



KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!
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and events, page 14

▲ On air, on the KP, page 34

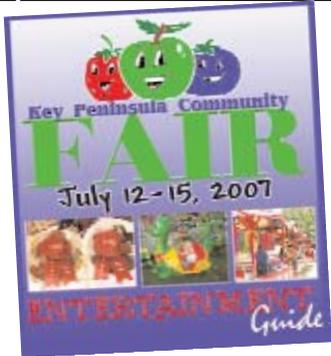
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PICTURE PERFECT

KPMS photography students make the big leagues

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The incredible work of the Key Peninsula Middle School digital photography students has gained fame locally, but recently, the students became famous around the world. Popular Photography Magazine ran a story on the photography class, led by teacher Mike Hunziker, on its Website's blog under the headline of "Most Likely to Succeed." The subhead reads, "With arts cut in favor of standardized test scores across the country, one small town middle school teacher champions for more photography classes..."

The high-level digital photography of the KPMS kids is on view for the whole world to find

(See **KPMS**, Page 29)



Mike Hunziker shares a moment to critique some of the work of students Veronica Farley, Krista Kooker, Jessica Kahler. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Mustard Seed Project grows under Franciscan umbrella

\$83,340 national grant awarded local 'elder-friendly' focus

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The Mustard Seed Project, a Key Peninsula grass-roots project spearheaded by Edie Morgan, received an \$83,340 grant from Catholic Health Initiatives and the Franciscan Health System. (Franciscan, builder of St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor, is affiliated with Catholic Health Initiatives.) The goal of the project is to create an "elder-friendly" community by offering services and programs in their community to allow Key Peninsula residents to age in place.

"The Mustard Seed Project has the qualities that CHI seeks when awarding

mission and ministry fund grants: It meets an identified community need, is innovative, is able to be replicated, and promotes collaboration with other organizations in the community," Gale Robinette, Franciscan spokesman, wrote in a press release. "Supporting the Mustard Seed Project and other community-based programs helps to advance the CHI and Franciscan mission of service and healing."

When Morgan began investigating available services for Key Peninsula senior residents in 2006, she didn't have a name for her passion yet. Many months later, she refers to her efforts as "aging in place." Focused on four topics of particular interest and need for this population — information and referral,

(See **PROJECT**, Page 32)

Key Peninsula Community Fair A look behind the scenes

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

When fair-goers enjoy the seventh annual Key Peninsula Community Fair over the weekend of July 14-17, it's a pretty good bet no one will wonder how, why or when this extravaganza was created. It's all part of the plan of a handful of longtime and new volunteers committed to making life on the KP unique, enjoy-



(See **FAIR**, Page 31)

Tacoma Narrows Bridge ready for traffic

By Rick Sorrels, Special to KP News

A milestone is upon us. The opening ceremonies for the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge will be held on Sunday, July 15.

From 8 to 10 a.m., MultiCare will have a 5K Fun Run (walk, run, or jog) starting at War Memorial Park in Tacoma, going across the bridge to the Gig Harbor side, and then return.

At 10 a.m., a 1929 Lincoln Touring Car that participated in the opening ceremonies for the older Narrows Bridge will be driven across and pay the first ceremonial toll, accompanied by a 1950s Washington State Patrol cruiser. At 10:30, a memorial for Sen. Bob Oke will occur on the west side. Oke was a major promoter of the new bridge, and survived his cancer long enough to see it take shape, but not long enough to attend the ceremony.

The bridge deck will be opened to the public (pedestrians only) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Organizers of the celebrations say this is a rare chance to play in the traffic lanes of a major highway. Officials will closely monitor the head count to ensure that the weight capacity for the bridge (60,000 adults) is not exceeded. At least four ribbon cutting stations will provide young and old alike with ribbon and scissors — and photographers — to individually document the event for posterity. Digital photographs will be posted on a Website for later download. Kids of all ages will love to get their “passports” stamped at stamp stations at various points across the bridge.

The “official” ribbon cutting will occur at 1:30 p.m., with Gov. Chris Gregoire and other dignitaries present. The bridge will be cleared at 3 p.m. to

More celebrating

If celebrating the bridge opening day is not enough for you, the city of Gig Harbor invites local community to a picnic on Tuesday, July 10, at the Skansie Brothers Park downtown to celebrate the new bridge. The free event, held from 5 to 8:30 p.m., includes a community picnic complete with hot dogs and potato salad, free hats and other commemorative items (while supplies last), children's games and music by Gig Harbor's Spelemanslag Norwegian Folk Band.

get it ready for the first traffic flow. Those planning to attend the ceremonies must park either at the Tacoma Narrows Airport or at Tacoma Community College in Tacoma. Buses will shuttle people to and from the bridge throughout the day.

The bridge is expected to open the following morning, July 16, for vehicle traffic and toll paying. This could be delayed, however, if the weather prevents the final lane striping and apron modifications.

Victoria Tobin, the Washington State Department of Transportation official responsible for the opening ceremonies, said she was assigned to the task because she usually works “with opening ceremonies that have only \$25 in the budget.” “The budget for the Narrows Bridge is \$260,000, and I expect it to be covered entirely by sponsors and donations,” she said. “This money will be spent on things like bus service to/from the parking areas, porta-potties, water and first aid stations, standby ambulances, barricades, trash cans, litter pickup, safety



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Jeff Carpenter, project manager for the new bridge, during a “tour” in mid-June.

Good To Go update

The Good To Go! electronic toll collection program has already exceeded its goal of 25,000 accounts. Calculations (guesswork) included the following when setting this goal:

- Daily eastbound traffic – 40,000 vehicles
- Peak traffic (7 – 10 a.m.) – 3,700 vehicles per hour
- Percentage of vehicles using transponders – 60%
- Space for vehicles in queue – 150 vehicles
- Transaction time at toll booth – 11 seconds
- Each additional vehicle with a transponder is one less waiting in line at the toll booth.

and security. There will even be a marine patrol boat with standby divers in the water beneath the bridge. We

intend this to be a memorable event with the absolute minimum of negative experiences.”



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

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

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

Fire district loses insurance pool membership

By Irene Torres, KP News

As recall efforts continue against Fire District Commissioners James Bosch and Allan Yanity, the physical altercation between the two has resulted in at least one adverse action: The district was voted out of a consortium of local fire districts sharing an insurance risk pool.

An interlocal insurance agreement in effect since the 1990s among fire districts Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6 and 16 was renewed on April 9, 2007 to allow the districts to share the insurance risk pool and increase their individual buying power. But following the arrest of Yanity, the May 14 minutes of Fire District No. 5 reflect a decision to renew next year's insurance plan without District 16. The reason cited is, "due to the level of risk this district is experiencing." District 5 Commissioner William Jarmon cited the number of small claims experienced by District 16. Other districts' commissioners expressed concerns about the potential for larger lawsuits to be filed against the KP district. A Tacoma fire commissioner said the decision came as a result of adverse publicity resulting from the altercation in April. (The trial for the assault charge

against Yanity is scheduled for July 11.)

"The other districts are running scared," FD-16 Chairman Rick Stout said. "They're embarrassed by what happened out here and they're afraid of a lawsuit that might be filed for unsafe working conditions."

District 5's minutes state, "There is currently no vehicle within the bylaws of the (cooperative) to allow the removal of a district and investigation is underway to accommodate this process." The consortium is proceeding to request an insurance quote for only four districts: 2, 3, 5 and 6, which leaves FD-16 to shop insurance rates alone.

The district's insurance agent, Bob Clifford with Comfort, Davis and Blancy, Inc. said, "We've got submissions out to four companies. We're very confident that we're going to have reasonable rates and coverage placed by October (when the current policy is due to renew)."

Former fire Commissioner Ed Taylor expressed his doubt the level of insurance coverage could stay the same for the same price. Taylor echoed concerns of other citizens who have contacted him with worries that KP homeowner and commercial insurance rates will increase. Heightened atten-

tion to District 16's risk could result in a rerating of homeowner's insurance premiums, Taylor believes.

Clifford said, "In my years of insurance experience since 1965, some in districts with bigger problems than this one, the homeowner and commercial insurance rates will probably not be affected."

Recall efforts continue

At a recent commissioners' meeting, Bosch alluded that the problems in the district came as a result of news coverage, spreading discontent in the district, and he challenged a look into the records. Recall committee organizer Mike Salatino said, "At Jim Bosch's suggestion, we are undertaking a thorough review of the records, meeting minutes, expense accounts and credit card receipts. Documents from the district have been requested under the Freedom of Information Act. This will take time. We're dividing up the work, and we hope to have a statement of charges ready so we can petition to put the recall measure on the ballot in November." Others will be looking for potential conflicts of interest, especially in purchasing practices, nepotism, or evidence of misappropriation of public monies.

All requested documents must be reviewed under the observation of the district Administrative Manager, Christina Bosch, one of several people whose expense reports could come under scrutiny during review of the state auditor's correspondence with the district. Others whose expense reports have been requested include Chief Tom Lique, Yanity and Bosch.

Taylor said the goal of the recall effort is "to get the district on more stable footing by getting some good, new commissioners." "It's their job to watch and safeguard the district's money," Taylor said. "But with the added expenses like insurance and higher attorney fees... they're spending more money than they need to spend." He also has heard concerns whether the lack of confidence by the other districts would affect future mutual aid response under other interlocal agreements, on which FD-16 has depended for years.

Former Commissioner Ruth Bramhall said, "They're costing the district money... Mr. Yanity's opposition to the levy lid lift cost the taxpayers. It would have passed, and should have, if he had supported it. And he caused an audit (by the Public Disclosure Commission) that did not need to be — we were doing it right. It was a good audit, but it cost money."

Lawrence Stevens, a recall proponent, said, "Fighting isn't an adequate reason for a recall. We're going to have to find proof."

District minutes do not reflect growing public dissatisfaction. Previously, the two quarrelling commissioners spent extensive meeting time disputing minutes, arguing over issues, or accusing each other of wrongdoing. Some insiders said the district's minutes were awaited by other fire departments, for their comedic value. And critical comments regarding the commissioners grew, as more citizens started attending the meetings. Recently, the decision was made not to include every comment in the minutes, however. There would only be a record of what actions were taken.

Responding to the change in the method of recording the meeting minutes, Salatino said, "The district is deliberately secretive. Their minutes are an official blank (on issues of public concern). They only contain generalities like, 'Mike Salatino spoke' during the three-minute public discussion period. There is no written report of what was said. There is no record of the discontent."

Citizens have lobbied commissioners to increase the board from three to five seats, and the board recently passed a resolution to expand the seats on the commission from three to five. That measure will appear on the fall ballot for the citizens' vote, and if approved, the two new commissioners will be selected by the current board. Asked if he would be interested in one of the new seats, should the commission expand to five members, Taylor said, "No... Who would want to sit through that?"

Stout, whose term expires in 2007, is unopposed in a run for his seat. He said, "The public must think I'm doing a good job. They haven't put up anybody to run against me."

He said both Bosch and Yanity refuse to resign their seats. Asked under which conditions he would consider resigning in order to preclude the recall efforts, Yanity wrote to the KP News in an email: "The only comment I have is where are all the people who want a five-member board and resignations, no one registered to run for commissioner except Stout?" Bosch did not respond to contact attempts by the KP News.

One longtime observer told the KP News: "Folks out here don't seem to me to understand that the fire district belongs to them and they should take some interest in the events — rather than just complain about taxes."

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	11:00 - 12:30	Martin Nyberg
28 th	9:30 - 11:30	Jerin Fakner

Map showing location at Stroff's Field, near Wollachet Dr., Hunt St, and Hwy 16.

▲ Same Location at Stroff's Field

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Police and Fire departments will be cooking as guest chefs, all money donated goes to the local food bank, also bike helmets will be available for kids

EDITORIAL

Bridge opening could be milestone for Key Pen, too

The July opening of the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge will mark several milestones for the area. The bridge has been a dream, for some, for many years. Others fought it profusely: The project had been the subject of a long legal battle before it got off the ground.

Construction took more than five years, several delays, a total of 47.5 million pounds of structural steel (for bridge structure and suspension system), and more than \$800 million to complete. The 2,800-foot span is an engineering marvel, becoming the longest suspension bridge built in the United States since 1964. It will also be the largest twin suspension bridge in the world.

For the local community, the bridge brings a different kind of milestone: It will be the first bridge in the state to be tolled in 20 years. For a Key Pen commuter who works on the other side, driving to work will cost about \$450 during the first year for those who use transponders, and the tolls are expected to increase in future years.

But the implications of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge go far beyond engineering records and personal finances. Speculation has run far and wide about

what impact the new bridge will have on the region. Most people agree that despite the toll, the expected congestion relief will make the peninsula area more attractive, causing big population growth. Since Gig Harbor has limited residential lots available, and its real estate values are the highest from the Narrows to Bainbridge Island, Key Peninsula becomes an even more attractive place.

Already, development has been booming here. Expected growth is the reason Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee proposed creating a KP community plan. Lee told the KP News in previous interviews: "You look at the Key Peninsula and all the miles of shoreline and view property — the bridge is the only thing that keeps people away... The new bridge will unlock the door to the Key Peninsula."

The jury will be out for a long time on what the Tacoma Narrows Bridge means for the Key Pen. The first bridge brought an economic boom to the entire area, and the completion of the second bridge brought an influx of summer homes. Gig Harbor has certainly grown by leaps and bounds. Who could imagine that up until Target opened five years ago, there wasn't even a place to buy undergarments locally. Now, national chains continue to roll in. No one expects Walmart to set up shop on the KP — but we should expect a bunch of new neighbors, who find a short commute into Gig Harbor a minor inconvenience.

Summer kids' opportunities

By Jud Morris
Special to KP News

So, what are we going to do this summer with our children, now that school is out and summer vacation is here? Educators agree that our children's long summer vacation (though our children might think it's too short) is one of the reasons why children forget some of the things they have learned the previous year, and actually come back to school in September with forgotten knowledge. What can we, as parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles do to positively support our children's learning this summer, and hopefully actually increasing it while they are away from school?

We can plan learning opportunities and experiences that increase their knowledge and support things they have already learned (in school and life). We can take them on trips (around the Key Peninsula), learn about local animals, fish, insects, and plants. Learn about the local environmental issues we have been observers to this last year. Send them to camp or day camp, where they can learn new things and ideas. Give our children more responsibility, recognition and respect. Challenge them to read more (than you do). Have them read (and teach) with

others. Teach them to cook (all the measuring of ingredients it takes). Teach them to build ("measure twice, cut once"). Have them volunteer for a project they are interested in. Learn a new language with them. Involve them in sports (What is the velocity of the ball and why? Why does a curve ball curve?). Summer jobs could help figuring wages and costs. What about gardening, or caring for pets? Expand their horizons and knowledge, share time with them (you are their "first teachers"). What could be better, especially since most of my suggestions are inexpensive or free?

We say, "We want what's best for our children." We say, "Let's give our children every opportunity to have a better future than we have." So, parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, let's just do it. Plan with your children what you and they want to do this summer to increase their learning, and still have lots and lots of fun. Maybe your children will have so much fun with you, that both you and they will want to continue your activities throughout the year. Wouldn't that be a real family learning experience worth doing every year?

Jud Morris is the program manager at Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bridge opening brings toll backup worries

When ramp meters were originally proposed, we were told the Purdy and Burnham meters would be temporary until the new bridge opened and then used when conditions warrant. I believe that right now WSDOT's position will be that they keep using the meters until they are no longer needed. That is different than not using them until they are needed. It is an important distinction as they have a "set it and forget it" mindset. That has been a nagging problem with their flow control approach. They want to set it up like a traffic signal and come back in a couple of months to adjust it.

The queue area for the toll booths is

way too small. My nightmare, and probably WSDOT's, is that we're going to have huge backups and they are going to try to mitigate them by metering heavily at Purdy. And once congestion has started to develop, metering will not provide any relief.

The bridge opens July 15, and the people of the Key Peninsula, Purdy and Gig Harbor North are about to get a raw deal. The Department of Transportation needs to honor their original commitment and turn the meters off at Purdy and Burnham when the bridge opens.

*Mike Baum
Key Peninsula*

Plea for wildlife habitat

I hope I can make my plea in the right amount of words! I know that we need another Costco, and another hospital, and another Burger King, and another McD's and all other conveniences that

are out of our reach at a 10-mile radius, so we feel the need to have them within 3-5 miles instead. All I'm asking, with all my heart and soul, is please, developers, new home builders, new construction, etc., don't scrape the earth free of every existing rhizome and living molecule. We can have it all! Allow a few of the living creatures to have their version of McD's ...the field of wild daisies, thistles, foxgloves. Let them have a smidgeon of earth to raise their young, feed their families . . . live.

*Suzy Meyer
Wauna*

Good Samaritan comes forward

I am writing in reference to the article "A Life changed forever." (Editor's note: In the article, Tammy Richmond said she hopes some day to find out the identity of the woman who held her hand after a terrible crash until help arrived.)

My family and I came upon that horrible accident. We stopped and my husband, a police officer, took charge of traffic. I'm an ER nurse so I tended to the young lady driver. She was badly broken. I had someone hold her head, had another person use a fire extinguisher for the engine. I used a T-shirt to dress her right wrist that was precariously dangling, and bleeding profusely, and cut her watch to free her left hand. I cut her seat belt off to make sure she was breathing. She had a pulse, but was unresponsive. Her legs were mangled, car's control pedals in her shins. A child seat was in the back. It was empty, but I still had people looking. All I could do was talk and hold her hand, call her name, "Tammy," and reassure her. We called 911. I never knew the outcome. I am elated to hear Tammy is recovering. My name is Heidi Malloque and I am the person who held her hand.

*Heidi Malloque
Lakebay*



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Life-long friendships made at 'Free Spirit Convention'

By Cassandra Kapp
Special to KP News

Growing up in the area of the quaint, suburban waterfront town of Gig Harbor, it seems as though I sometimes live out my days in a routine, monotonous manner. Gig Harbor is a very homogeneous town, according to the U. S. Census Bureau, which states that three-fourths of the city's population is Caucasian. It is for this reason that I have always wondered what it would be like to meet teenagers who have grown up in communities other than the Gig Harbor and peninsula area, or in communities outside Washington state. Last March, I was fortunate enough to have my thoughts answered.

As the recipient of the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Journalism Award, I traveled to Washington, D.C. along with 101 other student journalists (one male and female from each state and D.C.) to meet with journalists and newsmakers during a conference program.

Although the guest speakers and journalism workshops taught me more than I ever could have imagined, my most life-changing experience was meeting those fellow high school journalists from across the country. Nearly one-third of the student journalists were minorities.

The convention was only five days. However, this was enough time for me to form a very strong bond with the "free spirits." These kids opened my eyes to the rest of the world, showed me the true meaning of hardwork and dedication, and were the most multifaceted students I have ever met.

The male representative from Mississippi was African-American. He had grown up in one of the poorest cities in the nation and decided to develop a newspaper at his school in order to keep himself busy and out of trouble. He described the blatant racism he encounters in the South. Kids at his school accessorize their cars' rearview mirrors with mini-lynches. He even witnessed part of a Ku Klux Klan meeting before he "got the heck out of there." The other Southern students agreed that obvious racism ran rampant at their schools as well.

One of the girls was trilingual and will be attending Harvard University this fall. The boy from Alaska lived two



Photo courtesy Cassandra Kapp

Cassandra Kapp, right, in front of the White House with the Tennessee representative, Caitlin Lindstrom.

hours away from civilization. Another girl lived through Hurricane Katrina and had to survive on packaged meals for several weeks. The girl from New York City had never driven a car. The boy from Wisconsin would go out "cow tipping" on the weekends. One girl was getting ready for her debutante ball. There were liberals from California and conservatives from Nebraska.

The "free spirits" and I would get in arguments about silly topics, such as what is the correct term for a carbonated beverage. The kids from the Northeast and California swore by "soda," while the West and Midwest went by "pop," and the South referred to it as "Coke."

We were all so different, but yet were bound together by one thing: our love for journalism and the power to change the world, one word at a time.

Today, more than two months after the convention, I am still in contact with many of the "Free Spirits." With some, I have developed lifelong bonds and I know I will be meeting many of them later in my journalism career.

I urge Key Peninsula students to travel outside of Washington state, whether it is for college or vacation, in order to meet a diversity of people, learn about unfamiliar situations, and possibly, to create lifelong friendships.

Cassandra Kapp is a 2007 graduate of Peninsula High School and the outgoing co-editor-in-chief of the PHS newspaper "The Outlook," where she won numerous awards. She will continue her journalism career this fall at Northwestern University in Illinois.

Key Pen at Maritime Gig

There was a little Key Peninsula flavor at the annual Maritime Gig Parade in Gig Harbor, an event attended by thousands of people.

Key Pen resident and Habitat for Humanity volunteer Bob Delaney takes a photo of the float the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Chapter of Habitat entered into the parade. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



Below, Peninsula High School's jazz band performs for the Gig crowd. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Key Peninsula Middle School's beginning and intermediate band perform as part of the entertainment lineup. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



Above, Key Pen's Russ Humberd leads the Peninsula Athletic Association group comprised of kids and parents. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



Left, The Peninsula High School marching band (directed by Paula DeMoss) with its mascot was followed by the school's cheerleaders. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

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Fire, park, school district candidates on ballot

By Danna Webster, KP News

The filing period for the open seats for three local public offices — Peninsula School District, Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District and Fire District 16 — closed in June, with some board candidates running unopposed and some seats with two contenders. The Key Peninsula News asked the candidates to provide some comments regarding their sought jobs.

Fire District 16

The six-year term for Position 1 is open for election on the fire district. This seat is currently held by Rick Stout, and he is running unopposed for the next term. Stout is retired from the fire department after 20 years of service. He was battalion chief for Home, Longbranch and Herron Island. His focus as a commissioner is big apparatus, specifically ambulances and fire tender trucks. A firetruck tender is replaced about every 10 to 15 years and an ambulance about every three to five years. Bids for the equipment are made about two years in advance of the replace-

ment. Stout analyzes the reserve fund and the effects of a proposed levy lid-lift decision as he prepares a budget to buy the large apparatus. While his focus is on equipment and purchase, he says the other commissioners focus on equipment insurance, health insurance and risk management. He supports a ballot measure that will be on the ballot this election year that would change the district's board to five commissioners. He feels that would help share the load on the projects, research and class attendance required.

Asked how he feels about running unopposed, he said, "Makes me happy. I take that as a compliment." He believes that reflects he is doing his job well and there is no opposition to his work. "I'm happy it happened that way," he said, joking, "I don't have to buy advertising signs."

KP Metro Parks

The park district has three positions open for election. Positions 1 and 3 are six-year terms and Position 4 has two years remaining in its term. Position 4 is

Elections 2007

The primary election date is Aug. 21. Voters must be registered 30 days prior to the election. First-time voters may obtain registration forms on the Key Peninsula at the library, public schools, and fire department headquarters in Key Center. Key Peninsula voters will select commissioner candidates for the fire district, park district and school board this election season. Since none of the positions have over two candidates, they will all appear on the general election ballot Nov. 6. On the Aug. 21 ballot, KP residents will ask to approve a Fire District 16 multi-year levy lid lift (see related story, page 9).

the only contested race. The two candidates are Bob Hicks and Bruce Nicholson. Both candidates responded by email when asked why they chose to run for commissioner.

Bob Hicks wrote: "The main reason I am running for parks commissioner is that I wanted to have an input in the park district's future. I want to be able to offer our residents more opportunities here on the Key for sports and recreation."

Bruce Nicholson's response was: "I have been attending commission meetings since October 2006. If elected, I will work to publish a tri-annual parks and recreation guide including information about all the really great groups, institutions, and individuals involved with a wide range of recreational activities including but not limited to horseback riding, gardening, biking, kayaking, arts and crafts, theatre and dance, team and individual sports, scouting and camping and more. The Key Peninsula Community Plan calls for a parks system that promotes tourism and I believe a good guide would help a lot. Using public/private partnerships, this guide can be done at no cost to the Key Peninsula citizens. If elected I will work to apply for and bring home grants and donations in terms of land and capital to the parks district."

Elmer Anderson, who was appointed last year to Position 4, is running unopposed for Position 1, currently held by Caril Ridley, who is not running for reelection.

He said about his interest in continuing on as commissioner: "If I were to use one word, it would be 'play-

grounds.' There are no playgrounds on KP for a parent to take their children. There are many things a park district should provide, trails, ball parks, skate park, etc., but the very definition of a park to me is 'family recreation' and that is playgrounds with picnic facilities included. I have grandchildren who will grow up on KP. I want them to have local family playgrounds and picnic facilities to enjoy. We have land and we're getting more land. I want to continue to help develop a parks program for KP citizens. This takes cautious prioritizing and money management."

Gregory Angelmyer, who was appointed to the board last year, is an unopposed candidate for Position 3. He chose that seat because it is a six-year term. "When you get into something, you get in all the way," he said.

Angelmyer retired from a career in the corporate world and moved to the Key Peninsula two years ago. Recreation departments and the Boy Scout program were significant in his life through his high school and college years. "I retired to do the stuff I really enjoy," he said. "The world of recreation has changed so much, (but) I've got some limited expertise in my past and a good director (Scott Gallacher) to bring me up to date."

Angelmyer sees the job as a "chance to save the land, create parks and do things for people." He says the park surveys showed that residents treasure what they have on the KP and he wants to "help preserve and protect on one side, and develop recreation programs for youth," getting them involved in "sports and get them closer to the environment."

Peninsula School District

Four PSD terms expire at the end of this year. The candidates for District 1 are Geoff Baillie of Longbranch (incumbent) and Matthew Wilkinson of Lakebay. District 2, a two-year unexpired seat currently held by Betty Ringley, is eyed by Jean-Louise Gazabat of Gig Harbor and Wendy Wojtanowicz of Wauna. District 3 incumbent Jill Guernsey is being challenged for the seat by Ken Roberts (both of Gig Harbor), and the District 4 position is unopposed with Jill Uddenberg of Gig Harbor as the candidate. The Key Peninsula News will print candidate's comments in the August issue.

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Settlement may be near for Powerline Road lawsuit

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

The parties to the Powerline Road lawsuit have reached settlement, conditioned upon the recording of certain documents and obtaining access permits from Pierce County for where Powerline Road (144th Street) accesses county roads at 118th Avenue and at Crews Road.

The trial dates of June 12 and Aug. 20 have been continued until Dec. 4, 2007, and June 3, 2008, with those trials occurring only if the settlement agreement is not finalized.

John Salmon, the attorney for Pierce County, said in mid-June, "This should all be wrapped up in the next few weeks. Ownership of the road will remain with the city of Tacoma. It's just not possible for Pierce County to take ownership of the road, as millions of dollars would be needed to bring the road up to required standards."

Under the agreement, Tacoma would

grant easements to the property owners who are plaintiffs so that they can access and use Powerline Road legally. Property owners who have not joined the lawsuit as plaintiffs are not included in the settlement.

Asked what actions Tacoma intends to take with the property owners who are not included in the settlement, William Fosbre, the attorney for the city of Tacoma, said, "I cannot comment about ongoing litigation." He said more information may be released in a few weeks.

The city of Tacoma has claimed a lawful right to bar residents from using 144th Street. Residents along that street have claimed a lawful easement, which is their only means to access their homes. It's been a decades-old dispute.

This same stretch of 144th Street has been identified by the state of Washington as one of the options for a proposed rerouting of State Route 302. An environmental study has been funded to determine the future location of SR-302.

Mayor Chuck Hunter, Gig Harbor Police Chief Mike Davis, Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor, and representatives of both Fire District 5 and Fire District 16, as well as Lt. Dale Alexander, the commander for the new Washington State Patrol detachment serving state routes 16 and 302. An audience question and comment session will follow the presentations.

KP Community Council seeks nominations

The Key Peninsula Community Council is looking for civic-minded citizens interested in running for positions on the Board of Directors in the council's Sept. 29 election. Terms of office are two years. Seven positions are open in four geographical areas. Candidates for the Board of Directors must be at least 18 years of age and either reside or own property on the Key Peninsula. Candidates' addresses impact for which position they may run. Individuals interested in running can obtain candidate registration forms by calling 884-0557, or visiting the KP Community Council office next door to the Key Center public library on Fridays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

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news

Key Pen News reporter wins journalism award

Key Peninsula News news editor Chris Fitzgerald won a second place award from the Society of Professional Journalists in the annual Western Pro chapter competition. Fitzgerald's award, received in the nondaily newspapers category, was for her in-depth series on the geoduck dilemma faced by the Key Peninsula. To read the series, visit www.keypennews.com.

Safety Summit held July 12

On July 12 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Pierce County Sheriff's Department holds a Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula Safety Summit, an event bringing together organization leaders responsible for the safety of both peninsulas. The summit will be held in the Peninsula High School auditorium. Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee will moderate. Scheduled speakers include Gig Harbor

Proposed lid lift levy banks on future values

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Key Peninsula voters will be asked in August to approve a new fire levy. On May 22, the Fire District 16 Board of Fire Commissioners adopted and approved a resolution calling for a special election in conjunction with the state primary election on Aug. 21. The board is asking citizens to authorize a levy of property tax not to exceed \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, in the first year of a six-year levy period, beginning in 2008. In years two through six, "a limit factor of 106 percent shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to the maximum statutory rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation." This proposed tax base is called a "lid (local improvement district) lift levy" because the request exceeds the 1 percent

increase (over the previous year's levy) capped by the voter-passed Initiative 747.

As real estate assessment values rise, the amount of taxes apportioned to a levy fluctuate. For instance, in 2006 on the Key Peninsula, the fire district collected \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value. An average increase in property values of 33 percent (by fire district estimates), using the same levy calculations, dropped the levy rate to 98 cents per \$1,000 but still increase revenue to the district because the cumulative assessed value has increased.

If the levy passes as proposed, and assessments continue to rise, in 2009 (year two of the levy), using the new (6 percent) levy calculations, the cost to property owners to fund the district could be \$1.38 per \$1,000. As assessed values continue to rise, even though the levy rate would remain

static at 6 percent, tax revenues to the district would increase — until they hit the state-imposed \$1.50 per \$1,000 limit.

The district chose to begin at the highest allowable rate of \$1.50 per thousand in the first year. If approved, the additional levy will be 52 cents per \$1,000 assessed property value, or an additional \$130 per year for a property valued at \$250,000 (assuming assessed values are same).

Fire commissioners' board Chairman Rick Stout says the added revenue will permit the fire district to build reserves to replace aging equipment, set aside funds as new equipment ages, and hire more paramedic/emergency medical technician firefighters. Currently the district has four new (4 years old on average) fire engines purchased through

bonds, and four old water tankers now ready for replacement, with one due to be purchased this year. Part of the revenues realized from the levy, in addition to equipment, would be used to increase the 24/7 coverage at stations. "We currently have five to six firefighters on duty now," he said. "We want to build that up to seven on each shift."

In an emailed reply, Christina Bosch, the district's administrative manager, said the major question is, "Are taxpayers willing to pay additional taxes to the fire department to allow us to increase staffing, create a 'savings account' for major equipment purchases (fire engines, etc.)? I guess the only way to answer that question is to place this initiative on the ballot, and let our voters tell us what they want!"

CORRECTION

Last month's article "Status Check on school safety at KPMS" referred to Mr. Pat, the school's custodian who visits with kids in the lunchroom and serves on the school safety committee, by the wrong name. We regret the error and wish Mr. Pat happy retirement next year.

Effort looks at 'Livable Key Peninsula 2020'

By Irene Torres, KP News

At a community meeting on June 28, organizers Dennis Taylor and state Rep. Larry Seaquist (D-Gig Harbor) asked attendees to envision the Key Peninsula in the year 2020.

The catch-phrase "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally" is the center point of spheres of influence for this effort, which will include the elements of sustainable economic development, environment, affordable housing, senior services, transportation, global warming, logging regulations, community character, solid waste/recycling, land use/agriculture, and other potential issues the committees might address.

An advisory committee is being established — to be followed by working committees — to review the risks of noncompliance and to develop a means to ensure the just-developed KP Community Plan is followed.

When asked the difference between this and the already-functioning KP Community Council, Taylor said, "The

missions of both groups are similar. The Community Council is not grounded in promoting livable/sustainable community principle specifically, as Livable Key 2020 will be."

Features of a livable rural community include a clean, safe and secure environment, full school funding, recreational and arts opportunities, environmental stewardship, volunteerism, celebrating historical and cultural heritage, local employment opportunities, and beyond.

Taylor said, "Green business is an example of a sustainable business tied to the major issues." Livable Key 2020 will provide "a vehicle to promote these features," he said. "The challenges that face the KP are so large, no one organization will be able to do it all. We will partner with the Community Council but address issues they are not," he said. "In the beginning, we will be an education campaign to inform what each individual can do to be a part of the global warming prevention solution."

The group will hold forums, workshops, and town meetings to evaluate unmet needs and lend support to have those issues addressed. Seaquist was out of town at deadline and unavailable for comment.



SEAQUIST

SUMMER ACTIVITIES WITH KEY PENINSULA METRO PARKS



Movie Nights at Volunteer Park, Dusk (approx 8:30 pm)

- August 3 - Happy Feet
 - August 10 - Ghost Busters
 - August 17 - Charlottes Web
- Suggested Donation \$1 per person and 1 can of food for Key Peninsula Community Services

SUMMER SPORT CAMPS

Key Peninsula Metro Park District will be offering and partnering with Skyhawks Sports to offer a variety of recreational Sport Camps at various locations on the Key Peninsula for ages 4-14.

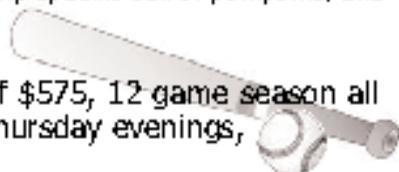
CAMP	AGES	TIME	DAYS	DATE	LOCATION	FEE
Cheer	5-6	2pm - 3pm	Mon-Fri	July 16-20	Civic Center	\$35
Cheer	7-11	3:30pm-5pm	Mon-Fri	July 16-20	Civic Center	\$40
Mini-Hawks	4-7	9am -12 pm	Mon-Fri	July 16-20	Discovery Elem	\$94
Basketball	5-7	1pm -2pm	Mon-Fri	July 30-Aug 3	Civic Center	\$35
Basketball	8-12	2:30-5pm	Mon-Fri	July 30-Aug 3	Civic Center	\$45
Soccer	6-14	9am-3pm	Mon-Fri	Aug 6-10	Mintler Creek Elem	\$128
Golf	5-9	9am-12 pm	Mon-Fri	Aug 13-17	Mintler Creek Elem	\$104

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Key Counseling is open for business

By William C. Dietz, KP News

Key Counseling is one of the newest tenants in the Key Peninsula Health Center in Key Center. According to sole proprietor Don Tjossem, "Key Counseling is a state certified chemical dependency treatment service provider that offers DWI assessments, alcohol and drug information school, and outpatient treatment to adults and young people."

Tjossem went to Washington State University, where he majored in sociology with a minor in psychology. "But," Tjossem says, "when I graduated I found I would have to go to New York or San Francisco in order to work in that field. I didn't want to do that so I ended up in banking."

When he retired from banking, Tjossem chose to go back to school rather than pursue his hobbies of kayaking, walking, and photography full-time. Having obtained a Human Services Certificate in chemical dependency, Tjossem went to work for the Washington Correctional Center in Purdy, while he pursued a master's degree from Capella University. He later

Substance abuse facts

Highlights of the "2006 Report on Abuse Trends in Washington State," as compiled by Don Tjossem MS, MAC, CDP:

- More than one out of 10 Washington state adult residents is in need of chemical dependency treatment.

- There are nearly 500,000 adults in the state who need substance abuse treatment.

- Adolescents with substance abuse problems tend to experience behavioral problems when attending school. After substance abuse treatment, however, the numbers of adolescents reporting any school discipline problems in the year preceding treatment dropped by 50

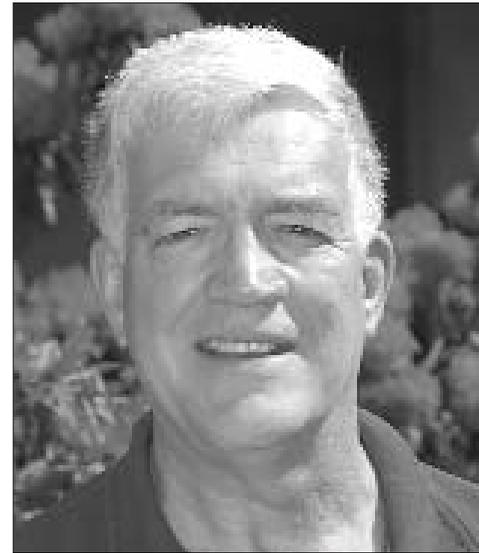
percent.

- By 12th grade, almost one out of five Washington state students is already a problem drinker.

- Youth ages 12 to 20 account for 30 percent of all U. S. abusive and dependent drinkers.

- Treatment completers show pronounced post-treatment wage increases.

The entire report is available online at www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa. For more information about the results of a recent alcohol and drug related survey of Washington state students in sixth, eighth, 10th and 12th grades, visit www1.dshs.wa.gov/mediareleases/2007/pr07030.shtm.



TJOSSEM

worked at the Choice Alternative School in Shelton.

With that experience under his belt, Tjossem decided to open a practice of his own. But local residents will be relieved to learn that his decision had nothing to do with the number of potential clients on the peninsula — and everything to do with the fact that he's been a

Key Peninsula resident for 20 years.

In fact, many locals may know Tjossem from his 15 years with Key Bank, his stint as a fire commissioner for the Key Peninsula Fire District 16, and his tenure as president of the Key Peninsula Business Association.

When asked if he had any personal experiences with addiction, Tjossem is

open about his past. "I certainly abused substances as a youth," he says. That experience helps him relate to clients.

When questioned about what people should expect regarding his therapeutic approach, Tjossem laughs. "We're going to plan for the future," the ex-banker says cheerfully. "Not sit around and talk about your childhood!"



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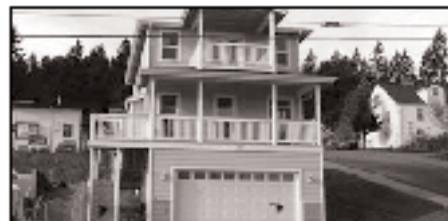
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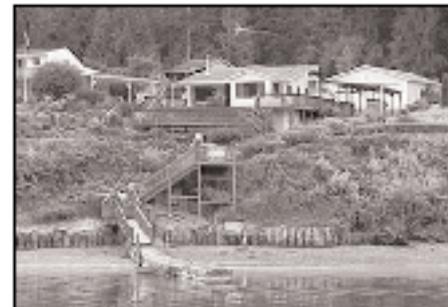
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New life, new home, new man at KC Computers

By Danna Webster, KP News

The computer store in Key Center has a technician who can build a new computer when given the scrap of about four old machines. Joseph Lindhartsen didn't expect to use his computer skills as a career move, but a battle with cancer turned his young adult life upside down. He and his wife, Sarah, moved from the Seattle area four years ago. Sarah's grandparents are in Gig Harbor and they asked a realtor to show them property in the area. The agent took them to Palmer Lake. Joseph says he told the agent, "This is about as far as we want to go." And the agent answered, "It doesn't go much farther."

The family lives on the green belt of Palmer Lake with Emma, 2, Owen, 4, and Ian, 8. Joseph Lindhartsen's active days — which included hanging above Seattle, managing a six-man crew, and cleaning high-rise windows — were traded off when terrible back pain after a tumble off a ladder didn't add up to normal. Doctors ran tests, did an MRI scan and a biopsy. They discovered that a cancerous tumor had dissolved his T-10 vertebrae.



Photo by Danna Webster

Joseph Lindhartsen enjoys his new job.

Lindhartsen grew up in rural Idaho, where men were expected to have a strong back and do physical work. "I can't do that anymore," he says. "My focus is on healing and fighting cancer. I've had my reins pulled back. I'll be battling cancer the rest of my life, but there are a lot of people with much worse cancers."

For years, since his computer certification from Highline Community College, he has fixed the computers of his family and friends. He believes if something is broken, one must fix it. He learned he was also good at building computers, but the job market for technicians without experi-

ence was flat, and that kept him in the window washing business. After the move to the peninsula, new friends at the local health food store encouraged Lindhartsen to consider computer repair and to ask Sheryl Mirenta if she needed help at her computer store.

One Friday, he got up his nerve and asked Mirenta if she needed help. Her tech had left on Wednesday. She asked what he could do. "I can do it all," was his answer and 45 minutes later, he was on a job. His pay is computer parts and pieces. He must work as a volunteer until his Labor and Industry claim is closed. He then hopes to have an official contract at the store. It is a good arrangement for now. "I'm just a volunteer at the shop. Some days, there's too much pain to get out of bed. I want this job. This is my dream job," Lindhartsen says.

Lindhartsen can take two broken laptops and make one that works. One night, he walked into the shop and noticed the discard pile of motherboards. He got busy and made four computers out of them. He says he tries to keep parts from going to the landfill. His computer fix-it skills and

Mirenta's business sense make them a good team.

"I need Sheryl's guidance," he says, admitting that if he were charging customers, he'd probably ask for a box of cookies. Mirenta is his mentor, and, according to Lindhartsen, working at the computer store and living on the Key Peninsula is a dream come true.

"I live in the woods, go into the little town, open the door with a key and hear the little bell ring. Then I get to work on customers' computers," he says.

The Lindhartsens are grateful for the good neighbors and community support of the Key Peninsula. "We get food from the (Lakebay Community) Church. A lot of people help us out with bills and stuff with family. There's a lot of community support," Lindhartsen says and shares that last Christmas a big wreath was left leaning on their front door and somebody in their neighborhood bought all the Christmas gifts for his children. That generosity is the inspiration behind his next goal.

"I've got to put enough aside to buy Christmas for some guy with cancer. That's my deal with God," he says.

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business

The Landing takes off

With all five suites leased, the owners of The Landing, Ira and Alisa Spector, are very pleased.

"We are trying to find out what our tenants need and make a baseline accounting to that," says Alisa Spector. "We have a delightful group here. The tone of the building (has been set) by independent entrepreneurs in business for themselves."

The newest and last occupant is the Pierce Conservation District, which moved from a tiny closet-sized back office on State Route 302 and settled into new digs during June. Erin Ewald, farm planner for PCD, now has space enough to sit down with visitors to map out their property conservation goals.

First tenant to arrive was Mulberry Street Marketing, a consulting firm, followed by Jobehaviors, focused on software consulting, Sturdi Products, in the pet carrier business, and Titan Formworks, heavy equipment sales and distributor.

Blue Frog Nursery has Open Garden

The Blue Frog Nursery in Minter will hold an Open Garden on July 7 and 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ornamental grass expert Jon Evers will sell specialty grasses and answer questions about them.

Russ and Miriam Smith, owners of the nursery, specialize in Japanese maples and perennials, but also grow other trees and shrubs. Russ Smith propagates the maples by both seed and grafts, and has many plants suitable for Bonsai.

The nursery started eight years ago, when they found a quiet place surrounded by trees where they could start a garden from scratch. Half a mile of trails wander through the woods adjacent to the nursery and their gardens.

Smith, who operates a lawn service in Tacoma, sells plants at the Gig Harbor Farmers Market as well as various special sales around the Puget Sound area. He says Miriam is the perennial buyer and he's the propagator.

Assorted trees, such as cedar, pine, redwood and yew, shrubs such as hebe, pieris, deutzia (a low growing form), and a good variety of groundcovers are all available at Blue Frog.

The nursery is open by appointment only, except for the annual Open Garden. For a plant list, directions, or more information, visit www.bluefrog-nursery.net/id6.html, email russ@bluefrog-nursery.net or call 857-0127.

In the photo: Japanese maples in an assortment of color, leaf shape and size are among the plants available at Blue Frog Nursery. Photo by Colleen Slater



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Growing pains: Park district ponders future, seeks more funding

Editor's note: In April, KP Metropolitan Park District commissioners discussed the need to impose a levy (which doesn't require public vote) starting in 2008. The discussion was postponed until July. As the district undergoes its comprehensive planning process, the Key Peninsula News is taking a look at various issues the district is trying to solve.

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District commissioners appear certain they will pursue a levy starting in 2008 — which could be as high as 57 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, although it's uncertain whether commissioners would choose the highest maximum allocation the district can have by law. The board says a levy is necessary for the district to be able to grow, and that the current budget (about \$160,000) is only sufficient for upkeep. Even so, the budget is barebones, according to Executive Director Scott Gallacher.

Volunteer Park (which officially got its name back in May after being called KP Sport Complex and Fairgrounds for a couple of years) is the metro park district's biggest asset. KPMPD also owns Home Park and leases the Rocky Bay Conservation Area from Pierce County on a long-term agreement. In a few years, the district's list may include as many as six or more properties, if various acquisitions that are being pursued are successful.

"This community is changing — the new bridge, you name it... Quality of life is what people out here moved for, and

parks are part of the quality of life," Gallacher said. "The challenge is, people say, 'If you have all this money, why don't you have all these projects?' It costs money to be government because as a government entity we have to pay prevailing wages... A lot of things were deferred for maintenance. This place (Volunteer Park) was built by volunteers, but it can't be maintained by volunteers."

Volunteer Park was built in 1976-77, following a November 1972 election to create KP Parks and Recreation District (predecessor to KPMPD). Jim Penfield, the first chairman, negotiated a 20-acre lease with the county at the time. The district operated without a levy for several years, and the park was a community volunteer effort. In its three decades of existence, it was developed further, and volunteers continued most of the maintenance, often with their own equipment and tools. Until recently, when Fire District 16 donated a pickup to KPMPD, staff and volunteers even used their own vehicles for district business.

The creation of the KPMPD brought steady funding for the first time to the local parks system, as zoo/trek taxes were diverted to the Key Peninsula based on population count. In 2006, KPMPD received close to \$125,000 from that tax, and \$113,000 in 2005.

"We're pretty much doing band-aid work at Volunteer Park," Gallacher said. "Volunteer Park was always on the levy system and there was a lot of deferred maintenance. The district is trying to take a lot of those deferred maintenance (issues) and fix them." Some of the capital improvements completed since metro district's creation included the renovation of the concession stand (\$30,000) and three infields (\$7,000).

The district's 2007 budget is nearly \$160,000, of which slightly more than

half—\$85,000 — is slated for employee wages, benefits and taxes. (The next-biggest expenses are for supplies, nearly \$13,000, and utilities, nearly \$11,000.) Gallacher, the only full-time employee, has a staff of two part-timers, whose hours collectively add to another full-time employee. Gallacher admits that with the staff already stretched thin, if more parks were added to the system, it would make upkeep even more difficult. Especially if the parks sprawl all over the peninsula, which means more driving time. And with volunteer turnover, some tasks now require expenses. He uses Home Park as an example: Fred Ramsdell used to mow the park, and when he moved away, that job became paid.

The commissioners see themselves at a crossroads: For the district to grow, more funding is needed, and as population grows, they believe more parks will be needed to fill the community's need.

Greg Anglemeyer, who was appointed to the board earlier this year and is running for election, uses himself as an example of what Key Peninsula faces. He moved out here a few years ago, in "retirement," attracted by the beauty of the area.

"People want to retain the lifestyle we have over here," he said at an earlier parks board meeting. "I am your worst news: I moved out here. And other people will move out here... If we don't find a way to keep those trails and parks (etc.), it will take a lot more in two years to do those things."

A survey recently conducted by the district showed support for a levy, although the response from the public was low (a total of 105 responses were tallied, of which only 12 percent said they wouldn't support any levy). The majority, 67 percent, said the district should acquire land and expand, while 26 percent felt the district should focus on

improvements and no new acquisitions.

Even without further acquisitions, the ongoing modernization of Volunteer Park alone could require a hefty investment. Gallacher has a wish list that shows capital improvements totaling an estimated nearly \$1 million, including \$55,000 for playground development (playgrounds were ranked as the second top priority, after trails, by the citizens who took the survey).

In July, the KPMPD board is expected to bring back the discussion of whether a levy should be imposed, or whether an advisory vote should be sought from the public in November. Most of the commissioners, however, have expressed the sentiment that the advisory vote would only serve "to appease the voters." In the meantime, the district intends to create a comprehensive plan to show the public why the money is needed.

Next installment: A look at the Gig Harbor's PenMet Parks, which was created at the same time as KPMPD, and has a \$2.7 million general fund budget as well as a \$6.6 million capital improvement list for 2007.



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Fireworks and music on the bay

KGHP radio station to play synchronized music to 4th of July fireworks display

By Jeanette Brown
Special to KP News

For the past six years, Richard Gillette and, more recently, the newly formed Henderson Bay Fireworks Committee, have put on quite a 4th of July fireworks display for family, friends and local neighbors from a barge located off shore on the Gig Harbor side of Henderson Bay. This year, Gillette has added a new feature to this increasingly grand and popular show, which starts at 10:15 p.m. and lasts for about 20 minutes.

A licensed pyrotechnician and agent with Gig Harbor Real Estate, Gillette wanted to enhance the local fireworks extravaganza so everyone could listen to the music that is choreographed to the timing of the fireworks display. With this in mind, he contacted Keith Stiles at KGHP and asked to have the synchronized music played over the local public access radio station so that everyone who watches the show could also listen to the music.

The fireworks display, which is also enjoyed by boaters and many other residents with sky and waterfront views of the bay, is very popular with the general public. People come to view and enjoy the show from the Purdy Spit area. In the past, the computerized fireworks show has been choreographed to music, but it was played through a stereo system hooked up to the computer, which could only be enjoyed by a handful of nearby residents.

Gillette said Stiles "seemed very excited about being able to accommodate my request." Stiles, a Key Pen resident who

'Safe & Sane' fireworks

Guy Allen, Fire District 16 division chief, says the main safety consideration for fireworks at home is to follow the manufacturer's instructions for use. Minors should never be permitted to discharge fireworks without adult supervision. Only fireworks purchased at local temporary stands are legal — the tribal stands open year round often sell fireworks that are illegal to use off tribal land because of their design and amount of explosive power.

For tips on "Safe and Sane" fireworks use, visit Washington State Patrol's information site at www.wsp.wa.gov/fireworks/default.htm.

has been licensed in radio since 1939 and volunteers as the station's chief engineer said, "We are delighted to do it; this show is not unlike the one that happens over Union Bay near Ivars in Seattle... It is a credit to the folks putting on the fireworks show and we are happy to serve the community by broadcasting the music."

Gillette, who moved to the area 13 years ago with his family, picks out the music and does the choreography himself. He received his pyrotechnician's license through Entertainment Fireworks, and then got down to the business of putting on his own fireworks show, seeking donations, renting the barge and shooting off the computerized fireworks display all by himself for the first five years. It was last year that he and a couple of his neighbors decided to form the "Henderson Bay Fireworks Committee," which also made fundraising easier and "more official."

Gillette said, "I was happy to have the help and last year was the first time I had the opportunity to watch the show from my own deck and I plan to watch it from my own deck this year, too." Last year, he also switched to Wolverine West, LLC, a local Seattle fireworks firm.

"They provide their own technicians and set up the barge, but I still select the music, the type of fireworks used, do the choreography myself and help raise funds for the event" Gillette said.

The music selection this year will include works by Kelly Clarkson, B-52 and

Enjoy the fireworks

The Purdy Sand Spit is a great vantage point for the Henderson Bay Fireworks Committee's show. Organizers urge residents to respect the privacy and safety of local property owners and not drive to their area, which has no extra parking. Boaters are advised to stay a quarter-mile away from the barge for safety reasons. Tune in to KGHP at 97.7 or 89.9 to complete the experience with music! Anyone interested in donating money for next year's show should email rgillette@centurytel.net.

Other vantage points for fireworks include downtown Allyn (at the end of the dock) and Vaughn Bay (if you have a boat to row in).

Ray Charles. Gillette said, "I like to provide a variety of music that hopefully will not be offensive to anyone."

The show will end with "America the Beautiful" — a perfect Independence Day ending.

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Rattled to action along SR-302

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The long back deck of Mike Razmek's home sits between 50 and 100 feet off State Route 302 in the Wauna curves on a small knoll overlooking Henderson Inlet, not far from the Purdy Sand Spit. According to Pierce County tax records, he bought the property with its 1,332-square-foot manufactured home in April 2003. Razmek bought it as a second home; since moving from California to the residence full time in 2005, he has discovered something else about his well-landscaped, nicely-maintained home: traffic noise. Previous to purchasing, he says he had been shown the property by a local real estate company on a quiet Sunday morning, and then again a couple of weeks later, also on a weekend, during his property inspection.

Last year, he filed a lawsuit against Washington State Department of Transportation asking the agency to build a sound wall. WSDOT declined, saying the noise condition was "pre-existing" prior to his purchase.

According to Razmek, he was told by WSDOT there was absolutely nothing they could do about SR-302 (at the Wauna curves) because of its location near the spit and the historic Purdy Bridge. Since there was nothing to be (or going to be) done, they had no funding to assist his efforts at acquiring peace and quiet by erecting the wall, they told him.

Razmek told the KP News he feels the state is "ignoring their duty to every citizen on the Key Peninsula." "We have laudable plans for the peninsula, but no one is addressing the Purdy Spit or SR-302. They are turning a blind eye to this," he said, and noted he found it interesting that "Gig Harbor doesn't have a problem getting sound walls constructed."

Razmek attended one of the May public hearings held by the Pierce County Planning Commission regarding the Key Peninsula Community Plan. The meeting's focus was on the facilities and services as well as community character elements of the plan. Armed with a \$1,400 "Environmental Noise Review"

documenting "traffic noise impact on residence near Highway 302" he personally commissioned from Seattle-based SSA Acoustics recently, Razmek spent his allotted five-minute presentation time in agitated commentary, often addressing the audience rather than the planning commission. Razmek claimed neither the state nor county would take responsibility for adjudication of the traffic noise so he could have reasonably quiet enjoyment of his home and property.

"Pierce County does not even acknowledge having a noise ordinance," he said angrily, holding that document. He railed against ineffective state and local governments, indicating he had been abandoned by all, including Councilman Terry Lee, to whom he aired his grievance on several occasions.

In an interview regarding Razmek's issue with traffic noise, Lee said he had been contacted at least twice about this problem, and that he had referred the homeowner to individuals at the state, since the road is a state route. According to Lee, Razmek was advised to take his issue to Reps. Seaquist or Lantz, or Sen. Kilmer, who sits on the Senate Transportation Commission. If the road were under county jurisdiction, Lee said he could look into it; he also acknowledged that, since the problem is with the state transportation system, he "has no clout."

Razmek's 15-page study was conducted for 140 hours from Feb. 28 to March 6 through the use of one "long-term environmental noise monitor on the property... which recorded the hourly average sound level." Short-term noise measurements were also taken during peak hours during that time interval. The end result of the study is the recommendation of construction of an 8-foot fence across the SR-302-facing side of Razmek's property, above a rock wall. It suggests maximum effectiveness would be realized using "continuously solid material with a surface weight of 2.5 pounds per square foot (such as 3/4-inch plywood or 16-gauge sheet metal). Aesthetically, the consultants suggested that after construction, cedar fence boards could be attached to the barrier to make it more pleasing in appearance.

Razmek's noise pollution exceeds standard norms for those experienced by ordinary residential neighborhoods. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's

noise standards, his residence falls into a C-1 and C-2 Noise Zone Classification, which is "normally unacceptable." The Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise report states "... require residential use... is discouraged in C-1 and strongly discouraged in C-2 (designations)." Razmek's study concludes that, with present noise pollution, his residence requires a "doubling of acoustic performance" of building materials just to meet normal noise reduction requirements.

SSA's study also lays out noise exemptions in the Pierce County code (Chapter 8.76), and the Washington Administrative Code (173-62). In an ironic twist, the study Razmek paid for to support his case includes the following paragraph: "Pierce County section 8.76.080: Exemptions state that 'sounds created by motor vehicles' are exempt 'when regulated by WAC Chapter 173-62.' WAC 173-62 specifies the noise performance standards of cars, motorcycles and vehicles over 10,000-lbs gross weight. This code is designed to address individual vehicle noise and can only be applied on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, the road noise impacted the Razmek residence from Highway 302 is not exceeding Pierce County noise code."

For over a year, Razmek has been contacting local and state governmental agencies and representatives about noise issues on the highway. He notes that signs along State Route 16 both toward Port Orchard and Gig Harbor warn truckers that "jake brakes are prohibited." He has been unable to convince anyone with the authority to do so to place a "No jake brake" sign anywhere along SR-302. "(Our local politicians) can't even muster enough courage to do that," he says. (A jake brake is a big-rig braking mechanism that saves brakes when the truck goes down an incline, and it creates an inordinate amount of road noise as the engine slows down.)

Razmek may file a self-generated lawsuit against local politicians, forcing the issue of noise pollution on SR-302. He is currently challenging his tax assessment, which he says has doubled in the last year. "Would you buy this property (if you saw it anytime but Sunday morning)?" he said, then answering his own question, "Nobody would." Knowing what he knows now, perhaps he wouldn't either.



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The 'Y' aims to become a 'third place' for peninsulas

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The Gig Harbor Family YMCA will open in August, bringing to fruition a dream that has been in the making for more than two decades. In addition to offering a variety of opportunities for members, the Y will also bring several programs open to the entire community.

For more information about the Gig Harbor Family YMCA, which is planned to open in August, visit www.tacomaymca.org.

Located in Gig Harbor North (near the new Costco planned to open this fall), the 74,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility is being described as one of the best YMCAs in the nation. In a bit of a departure from an ordinary YMCA, this one was designed to be a community gathering place, not just a location for fitness activities.

The design team traveled around the country to look at "the best of the best" facilities, according to Darcy Celletti, the executive director of the Gig Harbor branch. The result was a design that features several gathering places, from a community room and a birthday party room to two lounges with fireplaces. The "community gathering place" idea is new for YMCA, Celletti says, but "it's very intentional."

Michelle Rogers-Moore, who works in the newly developed communications department, compares the intention to the concept of a "third place." First coined by Ray Oldenburg in his book "The Great, Good Place," the idea for a "third place" is to provide an opportunity for social nourishing and socializing outside of one's work or home.

To put that idea to work, one of the programs the Y will host will be teen nights on Friday or Saturday, free to all kids regardless of membership. "It's a way to get kids off the street and give them activities to do on Friday (or Saturday)," said Maureen Borba, a Key Pen resident and the Y's local associate executive director.

For members, there will be plenty of choices for hanging out, and, of course, engaging in health-related activities. Two outdoor (enclosed) racquetball courts, three pools, a full gymnasium, a wellness center with cardiovascular and strength equipment, a free-weights room, two

multi-purpose rooms for yoga, aerobics etc, a climbing wall, family changing rooms and an indoor track are among the amenities. A teaching kitchen will hold healthy cooking classes; an introductory wellness center will help those returning or new to fitness to work out in a nonintimidating environment for 12 weeks while getting one on one staff help. MultiCare Health System will have a 2,600-square-foot space for physical therapy and other wellness programs.

Youngsters will be delighted to know one of the pools will have the popular water slide and built-in splash toys; one of the pools is "zero entry" (emulating beach access), with warm water. Other kids' amenities include a teen center, a "no adults allowed" drop-in zone where teens can hang out, do homework, or play TRAZER games (virtual reality-type games); a nursery with outside playground for up to age 6; and a soft play area for kids 2 to 10 years of age where parents are welcome to join in the play. A family workout area will allow children 10 to 15 years old to work out with their parents.

"We know that 70 percent of people who come to the Y won't be successful on their own, so we look at creating successful programs (to help them)," Celletti said.

The Gig Harbor YMCA is part of the YMCA of Tacoma-Pierce County, which also operates Camp Seymour on the Key Peninsula and has before and after school daycare programs at many Peninsula School District Schools. The local Y has been in the dream stages for more than two decades, and has received overwhelming support from community, sponsors and investors, many of whom are from the other side of the Narrows Bridge. The capital campaign, which had a goal of \$6 million, raised \$13 million — more than the total of \$12.4 million raised over the 123-year history of the Tacoma-Pierce County Y.

"This is a big deal" for the Y and the community, said CEO and President Bob Ecklund. "We couldn't have dreamed so much community coming together," he said.

The YMCA is the largest nonprofit community service organization in the country, as well as the largest youth employer nationwide. The mission-based organization was founded 150



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The Gig Harbor Family YMCA gave sponsors and other invited guests an opportunity to see the facility in progress during a "hard hat tour" June 22. Key Pen resident Maureen Borba, associate director for Gig Harbor's Y, describes the indoor track to tour guests while Michael Ketcham, Y senior vice president and COO (and former longtime head of Camp Seymour on KP), and Tom Taylor, Y volunteer chair who has promoted the peninsulas' Y for two decades, look on. See more photos at www.keypennews.com.

years ago, initially as a Bible study and prayer program as a substitute for life on the streets (YMCA stands for Young Men's Christian Association). Financial assistance is offered to people in need who qualified, and the Gig Harbor Y

estimates that at least 10 percent of members will be on financial assistance. "This will bring the whole community together, rich and poor, young and old, thick and thin, all races and religions," Ecklund said.

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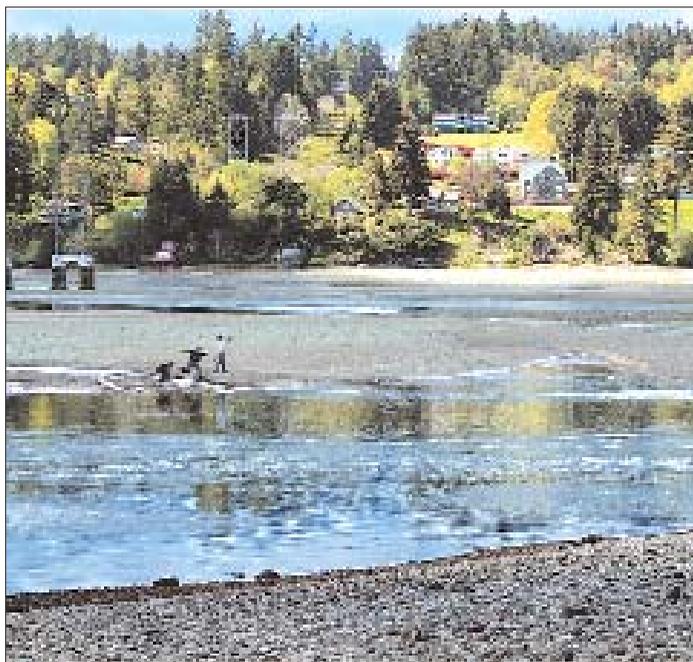
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Tidelands ownership no straight line

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The recent increase in applications for commercial aquaculture along Key Peninsula shorelines has prompted waterfront owners, and users of public shorelines alike, to ask for clarification — whose tidelands are these, anyway? It's not always clear. If private waterfront owners have a recorded document that says the tidelands are theirs, they may be right (and protected from waking up some morning to the sound of crews installing shellfish beds) — but not necessarily, depending on which class of tidelands the deed refers to. It's an extremely complicated subject, and weight rests with the private landowner to prove ownership in accordance with Department of Natural Resources records. Tideland leases, and the revenues received at harvest, are a multi-million dollar income source for the state.

Originally, when Washington adopted a state Constitution on Nov. 11, 1889, all tidelands were publicly owned, as the new state claimed its right of ownership of the beds and shores of navigable waters up to



Looking across from Purdy Spit, the seaward logs below embankments on the opposite beach may or may not be on the original meander line. Are the children playing on tidelands, or original beachfront? If the baybed was dredged to build the bridge footings, who knows?

Photo by Mindi LaRose

and including the line of ordinary high water (mean high water). This soon became problematic because Washington is not a riparian-rights state. (If the tidelands are not owned, no aquatic industry may be pursued upon them, even if the uplands are privately owned.) The first

legislative session of the new state authorized the sale of public tidelands, both to facilitate the already-established marine industries, and to provide revenue for government coffers. Until 1969, approximately 60 percent of state-owned tidelands were sold to private owners.

All shorelines were originally surveyed. This survey is called the meander line, and in some places today, with all the change that has taken place over more than a century, the meander line along some shores may actually be well away from "dry land." What this means is that, if someone inherits an acre of uplands and the shoreline has shifted dramatically, what that person may have, in all actuality, is "an acre of water" with perhaps no access to it from the upland, because the meander line is now somewhere in the middle of a bay. (Some privately-owned boat moorings have evolved as a result of this involuntary shift

in ownership from dry land to a spot on the surface of the water.) This survey, as opposed to a constant elevation line, makes it difficult to determine exactly where public and private lands meet, where shore and tidelands are concerned.

Tidelands are the shores of navigable tidal waters lying between the line or ordinary high tide and the line of extreme low tide. Confusion about who owns what tidelands, and just exactly what constitutes the various classes of tidelands, can be clouded in rules and laws set down before statehood, changed after statehood, changed again, discontinued, and grown murky with multiple deed transfers, erosion, and natural shoreline changes over time. The long and short of tideland ownership is that tidelands with uplands patented (similar to sold) prior to statehood include ownership extending to the mean high water line or the meander line, whichever is further seaward — and both change over time. Uplands patented after that date extend to the line of mean high water, which is the average of the elevations reached by all high tides for a particular area over 18.6 years. Generally, the mean high water line falls just seaward of the line of old drift logs in the upper tideland area.

Today, 1,700 miles of saltwater tidelands, including the Pacific Coast, are owned by the state. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife manage some 300 miles of tidelands, including the Pacific coastal tidelands. The remaining 1,400 miles of tidelands are referred to as "public trust lands" and are managed by DNR, including all Puget Sound publicly-owned tidelands.



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July 2 & other dates – blood drive

The monthly blood drive will be held as follows:

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 12:30 – 7 p.m. at Albertson's in Gig Harbor; July 10, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Peninsula Light Co. July 15, noon–5 p.m. at Key Peninsula Community Fair.

July 5 – Fuchsia club

Join club members to learn more about growing fuchsias and to meet some fellow gardening enthusiasts.

Thursday, July 5, 7 p.m. at the Key Center library

July 6 & other dates – Mustard Seed Project meetings

The task groups are gathering information, reviewing possibilities and creating options for “aging in place” on the Key Peninsula. Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held at the Key Center Library.

Senior Information and Referral Group - July 6, 10 a.m. (This is the third of three training sessions for our Key Senior Information Center volunteers.)

Transportation and Mobility for Elders Group - July 13, 10 a.m.

Elder Health and Wellness-related Services Group - Thursday, July 19, 10 a.m., Key Center Fire Station 16

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

Call 884-3920, or email ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org

July 6 – Adult co-ed softball registration deadline

Key Peninsula Metro Park District is accepting team registrations for week-night coed softball. Teams will play a 10-game season plus a double elimination end of the season tournament. Games start the week of July 16, Monday – Thursday, with an end of season tournament played on Saturday

and Sunday in September. Individuals without a team may contact KPMPD to be put on a player availability list. Cost of the league and end of season tournament is \$ 575.

www.keypeninsulaparks.com, call 884-9240 or email info@keypeninsula-parks.com

July 7 – Volksmarch

The 18th annual Key Peninsula Lions Club-sponsored Volksmarch starts at Bud and Delores Ulsh's home on Ulsh Road just off Delano Road on the approach to Penrose Park. The event is open and free to the public. Veteran Volksmarchers walking for credit pay a \$3 registration and credit fee. Parking is free. All walkers must register at the start site and carry a start/stop card that must be returned to the start/stop site; without the card's return, a search will be initiated for those presumed lost.

Saturday, July 7, Penrose Point State Park; registrations start 8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m.; Neal Van Der Voorn at 857-3655, or Hugh McMillan at 884-3319

July 12 – Environmental Health Coalition

A coalition of citizens will meet to identify and discuss environmental health issues on the Key and Gig Harbor Peninsulas. Interested citizens will receive gift certificates to compensate for their time and contributions.

Thursday, July 12, 6 p.m., Key Center Library; Marianne Seifert at Health Dept., 798-3823

July 14 – Roller Derby lessons

Girls ages 7-14 are invited to learn to be Roller Derby Girls. Classes start July 14. Equipment required: helmet, mouth and wrist guard, elbow and knee pads and quad roller skates; no in line skates allowed. Call for class prices.

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon, KP Civic Center; instructor Sassy, 884-9918, or coach Marisa, 265-6241

July 20 – Key Peacemakers meeting

Pastor B.J. Beu of the Fox Island United Church of Christ speaks at the Key Peacemakers meeting. Topics include the role of faith in social justice, a biblical understanding of peace, and his letter to President Bush opposing the war in Iraq and unconstitutional acts in the United States.

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

July 21 – Ashes annual event

Ashes (Firefighters Auxiliary) holds its annual rummage sale at the Key Center fire station. The firemen will cook a pancake breakfast that morning. The station accepts donations beginning 10 a.m. on Friday, July 20.

Saturday, July 21, 7:30 a.m. -11 a.m. breakfast, sale starts at 9 a.m.; Key Peninsula Fire Station; 884-3771

July 23-27 – Vacation Bible School

Vaughn Community Church hosts VBS at Volunteer Park. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m., classes end at noon. Children ages 5-11, tour craft booths, sing lively songs in the general session, compete with their friends for prizes, raise money for our community and meet new friends on the SOS Gospel Express. Call the church office at 884-2269 or visit www.vaughnchurch.org for information. Look for our ad with the registration form and bring it with your child.

July 28 & 29 – Civic Center tennis fundraiser

A two-day tennis fundraiser of tennis games, lessons and prizes. KPCC appreciates your assistance and support through contributions and donations to help reach the goal of \$10,000. All funds collected will be used for materials directly related to the refurbishing of the outside tennis courts. Sponsorships are as follows:

Supporting Members - \$50, Contributing Member - \$100 (name placed on a brick walkway), Sponsor - \$500 (name placed on a plaque by front gate).

KP Metropolitan Park District commissioners in June voted to contribute \$1,000 to the project. Contributions are already at \$4,500 – thank you! Donations receive a tax-deduction letter.

Saturday, July 28, 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, July 29, 1-3 p.m.; 884-3456

Aug. 4 & 5 – Canine Agility Trials

The Gig Harbor Kennel Club will host American Kennel Club Agility Trials at Volunteer Park. Running a dog in an agility trial is the ultimate game for you and your dog and is one of the most exciting canine sports for spectators. In an agility trial, a dog demonstrates its agile nature and versatility by following cues from the handler through a timed obstacle course of jumps, tunnels, weave poles and other objects.

Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 4 & 5, 9 a.m. -4 p.m., Volunteer Park

Ongoing – Key Peninsula Seniors

The group meets at the Civic Center every Thursday at noon. Mothers Day was celebrated with a huge chicken dinner. The men voted to have pizzas for Fathers Day. Join them for food, fellowship and a fun afternoon; 884-5052 or 884-4981.

Summer Sports Camps

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District will be offering and partnering with Skyhawks Sports for a variety of recreational sport camps at various locations on the Key Peninsula for ages 4-14. Camps start July 16, 30 and Aug. 13; cheer, basketball, soccer, golf and mini-Hawks are available. For costs, dates and locations, visit www.keypeninsulaparks.com or www.skyhawks.com.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Text and photo by Danna Webster

Lisa and George Bryan have helped KP Fair vendors for three years. This year, they are in charge of everything that has to do with vendors: contracts, communications, followup, check-in, mapping and, of course, trouble shooting.

The president of the fair board, Ruth Bramhall, says, "they are a nice couple, real enthusiastic" and "worn to a frazzle by the time it's over" because they usually volunteer every day at the fair without any relief. Bramhall's appreciation of the Bryans is the reason they chair the vendor committee. According to Lisa, she called Bramhall last year to tell her they quit. After a half hour conversation, Lisa hung up and told George they were signed up for the 2007 fair. When George asked, "Why didn't you tell her we quit?" Lisa said, "I did. But Ruth said 'No'."

The Bryans jumped into volunteering for KP organizations as soon as they moved here about five years ago. Lisa discovered the Key Peninsula when she attended a wedding at Faraway and introduced the area to George. After an exhaustive search of the Western states for a new residence, the couple returned to the KP and found just what they were looking for — they refer to the peninsula as paradise.

Volunteering began with Lisa serving on the executive board of the Longbranch Improvement Club. Once they became involved, they learned, if they wanted to see people on a social level, they had to go "where the action is." As a result they volunteer for Old Timers' Day, the Livable Community Fair, and the KP Fair, where there are "people who do far more than we do," George says.

Lisa says that the fair days are full time. "Once you're there, you feel like you can't really leave. Go home, shower, and sleep six hours... For the most part, very enjoy-



LISA AND GEORGE BRYAN

able, you get to see all your friends," she says.

George says, "It's a little bit like joining the circus for four days." Fair time is a magic time. "Showing up at those gates, for a kid, is about as exciting today as it was for me — you suspend all belief systems by going to the fair," he says. "We're not bringing people in to take money from them, we want them here for the show."

GET INVOLVED VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Improving Care Program needs Phone Pals. The program helps people on the Key Peninsula and in Gig Harbor who are suffering from a life-threatening or chronic illness by providing faster access to medical personnel and community services. Volunteers listen for these needs while establishing a phone-pal friendship and a trusting relationship over months and even years. Training and monthly volunteer meetings in Gig Harbor; set your own schedule and call from home (4-6 hours a month). Call Nicole at 534-7014 or email nicolederecat@fhshealth.org.

OFF THE KEY

July 11, 18, 25 – Model drawing event

Weather permitting, live models pose under the Skansie Brothers Park Pavilion along the Gig Harbor waterfront for both artists to practice their figurative drawing and painting. Easels and art "horses" will be available for artists who do not have their own equipment. The sessions normally consist of a series of 20-minute identical poses. The models come from the community and are paid a small stipend. The program, sponsored by Peninsula Art League invites anyone would like to be a model to contact Douglas Michie at 851-7579.

Wednesdays, July 11, 18, 25, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Gig Harbor Skansie Park

July 14 – Chalk the Walk

Once a year residents and visitors in Gig Harbor are encouraged to take chalk in hand and play Michelangelo on city sidewalks. Organized by the Gig Harbor Waterfront Merchants Association, this year's event is expanded to include music, a Narrows Bridge theme, awards and prizes. Chalk is provided.

Saturday, July 14, 10 a.m., corner of Pioneer and Harborview Drive; www.gigharborguide.com

July 14-15 – Judson Street Arts & Crafts

The annual Summer Art Show organized by Peninsula Art League

will have 150 arts and crafts booths as well as food vendors. Peninsula Art Music and entertainment for children provided. Catch the free shuttle at the Park and Ride on Kimball Avenue.

Saturday, July 14, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday, July 15, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; peninsulaartleague.com or 265-8139

July 28 – Grapeview Water Festival

The annual event sponsored by the Grapeview Community Association includes free children's activities: fishing derby (life jackets mandatory), boat-building, face-painting, kite-making, fish prints, and Mr. Friendly, the Balloon Man. A silent auction will be held of over 200 items including gift certificates, books, service products, landscape and garden supplies; more than 40 art vendors and plenty of food.

Saturday, July 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fair Harbor Marina (on the Grapeview Loop Road about 3 miles from Allyn)

July 28 – Cruise the Narrows Car Show

Visit the Gig Harbor Cruisers Automotive Club's 10-year anniversary event. All cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles and airplanes are welcome. Trophies in over 30 categories; proceeds support high school scholarships. Spectators free, entry vehicles \$15 fee.

Saturday, July 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tacoma Narrows Airport; www.gigharborscruisers.org or 577-404



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Every Tuesday Night 7-11pm	Billy Farmer's Open Mic	
July 6	Loose Gravel	8pm
July 7	Blues Orbiters	8pm
July 13	In The House Band	8pm
July 14	Polly O'Keary	8pm
July 20	B Second Ride	8pm
July 27	Billy Farmer & The Ramblers	8pm
July 28	Blues Attitude	8pm

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Wednesday- Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Veggie & House Salad \$8.49	Bloody Mary's \$2.25
Thursday- \$8.95 Steak Night	
Friday- \$10.99 Prime Rib	

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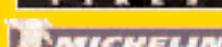
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Through our changes and our growth, one startling side effect of the Key's popularity is that our home sale statistics are bucking the national trends. Much of the nation continues to see flat or slightly decreasing prices in home sales. Sellers who must sell are competing against a staggering amount of inventory resulting in longer market times and ultimately lower sales prices. While the portions of the Puget Sound region have struggled, the Key Peninsula remains relatively strong.

As Real Estate professionals, we must continue to be prepared. With an influx of buyers and sellers, the Windermere family on the Key Peninsula continues to evolve to better serve our community and clients. Relocating from our current location in Key Center, Windermere is proud to provide an updated facility to serve our neighbors. Located in Minter, just north of 118th on Hwy 302, the new Windermere site is a convenient location for our clients and neighbors to drop in for business, or just say "hi". We embrace old friends and welcome new neighbors, and as always look forward to seeing you again.



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LAKEBAY \$170,000

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HARSTENE ISLAND \$426,000

Waterfront home, low bank, over 2 acres, w/ western exposure. Lots of yard room, front and back, with beautiful trees in a park-like setting. Enjoy watching South Sound boxers from the floor to ceiling windows in the living room or cozy breakfast nook in this waterfront home w/ 3 car carport and garage/shop. MLS 27099184



PALMER LAKE COTTAGE \$246,000

Wonderful cottage snuggled in roses and blooming shrubs, herbs, strawberries, raspberries and a plum tree, arbor over front door, patio w/ hot tub in back. Backyard fenced w/ greenbelt behind. 3 BD and farm room den, w/ cathedral ceiling in LR & ceramic tile in kitchen; wheelchair accessible. Community beach access to Palmer Lake. MLS 27100572



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Clearcutting at KPMS sparks concerns

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

As one looks around the well-maintained grounds at Key Peninsula Middle School, an area about a half-acre or so between the track field and south end of the main building stands out. It looks like it was the recent target of illegal logging vandals. Sometime between the spring break of 2006 and fall school year 2007, this swath of trees and thicket was bush-whacked after hours or on weekends.

What was once a shrubby, nicely-treed island strip now is a gutted area of rutted chuckholes and branch shrapnel. The school groundskeeper found the first part of this logged stretch of forest when he came back from spring vacation last year. This past fall, the tree cutting continued, with several damaged trees left behind.

A local citizen heard about the destruction last fall and asked KPMS Assistant Principal Thom Worlund about it. The citizen said, and Worlund recently confirmed in a phone interview, that he had instituted the cutting to "make it a little less attractive (for students) to go in



The site of the clearcutting at KPMS has not been cleaned up since last fall, leaving debris that brought some safety concerns.

Photo by
Mindi LaRose

there." Worlund said he was concerned about students hiding to skip classes, or smoking, and now that those woods are gone, the problem was solved. He said he had a couple of other motivations to clear the area: to get more seating from a different vantage point for the track field as well as more parking. He added that, with recent budget cuts, there was now no money to go further with the project.

Alarmed about the condition of the

area, the citizen stopped the new school superintendent, Terry Bouck, during a school event last fall and led him to see the site, stating that this kind of activity "would cause trouble with many of our tree-hugging friends — myself among these good folk... once the trees are gone, they're gone!" Bouck said he would have the cutting stopped immediately.

In a phone interview this June, after revisiting the site, Bouck confirmed that

no further cutting has taken place since his order to stop. He said Peninsula School District maintenance personnel have been authorized to get estimates to clean the area up. Worlund hopes to engage a parent school organization to partner in a beautification project.

Bouck stated no further cutting would be taking place, and that there was "no truth to the parking use."



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Show & Tell



Peninsula School District faculty and PSD celebrate at Peninsula High School's faculty retirement picnic at Gig Harbor City Park in June. The retirees had a total of 120 years of service and included Kathy Connot, '69-'74 & '03-'07, Jon Malmin '82 - '99 & '04 - '05 (PEA President 2000-04 & 2005-2007), Cathy Schneider '82 - '06, Bill Pandiani '89 - '06, Margaret Garrison '89 - '06, Karen Larsen '86 - '04, and Lee Smith '79 - '94 & '97. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Fun in the sun! Minter Creek Elementary is encouraging exercise for its students with the outdoor activity "Minter Milers." Held at recess, runners are given a punchcard and earn "toe miles" for each lap. Amy Beth Krug, parent coordinator of Minter Milers, says that even though it is not a mandatory activity, most students at the school are excited to participate. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Left, Dillon White holds a moon snail with a fully extended foot during a Key Peninsula Middle School seventh graders' trip to Penrose Park in June. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*
Right, Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck with Hugh McMillan, who was honored with the Community Leadership Award from the Washington Association of School Administrators. *Photo courtesy PSD*



Key Peninsula Middle School eighth grader Peter Sutton performs in the lead role as Milo Bravo during the performance of "Hooray for Hollywood," a play performed by the advanced drama class under the direction of teacher Jason McWhirter. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



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Farewell to Evergreen Elementary retirees

By Hugh McMillan, KP News



Retiring Evergreen Elementary School teachers Sabra Stratford, Dallas Presley, Gail Mitchell and Richard Gudmunson share a bitter-sweet moment during their retirement party in June.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

“own children so much, (she) moved on to other people’s.” She advised, “Always visit a kindergarten class and sit in a small chair to remind yourself just how much you’ve grown and how much you have accomplished since you were 5 years old.”

Many in the large audience at the June celebration were former students, who—some tearfully—hugged the departing savants. At least two of them are college students working to become teachers.

Four Evergreen Elementary teachers retired in June, taking away a total of 67 years of combined service to the school. Sabra Stratford, Dallas Presley, Gail Mitchell and Richard Gudmunson were honored at a ceremony at the school that was filled with applause, misty eyes, a student-produced musical and congratulatory speeches.

The four represented 85 years of teaching, 67 of them at Evergreen.

“Thank you for touching our future and for all your amazing years of service to Evergreen Elementary,” said the school’s principal, Jacque Crisman. Of Gudmunson’s 32 years teaching, the last 22 were at Evergreen. “I had a U.S. history teacher in high school,” he said. “I thought I should have as much fun as he did, so I became a teacher.”

Gudmunson has worn many hats over the years, from reading specialist and classroom teacher to P.E. teacher. He began his time at Evergreen in 1985 as a part-time Title 1 teacher while caring for his own young children. Throughout his 22 years at Evergreen teaching first,

second, third and fourth grades, he has inspired many students with his energetic love of learning.

“The best memories are of kids who were successful,” he said.

Seventeen of Stratford’s 18 years of teaching have been at Evergreen. “(The ceremony) was very nice,” she said. “They’ve never done anything like this before.” Her inspiration for teaching: her own children with special needs and wanting all children to feel important and successful. Her best memories include turning the classroom into a rain forest and watching families enjoy school

programs.

“Dream big and know you can do whatever you want as long as you work to get there,” was her parting advice.

Presley’s 18 teaching years found her at Evergreen for 14 of them. She taught because she enjoys working with kids. She feels privileged to be the one to see some of their firsts and be a part of that whole discovery process.

Mitchell has been the school’s premier kindergarten teacher since 1993, touching an estimated 280 or more little learners with her warm, loving heart and gentle manner. She said she enjoyed her

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PHS senior's graduation is double feat

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Peninsula High School Class of 2007 graduated June 17. Most of those seniors survived the ordeal of a senior project, among other rigorous requirements. The community benefited from the projects: Food bank shelves were stocked; donations were made to schools and nonprofit organizations; athletic programs were created; music lessons were given; labor was volunteered; books and art shows were produced. And, there were even some benefits for the seniors; at the very least, they learned how to select, produce, and make a formal presentation of a project.

For Peninsula High School student Ryan Wiederholt, his senior project as well as graduation are only part of his accomplishment. For the last two years, he has been self-supporting, living on his own.

Part of Wiederholt's senior project entailed displaying his artwork for a week in May at the Ebb Tide Gallery in Gig Harbor. He partnered up with classmate Meghan Hubble, whose work was also displayed. For Wiederholt, his senior project affirmed his career choice: art. His show featured acrylic paintings and pen and paper ink drawings. "I'm very into abstract art, finding new dimensions, with natural themes, and developing my style to make it as unique as possible," he said.

It is his intention to study art and music and he plans to enroll for the fall semester at Tacoma Community College. "I want to study different artists and different styles. I want to combine them and create my own," he said.

He said about the senior project, "It worked for me. I met a lot of people in the process. Slowly but surely, I'm developing connections."

Developing connections and making a



Meghan Hubble and Ryan Wiederholt are hanging their work at the Ebb Tide Cooperative Gallery in May.

Photo by
Hugh McMillan

process work for him is a way of life. He has good job references already, with experiences in house painting, landscaping and as a cobbler's apprentice. "I can do practically anything that's set in front of me. I'm willing to take a challenge and willing to figure out how to do it," he said. He is working part-time now and would like to find work in an art or music field. He is also beginning to search for a new place to live because his lease will be up in September.

Wiederholt appreciates many supportive connections in his life. The food bank in Home and the school district's free lunch program have helped him; and, most importantly, he has family and friends to lean on. The art show created a new list of connections he appreciates.

"The Ebb Tide was very generous to let me do this, very helpful and supportive," he said, adding that it was important to state that Meghan is also a good artist. Ryan extends praise and gratitude to the many people who helped put this show together: The Water's Edge Gallery helped him frame and mat; the school

helped him get supplies to paint; and his art teacher was "extremely helpful and supportive."

Didn't the senior project add weight to a kid with a heavy load already? "It was a great idea — but possibly because it fits right into my career field. I enjoyed doing it, to display my art and reveal it to community," he said. "I'll be doing this the rest of my life, so this is just the beginning."

Art projects

Arts were the topic of choice for many senior projects. Another Key Peninsula resident, Amber Still, organized an art show in April for children participating in the Little Buddies program at Children's Home Society. The 18 young artists, all elementary school students, had the opportunity to proudly display their talents to family and friends at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The show featured the children's efforts created during Little Buddies special art classes. Still, a Peninsula High School senior and volunteer with the Little Buddies program for the past three years, provided the art instruction as part of her senior project. Over the course of five weeks, the budding artists worked with colored pencils, paint, and other supplies. They were encouraged to create pictures to a theme. Still said she would like to thank the Children's Society for donating the supplies that made this art experience possible.

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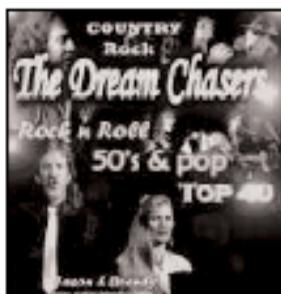
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Young chefs compete in PSD culinary cook-off

By Hugh McMillan, KP News



Evergreen Elementary fifth graders Tyler Kreis, Chrystal Wilks, and Elizabeth Wheeler prepare a fruit parfait, a fruit and berry salad, and a cucumber salad during the competition.

Photo by
Hugh McMillan

in promoting the event. Kids were asked to submit their favorite "healthy snack recipe," the theme of the event. "Out of the 100-plus recipes we received, we had to select four finalists from each school to compete in the May competition," Taylor said. "All the food, T-shirts, aprons and, of course, chef hats were provided by Sodexo. All the kids needed to do was show up and be ready to compete."

In the competition, kids had one and a

half hours to complete their recipe and have a "presentation plate" to display for spectators and judges, as well as samples for anyone who would like to taste the healthy creations. They were given a kitchen safety orientation that included the importance of hand washing, food safety and kitchen safety. Each team had the cafeteria manager from its school as a supervisor to help answer questions and keep the kids safe.

"(PSD Food Services Director) Nancy

(Ransford) and I wanted to get community support for this event so we asked local chefs and community leaders to be our judges. Everyone we asked was very enthusiastic about participating," said Taylor.

The judges walked through the kitchen during preparation and helped inspire the kids. During the event they tasted, reviewed, and asked questions of each candidate. They then selected five grand prize winners in five main categories. Minter Creek student Isabel Nunez was among the winners, for "Fun Foods, My Healthy Spider."

"All of the contestants did a marvelous job," said Taylor. "The judges had a very hard time selecting winners and had to go back to each table to make their final selections."

Taylor added, "We felt we accomplished our goal of helping promote healthier snacks and created a friendly competition between schools. We are looking forward to hosting this year after year to help educate the kids in healthier eating choices and to encourage them to get in the kitchen and help."

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PSD has growing number of nationally certified teachers

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Peninsula School District is among the school districts in the state with the highest number of teachers holding a National Board Professional Teaching Standards certification — a distinction awarded to the top teachers in the United States based on a yearlong, rigorous peer-review process.

PSD currently has 20 NBPTS teachers, of whom eight serve Key Peninsula schools. In addition, 27 teachers went through the process this last school year, the biggest group to date (the results will not be known until next fall).

The last “class” of PSD national board certified teachers has seven, including Peninsula High School teachers Brian Tovey and Tim Knudson as well as Sally Gallagher, who is a literacy coach at Vaughn and Purdy elementary schools.

Knudson, a Vaughn resident whose family settled on Key Pen more than 100 years ago, said going through the certification was almost like starting to teach all over again. He said his teaching is now more outcome-based rather than content-oriented. At PHS since 1996, Knudson has taught geography and world cultures. He and colleague Brian Tovey decided to go through the process together, and supported each other along the way.

“I don’t know if I would have made it if Brian wasn’t there,” Knudson said.

Tovey, also a Peninsula High School graduate, teaches social studies at the school. “I was ready for a challenge and looking at different opportunities like going back to school,” he said. “The National Board program appealed to me because it was about my teaching rather than a bunch of theory.”

The assessment entails an extensive portfolio that includes student work,



Sally Gallagher, a literacy coach at Vaughn Elementary, gives students additional reading instruction in a small group setting. Gallagher, who is also a literacy coach at Purdy Elementary, is a 2006 National Board Certified Teacher.

Photo by
Rodika Tollefson

teacher’s writing, classroom videotapes and self-reflection on the effectiveness of the teacher’s practices; as well as a knowledge test. Teachers report spending 200 to 400 (or more) hours through the school year on the program, in addition to their jobs.

“It’s not like taking a class — it’s an assessment of what you do; you don’t get feedback you have in a college class,” Tovey said. “It was really strenuous as it forces you to focus on what you’re doing and why you’re doing it.” He echoed Knudson’s thoughts that he couldn’t imagine going through the “brutal process” without his colleague’s support, and said that in the end, it was an “awesome experience.”

The teachers say one of the motivations for undergoing the process is the support received from the district, which has provided substitute time, equipment for the videotaping, supplies and other assistance. They also receive additional pay, 10-year renewal of their state teaching credential and graduate

credits. With 1,310 National Board Certified Teachers, Washington ranks 10th in the country.

Gallagher said she is more in tune with her classroom as a result. “This was almost like the WASL test for teachers,” she said. And just like the WASL, not everyone passes. Gallagher didn’t pass the first year, but she felt she couldn’t

National Board Certified Teachers serving KP schools

Elizabeth Duffey, Peninsula High School (2002)
Billie Thorson, Peninsula High School (2003)
Jodi Kimizuka, Vaughn Elementary (2003)
Kareen Borders, Key Peninsula Middle School (2004)
Amy D’Andrea, Key Peninsula Middle School (2005)
Sally Gallagher, Vaughn Elementary (2006)
Tim Knudson, Peninsula High School (2006)
Brian Tovey, Peninsula High School (2006)

give up. She wanted to show students that “teachers don’t always pass either” but it was important to be persistent.

“It was a joint venture with my students,” she said, adding, “(The certification process) made me really think about everything I gave my students from that point on.”

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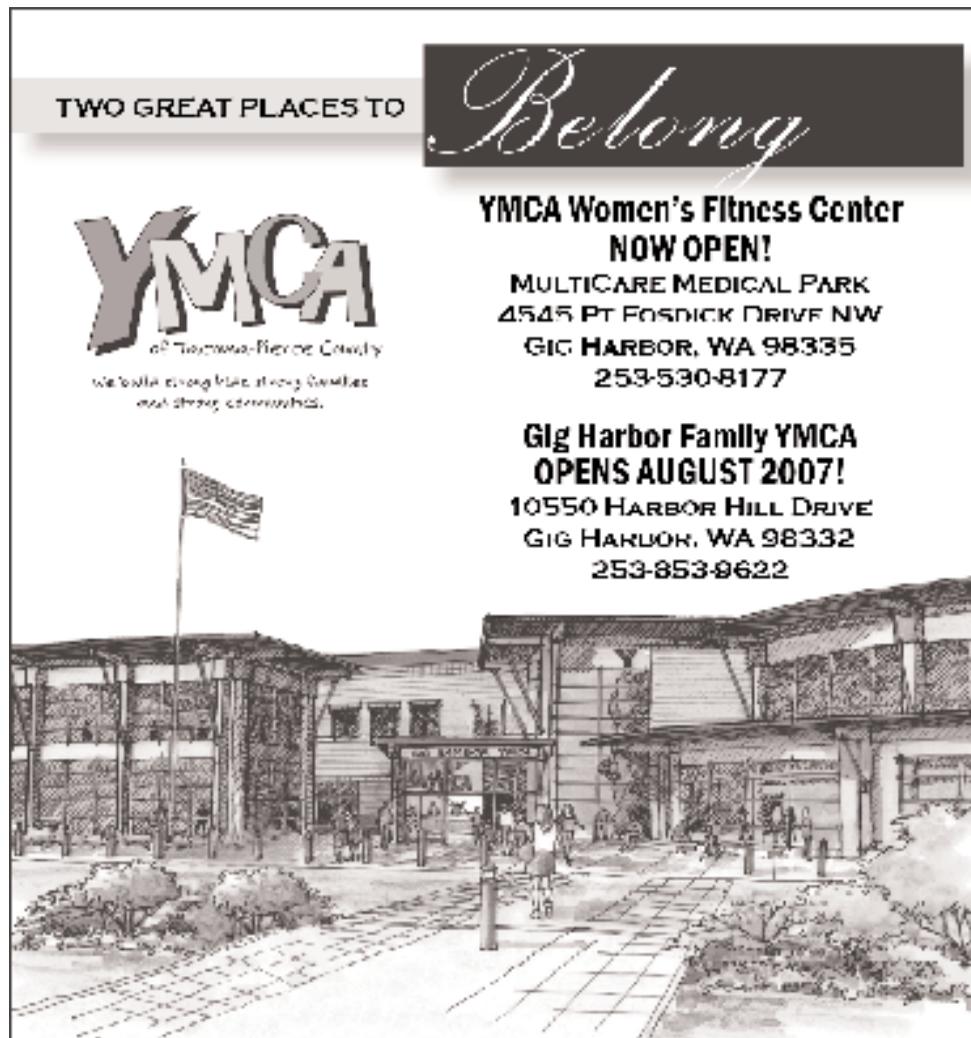
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(From KPMS, Page 1)

as fascinating as we do. More than a dozen students' works are displayed in the online gallery that contains a total of 32 images. Some of these same professional quality images have previously been displayed in Gig Harbor's City Hall, the Key Peninsula branch of the Pierce County Library and, with the June grand opening celebration of the MultiCare Medical Park in Gig Harbor, are now hung on permanent revolving display on the wall of a high-traffic hallway in that new facility. That they are now on the PopPhoto Website is icing on the cake.

Hunziker is justifiably bursting with pride at the accomplishments of his students. They, too, are rather impressed with the widespread recognition their artwork is receiving.

"I have learned so much in only a few months," said eighth grader Kelli Davidson. "Knowing that my work is being shown has made me feel more confident in myself and what I can do with the camera."

Classmates HaliAnn Carlson, Adam Hill, Michael Brewer and Jasmine Paxton expressed gratitude for the chance to learn from Hunziker, saying they didn't feel confident in their skills initially but



Key Peninsula Middle School digital photography teacher Mike Hunziker with one of his students, Kelli Davidson.

Photo by
Hugh McMillan

grew more confident as their teacher helped them understand "everything about photography, light, composition, and shape." For these kids, the opportunity to share their photos with thousands of people is a huge event.

To quote Popular Photography's Website: "In every school there is one teacher whose classes everyone wants to take. For 7th and 8th graders at (KPMS), that teacher is Mike Hunziker. His classes have become so popular, there are often not enough spots for all the students. The class started as one black-and-white film

class five years ago and has grown into five sections of digital photography this school year. Up to eight sessions are scheduled for fall with the addition of another teacher, Karen Sanom, meaning that almost 60 percent of the students will become budding photographers."

Hunziker, who teaches other subjects at the school, including math, has been an amateur photographer since he was a young child. He told the magazine that "through teaching photography, he is able to reach students in a way that not only transcends other more academic

See the KPMS work

Read the Popular Photography story and view the gallery at http://flash.pophoto.com/blog/2007/05/most_likely_to_.html. You can also view many of Hunziker's students' photographs posted on his Website at www.mrhunziker.com.

subjects, but also improves students overall academic performance."

Seventh grader Krista Kooker said, "I really love photography so I was just in awe that I got some of my work shown in Popular Photography Magazine. We have a great photography teacher. After getting used to working with cameras, I really started getting the hang of photography. One of my best friends, Jessica Kahler, became a great photographer but has also helped me by being such a great model! She, Madison LaRose and I have become a lot better friends from digital photography. We bounce ideas off each other and get even better."

LaRose said, "The thing that is more exciting than taking (photos) is seeing my work... on the wall. I feel so proud when I get a compliment from random people in the hall saying, 'Wow, nice photo.' I also feel very blessed to have such a driven teacher."

Kahler, said, "It was such a shock to the brain just to comprehend that our little school's photography would be displayed all over the Internet! I still have to take a double take to make sure that the beautiful displays are really my pictures hanging up all over my school and Gig Harbor."

The online story notes how some of the kids have gone on to start their own photography business, take photos for local newspapers, and become virtually professional in the use of various professional-quality cameras and competent in the various techniques involved in portraiture, composition, lighting, and a plethora of computer-related disciplines. The writer endorses Hunziker's profundity, saying, "I think it's time we add a P to the three Rs."

The article quotes Hunziker saying his students "learn to see things differently and have improved their skills in art and English classes, become more self-confident, independent, and responsible."

"With such a focus on state standardized testing, I'm worried that we are losing our focus on the whole child," he was quoted as saying.

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FD-16 STATS

Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

May 24

A medic unit responded for mutual aid to Gig Harbor to transport one patient from a multiple vehicle collision at Purdy Drive and Goodnough Drive NW, the third ambulance called to the scene to transport multiple patients.

May 29

A three-car collision on the Purdy Spit blocked the eastbound lane. One vehicle rolled down an embankment, into the water. SR-302 was closed while Washington State Patrol investigated and a tow company pulled a van from the water. Three patients were transported to hospitals for evaluation.

June 1

An 8-year-old boy crashed while riding his bicycle to Palmer Lake to go swimming. He sustained extensive "road rash" from landing on the pavement, wearing only swim trunks. His mother took him to the doctor after evaluation by Medic One

April total calls: 138

Medical aid: 100
Fires: 8
Burn complaints: 13
Vehicle crashes: 10
Weather related: 0
Other: 7
Mutual aid from GHFD: 2

personnel.

June 3

Receiving a burn complaint on KP Highway North, responders found a large land-clearing fire, not contained and unattended. FD-16 firefighters extinguished the fire with help from Kitsap County Fire District 7 providing extra water.

June 4

A Lakebay woman fell over an embankment edge and landed about 10 feet below, requiring the assistance of the Key Peninsula Fire Department Rope Rescue Team. Team members assisted the woman to the beach below, then up the stairs to her yard. She claimed to be unin-

jured but chose to proceed to an ER for further evaluation.

June 5

Paramedics responded to a road rage assault at a Key Center business. After following too close, the two cars stopped at the Peninsula Market parking lot. One person was struck by a car that was fleeing the area and sustained minor injuries.

June 7

A Lakebay teen injured his knee after falling out of a tree. He was on a limb about 10 feet up when the limb broke. Paramedics splinted the leg and the family transported the boy to a hospital.

June 8

A man in his 20s was taken to a Tacoma area hospital for head wounds after being cut out of his car by the Jaws of Life following a crash on KP Hwy N. The cause of the accident is under investigation; alcohol and marijuana are being suspected to have impaired the driver.

June 10

Firefighters responded to a mobile home fire and found smoke coming from the rear of the structure. They entered the structure, quickly located and extinguished a small fire in a waste basket. Cigarette remains tossed into a waste

paper basket apparently started the blaze.

June 12

Firefighters responded to a rear-end collision at Wright Bliss road and SR-302. Two cars sustained minor damage. Both occupants declined medical evaluations.

June 13

KP Fire combined efforts with Gig Harbor Fire to extinguish a fire in the Green Tree area. Originating from burnt food, the fire extended into cabinets above the unattended stove top. The fire was quickly extinguished, limiting damage to the kitchen.

June 14

Firefighters responded to a burn complaint in the Minter Creek area north of SR-302. The permitted, legal land clearing fire was attended and compliant with burn regulations.

June 16

A Palmer Lake resident was contacted after a burn complaint. The fire was found to contain materials not legal for open burning. The homeowner was instructed to extinguish the fire. A report will be filed with Puget Sound Clear Air Agency for possible fines for illegal burning.



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"Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea." -Robert A. Heinlein

OBITUARY

Dillon Coburn

Dillon (Don) B. Coburn of Longbranch was born March 5, 1922, and died on June 16, 2007, following a brief battle with lung cancer. He grew up in Minnesota and graduated from high school in 1940. After trade school, Coburn moved to Oregon and was drafted into the Army Air Corps in 1943. He married Coline Gillis on April 5, 1944.



He proudly served in WWII in the 351st Bomb Group, based in England, and flew 35 missions over Europe as a B-17 top turret gunner and flight engineer, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross. After discharge in 1945, Coburn worked at Boeing and later Lockheed Shipbuilding in Seattle.

The family moved from Maltby, Wash., to Longbranch in 1967 after he began working at Puget Sound Naval

Shipyard in Bremerton as a shipfitter. Upon retirement in 1982, he was able to travel with his wife and see most of the United States, as well as spending many winters in Arizona.

Coburn was preceded in death by all five of his siblings, and lost his loving wife of 62 years last July. He is survived by his son Dean (Linda) of Longbranch; daughters Kathy (Wes) Marson of Marysville, Wash.; Barb Coburn of Chelan, Wash.; Peggy (Mark) Ingraham of Purdy; Terry Ingraham of Tennessee, and Pam (Budd) Murray of Longbranch; 15 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, many in-laws, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Celebration of his life was held on June 23 at the Longbranch Community Church. Friends are invited to view and sign an online memorial for Don Coburn at www.rill.com.

To submit an obituary

Please email it to news@keypen-news.com. Obituaries should be about 250 words, and photos are welcome (longer obituaries are accepted if space allows). We only publish obituaries for Key Peninsula residents. Call 884-4699 for details.

(From FAIR, Page 1)

able, and memorable — without unduly calling attention to themselves.

The KPCF is owned by three local nonprofits: KP Civic Center, KP Business Association, and Longbranch Improvement Club. The volunteers who create the fair every year are drawn from these organizations, or are individual community members giving back to their communities.

Since last October's annual fair board meeting at which newly elected board members were seated, a new vision for the fair has been taking shape. Vice President Michael Hays says, "This group is working very well as a team."

In the ensuing months, the board and its member affiliates have been meeting once to twice a month for meetings lasting one to three hours. Then, the wild ride behind the scenes begins. Six weeks prior to the fair, board and members (by now committees with details in tow) meet at least once a week, with a flurry of email, faxes and phone calls in-between. During fair "week" — those days before, during and after the event — most of these people work full time or more on fair projects, last-minute details, you-name-it. If it

Have fun at the fair

For a list of this year's scheduled events and other fair details, see this month's insert, the official Key Peninsula Community Fair Entertainment Guide, produced by the KP News. Also visit the fair online at www.keyfair.org.

looks like a fair, smells like a fair, tastes like a fair, it's because a lot of people devoted every waking hour, vacation-time and after-work time to making it happen.

"Nobody gets paid one penny. All this work is done on a volunteer basis, on behalf of the community," Hays said.

All profits from the fair, other than some startup money for the following year, go back to the three nonprofit owner organizations. These are community support-based groups, and each equal one-third portion of proceeds eventually finds its way right back into the community in the form of services. And the cadre of volunteers "are doing this all for the enjoyment and support of our community, and nothing else," Hays said.

This year's fair is operating on a budget of a little more than \$50,000, with expectations of a 20 percent net on those revenues, according to Hays.

The first year, the fair was about half the size it is now. In an email to the KP News, Hays wrote, "The fair made money its first year and continued to do so until last year, when it broke even." He explained that last year was a "turn-around year when the fair invested pretty heavily to upgrade the product" including the entertainment and the midway. The board expects to show a "respectable" profit this year by creating an event that is fiscally viable, and a community showcase of talent, art, and regionally excellent entertainment.

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(From **PROJECT**, Page 1)

transportation and mobility, elder health and wellness services, and housing options — Morgan was using personal resources to bankroll the project.

She developed an area network, amassing documents, forms, and correspondence. Every contact led to something else that needed yet more paper, more stamps, more gas to get places that held promise to further her quest of assisting seniors in their efforts to “stay put” in their elder years. Financial resources were worrisome; she needed some economic base that would allow her to continue this important work without having to water it down by splitting her time in half (part-time program research and part-time work to support the effort).

Through the help of an expert on nonprofit education and development, Morgan developed a list of potential funding resources. The Franciscan Foundation was the first one she called, she remembers. “I felt so foolish, so pushed beyond my comfort level,” she said. Determined, she continued down the list, sure she was out of her league, certain no one would be interested. Several weeks later, she was surprised when the phone rang.

Robert Krotz was at that time the president of the Franciscan Foundation. He told Morgan her idea fit with the foundation’s mission, and that they were interested.

“The Franciscan Foundation is happy to assist Edie Morgan in her efforts to bring the Mustard Seed Project to fruition because improving health care access for Key Peninsula residents is one of her key objectives in making the Peninsula an elder-friendly community,” Krotz, who is currently the director of the St. Anthony Hospital campaign, wrote in an email to KP News. “Improving health care access for residents of Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor and South Kitsap County is the primary reason we (Franciscan Health System) are building St. Anthony Hospital... Even though St. Anthony isn’t scheduled to open for another 18 months, we’re viewing our support of the Mustard Seed Project as St. Anthony’s first community-outreach project.”

In March, a \$10,000 grant from the Franciscan Foundation enabled Morgan to keep the project alive. The foundation also extended its nonprofit status to Morgan’s organization (The Mustard Seed Project is now a registered charity with the state of Washington.) This enables her to act “as if” she were a



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

Spending a sunny morning at the Key Center library discussing senior health and wellness issues for the Mustard Seed Project are, from left to right/front row: Dale Sandretzky, Charlotte Winchester, Edie Morgan, Marguerite Bussard, and left to right/back row: Virginia Thompson, Jody Gauthier, Mary Krumbein, Rae Braun, Joyce Niemann, Kitty Custer.

nonprofit, under the foundation’s guidance. It’s a large umbrella that gives her the ability to work on something important for every resident who plans to grow old and remain at home on the Key Peninsula.

The Franciscan Foundation grant writer, the fund-development staff and its nonprofit accounting department

partner with Morgan to help her project succeed. They have several grant applications out, and until recently, were waiting to hear about, as Edie says, “the big one.” On June 22, the waiting was over.

“Supporting groups like the Mustard Seed Project is all about our mission to create healthier communities,”

Robinette said in an interview following the announcement.

With this new windfall in place, Morgan is moving forward with her goals to make the KP as senior-friendly as possible. “We are very grateful to the Franciscan Foundation and Catholic Health Initiatives for their incredible support,” she said. “This grant will make a huge difference in our ability to move forward with the work of building an elder-friendly KP. This is the best possible news.”

Morgan and a core group of citizens meet regularly at the library. She says they have a full set of goals to reach in 2007, and with this new funding, can begin projects they proposed for the two-year grant in their application. Training is ongoing for volunteers to staff a senior information and referral service at a Key Center site. The organization is looking for more members to spend time focusing on housing, wellness, and transportation issues that will one day affect everyone choosing to remain in this rural community through their senior years. Morgan invites everyone interested in achieving an elder-friendly KP to join in this evolving process and be part of the Mustard Seed’s success.

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Born on the Fourth of July

'Indi' is short for Miss Independence Day 2006

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Fourth of July is a big birthday for a small pony. One year ago, Bob and Breezi Peterson were waiting for Callie, their 4-year-old miniature Pinto mare, to deliver her foal. They had a list of over 100 names ready for the foal and were waiting to see if the baby was a boy or a girl. A filly was born early on the morning of Independence Day. The Petersons didn't have time to worry about a name at first because the foal was unable to nurse. Their veterinarian had to sedate the foal and force-feed her with a tube. During the process, Breezi pointed out to the doctor that their foal, born on July 4, had a star on her forehead and a strip down her nose. She considered calling her Stars and Stripes Forever, but only briefly.

The full name for the miniature filly is Miss Independence Day 2006; the Petersons call her Indi. At birth, Indi stood 18 inches tall. She has grown 10 inches in one year. The measurement is to the top of the withers, the highest point of her back at the base of her neck.



Photo courtesy Breezi Peterson

Born on the Fourth of July, Indi is about eight hours old in this photo with her miniature Pinto mother, Callie.

She is not quite two and a half feet tall.

The couple own four horses, three of them miniatures. They admit that Indi is spoiled rotten. "They are just too much fun and you just can not smile when you are around minis!" Breezi says.

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KGHP serves critical role for KP

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

The fictional "WKRP in Cincinnati" was popular with television viewers, but Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula have the "real thing" with KGHP, found at 89.3, 89.9, and 93.7 on the FM dial.

The product of four resourceful and community-minded citizens (Stanley Rippon, Keith Stiles, Max Bice, and Milton Boyd), KGHP became fully licensed by the FCC and aired its first broadcasts in 1988. Stiles is the only founder still alive, and still serves as the station's chief engineer as well as its heart and soul.

The radio station is owned by the Peninsula School District, with studios located at Peninsula High School. "Our primary transmission tower (89.9) is located at the south end of the KP. Translator towers are located at Fox Island (89.3) and along SR-16 (93.7)," Stiles said. "We can be heard in Puyallup, Fort Lewis, Olympia, Belfair, Vashon, and Federal Way."

Stiles said the station is a "critical and essential communications element in times of emergency" for the area west of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. "We have backup generators for when power goes out. We've only been taken off the air on one occasion. That was in 2006, when trees took out our phone line carrying our signal to the primary," he said. "We broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

High school students are responsible for producing programs Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, 13 community volunteers run the studio and programming every day until 9 p.m. and automated programming fills in the rest of the time, including the summer months when school is out.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Alex Benzegala is "on the air" at KGHP. Alex, a Key Pen resident who will be a sophomore at Peninsula High School, will work at KLAY 1180 AM this summer.

Leland Smith has been the broadcast journalism instructor since April 1996. The "Intro to Broadcast Journalism" class teaches all aspects of the media, and students do the research, write the scripts, produce "canned" broadcasts, and conduct on-air operations. The "Radio Broadcast Lab" class has students actually running all the day-to-day operations of KGHP-FM. The news and sports coverage aired by KGHP are student products.

According to Smith, "Other schools with similar broadcast journalism programs include Nathan Hale High School in Seattle (KNHC-FM), Mercer Island High in Seattle (KMIH-FM), a school in Eugene, Ore. (KVRS-FM), and Clover Park Vocational Tech (KVTI-FM). Students cannot get a job in this media directly after graduating from high school.

Live DJs can be reached at 857-3589 if you have requests or comments, or if you want to volunteer.

The industry pretty much requires a college degree to break in, but it does give the students such a great head start that they tend to excel. We've had a lot of success stories."

Julie Miller, class of 2004, is now broadcasting live for KVTI-FM in Tacoma. Jessica Biber (2005) is majoring in journalism at Pepperdine, and is the TV anchor for the college station. Patrick Erickson (2006) is the radio sports announcer for Southern Illinois University, and travels with the teams. Russell Houghtaling (2002) graduated with degrees in broadcast journalism and sports management from Washington State University and is now a sports radio announcer. Malissa Enfield (2001) graduated from WSU with a degree in broadcast journalism and is now a sports anchor for a TV station in Medford, Ore.

"KGHP is an incredible utility," Smith

said. "It's an absolute jewel with amazing potential. But this public relations race car needs some gas put in it. We need to hire a general manager. We have no backup engineer if anything happens to Keith Stiles. The superintendent and the school board need to decide whether we are a 'school education station' or a full-service eclectic radio station."

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Llamas on the Key Peninsula

By SD Galindo, KP News

Debra Langley-Boyer has some unusual pets: They're llamas! She got them in 2003 when they were offered "free to a good home," and each came with a distinct personality.

Carmella and Diamond live in a quarter-acre pen with two sheep. Carmella is 11 years old and she is the "alpha" llama, meaning she keeps watch over the "herd." Diamond is only 8, and gets to relax and eat everything in sight because she is the herd. Unfortunately, when Diamond was raised, she only had her mom, so she never learned "herd etiquette."

When a llama is small, he isn't supposed to be cuddled, he is taught how to follow the leader, how to give personal space to all living things, and that sniffing other bottoms isn't nice. However, mom is the one who gives love and food, and it is a senior female who provides the training and discipline. The baby is carried for 11 months, and takes three to four years to mature. If the baby doesn't get herd discipline, a male in particular is likely to be more aggressive later. If he doesn't understand personal space, anyone who isn't part of the herd is seen as a potential threat — even the humans who raised him. Llamas have very delicate skin, which is why they are so sensitive to being touched. When a llama sits down in a person's presence, she is protecting her legs from being touched.

Langley-Boyer was trained by the National Outdoor Leadership in Colorado to be a master trainer for the Leave No Trace (LNT) program. A teacher by trade, she loves to educate people about llamas. She auctions off "Lunch with a Llama" events for charity and arranges LNT pack-trips for Camp Fire, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, such as a 7-mile (easy) pack-trip to the Tubal Cain Mines in the Olympics. She has appeared at events like the Go Play Outside Expo in Longview in May, for the Backcountry Horsemen, and will be packing with Kits Llamas this summer. She does the LNT "test" for 100 to 200 kids each year from many different groups, being their "stock encounter" on the trail. Her llamas can travel about 4 miles with a load, and twice as far without one. Besides her two llamas, Langley-Boyer has a little flock of Bourkes Parakeets, which are a very pretty pink and blue. She has had diamond doves, button quail and finches in the past, and may reopen aviaries for those birds at some point.



Photos by SD Galindo

Debra Langley-Boyer is putting the halters on 11-year-old Carmella before leading the llamas on a walk. She is training Carmella, the present leader over Diamond, to respect her as herd leader.

In addition to her work with llamas, she is a self-proclaimed "professional volunteer" with a very gracious husband. She is on the scholarship committee at Peninsula High, where she helps kids with their scholarship portfolios and works in the S.A.V.E. thrift store. She volunteers for the Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound Council, and teaches outdoor skills through several weekend committees throughout the Bremerton and Greater Seattle area.

Langley-Boyer has arranged for educational events for schools, summer camps, or just about anyone who wants to learn more. However, she cautions, llamas have to think about things before they decide to obey; sometimes even a whole day goes by before they decide to cooperate, but after that they will recognize the visual or verbal command. Being petted isn't something that llamas really like (remember the training in personal space and sensitive skin), so they have to be taught, or resocialized, when they are older. One must never pet a llama's nose like a horse, or their legs, because that is really seen as an act of aggression (predators in the wild will try to bring down a llama by going for its soft nose or legs). Llamas live for 15 to 25 years so anyone who wants one must wait until they are 3 or 4 years old, learn herd etiquette, and plan for their long-term lifespan.



Lovely llamas

Besides working as pack animals and being sheared for their fleece, llamas pull carts; guard smaller animals like sheep, chickens or goats; they can be used for therapy like other companion animals; and their manure (which looks like large rabbit pellets) is a very safe fertilizer, as it is not considered "hot."

Llamas are actually more like deer or a hump-less camel than a horse. In fact, they were a breed of South American camel over 6,000 years ago. They like to eat the bark off small trees, salmonberry and blackberry brambles, vegetables, flowers (especially roses), willow, and more. They have three stomachs so their digestive systems are far more efficient than horses so they don't need rich supplements like alfalfa. However, wise owners must make sure they don't eat poisonous plants either!

Full grown llamas are big enough to bowl you over, but are not built for fighting like a horse. Males have fighting teeth, but most just spit up bile from their stomach when they are frightened or on the attack (essentially projectile vomit). They do not have any top teeth, and their long bottom front teeth look like a rabbit's up-side-down. Their split hooves have pads on the bottom, so they are good at running over rocky terrain. They look very fluffy but are actually quite slim and can walk along narrow mountain trails and between trees easily. Because of this, they make very good pack animals, and their fleece is much softer than a sheep's wool.

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A helping hand and a tip of the hat to Tee-Ball

By Danna Webster, KP News

Summer sports fans at Volunteer Park are sitting on new bleachers built on top of a solid bulkhead. The volunteers from the KP Lions Club deserve the thanks for the new additions, but the project got off to a slow start due to the usual culprits: so much to do with too few people, too little time, and very little money. The project got a boost when Dick Hassan offered to lend a helping hand.

Hassan, who lives in Tacoma, read about the project in the newspaper. His advocacy for the game of baseball spans over half a century. Anything that promotes the game earns his support. He has given some financial assistance to city ball fields; he regularly officiates at college games; and he is an enthusiastic supporter of ball players ranging from pre-school age to retired seniors.

Hassan drove to Volunteer Park soon after reading the article. Some Peninsula High School boys were playing football on a field. They showed Hassan around the park and the Lions Club project. He visited the park a second time at night and walked the area alone. After a third visit, he made a call to George Robison, president of the Lions Club at the time. He told Robison he wanted to help and asked what was needed. According to Hassan, they needed 3,982 building blocks for the retaining wall. Before long, he showed up at the park with building blocks, loaded on a delivery truck, and several pairs of work gloves. He said some men were sitting in the dugout when he pulled in. He offered the men a pair of new work gloves if they'd help unload the truck.

"It took only about 30 minutes to move the whole truck load," Hassan says. That was the beginning of his support on the project, which was completed 16 days later.



Photo by Danna Webster

Dick Hassan lives in Tacoma but has been active on the Key Pen.

"The place is tiered. It's a work of art. I like to get things done — I put a time table on it," he says.

KP Metro Parks Director Scott Gallacher credits Hassan not only with the acquisition of the building blocks but also with about 500 hours of volunteer work. Hassan says that's typical of how he goes about things: make an analysis of the project, attend to the details and set a time table.

His system led to a hugely successful venture around 1955.

It was the time of the great Boston Braves, Warren Spahn and Johnny Shane, and kids wanted to be just like them, Hassan tells. As he watched kids play, he became concerned. "The kids were throwing 200 pitches a game — and all over the place," he says. "We were asking a kid to do two times as much as an adult." In those days, he says, the pitchers were throwing 150 pitches and making \$100,000, while pitchers today throw 65 pitches a game and may earn \$9 million. It

troubled him that "kids were asking their body to do something it was not made to do."

Hassan started a new project. He wanted to design a kid-friendly way to play the game. He called it Tee-Ball.

He worked on the details: bats, balls, mitts, and rules. One of his ideas was to replace the hide-covered baseball with a rubber-covered ball. The new ball could last an entire season of 52 games at a cost of about 2 cents per game. He compares that to the Mariners using an average of five dozen balls per game at a cost of about \$60 per dozen. Because the softball bat has a handle with a narrow grip, he chose that bat over a baseball bat. Then he sawed off three inches and made the bat lighter. A few inches of garden hose attached to a rake handle made a tee-support to hold the ball for batting. The new game eliminated the pitcher position and solved Hassan's concern for young pitching arms.

He says the main lessons learned in the game are responsibility and respect. Kids have to show up at game time in order for their teammates to have every turn at bat possible. They also learn to respect the skills of teammates and cooperate with one another in order to win. "Teamwork doesn't have an 'I' in it," Hassan says.

Through the history of the game, other men have claimed to be the father of Tee-Ball. A few patents and trademarks had been registered in other names by the 1970s. The Wikipedia online reference says T-Ball, which is registered as Tee-Ball, has several people claiming to be the father of the game. Hassan says he never considered getting a patent or trademark on any equipment design, let alone the game itself. News of the claims of others came as a complete surprise to him. "I never heard of anyone else having a knowledge of the game," he says. Some of the claims came

from a Navy man. "I've never heard of another branch of service ever playing it," he says and tells that the game was developed while he was serving in the military at the Alexandria Air Force Base in Louisiana. Its popularity spread as he and military families moved around the world to other stations.

Hassan gives little attention to the other fatherhood claims. His focus is in what Tee-Ball has done. It is a game well known throughout the United States. He believes it brought credit to girl athletes because girls played as equals with boys on Tee-Ball teams. Hassan credits the game for fostering continued interests in baseball and fast-pitch softball sports. He claims young Tee-Ball players have used their skills to win sport scholarships to colleges. Tee-Ball builds family relationships and the theme of responsibility carries over to the home, according to Hassan.

The characteristics credited to the game of Tee-Ball are evident whenever Hassan gets involved with a community project. Sportsmanship, inclusiveness, respect, and responsibility are all parts of the package he delivers when he stops to lend a hand.



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her staff hosted a "chocolate fountain" for patrons. The chocolate flowed for almost nine hours. Vertz shopping list for the occasion — all consumed in the daylong celebration — was "7 pounds of melted chocolate chips, 7 pounds of strawberries, 7 pounds of bananas, two bags of marshmallows, three pound cakes and two bags of pretzels to dip — all courtesy of the Friends of the Key Center Library."

The library is now open Mondays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In the photo, left to right, Beth Mears, Rosina Vertz, Carolyn Wiley. Photo by Chris Fitzgerald



Library Monday a sweet hit

Monday, June 18, was the first day Key Center Library patrons enjoyed a major benefit of passage of the countywide library levy last year. Library technician Rosina Vertz said when she went to unlock the doors at 11 a.m., about a half-dozen patrons were waiting. A normal day logs in about 200 library card usages at the branch. On that Monday, the log indicated 107 patrons were "doing business at the branch" and more than 200 people frequented the library.

To celebrate the occasion, Vertz and



Annual Salmon bake feast

The 7th annual Longbranch Community Church Salmon Bake

features new additions to make this event even more unique. Booths from community organizations, a hay ride complete with accordion player and a pond with 350 trout for fishing contests for all ages promise excitement.

"This represents country living at its best" says Glen Ehrhardt, chairperson for this year's salmon bake. "We want to enhance the participation of younger folks, as this event is tailored for the good of the community."

A variety of free musical entertainment will be offered, and an eBay silent auction will be held. The famous dinner prepared by chef Oliver Coldeen will include Copper River salmon, caught by Longbranch native Shane Hostetler, who also sells his salmon to the public.

The event is on Saturday, July 28, 2 to 6 p.m. at the LIC. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door; children 12 and under are \$5, free for 5 and under. Call Ruth Bramhall for tickets at 857-5184 or purchase at Charboneau Construction, Sunnycrest Nursery, Home Store, Dave Ahrens Coast to Coast Hardware, or the Longbranch Marina.

KP arts event seeks entries

"Beyond the Borders" Arts and Music Festival featuring music, art, and food from around the world will be held on Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Longbranch Improvement Club, from noon to 6 p.m. (free admission). Ethnic music from gypsy-jazz to Ugandan vocal and dance will be featured. Cash prizes will be awarded in a juried art exhibit for best work with international theme (\$200) and people's choice (\$100). Art and craft items by local artists will be for sale. Food and special desserts, a beer garden, wines and other beverages will be available.

The event is co-sponsored by the LIC and Two Waters Art Alliance, with a

generous grant from the Angel Guild. For information call 884-4807.

Arts Prospectus available at local post offices, Ravensara and Sunnycrest Nursery, and at www.twowaters.org. Deadline for submission is July 9; call Margo: 884-2955.

Allyn Days Festival

On July 21 and 22, Allyn's Waterfront Park will be host to the 25th annual Allyn Days Salmon Bake & Festival. Sponsored by the Allyn Community Association, it features food, fun and music for all ages. Booths and entertainment run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday; a dance will be held Saturday at 5 p.m.

Nearly 100 booths, food, demonstrations, kids games and activities are among the attractions, along with remote control model boat demonstrations and some antique cars.

Several local micro-breweries and Hoodsport Winery will offer their latest brews, and the entertainment is incredible. For shuttle and schedule information and complete list of attractions visit www.AllynACA.com.

Friday Movie Nights

KP Metro Parks District and Children's Home Society partner for a series of movie nights at Volunteer Park, or in the gym at the Key Peninsula Civic Center if the weather is bad. Movies start at dusk. Suggested donation is \$1 per person and one can of food for Key Peninsula Community Services. Grab your blanket, a lawn chair and your favorite movie munchies and enjoy an outdoor movie shown on the big screen on the following dates: Aug. 3: "Happy Feet," Aug. 10: "Ghost Busters," Aug. 17: "Charlotte's Web."

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HELP WANTED:

KP Lions Club needs members to continue public service programs. Contact Hugh McMillan 884-3319 or any other member.

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Out & About

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First grader Sarah Boozer isn't too sure about holding the seastar retrieved by Erin Ewalt, a diver for Harbor WildWatch who does double duty as farm planner for Pierce Conservation District. Harbor WildWatch is a nonprofit organization providing environmental education in the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula areas through outdoor beach programs, written materials, and workshops. HWW has a full summer schedule of free public events, visit www.harborwildwatch.com for details. (See more beach walk photos in our online gallery.) *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Above, friends of birthday boy Elijah Brambila (right) enjoy holding a boa constrictor brought to the party by Scott Peterson's Reptile Man company. The birthday boy, who turned 4, celebrated on June 1 with a "Go Diego Go!" themed party.

Photo courtesy of Noelle Brambila

Right, Shalimar Dennis, 9, shows off her 1-pound, 12-ounce fish that won the grand prize for the largest fish during the annual fishing derby at Lake Minterwood. *Photo by Kristen Pierce*



At a rehearsal of Encore! Theatre's production of the ballet Coppelgia at Peninsula High School's Milton Boyd Auditorium, the production's director, Key Peninsula resident Kathleen McGilliard, coaches a cluster of her ballerinas before they take to the stage.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



High Tea at Low Tide is celebrated by lady Seascouts. They rowed their 38-foot gig, Verite, to Wycoff Shoals to celebrate the lowest tide of the year. Wycoff becomes an island for about two hours and the ladies hold their tea party there. *Photo by Danna Webster*



Hugh McMillan explains to his blushing wife, Janice, that dinner was more than the two of them but 35 of their closest friends too, filling the Green Turtle restaurant for a surprise 55-anniversary party. The couple and friends reminisced about the past 55 years and Hugh told the group how he met, married and moved around the world with his lovely wife.

Photo by September Hyde



Left to right, Loyd Miller, Jud Morris, Phil Bauer, Rufus Clark, Jan-Erik Sundbom, with Ben Thompson in front, are working on the tennis court project at the Civic Center. Volunteers have new fencing, created entryways both for maintenance work and players, leveled and painted support posts, and will soon have the two courts professionally resurfaced. *Photo by Chris Fitzgerald*