughn resident Gary Gebo has known Bauer for more than 30 years. Both men were pilots for Western Airlines but only flew together once. "When he moved out here, he bought my old place... Before he retired, he would say when he retired he was going to be able to put more time into the community. He certainly has done it," Gebo says. He knows the level of that involvement to some extent. "Every time he gets involved in something, I go to the work," he says and ticks off a few job examples they have shared: set up and tear down events for the Civic Center, work at the fair, deliver the papers, and move the postmistress' desk to the new post office.

Don Hornbeck and Bauer started their outdoor adventures together in 2003. They have been hiking and backpacking in the Olympics and Cascades, on Mt. Rainer Trails, and on Washington beaches. Last summer they paddled a canoe 900 miles up the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories. They plan to hike in the Grand Canyon this fall. "Phil has done Army Ranger training and it shows when we are out in wild areas. He's an excellent cook; don't know how he does at home, but he's a good cook on the trail," Hornbeck says, adding there are a lot of stories not for publication and mentions something about a mountain goat getting into Bauer's tent. On all their exploits they have never been in danger nor had an emergency. "He really understands being out in the wild. We've never been in any jackpots — dangerous situations," Hornbeck says.

Bauer was treasurer for Two Waters Arts Alliance and president of the KP Civic Center Association at the same time. Loyd Miller, who was the KPCCA vice president

at the time, says they have "worked together on a lot of stuff." One of their first projects, back when Phil was new to the association, was to remodel the caretaker's apartment. Miller has remained impressed with Bauer's abilities and talents. "He is capable. For a pilot, he has a lot of other skills: carpentry, painting; (he) drives a tractor with a bucket, spray paints houses and at the Civic Center—not for pay —does it as a friend," Miller says as he lists off other projects that include redoing the gym floor every year, installing new curb poles in the parking lot, putting up great big new speakers, building a safe storage cubicle for sound equipment, and remodeling the shop room into a conference room for the Children's Home Society.

Bauer drives his tractor over to neighbor Sylvia Haase to grade her driveway. He built her a new shed when a tree took the old one out, and on her 65th birthday, he gifted her with an airline ticket to Europe. The thank-you party she held in his honor surprised him. She presented him with a gift of one square yard of Scotland. This earns him such titles as Lord of the Land and Laird of Scotland. "He was so embarrassed," Haase remembers. "The party was out on my deck and we had a big sign that said 'Phil's Fans.'"

Frank Garratt, vice president of TWAA, says, "I know very few of Phil's friends or acquaintances who have not been touched by his generosity or kindness. He's all about others. People know about his work for the fair, Civic Center, Two Waters, but a good bit of his time is done on a one to one basis." Garratt offers a warning: "Be careful what you say to him. He is liable to show up at your door with his tool belt and a hammer."

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Fate of 'Horseshoe Lake' property uncertain

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The likelihood of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park's acquisition of a 350-acre Department of Natural Resources parcel for a park is still uncertain, although the Legislature has come up with a proposed fix to the problem that has held up the transfer of many similar state properties.



LANTZ

At issue is a timber-to-land ratio requirement DNR must meet when it transfers its properties, through legislative fund appropriations, to local public agencies through the Trust Land Transfer program. Considered "transition properties" that DNR no longer finds viable for timber, these parcels are on a list for disposal — however, since the agency's mandate is to maximize revenue from these lands on behalf of the trustees, they must receive fair market value through funds appropriated specifically for this purpose in the legislative budget.

Although not based on an actual state law, the program uses an 80/20 timber/land value ratio when creating its statewide list of proposed transfers. While each property's ratio is different, overall the package has an 80/20 formula, and the list is prioritized based on the highest timber/land ratio.

After a 350-acre parcel called in state documents "Horseshoe Lake" was slated to be transferred to the KPMPD during the 2005-07 biennium, a discovery of gravel skewed the ratio, and the transfer was placed on hold. (Note: This "Horseshoe Lake" park property is not

related to the Horseshoe Lake Kitsap County Park, which is located nearby.) With increasing land values, however, other DNR properties are facing similar issues.

"In Puget Sound, many properties have the ratio problem, while DNR would prefer to see them go to public agencies (through the trust land transfer program), and they want to dispose of those properties," said Brad Pruitt, a DNR resource lands transaction specialist, in a presentation at the March 12 KPMPD board meeting.

As a solution, DNR is proposing leasing these properties instead of transferring them outright — which will not impact the ratio. On the original 2007-09 list, the Horseshoe Lake parcel was among several proposed leases, including a local 60-acre parcel called Maple Hollow. The proposed leases were for 30 years, which likely would not allow the park district to pursue major developments at those parks.

Pruitt brought along the idea to commissioners of replacing the Horseshoe Lake property on the 2007-09 list with another, a 400-acre parcel in Key Center that could be transferred in several segments. He said DNR wanted to study the Horseshoe Lake parcel to come up with a solution, but in the meantime they wanted to give the park district another opportunity. The commissioners liked the idea for the Key Center "park," but not at the expense of the "360," as they've nicknamed the Horseshoe Lake land, based on original documents saying the property had 360, not 350 acres.

"We still have great plans for the '360,' and we shouldn't let it go lightly," KPMPD President Caril Ridley said at the meeting.

Commissioners also took issue with the fact that once the gravel was discovered and a rough estimate obtained, the land appraisal was stopped. Yet, since the property has not had any gravel operations recently, it was not clear whether mining was actually viable, and the viability would impact the official appraisal figures. There is also the question of whether the property is landlocked, due to its current access through a Tacoma Power utility road.

"We are being held captive to the appraisal of the property," while the gravel may actually be "worthless," Commissioner Elmer Anderson said at the meeting.

The ratio itself has been a confusing issue. The 80/20 figure is part of the appropriation bill every biennium. While DNR officials have said the Legislature (vs. the DNR) sets the ratio through the budget bill, some local lawmakers thought the number was established by an RCW. KPMPD has tried to clarify that issue since last summer, with no results, according to Commissioner Kip Clinton.

At press time, the Legislature has

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proposed a new fix to the ratio problem: 99-year leases. A House bill establishing the lease law was in the House Committee on Capital Budget at the end of March.

Rep. Pat Lantz said DNR didn't completely like the 99-year lease proposal, due to the agency's fiduciary duty to maximize the land revenues, but she said it is likely going to be "up to the powers that be in the Senate."

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Skate park to be ready this summer

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Key Pen youngsters will have the opportunity to try out their skateboards by the end of summer at a brand new, local skate park. Planning of the facility is well underway, and the work is expected to be complete at the end of July, weather permitting.

In March, the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District commissioners approved a "memo of understanding" between the park district and the Zech & Adi West Memorial Foundation, the sponsor of the skate park.

The facility will be located at Volunteer Park, in an area formerly used as a tennis court and adjacent to the current tennis court.

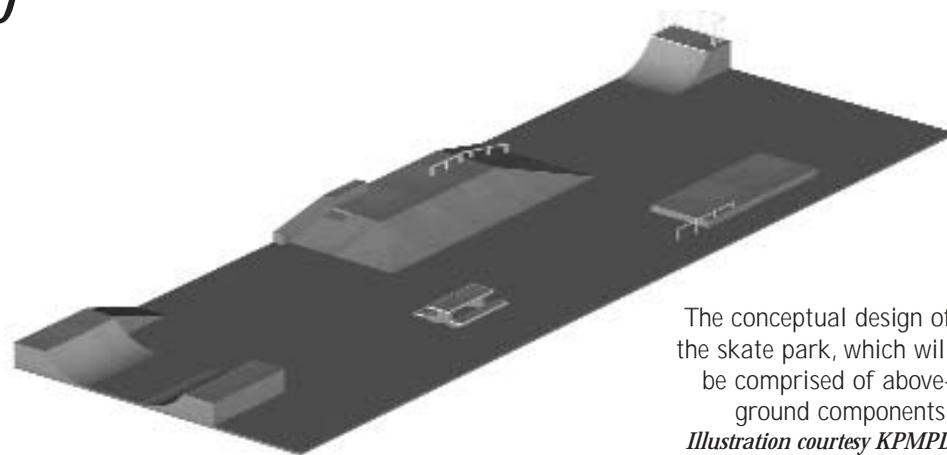
"The design came as a result of input from local skaters. The kids are part of it," said Chuck West, who founded the nonprofit organization in the memory of his son, Zech West, and daughter-in-law, Adrienne, after the young couple

was killed in a car accident. Zech West was an avid skateboarder and advocate for a skate park on the Key Peninsula.

The foundation raised \$14,000 through fund-raising efforts, and received a \$100,000 grant from Pierce County. The project's estimated cost for the skate park is \$73,000, but additional costs may be involved for fixing the nearby fence, providing lighting, and a potential basketball backboard.

The plan is to pour the concrete in late June so that it is set in time for the July community fair. After the fair, the above-ground components will be installed. The foundation will gift the facility to the park district, which will take over the maintenance.

West's initial plan was to build an in-ground skate park at the 350-acre proposed park the district had expected to own by the end of this year. However, the transfer of that property from the state has been delayed (see related story, page 8), and West said he wanted to see the project move forward. He still plans



The conceptual design of the skate park, which will be comprised of above-ground components.

Illustration courtesy KPMPD

a skate park at the 350-acre property, once KPMPD gets ownership of that parcel.

The foundation, whose co-directors include West's wife, Sharon, and friend Hugh McMillan, was "formed as a vehicle for getting grants for youth activities, not just the skateboard park," West said. He already has some new projects in mind, including the possibility of building a new playground structure at Volunteer Park.

In the meantime, skate park organizers are looking for volunteers to help with site preparations — which will include pressure-washing the asphalt and placing the forms for the concrete — as well as several people to help pour the concrete. West had a list of volunteers previously, but his briefcase containing the list was stolen. He is asking anyone interested in helping with this and future youth projects to contact him again by calling 884-1366.

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Livable Community Fair celebrates five years

Fuchsias, fire engines, a friendly python can all be found at the fair

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Livable Community Fair returns to the Key Peninsula on Saturday, May 12. It will be held at the Civic Center, where it began in 2002 as an open house for nonprofits. Bookings and applications are being processed by the new Safe Streets Community Mobilizer Mike Babauta. The fair is a joint production of Safe Streets, the Civic Center, Pierce County and other sponsors. Babauta's job

is to receive all the applications and collect the fees. He says it is helping him get acquainted.

"I was new to Safe Streets in December. With the fair, I'm immersing myself in the community — it's rather nice," he says.

The Livable Fair committee expects over 45 booth participants from nonprofit and civic service associations. There will be indoor and outdoor exhibits and food available from the Civic Center kitchen. Visitors will learn about the available services for Key Pen residents, enjoy a stage full of entertainment, browse a flower and garden sale, climb around on fire equipment, and be climbed on by critters in the Reptile Round-Up exhibits.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society sponsors the outside flower and garden show and sale.

Master Gardener representatives, commercial growers and show judges will be on site to answer questions and offer advice. According to club member Sharon Miller, there are "thousands of fuchsias in the world and several hundreds of hardies thrive in the northwest."

At the sale there will be baskets, uprights, hardies and trailer fuchsias with such varieties as Orange drop, Red shadow, Crinkly bottom, Alaska, and Pink marshmallow. The sale will also offer selected annuals, some specialty annuals for baskets and cedar planter boxes. The Lakebay Fuchsia Society is the sponsor of the Civic Center's Puget Sound compatible garden. The garden's paths will be open, as always, for strolling.

The Key Pen Historical Society will also keep the Key Pen museum open for the occasion.

The Reptile Round-Up will be familiar to many of the kids on the Key Peninsula. In fact, tens of thousands of youngsters have learned about the herpetological wonders of reptiles and amphibians from the Reptile Round-Up sponsors, Marty Marcus and Ann Waldo. Their traveling menagerie first went on the road after Marcus retired from teaching science in Los Altos, Calif. They reduced their collection of critters down to around 40 members in order to move to the Peninsula in 1983.

One star in the reptile show will be a ball python. She was hatched from an egg

in the sponsors' home. Her name is Julie. She is 19 years old and very accustomed to being handled. According to Waldo, petting Julie is "a revelation for a lot of kids and their parents."

"Parents are more likely to be wary — more set in their ways," she says.

Marcus and Waldo enjoy introducing people to the wonders of the reptile and amphibian worlds. The experience contributes to an appreciation for pet care needs and environmental awareness.

Along with Julie, visitors to the exhibit will meet a 26-year-old desert tortoise named Munchkin who loves to wander and explore. Tillie the Blue Tongued Skink, Tighe, Dayo, Bandera, Angel and T.W. will also be there. T.W. is an amelanistic king snake. Amelanistic gives you a clue about his color and there is a shocking mystery behind his initials.

Mark your spring time calendars. The Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair is Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Civic Center in Vaughn.

For booth applications contact Mike Babauta at Safe Streets at 884-7899. For other information contact the Civic Center at 884-3456.

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BRIEFS

news

Palmer Lake development becomes no-shooting zone

Ordinance No. 2006-131 of the Pierce County Council "Prohibiting the Discharge of Firearms Within Portions of Section 10, Township 20 North, Range 1 West, in the Palmer Lake, Key Peninsula Area" was passed by a unanimous council vote on March 13, according to Denise D. Johnson, clerk of the Pierce County Council. Originally sponsored by Councilman Terry Lee, through request by the council and Firearms Advisory Commission, the ordinance was introduced in October 2005, on behalf of local petitioning residents. Because the citizens' petition was submitted prior to another ordinance prohibiting such a zone over an area of land exceeding 160 acres (for any single such proposal), the action was "grandfathered in" to include the entire Palmer Lake development.

Hospital groundbreaking includes public events

St. Anthony's Hospital in Gig Harbor will break ground at the end of April, and several public activities are planned in Gig Harbor for the occasion, including a fun run, concert and theater play.

The St. Anthony 5K Fun Run & Walk will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 28, at the Gig Harbor Medical Clinic, 6401 Kimball Drive, and follow the popular Cushman Trail. Participants who pre-register online or at 7 a.m. at the walk site on event day receive a free T-shirt.

A performance of the comedy "Late Night Catechism" will be presented by performers from Seattle's ACT Theater at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28, in the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, 7700

Skansie Avenue. Gypsy Soul, a Northwest duo known for its exquisite blend of Celtic soul and folk rock, will perform in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 29, at the same location.

All events are free and open to the public; advance registration is available at www.GigHarborHospital.org.

"It's our way of saying thanks for the community's support as we break ground on a state-of-the-art hospital to serve Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula and South Kitsap County," says Laure Nichols, a Key Peninsula resident and the senior vice president of strategy and business development for the Franciscan Health System.

The 80-bed hospital is scheduled to open in 2009.

Media panel planned

In the first of a series of public panels focusing on the role of the media in democracy today, the Media Action Campaign, an outgrowth of Refreshing Democracy, a citizen-input project, will pose questions to members of the local media, including the Key Peninsula News. Their panel presentation, titled "What is the role of the media in American democracy today?," is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at the Gig Harbor Civic Center on Grandview Street in Gig Harbor.

In addition to representatives from the Key Peninsula News, the presentation will include panelists from the Peninsula Gateway and the Tacoma News Tribune.

"I strongly believe that a democracy depends on a well-informed citizenry in order to govern itself capably, and our goal is to assemble a diverse set of luminaries to discuss what's right and wrong with the media today," said Dick Ammerman, chair of Refreshing Democracy's Media Action Committee.

For more information, visit www.RefreshingDemocracy.com.

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April 20	Nichol/Miller Band	9pm

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Friday 5-9 Prime Rib Night \$10.99 & Drink Specials

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Key Peninsula firefighter gets national training

By Danna Webster, KP News

In March, Key Peninsula's Fire District 16 Capt. Robert Bosch completed a training course on the Incident Command System (ICS) at the National Emergency Training Center in Maryland through the U.S. Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency. Bosch studied proper fire command techniques for control and extinguishment of fires in a course that placed special emphasis on firefighter safety.

"As captain, I'm using the incident command system (ICS) when we go on call," Bosch said.

He explained the ICS is basically a complex management system with tactics that are put in use from the time of arrival of the first engine on the scene. Although the course was taught by "resource-rich" instructors, Bosch works to make it adaptable to the Key Peninsula. The course is "helping to get

us up to date," Bosch said. "I learned some things and will implement some changes... I'm trying to tie in what they do at the federal level with what we can do at the local level."

Acceptance into the training course is very competitive. Only 30 people are selected from a nationwide pool of applicants. According to FEMA, "Homeland Security trains thousands of Americans at this facility each year to enhance the ability of communities to manage significant emergencies and disasters, both manmade and natural."

Now that Bosch has completed the first-level training, he considers that his chances are improved to be selected for the next three levels.

The ICS training is part of Homeland Security's program to prepare the nation and first responders for all hazards. According to Bosch, the ICS gives responders tactics to deal with emergencies ranging from a house fire to a Katrina disaster.

BRIEFS

news

Civic Center receives grant

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association received a \$30,000 grant for its building renovation project. The grant from the Ben B. Chaney Foundation was announced at the end of March. The money will cover the cost of the front entrance remodel that will include expanding the porch and adding a wheelchair-access ramp. The entrance will be covered, and a bench with a planter will be added to the porch.

Phil Bauer, Civic Center past president who is coordinating the project, says work is planned to start in early summer, and should be complete in time for Flavor of Fall fundraiser in October.

The front entrance remodeling was initially part of a bigger project that would have eventually expanded the building to provide for more space for Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center. The idea for the expansion, which was estimated to cost more than \$1 million, however, was canceled after the KPCCA met with

county officials. Due to the building's proximity to Vaughn Creek, an expansion would not be allowed under current regulations. Instead, Bauer said they will consider other options, including the possibility of a complete interior renovation to reconfigure the space.

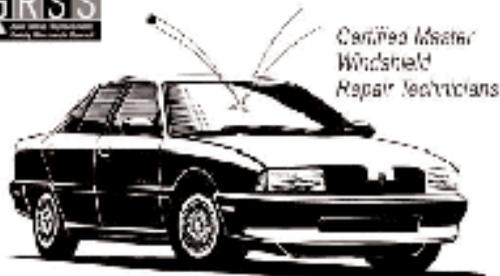
Passports available on KP

Since last October, the Wauna Post Office at Lake Kathryn Village has been processing passports during the week by appointment. Applicants can provide their own photos, or the post office can take one, for an additional \$15 fee. Passport applications cost must be paid for by either check or money order, and cost \$67 for adults, \$52 for children age 15 and younger. The post office also charges a \$30 processing fee. Applicants can expect to receive their passport in about 10 weeks. For other local passport information, contact the Wauna post office at 253-857-4644.

Wauna Postmaster Terry Stebner gives a big thank you to everyone who showed up to make the first passport fair on March 3 a great success. He said, "The clerks, Pam Cody and Lejuana Tennyson processed 91 passports in four hours. Way to go!"

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SENIOR FOCUS



Senior housing complex planned for KP

By Irene Torres, KP News

For more information

To view the site plans for the Holmaas project, visit www.keypennews.com.

To receive notice of the public hearing, contact the Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department located at 2401 S. 35th Street, Room 175 in Tacoma, or call 798-3727.

For more information about the Mustard Seed Project, contact ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org or call 884-3920.

senior housing?" he wrote in his preliminary comments. "This is a senior housing project and mobility is a concern. Are sidewalks proposed along the outer boundary of the internal road?"

Booth noted that a forest harvesting permit may be required for logging the trees on the site, and that county requirements include a 30 percent native vegetation retention, along with a "dense vegetative screen... adjacent to any residential zone or use."

Growing need

Despite county permitting hurdles that are common for any new construction, the need for senior housing is becoming more acute. On the Key Peninsula, only about 10 percent of the population was 65 or older in 2000, according to the U.S. Census, but by the year 2020 as many as a third of local residents could be in that range. A previous KP Community Council survey showed a need for senior housing; but it was not specific as to the type of housing needed. There is a broad array of options for senior housing, from "aging in place" to independent living and assisted living.

SeniorHousingNet describes "aging in place" as "allowing a resident to choose to remain in his/her living environment despite the physical and/or mental decline that may occur with the process of aging." Independent living means living like everyone else, maintaining the decisions of life, and pursuing activities of

one's own choosing. It is not the same, though, as living independently, but rather it is keeping the right to make choices, taking one's own course of action, and exercising every opportunity to be as self-sufficient as possible.

The AARP says about assisted living: "States, accrediting organizations, providers, consumer advocates, and researchers use varying definitions of assisted living. Most definitions include 24-hour supervision, housekeeping, meal preparation, and assistance with activities of daily living. Many definitions embrace a philosophy of assisted living that includes meeting a resident's scheduled and unscheduled needs; maximizing a resident's independence, privacy, autonomy, and dignity; minimizing the need for a resident to move when his or her needs change; and providing a homelike environment."

An April 2004 report from Health Policy Tracking Services estimated the average cost of assisted living ranged from \$2,100 to \$2,900 a month. With housing costs having risen significantly lately, those figures are likely low in today's market.

Group focused on senior needs

The potential for senior housing options on the Key Peninsula are exciting news for local resident Edie Morgan, who is spearheading The Mustard Seed Project with the goal of creating an elder-friendly community.

Morgan's research seems to support the need for senior housing options on the KP. "The range of housing options necessary to meet the needs of our elders runs from this type of 'senior housing' without services, through senior co-housing, shared housing, assisted living, adult family homes and other creative alternatives," she said. "Each kind of housing option fits the needs of different people. This is the focus of our Housing Options...Community Task Group that meets the fourth Friday of every month. There is the whole continuum of services needed to help people remain in their own homes, such as home repair and maintenance, house cleaning, meal delivery, grocery shopping,

falls prevention, and much more. Our Elder Health and Wellness-related Services task group, which meets on the third Thursday of the month, is exploring the availability of those kinds of programs in this community."

On March 7, The Mustard Seed project invited a small group of housing professionals and local residents to talk about "The Coming Home Project," a program of the Washington State Aging and Disability Services Administration.

"The goal of that program is to help rural and underserved communities in the state develop 'affordable' assisted living facilities so that their elders can age in place, without having to move away to find appropriate housing," Morgan said. "Affordable means including a blend of private pay and Medicaid residents. It seems that the Key Peninsula may fit the profile for such a project, and we may see progress if we can bring together a health care provider coalition that lenders would approve, and find the right location."

In the meantime, Morgan's organization will host a free one-day workshop by George Zimmerman, from the Aging and Disability Services Administration, in June. Zimmerman will provide an overview on how to start an adult family home, including all the necessary contacts (consultants, mortgage brokers, ADHS licensors and case managers).

"The main criterion is that workshop participants have interest in developing an AFH that will include a few Medicaid clients," Morgan said, adding that the exact date, place and time of the workshop will be announced later. The Mustard Seed Project will also have a booth at the May 12 Livable Community Fair with more details about the organizations and updates.

Regarding the housing projects, Morgan said, "We are happy to learn of John Holmaas' proposed project — he is literally breaking new ground." At press time, Holmaas was expected to speak at the March 23 Housing Options for Aging in Place task group meeting.

With a safe place to live ranking above health care needs in senior surveys, these projects seem to be on the right track.

KP seniors stay active with work, fun, service

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The senior population on the Key Peninsula, whether they call themselves seniors, mature citizens, old-timers, or ignore such titles, are numerous and busy. It's a wonder many have time for just fun because of all the volunteer work they engage in.

When Hugh McMillan is asked, "Why do you work so hard for nothing?" he answers, "Because I live here. If something good happens to my community, something good has happened to me. If something bad happens, something bad happens to me and I do not accept the latter without a fight."

John Glennon, Santa for many years, does construction and other jobs at KP Community Services. He says with a grin he has nothing else to do, but notes they have a great need, no funds to hire help, and not enough workers to do the jobs.

Mary Krumbein volunteers because she feels community is very important. "In my other life," she says, "I worked for a Quaker college that sent students worldwide and a sense of community was basic to the educational philosophy."

Jarvis Krumbein helps out with some of his wife's projects. "I also keep busy with household things such as cooking, laundry and the heavy lifting in the garden," he says. He collects interesting cameras (about 300 at this point, both still and movie), dabbles with astronomy and telescope making.

Jim Davis recalls folks telling him prior to his retirement he'd be so busy he wouldn't know how he had time to work. "While working, I only had so much time to devote to projects and knew I couldn't start too many of them at one time," he says. "Now, I can start as many as I like, and often have many 'irons in the fire' at any given time."

“Our participation gives us a sense of balance, fulfillment and gratitude.

— Jim Davis

”

He and his stepson milled several thousand board feet of lumber from timber harvested on their property, and plan to build a sailboat or two from it. "I sleep very soundly these days!" says Davis.

Davis and wife, Dotty, haven't had a television for over two years, and feel free from much of today's negative energy as a result. They enjoy watching British drama on DVDs from the library. They volunteer at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. "Our participation gives us a sense of balance, fulfillment and gratitude," says Davis. "In short, our retirement is a joy!"

Octogenarian Roland Porter continues to work on the maintenance crew at Camp Soundview several days each week, as well as

being a visitation and occasional preaching pastor at Historic Vaughn Bay Church.

Virgil Iverson conducts weekly Bible studies, sings in the choir, and helps bring in resource speakers for the men's group of the Longbranch Church. Beyond the Key Peninsula, he conducted revivals/spiritual retreats at the Washington Corrections Center. He says, "Incarcerated people need to know there is a large community outside the walls who care." As each of their nine grandchildren reached the age of nine, the Iversons took them to Disneyland, for a bonding experience and precious memories.

Judy Mills teaches parents to massage their babies. She and her husband, Don, continue to challenge themselves to learn something new. Their family is the most important part of their lives, and Judy says they do a variety of things "to keep our brains from losing the convolutions and getting smooth, to keep us healthy in body and spirit, to give back to our community, to make sure the upcoming generations know what their history is about," as well as "to keep us out of mischief, find joy in the simple things of life, and have a purpose

for getting up to each new day."

David and Sina Clauson, musicians and former teachers, teach and play in the Pacific Northwest New Horizons Band in Tacoma, a musical experience for "older adults" with or without previous training. They also play in several other groups.

Kathryn Arnold claims there aren't enough hours in the day to do all she enjoys doing.

Almost anything to do with writing (she's working on a novel), plus reading, walking, watching old movies, playing poker with friends, touring art galleries, and doing things with her husband, Jim. She knows housework must be done, but says, "If you have a white glove, stay out of my house! Too many other things to do."

Many retired folks love to travel, whether it's to visit family, take cruises, foreign tours, or enjoy the outdoors, such as hiking, camping, and backpacking. Sailing is popular around the peninsula, as are gardening and golf.

Whether consciously contributing to the community, or just enjoying the things they do, seniors on the Key Peninsula give and get a lot out of life.

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BRIEFS

School

Peninsula Reads! seeks organizers

Peninsula High School is once again launching its Peninsula Reads! program and seeks community members, parents, students and staff to serve on an organizational committee. Committee tasks will include selecting a title, organizing a book drive to raise funds to buy books for students who cannot afford them, possibly extending the project into a community reading project, designing activities associated with the book, and generally promoting reading in our community. Meetings started in March. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should email Elizabeth Duffey at duffey@psd401.net.

Books wanted for senior project

A senior at Peninsula High School needs used children's books to complete his project, which is sponsored by the Key Peninsula Writers' Guild. Summer

Daydreams is a senior project designed to sell elementary students used books at very, very low prices. The money earned from the sales at the Livable Community Fair on May 12 and at the Key Center Library May 19 will be divided between Vaughn Elementary and the Literacy Council of Kitsap County. Donations of children's books for the sale may be taken to the Key Center Library. For details about the project contact Tom at 884-2355.

Preschool registration open

The Key Peninsula Co-Op Preschool open registration begins April 9. Students ages 3-5 are welcome to enroll. For information, call Michelle at 884-5535.

Theater play help wanted

Peninsula High School's "Hello, Dolly!" show is set for April 26-28 and May 3-5 at the Milton Boyd Auditorium at PHS. The show is choreographed by Michael Powers and features costumes by Caitlin Carter, and will include a pit orchestra and a large singing and dancing chorus. Students are asking for the public's help with the set and props. For information, contact drama director Jonathan Bill at 530-4400.

PHS principal selected

Tim Winter, Peninsula High School's assistant principal and coach, has been hired as the school's new principal. Winter has been in education since 1991, teaching at all levels and coaching. Winter was an English teacher and the dean of students at PHS before being hired as the school's assistant principal in the fall 2005.

Asked about his new job, Winter said in an email statement, "I am excited about the opportunity to work with students, staff, and parents as we continue to move forward in our school improvement process."

PSD Assistant Superintendent Shannon Wiggs said she and Superintendent Terry Bouck "talked with staff, parents and students regarding the characteristics they would like to see in their next principal," and Winter has "many of those qualities." His new contract begins July 1.

PHS newspaper wins awards

The Peninsula Outlook earned 14 awards at a state journalism convention sponsored by the Washington Journalism Education Association in March, including a second place Best in Show award for overall excellence. The Outlook, Peninsula High School's student newspaper, is one of three publications to be selected as winners at the "Journalism 2.0" conference and competition.

According to the judge's comments, the newspaper has "excellent writing and editing in nearly all coverage areas... superlative illustrations, graphics and page design... (and) overwhelmingly reader-friendly content."

Twelve reporters earned individual awards at the conference; co-editor-in-chief Cassandra Kapp received the Lu Flannery Outstanding Journalist of the

Year Award and will receive a \$750 scholarship. Categories and honors for other individual awards:

Austin Jansen - Honorable Mention - Computer Design; Taylor Buck - Honorable Mention - Newswriting; Elaine Olbertz - Excellent - News / Feature Photography; Travis King - Honorable Mention - Newspapers Sports Photography; Nicole Pinto - Excellent - Advertising; Patrick Renie - Honorable Mention - Headline Writing / Copy-Editing; Abby Williamson - Excellent - Photo Editing / Newspaper; James Luce - Excellent - Video Broadcast / Feature; Missy Floyd - Honorable Mention - Yearbook Layout; Ian Clark - Honorable Mention - Yearbook Feature Writing; Caity Carter - Superior - Newspaper Layout; Callie Tobiason - Excellent - Sports Writing.

KP teen among top U.S. high school athletes

Peninsula High School senior Stephen Hagen, a Lakebay resident, was recognized as one of the 360 top high school baseball athletes from nine U.S. regions. Each region will form a 40-person roster that will include catchers, pitchers, infielders and outfielders, as part of a new award by Rawlings Sporting Goods®.



HAGEN

Hagen attended the 2006 Perfect Game USA National Showcase held in Fayetteville, Ark., at the University of Arkansas. Rawlings Vice President Mike Thompson said in a press release, "With more than 240,000 high school baseball players in the U.S., this accomplishment speaks volumes about the honored players and their talents."

Hagen's national rank is 276. His other honors include League MVP and two-times All League.

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Mrs. Van at Vaughn shares library fun

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Library Technician Patty Van Valkenburg has a satisfying dilemma at the Vaughn Elementary School library — books are literally falling apart at the seams from overuse by enchanted students. She doesn't permit the "I Spy" series, and a few others, to leave the library; still, these stimulating hands-on, oversized books are mighty popular with all ages at the school, and draw together library visitors who would perhaps not otherwise meet one another.



Van Valkenburg (nicknamed "Mrs. Van" at the school) spends part of a day every week with each class in the school. In each of the 40-minute sessions, split between instruction and free reading time, she teaches the children about the standard Dewey Decimal System, the different parts of a book, and how to find research materials in the library. Her job, as she sees it, is to collaborate with individual teachers' goals for each class, to assist in providing a positive learning environment for children.

The Vaughn Elementary School library is light and airy, full of kid-sized chairs and tables; it has a "quiet only" reading loft for serious young scholars, stuffed animals in the toy cart for rainy days. Sections of the library, such as "dinosaur stories," are presided over by the appropriate creature or object, in this case two-foot-tall dinosaurs standing on the top shelf. The computer lab is in a side room off the library.



Patty Van Valkenburg, aka Mrs. Van, shows off a new shipment of books to Ms. Puckett's fifth-grade class.

Students are welcome here anytime during the school day. Occasionally, Mrs. Van talks with a student who has graduated to middle school and has returned with a parent to collect a younger sibling, or overhears a current student say, "Mrs. Van has the best library." She is quick to gently correct. "No," she says. "It's not my library. It's ours; this library belongs to all of us." That positive attitude has fostered respect among the children for the reading resources, and the privilege of using them.

Louie, the bearded dragon, is a permanent resident of the library, and has developed a fondness for being read to. On any given day, during recess or free library time, a child sits down and reads

a story to Louie, and, as they have been taught in the classroom, takes care to also show him any pictures accompanying the tale. Mrs. Van says Louie is a "reading mentor" of sorts, with as much personality as a dog. Another creature sharing the library with students is a ball python named Lucille. Mrs. Van is the primary caretaker of both, although during the summers they may vacation with other willing and able caretakers.

Van Valkenburg began her present career as a temporary teaching assistant when her grown children were young. She discovered she enjoyed being around the children all day, and was encouraged by the librarian at Key Peninsula Middle School to fill a vacant

permanent library position at KPMS, learning the system as she went. She has been the equivalent of head librarian at Vaughn for around eight years, for a total of 20 years in service to students of the Key Peninsula. She is a staff of one with help in half-day increments totaling three full days each week of "incredible volunteers — all qualified, competent, and dependable." Her day begins at 7 a.m., and ends at 3:30 p.m. When not teaching children in the library, ordering books with a \$2,000 annual purchasing budget, updating records, and any number of other library-related tasks, she puts in two hours daily as the school's "building technology person" — which means she troubleshoots computer problems in the classroom and computer lab, having been trained by the Peninsula School District technology department.

Summers find Mrs. Van enjoying her flower garden, camping with husband Bob in an RV, playing tug-of-war with her bull mastiff, Chewy... and reading children's books. "There's so much good literature out there now; it's just excellent," she says. She likes books on CD and tape so she can double-task: "I can dig in the dirt, clean house — and still enjoy a good story at the same time!"

On any given day, the library appears to be only half-supplied somehow deficient in offerings. That's because every day, about 2,000 books are checked out by enthusiastic readers. Mrs. Van says the best part of her job is the children. They come in and bubble over with what they've read, or learned from a library book; in this cheerful, smiling librarian, they find a dedicated woman delighted to share in their discoveries. "I just have the best job," she says.

"Kids and books...It doesn't get any better."

Photo by Mindi LaRose

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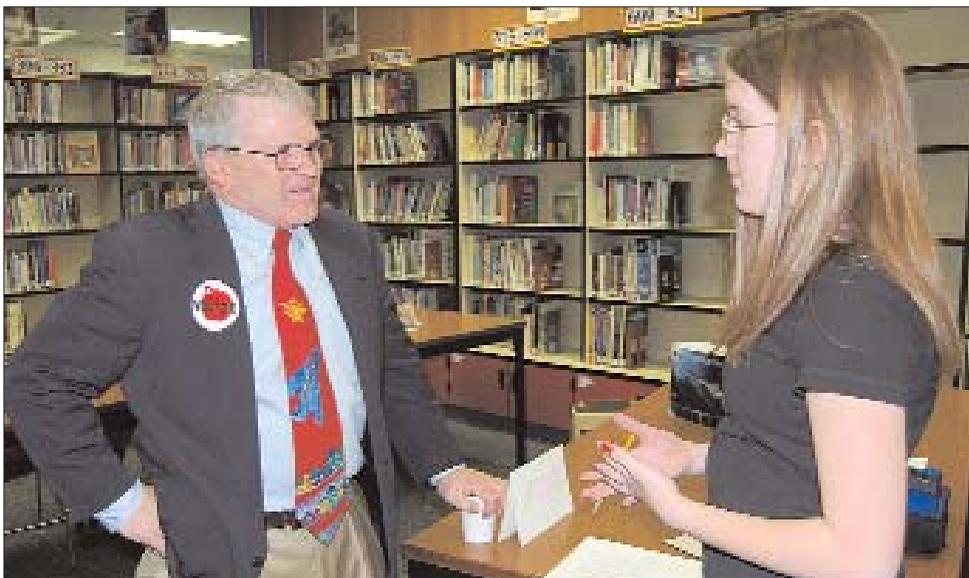


Photo by Mindi LaRose

Retired Air Force Col. Curtis Scott, a Key Pen resident, is interviewed by a Key Peninsula Middle School student during the school's pilot panel presentation in March. For more pilot panel photos, visit www.keypennews.com.

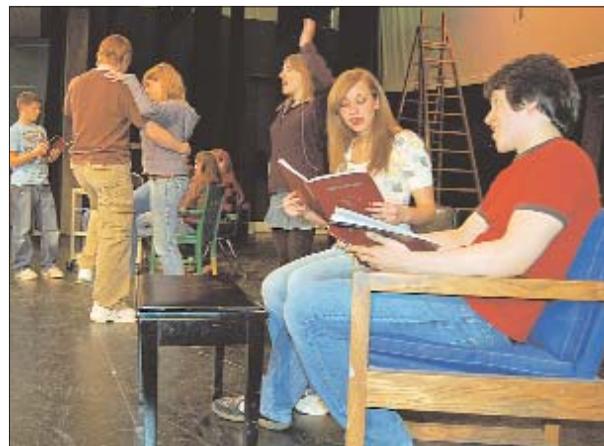
Key Peninsula's Michael Miller, a junior at Lighthouse Homeschool Co-op in Puyallup, with Sen. Derek Kilmer, for whom he served as a page in February. Michael's duties included delivering mail to senators, working on the Senate floor and delivering materials.

Photo courtesy Washington State Senate



Photo by Mindi LaRose

The Minter Creek Elementary School Thinking Cap Team recently took first place for the fifth grade in the Northwest Region (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming). Kevin Pszczola and Alex Wenman (both holding trophy) led the team to victory in the 100-question test of general knowledge that is given on the computer. With Kevin and Alex keyboarding and checking answers teammates held up, the team earned 1,249 points, scoring a 50-point lead over the second-place team. The students are in Mrs. Boone's fourth/fifth grade class.



Peninsula High School students practice for the play "Hello Dolly," which will be staged at the school April 26-28 and May 3-5. A full pit orchestra, and large singing and dancing chorus will be featured. The play runs at 7 p.m.; tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students with ASB cards, children under 12 and seniors.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Student members of National Honor Society from Peninsula High School, left to right, Amanda Morrow, Savana Oberts and Ryan Lindbom, helped out at the Spring Fling organized by the Two Waters Arts Alliance in March.

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COMMUNITY WORKS

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April 3 – Aerobics and yoga classes start

The Longbranch Improvement Club hosts aerobics and yoga classes from April 3 to 24, which cost \$20. There are also classes scheduled from May 1 to 29, which cost \$25. All classes are on Tuesday. Aerobics will be held from 9 – 10 a.m. and 5:45-6:45 p.m. Yoga will be held from 10:10-11:15 a.m. and 7 to 8 p.m.

Tuesdays, April, LIC at 4312 Key Peninsula Highway South; Carolyn, 884-5297

April 5 – Fuchsia Club meeting

During the next meeting of the Lakebay Fuchsia Society members will be potting up club plants for this year (the variety is Applause) and discussing plans for all upcoming projects: field trips, plant sales, demo garden.

Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m., Key Center Library

April 5-8 – Easter church activities

April 5 Maundy Thursday service

Lakebay Community Church will hold a Maundy Thursday service, including the Lord's Supper at 7 p.m. 884-3899

The Last Supper presentation

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church will present a living dramatization of The Last Supper on Maundy Thursday. Actors from several local churches will join in this powerful portrayal of the 12 disciples' response to Christ's charge that "one of you will betray me." All are invited to attend this emotionally moving experience in anticipation of the final portion of Holy Week at Key Peninsula Lutheran, corner of Lackey Rd and Key Peninsula Hwy North; 884-3312

April 8 - Sunrise Easter services

The Historic Vaughn Bay Church will hold an Easter morning sunrise service at the Vaughn Bay Cemetery at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend. A potluck breakfast will be held before the regular 10:30 a.m. worship service in the VFV room at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Lakebay Community Church will hold a sunrise service at Penrose Point State

Park at 7 a.m. followed by a Resurrection Celebration at the church at 10:30 a.m.

April 6 – Mustard Seed Project meets

The Mustard Seed Project invites you to join in building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula. Four community task group meetings are scheduled for April. A guest speaker will begin each meeting with a presentation related to the group focus, followed by information sharing and group work. The work of these task groups is to gather information, review possibilities and create options for "aging in place" in this community.

Senior Information and Referral Group — Friday, April 6, 10 a.m.

Transportation and Mobility for Elders Group — Friday, April 13, 10 a.m.

Elder Health and Wellness-related Services Group — Thursday, April 19, 10 a.m.

Housing Options for Aging in Place Group – April 27, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 6, 10 a.m., Key Center Library, Brones Room; Edie, 884-3920 or ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org

April 7 – Boy Scout Easter egg hunt

Boy Scout Troop 220 is holding its annual Easter egg hunt at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Saturday, April 7; rain or shine at noon, open to all ages.

April 12 – Poet at library

To celebrate National Poetry Month, the Friends of the Key Center Library invite the community to an evening of poetry reading with David Campiche, a Long Beach Peninsula native who has spent a lifetime exploring the glades, mountains and water paths that inundate the Pacific Coast. He prefers to write about his beloved homeland, and his poetry and short stories continue to reflect the deep respect for this environment.

His works have been published regionally. Currently, he is working on a novel about the Haida Indian culture in Northwest British Columbia.

Thursday, April 12, 7 p.m., Key Center Library

April 12 – Key Peninsula Seniors celebrate Easter

The Key Peninsula Senior Society will celebrate Easter with excellent potluck food. Join them for fellowship and card games.

Thursday, April 12, noon, Key Peninsula Civic Center; 884-5052 or 884-4981

April 14 & 21 – Penrose Point work parties

A volunteer work party at Penrose Point State Park will be held on April 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and light refreshments will be served. April is Community Partnership Month for Washington State Parks and the agency is looking for individuals or groups who would like to help clear winter storm debris from trails and campsites at Penrose Point State Park.

A second work party, on April 21, needs individuals or groups who would like to help tackle the ivy problem at the park. English Ivy is a noxious weed that chokes out trees and native ground covers. The work party will be from 1-3 p.m., and light refreshments will be provided. Volunteers will need to be prepared with rain gear, good work shoes/boots and gloves. Pruning saws, loppers, and hand-pruners would also be helpful to bring for the April 21 cleanup. Call 884-2514 if you or your group would like to help out.

April 20 – Key Peacemakers host peace discussion

Key Peacemakers will host an opportunity for members of the community to present and discuss issues of concern related to peace and justice. Bring your ideas, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and book reviews. Congressional contacts and letter writing materials will be available for follow up action.

Friday, April 20, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; Dory 884-9299

April 21 – Bird Walk at Penrose Point State Park

Spring is here and the birds are singing! Join Park Ranger Daniel Christian on a free interpretive bird walk

from 9-10 a.m. to observe early spring migrants and lingering winter waterfowl. Bring binoculars and your favorite bird guidebook. Meet in the day-use parking lot by the lawn area. For more information call the park at 884-2514.

April 22 – Free baseball competition for area youth

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District and Key Peninsula Little League will host a free Pepsi Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run competition for area youth at Volunteer Park. Competitors will be divided into four age divisions: 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13/14, and will have the chance to advance through four levels of competition. The individual champions in each age group will be awarded and advance to sectional competition. All participants must fill out a registration/waiver form.

Sunday, April 22, 12 – 3 p.m., Volunteer Park, 5414 Key Peninsula Highway N; Scott, 884-9240

April 25 – Key Peninsula Family Resource Center meeting

Key Peninsula Family Resource Center will have its quarterly community advisory meeting, with an agenda that includes "News From Over The Back Fence," a presentation by Civic Center board members on the proposed building remodel and how it will impact KPFRFC, and "Making A Difference."

Wednesday, April 25, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Whitmore Room, Key Peninsula Civic Center; 884-5433

April 28-29 – Sportsmen's Club annual yard sale and breakfast

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club annual two-day yard sale begins on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and continues on Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

The annual Fishermen's Breakfast at the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club will be held Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to noon. The "all you can eat" breakfast includes pancakes, ham 'n' eggs, lots of fruit juice and great coffee for only \$5. Children 6 and under are free.

~OFF THE KEY~

April 1 to 27 – Spring Art Show

The Peninsula Art League's Spring Art Show will be held through April 27, at Tacoma Community College's Gig Harbor Campus, 3993 Hunt St.. Hours: 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday.

April 7 – Gig Harbor Health/Safety Expo

The 2007 Gig Harbor Health & Safety Expo will include free health screening including cholesterol (HDL, LDL, ratio and tricyclerides),

diabetes/glucose, hearing, vision, body composition and body mass index, bone density, PSA, breast cancer exams, and skin cancer screening. Health care providers will be available to review your results and answer questions. No appointments are needed.

Saturday, April 7, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One Headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Rd NW, Gig Harbor.; 851-0082

May 12 – 'Bark and Bid' fundraiser

The Prison Pet Partnership Program's fundraiser, "Bark and Bid," is a charity

event featuring both silent and live auctions. Catered appetizers are included and a cash bar available. All proceeds benefit the Prison Pet Partnership Program (PPPP).

PPPP, a nonprofit organization, operates within the Washington Corrections Center for Women. Homeless dogs are rescued from area shelters and trained by inmates as service dogs for persons with disabilities. The program operates a boarding and grooming facility to provide vocational education for women inmates.

Saturday, May 12, 4 -7 p.m. Wesley Inn Best Western, Gig Harbor; advance reservations \$30 per person, \$35 at the door (space permitting). Visit www.prisonpet-partnership.org, email barkandbid@yahoo.com or call 858-4240 or 857-2217.

April 28 – Parks appreciation workday

Parks bring tremendous benefits to all ages, including healthier living, active pursuits, new life skills, educational programs and safe activities. Parks and programs also build a stronger community by connecting individuals, families and groups through the power of play, keeping people active and "off the streets," and providing benefits for the environment and economy.

Come to a designated park to celebrate Earth Day, Arbor Day and National Parks Week in one fun event and become one of thousands participating in a countywide effort at the same time.

No pre-registration, just show up; bring work gloves, rakes, clippers, loppers and any small tools you have-be sure to label them.

Purdy Sand Spit, Goodrich Drive NW and SR 302

Rocky Creek Conservation Area, SR 302 and 150th Ave KPN, Gig Harbor, 98329

Volunteer Park, 5514 Key Peninsula Highway, Lakebay

Home Park, 8th Ave and Key Peninsula Hwy, Lakebay

Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 South Vaughn Road, Vaughn

Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to noon, various parks; Scott, 884-9240

Thursdays – Children's Home Society offers parenting help

The Children's Home Society of Washington and the Parent Trust host "Parent Talks" for parents helping parents every Thursday from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library, 8905 Key Peninsula Hwy North. Free coffee

and sweets are offered, but there is no childcare available. Call 884-5433.

May 1 – Deadline for free house-painting available

Applications for free house-painting are available for low-income seniors and low-income people with disabilities. The deadline for applications from the Peninsula is May 1. To be eligible, applicants must: be a senior (60+) or have a disability and be receiving disability income; own their own home in Pierce County, and be low-income. People may apply for themselves or request an application to help someone else fill it out. For an application call Sallie Shawl at 253-383-3056, ext 105 or visit www.paintbeautiful.org or paint@associatedministries.org.

Volunteers from Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful do all the work to paint the exterior of homes. Last year, 82 homes were painted by 1,500 volunteers. There is no cost to the homeowner.

Get Involved

Key Peninsula News needs a volunteer webmaster to upload monthly stories and provide periodic website updates. Position requires experience with Front Page (or other web management tool) and Photoshop. Work is concentrated at the end of the month; 5 - 10 hours per month. Call 884-4699 or email news@keypennews.com.

Gig Harbor Grange No. 445 seeks Key Pen members. Your interests do not have to lie solely in agriculture to enjoy being a grange member. The grange is a valuable asset to the community. Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. To join, contact Jim at 857-6386 or Charlie at 360-874-0383.

May 5 – Jim Valley concert

Key Peninsula Cooperative Preschool is sponsoring an interactive children's musical performance with musician Jim Valley. A native of Tacoma and former lead guitar for Paul Revere and the Raiders, Valley has performed since 1980 for children and families all over the country. Admission is \$5 per family. Learn more at www.rainbowplanet.com

Saturday, May 5, 2-3 p.m. Key Peninsula Civic Center; Tara, 884-6350

To submit a Community Works announcement, email to news@keypennews.com by the 17th of the preceding month. Word limit is 100 words; longer briefs publish on space available basis. Space is first-come, first-serve. We also welcome volunteer listings for Get Involved, and volunteer nominations for Volunteer Spotlight features.



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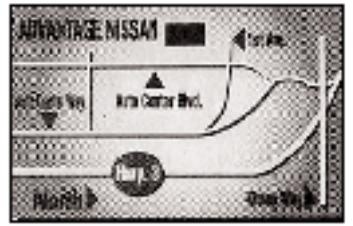
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Volunteers Contribute to Students' Success in Math and Reading

Students at several Peninsula School District schools are receiving additional reading and math support—thanks to community volunteers. Communities in Schools of Peninsula, a nonprofit organization based in Vaughn, sponsors the after school math and reading programs, recruits volunteers, and trains them to be one-on-one mentors.

CISP started out with a reading program at Vaughn Elementary five years ago, and later added math support for middle school students. Every year, more schools have been added to the program, and now, mentors are present at nine PSD schools. For the first time, an academic mentoring program was also launched at a high school.

"The goal of CISP is to have a presence in every PSD school by 2009, whether through mentoring or other programs," says CISP Executive Director Colleen Speer.



Harbor Heights Elementary third grader Roberto Ramirez with his CISP mentor, Kathy Kusler.

Volunteers come from various backgrounds, including retired professionals—teachers, doctors, architects, pilots etc — as well as high school students. They spend one to one and a half hours at a school once week, and receive training before starting their commitment.

"We have a high return rate of volunteers, and a lot of times mentors have such a great experience, they recruit their friends," Speer said. New volunteers are welcome throughout the year.

Students who participate in the CISP math or reading activities have shown great improvement in their basic skills. Their one-on-one interaction with caring adults also helps boost their self-esteem.



Gig Harbor High School senior James Leptich mentors second grader Bailey Mathieson. Leptich has chosen the Communities In Schools of Peninsula reading program for his senior project.

The program is not only rewarding for the students, but also for their mentors: Seeing the students improve academically and building close relationships are the main reasons volunteers return each year to continue their involvement.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Henderson Bay students Veronica Zacharczyk, Sheena Gulliver, Maria Fechko, Shy'osh Miles, Andrea Roper with their teacher, Theresa Malich, at a recent Reducing Adolescence Prejudice Conference in Seattle. The conference was attended by students and teachers from all three PSD high schools.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Peninsula School District attempts to relay information, to our staff, students and their families, about the variety of local services and activities available. When an agency requests permission to distribute, they must submit a copy of the flyer and a completed Request to Distribute Materials form available online at our District website under Education Programs and Flyer Approval: www.psd401.net If you have any questions please contact Deb Wolfley 530-1009 or e-mail wolfleyd@psd401.net

AT A GLANCE:

Becoming certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards is an intense, rigorous process, especially when done in conjunction with a full-time teaching job. Since 2001, PSD's candidate support has taken the financial concern out of the certification process, relieving our teachers of the additional burden of paying out-of-pocket for the expenses of their candidacy, and enabling them to concentrate fully on the process of becoming National Board certified.

APRIL EVENTS

- 2-6 Spring Break
- 11 School Board regular meeting 6:30 p.m. district office

26-28 May 3-5

PHS is presenting "Hello, Dolly!" in the Milton S. Boyd Auditorium all shows at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for the general public, \$7 for senior citizens, students w/ASB and children 11-years old and under. Volunteers to help with costumes and sets would still be welcome! Contact Jonathan Bill if you are interested or have additional questions: billj@psd401.net or 530-4450.

MAY EVENTS

- 19 Vaughn Auction 5:30 p.m. Key Center Civic Center \$25/person table reservations for 10 people/table. For more information contact Tina Self 857-8552 or 530-4700.
- 23 PHS Scholarship Awards Night 5:00 p.m.
- 24 School Board study session 6:30 p.m. district office
- 30 Evergreen Elementary Kindergarten Open House 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Come see what All-Day Kindergarten will look like next year!
- 31 Vaughn Elementary Kindergarten Open House for new students and their families 6:30-7:30 p.m. PHS Spring Band Concert 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

The School District and National Board Candidates wish to thank the local businesses that have contributed toward the Local Support funds

Rainier Pacific Bank and the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Thanks for all you do to support the teachers of the Peninsula School District!

FD-16 STATS

Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

February total calls: 135

Medical aid: 94
 Fires: 14
 Burn complaints: 13
 Vehicle crashes: 10
 Weather related: 0
 Other: 4
 Mutual aid from GHFD: 6

March 6

A male in his 20s was treated for injuries from crashing his skateboard while riding down a long hill. The patient was not wearing a helmet and suffered road abrasion on his face; however, he refused transport to a hospital.

March 7

Paramedics were dispatched early in the morning for a male who was thought to have spent the night in a porta-potty at a local gas station. He was transported to a Tacoma hospital for further evaluation.

March 15

Firefighters responded to a call for assistance after an infant was accidentally locked in a vehicle. The door was unlocked and the child and mother gave out hugs of appreciation.

March 16

A woman was arrested by Washington

State Patrol for DUI after she pulled out in front of a motorcyclist in the 14400 block of State Route 302. The collision caused the rider to suffer a broken leg and he was transported by ambulance to a Tacoma hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

March 18

A teenager lost control of the vehicle she was driving with three passengers and struck a pickup truck in the 15400 block of 128th Street KPN. The driver of the car and the passenger in the pickup were transported to a Tacoma hospital for evaluation and treatment of minor injuries.

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OBITUARY

Thomas Ross Cromie

Tom Cromie was born Jan. 11, 1932, to Alexander and Katherine Cromie in Pittsburgh, Penn., and passed away March 9 in Tacoma. He served in the U.S. Army and was a veteran of the Korean War.



Cromie is survived by his wife of 54 years, Shirley; sons Tom (Dorothy), Dan (Natalie), Joe (Janice); daughter Patsy (Richard); 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; sister Kitty (Ron) Saunders of Pittsburgh, Penn.; brother Ken (Carol) Cromie of Sarver, Penn.; numerous nieces and nephews in Washington and Pennsylvania.

Cromie was a self-employed residential electrician, who retired into a 20-plus years of maintenance service at Camp Woodworth with Northwest Bible Ministries, an outreach to children and their families. He was an active member of the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute and Key Peninsula Community Services seniors group.

The family would like to thank St. Joseph's Hospital physicians and staff and the CHF clinic at Tacoma General Hospital physicians and staff for their great effort and care of their beloved husband and father.

A memorial service was held on March 18 at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, with a graveside service on March 17 at Vaughn Bay Cemetery.

CROMIE

Shirley; sons Tom (Dorothy), Dan (Natalie), Joe (Janice); daughter Patsy (Richard); 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; sister Kitty (Ron) Saunders of Pittsburgh, Penn.; brother Ken (Carol) Cromie of Sarver, Penn.; numerous nieces and nephews in Washington and Pennsylvania.

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Mounted search and rescue unit helps save lives

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

Canada has its world renowned mounted police. The Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula area has Peninsula Mounted Search and Rescue (PMSAR), which has a hard-earned reputation throughout the state.

Very few police agencies in Washington have their own search and rescue (SAR) units. They rely instead upon specially trained experts (usually volunteers) who fall under the oversight of Washington's Department of Emergency Management.

Pierce County has eight SAR units, each with a different specialty: an Air Scent Dog Unit that uses German shepherds, a tracking unit with Northwest Bloodhounds, an Off-Road Vehicle Unit, Rapid Response SAR (ATVs/cycles/snowmobiles), Tactical Area Communications that performs command and control, Explorer SAR specializing in ground search, the Tacoma Mountain Rescue Unit, and Peninsula Mounted SAR, which is a horse unit.

Paul Fleming, a training officer for PMSAR, said, "We've been in existence since 1992. Our 'home' is here on the peninsula, but we travel all over the state to conduct searches, rescue people, and train personnel in other counties. PMSAR is one of the largest and best-trained mounted SAR organizations in the state."

About 600 people in Pierce County are involved in search and rescue; PMSAR has 25 dedicated individuals with about 17 horses. Half of the members are "field certified" and half are still in training.

Training usually lasts a year, with one training weekend held each month, but a good rider with a good horse can be certified as quickly as five months.

"We do not teach horsemanship. Training does include search techniques, navigation, evidence preservation, forensics, radio use, etc. We are not a social club," Fleming said. "We are very serious about doing a very important job. Lives depend upon our professionalism."

Four PMSAR members reside on the Key Peninsula. Casey Cummings, still in training, was transferred to Puget Sound



Key Pen members of the Peninsula Mounted Search and Rescue, left to right: Pam Ferrante, Carol Rootvik, Joel Overly and Casey Cummings.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

in 2005 by his employer, Boeing Co. "I chose to live on the Key Peninsula because I wanted room for horses. I was looking to join a 'horse network' and felt a need to 'pay back' an obligation to my community," he said.

Pam Ferrante, another Boeing employee who moved at the same time, used to raise Arabian show horses years ago. "I've still got a few months to go before my horse and I are each field certified. It would be simply wonderful if I could actually 'find' somebody," she said. "My parents are elderly, and a number of searches are called to find an Alzheimer's patient that wandered off. It would make me feel like I really accomplished something."

Carol Rootvik, another PMSAR member who is certified, has lived on the Key Peninsula for 25 years. "In 1997, I experienced a family tragedy involving an outdoor accident. I received a lot of support from EMT, 'air evac,' and community members. I wanted to give something back," she said. She became involved with search and rescue about three years ago, just after PMSAR

searched for Ace Anderson near Volunteer Park. "I've been involved in search and rescue missions involving an autistic child, a lost hiker, and an elderly woman with Alzheimer's," she said. Currently a nurse, she finds SAR so rewarding that she hopes to find a paid job in the emergency management field. "I'm not going to give up PMSAR, however; there's nothing like it," she said.

Joel Overly, a 17-year-old Peninsula High School junior, has been involved with search and rescue efforts for more than three years, both with the Explorer and mounted horse units. "I've been on four evidence searches, including the Green River (serial murders) case, and four actual searches," he said. "On a search in Snohomish, I used a Stokes litter (aluminum alloy stretcher) to carry the body of a 250-pound hiker who fell off a cliff inaccessible to horses or helicopters."

Overly doesn't own a horse, so one of his support roles is to scout ahead in an off-road vehicle "to make sure that the trucks with horse trailers don't drive into tight areas that they cannot get out of."

The efforts of the Peninsula Mounted Search and Rescue have not gone unnoticed. On March 17, Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg presented the group the county's "2007 Outstanding Volunteer Group Award."

Are you motivated enough to become one of "the few, the proud, and the mounted"?

PMSAR is always in need of additional members (both mounted and unmounted support). Support members handle a variety of functions, including communications, logistics, and reconnaissance for search missions. The group meets every second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Grange. For more information, visit www.PMSAR.org.



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FROM PIONEER STOCK

KERRY JAMIESON — ROOTS GO DEEP

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Kerry Jamieson's roots reach back four and five generations to families who settled in Vaughn over 100 years ago.

Dudley Harriman of Maine traveled up Puget Sound in 1888 to find homestead land. He bought 160 acres on Case Inlet, stretching south a mile from the Vaughn sand spit. He deeded the land to son Louis, who arrived soon after with his wife, Mamie, and sons, Earl and Glen.



JAMIESON, 12

Louis and Mamie built their home and large barn on Vaughn Bay, overlooking the sand-spit. They planted the first vineyard in the Vaughn area, a large orchard and garden.

Their son, Glen, operated a series of boats from Vaughn from 1916 until 1936. "Dora," "Seawolf," and then "Loren" carried local produce, eggs, butter, and seafood to Olympia, as well as passengers, mail, and other needed freight.

Glen and Esther Austin, childhood friends at Vaughn, married while he was stationed in San Diego in the Navy. Her father, Henry Austin began his working career as a cabin boy in the English Navy at age 11. He caught yellow fever in South America, jumped ship on the East Coast of the United States, and joined the U.S. Navy. He retired on medical disability some months later and traveled to Chicago. Austin acquired some tattoos in his naval travels, including a full-rigged, three-mast ship under full sail on his chest.

He met Margaret Mary O'Neill, a nanny from Ireland, in a park. They married and headed west, arriving at Stansbury Lake (later Lewis, and now Lake Holiday) by 1890. The Jamiesons own a rocker the Austins bought in a second-hand shop in Chicago.

In 1894, Austin purchased acreage from John High, previous Harriman land. Mamie Harriman and Maggie Austin became neighbors, friends, and midwives to each other.

Maggie Austin preferred clear spring water to her well water for washing

clothes. In good weather, she loaded her laundry atop a horse for the half-mile trip down to Harriman's beach. She built a big beach fire to heat water for washing. The horse carried the damp clothes back to be hung to dry.

The Austins agreed to pay High from half the proceeds of the farm each year until paid in full. When daughter Ellen contracted tuberculosis and died after birthing a premature daughter, High sent a sympathetic letter to the family and cancelled the remaining debt.

Glen and Esther built their first home overlooking Vaughn Bay, between the two sets of parents. When daughter Margaret was 5, the family moved up the bay to the old Bassett home (now Shirleys), and later, built a home on the southern end of the Harriman property (now Taylors).

Jamieson, son of Margaret, attended Vaughn school through third grade, then the family moved to Artondale and bought property on Wollochet Bay. Jamieson's father barged a 40- by 70-foot rooming house from Steilacoom, which they remodeled into a home. Jamieson said it was fun to have so many bedrooms to choose from.

By fifth grade, they moved back to Vaughn, but lived in Gig Harbor when Jamieson was in high school.

He always had an interest in boats, although never lived on the waterfront as an adult. Jamieson operated a tugboat for awhile, towing logs from Shelton for the Johnson Brothers of Lakebay. While in high school, he built a Criscraft 13-foot runabout. The transom included was the wrong size, and he found the boat quickly turned end to end. Jamieson has stories to tell of his fun with that. His current boat is an "electric" yacht he converted when the engines needed replacing.

Jamieson's wife, Helen, picked strawberries for Elsie Olson soon after moving to Vaughn. She was slow, but a clean picker. Olson put her behind the fastest picker — Jamieson, who picked 60 flats a day.

A former cabinet maker, Jamieson is an environmental specialist and lab technician for Holroyd, a sand and gravel company.

He moved a lot in his growing up years, but he's stayed in one place the last 31, planting his own roots firmly on the peninsula.



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Celebrating 90th birthday Marge Anderson recalls earlier days on the KP

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Marge Anderson celebrated her 90th birthday at Longbranch Church on March 25.

Born in Pend O'Reille, Idaho, she moved to Tacoma at age 5. She graduated from Lincoln high school, where she played violin in the orchestra, and joined a dance band that played for one dance. She also played piano and organ.



ANDERSON

The Andersons — Marge, husband Warren, and sons Rod and Roland — sailed to the Key Peninsula often, and became permanent residents in 1950. Their high-bank waterfront acreage on Taylor Bay encompassed a gulch once used to run logs down to a sawmill near the beach.

"We were pioneers out here," says Anderson. Their 23-acre Taylor Bay property with 1,300 feet of waterfront

was an abandoned farm. A cement building on the land was once used by whiskey runners, she says.

Andersons bought the old Lakebay store, and Pete Bussard barged it to their beach for a boat house. The 1962 Columbus Day storm took half of it away. They removed the cedar siding, reversed it, and coated their whole house with it.

Warren diverted creeks and dug a small lake and two ponds to raise rainbow trout, which they sold to a Tacoma store. His career was in the Merchant Marines, and Anderson's home shows off a carved elephant from India, a samovar from Holland, and other special treasures. A ship-in-a-bottle, crafted by a 15-year-old Dutch boy, was a thank you to Capt. Anderson for sharing some food with him and his father after World War II.

Anderson, asked to be a playground director at Evergreen Elementary School in 1965, also served as secretary, librarian, and the first teacher's aide, retiring after 14 years. Some students

and school visitors thought she was the principal, as she was always around and knowledgeable. She worked with five different principals, some of whom had charge of Vaughn as well as Evergreen school.

She also volunteered her time in the Longbranch Church with choir, bell choir, Sunday School teacher, church secretary, and once even preached a sermon. Other activities included PTA president and active involvement in the recently disbanded Peninsula Neighbors.

Anderson, who used to raise a large garden, now grows just tomatoes, but a gift from friend Helen Fravel provides an herb garden in a barrel just outside her kitchen door. She has help to maintain the grounds of her current home, where she moved after her husband died and the maintenance became too much.

Anderson's cheerful demeanor and physical ability belie her 90 years, crammed full of varied experiences and memories.



Photos courtesy Marge Anderson

Marge Anderson's dogs treed raccoons, and since her husband wasn't home, she went out five times one night to shoot the critters who raided their garden.

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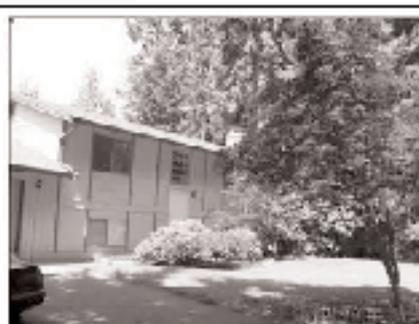
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Longbranch Mercantile will rise again

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Shortly after moving to the Key Peninsula six years ago, Denise and Michael Hays saw the old Long Branch Mercantile, across from the Filucy Bay Marina. Denise said she knew immediately that there was something special about the building and site. Four years ago, the building was offered for sale, and the couple purchased it.

"I've always wanted to buy the mercantile," Denise said. "It's got great karma. Sometimes I just go sit on the steps after work if I've had a trying day."

The Hayses hired a local designer, Sheri Simpson (SLS Design), to draw plans for a new building; they plan to begin demolition of the existing structure this summer and hope to begin construction the following spring. They wanted a new building that didn't look modern, or new, something that appeared as though it had stood the test of time, and something a pioneer would appreciate — so they arrived at a

farmhouse design. The rustic building will have a little under 5,000 square feet, and house a general store, small café, commercial kitchen, and two meeting rooms. Denise Hays says they envision the new mercantile as a destination both for boaters mooring at the marina, and for local residents. She says the building is just the beginning of her plan to hatch a bed and breakfast on the site eventually; her philosophy is that all things are subject to change, even zoning.

Shortly after beginning to work through county requirements for the new building, septic and water systems, parking and required setbacks, the couple realized they'd need more land to make the project everything they dreamed it could be. Almost on cue, first the 3 acres behind it, and then an acre next to the mercantile became available at a time when they could add those acquisitions to the original 3 acres. They now have a total of 5 contiguous acres, and enough square footage to provide customers with a

large outdoor seating area in front of the building, with an unobstructed view of Filucy Bay.

When the Pierce County Planning Commission meets in April to review the Key Peninsula Comprehensive Plan, and entertain requests for zoning modifications, the Hayses will be among those residents seeking a change. So far, they report, local

organizations and individuals with whom they have shared their plans for the historic site have responded enthusiastically. They are encouraged by the positive support. "We want to complement existing services and business on the Key Peninsula, not be competitors," Denise said. "We really enjoy this community, and want to give something back."

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The man behind the Great Pen Contest

By Danna Webster, KP News



Mike Boyles with a red, white and blue pen from the 2006 traveling pen contest. In the background is a map featuring entries to the contest for pens that traveled the longest distance from Belfair. The winning pen traveled 9,524 miles to Zanzibar, Tanzania, Africa. It belonged to Gordy and Mary Jo Monten of Belfair who won a trip to Las Vegas.

Photo by Danna Webster

“ I have a great time and I love running a meeting — they all laugh at my jokes.

— Mike Boyles

”

“We market to the general public,” Boyles says, “with 54 lenders throughout the U.S., we can find a loan for anybody.” The company also makes loans for people with challenged credit. He is angered by the loan business practices that take advantage of clients with hidden fees and unreasonable loans. “Putting them (the client) in a worse situation doesn’t help anybody. Everybody has a situation at one time or another when they get thumped and it upsets me to take advantage of these people,” he says.

North Bay Mortgage is a family business. Daughter Brittany and son Mike work there to earn car and spending expenses, and are learning a lot about business. Easter Bunny and Santa Elf costumes are part of their wardrobe. Both are students at North Mason High School. Boyles’ wife, Kris, is co-owner of the company and teaches family consumer science courses at South Kitsap High School.

The company’s slogan, “Lending Made FUN!” intends to reduce fear and stress for clients in mortgage transactions; but along with being a business slogan it is a personal slogan for Boyle as well. He likes being a business owner who drives around in a big yellow fire truck with a giant pen on top. He likes having fun.

dislikes businesses that make no contribution to their communities. “They take, they take, and they take and don’t give back. It bothers me to see them make money in the community and not want to give anything back,” he says.

North Bay Mortgage contributes to each community in which their offices are located, including fairs, festivals or parades

they support and promote. The mural outside the Belfair office compliments the community’s outdoor beauty. Some contributions have extended into long-term commitments such as support of the Boys’ and Girls’ Club organization. The company’s chief financial officer, Bek Ashby, recently finished serving two years as president of the Key Peninsula Business Association, and Boyles is in his second stint as president of the Victor Improvement Club. Boyles seems to relish the glamour of being president. He is occasionally referred to as the mayor of Victor.

“I have a great time and I love running a meeting — they all laugh at my jokes,” Boyles says, explaining his enthusiasm for the “job.”

Commitment to the community applies to how Boyles runs his business. The mortgage company is prepared to provide really good services. Real people answer their phones during and after hours; and, according to Boyles, some of the best loan processors in the business work for their clients.

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Coffee with a healthy twist

Ravensara marks eight-year anniversary

By Jeanette Brown
Special to KP News

Mother and daughter team Jody Stark and Tara Frode are self-described “Key Peninsula locals” since 1976. These two versatile and multitasking entrepreneurs are looking forward to celebrating eight years in business this April as co-owners of Ravensara Espresso.

Their business is located at the quaint landmark known locally as “Collins Corner,” just north of the brush shed at the intersection of 118th Street and State Route 302, and is housed in the same unique building as Serenity Salon, filling the store with healing aromas and peaceful ambiance.

Customers are welcome to either use the drive-up window or come in through the salon and order their gourmet espresso drinks right from inside the building.

Both women share a passion for the organic and healthy products they brew and sell, and also offer preservative-free goodies from Suzy’s Bakery in Gig Harbor. In addition, they are proud to offer a new protein drink, which has been well received by customers.

Stark was studying aromatherapy at the time of Ravensara’s inception, and the two decided to name the business after the tree of the same name that is found on the island nation of Madagascar. Island people there extract an essential oil from the tree, which is known “as the oil that heals.” Ravensara is considered to be a very good oil to use in blends, as it lends intelligence to the



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Tara Frode (left) and her mother, Jody Stark, enjoy being able to sell organic espresso to State Route 302 commuters.

drinks.

According to the two women’s “coffee philosophy,” the most intelligent and healthy way to drink espresso is by starting with Tony’s locally roasted organic espresso beans using the Italian brewing method.

Customers who choose the drive-thru can expect fun, fast and friendly service; but beware, as they will also be met by the “enigmatic Indonesian wooden tip box” that has enjoyed its designated spot on the espresso pass-through shelf from day one.

While some have become upset by its “pagan features” and left notes to have them remove the tip box, most customers have found the humor in it, assigning it a gender and pet name, some even naming it after their spouses. Everyone seems to have a need to

comment about it.

The wooden statue mysteriously disappeared just recently, only to be found on the lawn of one of their regular customers, who brought it back, much to the relief of its owners. Frode and Stark had purchased the carving at an import store with the intent that it be used as a tip box, and were then told it had protective properties and it would bring prosperity to people who owned it. Both women are happy to report they have prospered, but will also attest that prosperity came by implementation of a strong work ethic, and not by luck.

Frode worked at an espresso stand while attending the University of Washington and received her bachelor’s degree in environmental studies. She learned a lot about the espresso business while working her way through college.

When the two started their business, each worked 60-plus hours a week for about four years. Their hard work paid off; they now have four employees, who have been trained for four weeks to ensure consistency in product preparation. Thanks to their employees, the owners say they have more free time to volunteer in the community and pursue other business interests.

Stark wears many hats and has lived in her unique A-frame home for 32 years. She loves art and describes her home as a showcase of art, also having done much of the outdoor landscaping herself. As an educator, she enjoyed teaching high school English and sociology; prior to opening Ravensara she owned and operated a landscaping design and construction business in Gig Harbor. Three years ago, she branched out into the mortgage business, working mainly from her home office as a mortgage loan consultant. She and her daughter are both active members of the Key Peninsula Business Association.

Frode moved to her Longbranch waterfront home from Minterwood a couple of years ago with her young family and enjoys spending more time with them as well as attending Key Peninsula Planning Board meetings. Her husband works for her father, Paul Frode, a Longbranch resident who owns Coast Rail. Younger brother Shane also works for his dad and just recently moved to Longbranch along with sibling Blake.

And, as if they didn’t have enough going on, this enterprising mother and daughter’s future plans include opening up a Ravensara at Key Center. It will be a sit-down espresso café, and since Key Center is definitely on the uptick, it will most surely be a popular spot!

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(From VIERS, Page 1)

“drugs of choice” behind, gives Viers a unique perspective into the addict and his/her family. His life story, from the shelter of a parochial grade school, to the bitter reality of life zoned out on drugs and alcohol, and back again to sanity, is a trip with an instant replay still capable of bringing Viers to ruin, if he let it. Instead, he has used truth to build a career and help others afflicted by addiction. He is the first one to say he will always be an addict. The process and promise of recovery is a fact of life, taken one day at a time, minute by minute, with no reprieve for “good behavior.” His hope, professionally and personally, is that by sharing his story, he helps other addicts find their way back to sobriety.

Viers' story could belong to any shy kid looking for a way to fit in and not finding it. When he was about 15, members of his garage band experimented with sinus-clearing inhalers (nasal over-the-counter amphetamines containing basal restrictors). With the first experience, Viers recalls he was “hooked immediately.”

“All the things I didn't like about myself went away,” he says.

His parents, struggling to stay



Key Peninsula archive photo

Viers has been active in the KP Community including as member of the Sportsmen's Club.

together until their children were grown before they divorced, didn't realize his frequent overnights with friends were drug-induced multiple days and nights of manic energy, followed by crashes of depression and deep, prolonged sleep.

According to Viers, nicotine is considered the “gateway” drug to addiction. He started smoking at 14, outside the

“ I don't know where I would be if it wasn't for love. — Randy Viers ”

church hall with his father. It was an easy transition to drugs, paid for with “really disturbed neuro-chemicals in the brain.” In the endless cycle of drug-binging, crashing, depression, and binging again, something pulled him toward sanity. He says the drug use was dependent upon whom he was with — and he gravitated toward musicians who were “clean.” Looking back, he says some of his best jobs were with drug- and alcohol-free bands. That propensity for self-preservation bought him some time, but it didn't stop his fall.

Viers found that having a father in sports and a grandfather active in the Hollywood music scene were hard acts to follow. Determined to step in the famous footstep of his elders, he moved to California. What he found, beyond bit parts in movies and a stint on then-popular “Rock-a-Go-Go” on television, were emerging “psychedelic” drugs, more or less freely-trafficked in the hippie/free-love era of the late 1960s. Oddly, Viers says in the music business at the time, alcohol abuse was tolerated, while drugs were not. He gradually tipped the scales toward alcoholism, accepting drugs along the way whenever offered by fans, friends, anyone.

“People just gave them out,” he says. “It's not in my nature to turn them down.”

During this time, he met his future wife, a drug-free woman; a safe haven for an addict out of control. He became expert at pushing her boundaries. “I played a crummy game,” he remembers, knowing just when to back off to avoid a crisis, only to repeat his “angry and unreasonable behavior” when the air cleared. “Drugs and alcohol weren't a problem for me. I didn't notice the grief I caused to others,” he says. “It's part of addiction; arrogance and denial.” Now married 41 years to that same woman who threw him out, took him back, threw him out and took him back again, he is grateful for a family who stuck with him until he got it right.

“I don't know where I would be if it wasn't for love,” Viers says today.

From California, stints in Nevada and Oregon, he moved his family to

Washington. By this time, he had sworn off everything but pot — a little something to induce a “harmless high” and that kicked-back state of mind he craved. The Christmas Eve move was a symbolic and literal new beginning, a chance for the good life. He figured a change of environment and friends was all he needed to make a clean start last; some new place where he could be in control, finally. Unfortunately, his addiction hitched a ride with the family heading north. Soon after resuming his music career, an offer to try methamphetamine came his way — a “one time” experiment with something new — and claimed his life. What began with snorting progressed to shooting up, and led to manufacturing and selling to other addicts to support his own habit. He was “careful to keep that part of my life away from my family, and off the Peninsula, where they lived.” He believes the entire family succumbed to denial that winter; his addiction was “private” unto himself.

Viers was out of control once again, and tired of fighting with his wife about drugs; his body hurt, depression haunted him. He didn't care if he was married anymore, decided to “just stay high forever” to avoid the pain and sickness of coming down. Home from work early one afternoon, his wife walked in to see drug paraphernalia laying out where their boys would see it. Something in that “caught in the act” moment snapped Viers sober. Facing the end of either his family or drug use, he wasn't sure he really wanted to quit. He had an agenda, figured he'd walk into a clinic saying, “Fix me so I don't shoot drugs — but I still want to smoke pot.”

On a date he remembers, Jan. 5, 1990, four days after Viers made a bonfire in the back yard and burned all his paraphernalia, one of his sons drove him to a hospital. For the first full week of the 21-day treatment, he didn't believe alcohol was a problem — mentally, he was just there for drugs.

Nearly two clean and sober decades later, Viers knows one truth for certain. “I'm one beer, one joint, one (needle) away from a relapse. I stay dry by doing what they taught me to do 17 years ago,” he says.

This is a message he shares at least once every month in a talk to Olalla Recovery Centers program participants. Sometimes it resonates just right — this hard reality spoken and lived by “one of their own.” Viers is committed to finding ways to assist addicts in recovery and avoid relapse; he knows first-hand it can be done, and that's why he's there.

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If you find yourself in the position of facing foreclosure, remember that the worst thing you can do is nothing. In many cases talking to your bank or mortgage lender can offer some temporary solutions at least. Remember, they do not want your house back!

If you need to sell your house, remember that you have several months before foreclosure and there is time to market your home if you start early enough in the process. And most companies will accept a "short sale" (a sale which is less than what is owed) rather than take the house back.

So if you are facing foreclosure, talk to your local Realtor early in the process and see if they can help you find a solution.



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(From **FORUM**, Page 1)

April 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

At stake are questions of private property rights, the potential "industrialization" of portions of newly classified peninsula shorelines, and broad concerns regarding the acknowledged lack of long-term science to ensure the continued health of Puget Sound. Efforts are underway in Olympia to craft compromise regulations intended to satisfy both environmental and industry concerns. In May, the Pierce County Council expects to discuss proposed drafted interim county geoduck farming regulations. The April forum is designed to provide attendees with information pertinent to both of those bodies, to have questions answered, and to give citizen input to the presenters.

"Commercial geoduck farming is a sensitive issue that impacts the entire community," says Rodika Tollefson, Key Peninsula News executive editor. "This controversial subject deserves continued public attention, and the purpose of the forum is to provide local residents with an opportunity to learn more."

Speaking for the Community Council, President Barbara Trotter says, "We see this forum as the first step in a process of

Forum details

The Geoduck Aquaculture Information Forum is on Thursday, April 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the VFW Room of the Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road, Vaughn. To read presenter bios or the KP News series on geoduck farming, which concluded in March, visit www.keypennews.com.

informing our community and ourselves on all sides of this issue... We plan to make a recommendation to Pierce County Council as they discuss this issue later this year."

Confirmed panelists include Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, Taylor Shellfish Co. Inc. Public Affairs Manager Bill Dewey, Henderson Bay Shoreline Association President Laura Hendricks, and Department of Natural Resources Assistant Division Manager Sarah Dzinbal. Other presenters may be included as the organizers finalize plans.

Dewey is a 25-year shellfish farmer. He has taken an active industry role in environmental and human health issues and shellfish farming regulations. In an email response, Dewey says, "Shellfish growers look forward to meeting more of our neighbors and discussing the opportuni-

ties and issues geoduck farming presents to the Key Peninsula."

Dzinbal will provide background on the state's Geoduck Aquaculture Program, an update on the current status of the leasing program and the environmental monitoring program nested within it.

Lee, who has extensive land-use background, including as a former Pierce County planning commissioner, will address the pros and cons of landowner property rights. He acknowledges the characteristics of geoduck aquaculture as "a collision of (three) special interests: environmental concerns, economic development, and private property rights."

Hendricks, co-founder of Henderson Bay Shoreline Association, represents a coalition of environmental organizations and concerns throughout South Puget Sound. Their mission is to promote "aquaculture industry regulation and science required for new, intensive methods prior to any further expansion." Hendricks' topic addresses environmental concerns, from documentable, available science perspectives, in opposition to geoduck farming.

Pierce Conservation District's Erin Ewald says, "The issue of geoduck farming, property rights, and the environ-

mental effects of land use has brought a lot of attention to the Key Peninsula and its natural resources. There are important points to be made on each side. This forum has the opportunity to engage participants into positive discussion on these topics and encourage them to make educated decisions about their community and its future."

All panelists have been asked to also answer the question: "What are the short and long-range outcomes (commercially, economically, and recreationally) of this activity on the Key Peninsula?" District 26 House of Representatives and Senate legislators have been invited to provide a short statement regarding this important issue on the Key Peninsula. An audience question-and-answer session will follow all panelist presentations; the event will conclude with an opportunity for citizens to provide public comment.

"The KP News has become an objective and reliable source of news regarding the issues that impact local residents. We are proud to be a major sponsor for this event and collaborate with other sponsors who feel this topic is important," says KP News Publishing Board President Irene Torres. "We hope the community will turn out to hear the issues, and as a result, be better informed about them."

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Vaughn Community Church—One Year After the Fire

Looking Back in Thankfulness, Moving Forward in Faith

Blessed By the Community

April 9, 2006 is a date Vaughn Community Church will not soon forget. It was Palm Sunday. The congregation had enjoyed a particularly special morning as the service was closed with a baptism. But as the doors were shut that afternoon, no one knew it would be the last Sunday we would spend in our beloved building. The baptismal heating element had been accidentally left plugged in and a fire started. Within six hours the building was so badly damaged it was condemned. Instantly, we were without a place to gather as a church.

However, in this tragedy, we were surrounded by a community that rallied around us in our time of need. The Fire Department responded quickly and prevented the fire from spreading to neighboring homes. The Civic Center allowed us to use their building free of charge for our Easter service. Lakebay Community Church and Key Peninsula Lutheran Church allowed us to use their buildings for weddings and meetings for several months. Within one week Penin-

sula School District agreed to let us rent Vaughn Elementary School for weekly services. Countless others offered support and encouragement. We want to thank everyone who helped us and enabled the life of the church to keep on going.

While saying thank you is one thing, as a church we also want to show our gratitude. Here are some ways that those who blessed us would be blessed:

- Come join us on Saturday, April 14th from 9am to 1pm as we do some work to beautify the Civic Center grounds
- The Key Peninsula Fire Department could use volunteer firefighters and additional funds. The Ladies Auxillary meets at the Key Center Fire Dept. at 10am the first Thursday of every month to raise funds for the department.
- There are many great churches on the Key Peninsula. Find one in which you can serve and become an active part of it.



Pastor Tim and Tina Stobbe with their children, Isaac and Megan

Moving Forward In Community

It is an exciting time at Vaughn Community Church. We continue to meet at Vaughn Elementary at 10am every Sunday. Though our current meeting place doesn't look like a traditional church building, we worship God just the same.

Here are just a few things we are excited about:

- The Vaughn Elementary gym is much bigger than our old sanctuary and there's more parking too!
- Small groups continue to meet throughout the week—all over the peninsula—in Home-Flocks
- We support 11 missionaries from Alaska to Pakistan
- Our Middle School and High School Youth Group meets every Monday night at 6:30 at Miracle Ranch
- Our Nursery and Sunday School program provides a place for infants through 8th grade on Sunday mornings
- Progress is being made in the effort to convert the Red Barn south of Key Center into a youth center
- We are working on plans for a new church facility located at the corner of 134th Ave and Hwy. 302. We plan to begin building later this year.
- No matter where we meet we are committed to Seeking the Lost and Discipling the Found!

Join Us for
Easter Service
Sunday, April 8th
9am Continental Breakfast
10am Service

Mark your Calendars
Civic Center
Clean-Up
Saturday, April 14th
9am - 1pm



Come Join us!
Vaughn Community Church
Now meeting at Vaughn Elementary
Sundays 10:00 am

Spring Fling brings artsy mood to KP

The Two Waters Arts Alliance's fifth annual Spring Fling was success for the estimated 190 guests who attended the colorful event at the KP Civic Center Saturday night. Over 30 of the area's best artists displayed their work in the gallery-like setting. Live music by Jazz Musette and special desserts made for what Two Water's president Magill Lange described as "a wonderful night out on the town."

And so it was.

One group declared, "We traveled all the way from Mount Vernon and we'll do it again. The music and the art are fantastic."

One KP participant called it "a classy event with great entertainment and wonderful showcasing of our professional local artists."

— Hugh McMillan

For more Spring Fling photos, visit the gallery page at www.keypennews.com.



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

Above, Ruth Bramhall checks one of the many tables with art for sale. Below, Claudia Loy visits with Gig Harbor artist Susan Saltmarsh-Richard of Saltmarsh Designs.

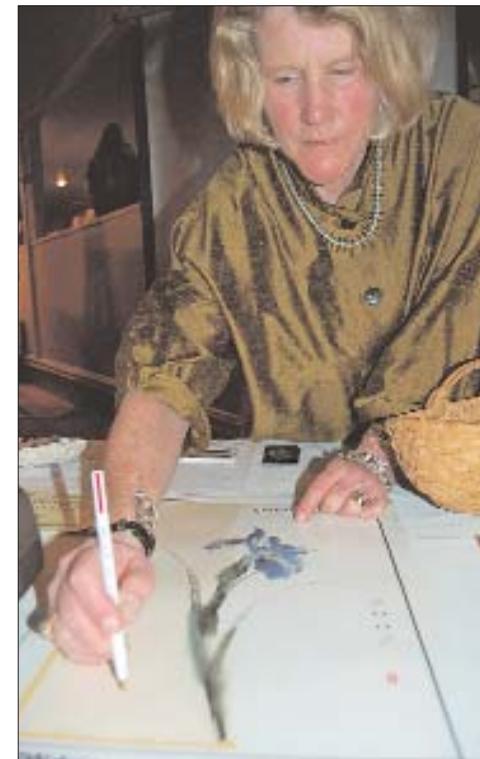


Photo by Mindi LaRose

Key Pen artist Reni Moriarity autographs the Two Waters Spring Fling 2007 Poster featuring her artwork.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Britta Brones hugs Janet Gormly after announcing to the audience it was Gormly's birthday.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Kim Marvik and Tim Kezele enjoy a private conversation.

Marty Marcus and Ann Waldo admire paintings, many of which were for sale at the Fling.



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Top items Little League parents should carry in their car

Mimi Jansen
SPECIAL TO THE KP NEWS



Three million players worldwide and nearly a million adult volunteers make up the Little League International, according to headquarters in Williamsport, Penn. Perhaps only a handful of the adults will have carried a needle and thread to the games. Go figure.

As a Little League parent, I learned this the hard way. Just as I learned that juice boxes are like dew on a blistering summer day: One second they're there, the next — gone. Baseball season has arrived — so have these things handy:

Plastic surface for kids' cleats. Preferably the washable Rubbermaid storage tote covers. Especially if you're carting around half the team. Your carpeting will thank you. Conversely, if you have this in your car, you will also need:

Extra kids' shoes/socks. Stinky, tired feet reek to high heaven. I know this because three senior leaguers (15- and 16-year-olds) divested themselves of their cleats in my car, and windows rolled down still did not dissipate the noxiousness.

That needle and thread. And it must be white thread. For what, you say? Those pesky Little League official patches that must be sewn on and without which your child may not play in an official game. Yes, I've seen this happen — and believe me, you do not want to witness the fallout. And I'm just talking about the father...

Blankets. Warm and fuzzy, thick and woolen, it does not matter as long as they are big. Of course regular comforters will not be appropriate unless sleeping in your car is an option, which, for some 8- and 9-year-old pitched games it just might be. Usually these are used as cover from the wind and cold and are laid upon legs of sitting spectators. However, it is not unusual to find them utilized as makeshift parkas, folded to be used as seat cushions, covering more than one shivering person, or as in the case of one of my friends, as a wrap skirt (don't ask).

Fold-up camp chairs. Or anything portable that you can sit on for hours upon hours. Portable being the opera-

tive word, as you never know how far you have to lug them when visiting other fields. Again, more than one is recommended, otherwise games of impromptu musical chairs occur among siblings and friends without the benefit of music, camaraderie, or nonviolence.

Towels. These come in handy if for some reason you do not have enough portable chairs and you need to use the bleachers to sit on. One, they can dry the surface if it is raining; and two, they can cover the bird poop and unknown dried and sticky substances that inevitably mark the seats. But be careful, do not flaunt these needlessly, especially on a rainy day, or they will come back filthy because coaches will have used them to dry the baseballs. Depends upon how charitable you are though. Never mind. Give them to the coaches.

Bandages and ointment. No, not for the players. For their ubiquitous siblings who will find and play in areas around the ball fields where sharp branches and objects reside, not to mention each other.

Cell phone. For calling frustrated coaches who do not know where the away team field is either, and consequently to report your child's lateness to the field for the same reason. Also comes in handy when someone can't make it to the game and you need to report every play-by-play in excruciating detail. And that's just for the umpire and coach fight.

Yes, I haven't mentioned food or drinks. It is a well-known fact that people get hungry and thirsty so naturally these will be the very first items you will realize you need. What is not so well known is that the needle and thread had come in handy when someone's baseball pants split; the towels can be used for muddy players to sit on in the car and to smack bees; and the blankets used to cradle a sprained ankle. I have begged for and borrowed these various items as well as lent them out.

Good luck this season. Oh, and leave those items in the car year-round. After all, soccer and football are coming up.

Mimi Jansen is a parent of three sons who are all in the Key Peninsula Little League on three different teams — you may find her either scorekeeping, jogging from field to field, or in the bathroom warming her hands with the hand dryer.

Geoduck Aquaculture Information Forum

Commercial geoduck farming is a growing industry throughout Puget Sound waters, and Key Peninsula tidelands in particular. The bivalve clam, a high-priced delicacy in Asia, is the shellfish industry's most lucrative market, and promises substantial income for both private tidelands lessors, and public lands' tideland leases with the Department of Natural Resources, through both leasehold revenues, and a percentage return to state coffers at harvest.

A moderated panel will make presentations, answer audience questions, and take citizen comment.

Panelists will include Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, addressing property rights issues; Taylor Shellfish Farms Project Development and Public Affairs Division Manager Bill Dewey, representing the industry; Henderson Bay Shoreline Association President Laura Hendricks, representing environmental activism; and Department of Natural Resources Assistant Division Manager Sarah Dzinbal.

April 5, 6 to 9 p.m.

Key Peninsula Civic Center

17010 South Vaughn Road, Vaughn

Sponsored by the Key Peninsula News in conjunction with the Key Peninsula Community Council and Shellfish Partners (Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, Pierce County Water Programs and Pierce Conservation District)

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Food choices impact your pets' well-being

By Robert McCrossin
Special to KP News

The multitude of options we have to feed our pets can be very confusing. Can I save a little money and feed the cheaper brand I can buy at one of the local grocery stores or places like Costco or WalMart, or does my pet need a special diet I can only get from my pet care specialist (pet store or veterinarian)? The answer is simple. Every animal, just like every person, is different. What may work for one dog in the household could cause severe allergies in another.

The most important thing to remember is the old saying: Garbage in, garbage out. While a life of Big Macs and pizzas may sound good, after awhile our systems let us know we are missing essential vitamins and minerals, and unfortunately the weight we gain can be very difficult to lose. Animals have the same problem. Food made with fillers may be very tasty, but for most animals it can cause problems with weight, skin and coat. Fillers can be everything from byproducts to starches and generally have no nutritional benefits for our pets.

Food companies want to sell food. So don't take the feeding guidelines too literally. Once again, each animal is different; some require a little more food, some a little less. Work with your pet care professional to determine what may be the right amount for your pets.

Unless your veterinarian specifically recommends against this, it is always best to feed at least a significant amount of the food in hard kibble form. Many animals do not have enough opportunities to have proper dental care and dry kibble is one

Pet owners should be aware of a pet food recall for pet food cans and pouches labeled "in stew" or "gravy based." Kennel manager at Bayside Animal Lodge, Tammy Jacobson, says the problem is in "the wheat gluten added to cans and pouches of gravy based pet food." Dry pet foods do not have a problem. Visit www.menufoods.com/recall for a list of the 90 brands that are being recalled.

way to help "brush" their teeth, which can help prevent periodontal disease and tooth loss. Although proper dental care, whether brushing their teeth at home or having their teeth regularly cleaned by a veterinarian, is recommended, anything you can do at home to help is worth doing.

Animals today are also plagued with a variety of allergies, and many of those are caused by their foods. Corn, wheat and beef, to name just a few, can cause serious skin problems for many dogs. While some allergies are very severe and require treatment by a veterinarian, many dogs and cats can have these allergies controlled by their owners with a diet that does not include what they may be allergic to. There are many other protein sources that include fish, chicken and bison that more animals can eat without worry.

Working with your pet care specialist is the best way to ensure you find a well-balanced food your pet can readily digest and will be good for the inside as well as the outside.

Robert McCrossin is the owner of Bayside Animal Lodge, Ltd.



Thank you to everyone who made Spring Fling a wonderful success!

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GARAGE SALE: Surplus items from the KP Fire Dept. Items inc.: printers, monitors, computers (HD removed) misc. auto supplies; tools; bunker gear; chainsaw, other household items. Avail. for insp. Apr. 27 w/ sale on Sat. Apr 28 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Key Ctr Stn., 8911 KP Hwy N.



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Out & About



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Cheryl Ozbirn, Erika Verfaillie and Karen Gillespie, Vaughn Elementary School parents and auction organizers, are discussing with Dale Loy of Sunnycrest Nursery a centerpiece that will be auctioned. The May 19 event will raise funds for a new, "green" playground at the school.

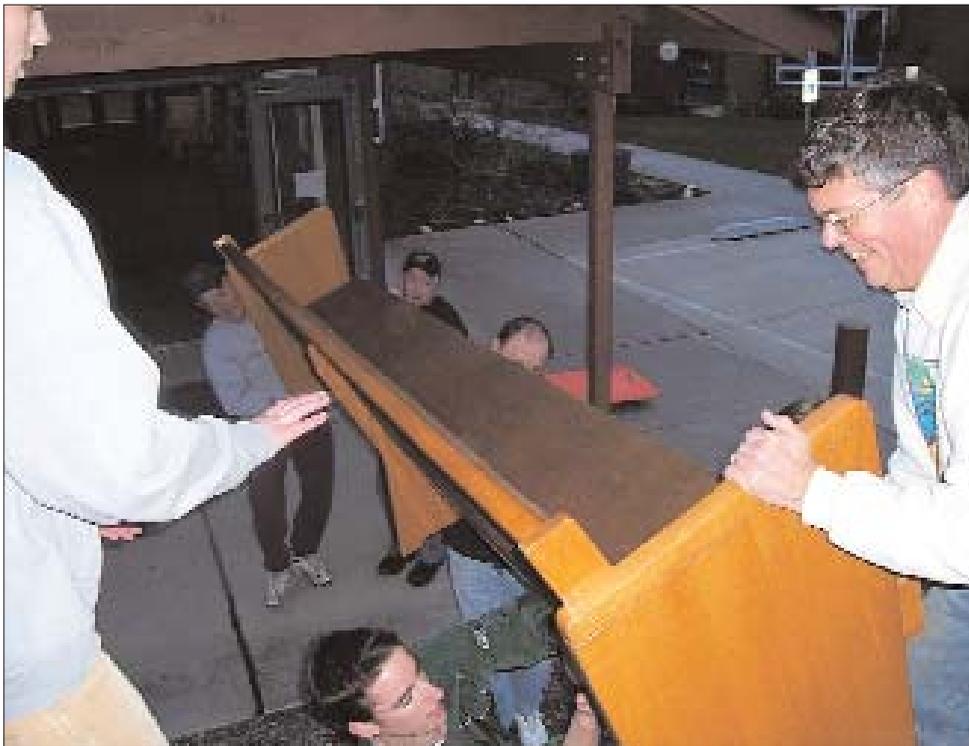


Photo courtesy Jim Davis

Volunteers (clockwise from left) Aaron Baron, Harold Matthews, Steve Chapman, Doug Bramhall, David Jorgensen, and Ryan Baron load a pew donated by the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church to the Whitemouth Fellowship Church in Manitoba, Canada. Earlier, the KPLC received a gift of church pews from the Champion Center Church in Tacoma, and placed an offer online to donate 22 old pews—receiving inquiries from several churches east of the Mississippi. Whitemouth Fellowship parishioners sat on packing crates, according to their pastor.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

"CheerS for Phil!" Supporters of efforts to help the family of Phil Radcliffe, who was critically injured in a sawmill accident, are enjoying espresso and other goodies provided by Close to Home Espresso as a fundraiser.



Photo by Frank Slater

Above, People come from all over the state to enjoy the beauty of Mt. Rainier from the Longbranch Marina. According to dock master Mark Jones, "People love it for what it isn't. They love the tranquility. It's like the old San Juans of the '60s." The boating season starts on May 5 with an Opening Day breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon; a sailboat regatta is at 10 a.m. Below, John Glennon, a fine Irish gentleman, has made frequent trips to his Irish Homeland but this year celebrates at O'Callahan's. *Photo by Danna Webster*



To see more Out & About photos, visit our Website at www.keypennews.com and follow the Photo Gallery link. See more of your neighbors out and about, Key Peninsula scenes and happenings. The online gallery features only Website exclusive photos!

