

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula

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Spring into Spring page 20

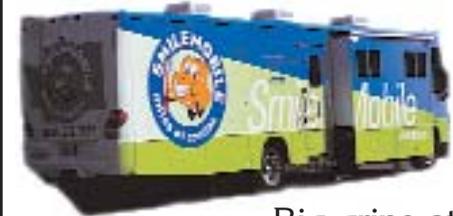


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Vol. 36 Issue 4 • Circulation 9,000

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April 2008



Big grins at Vaughn, page 14

Tacoma's century old business run by KP's Kip Clinton, page 17



Waterfront park added to Key Peninsula's map

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Sold at last: KP Metro Parks commissioners Bruce Nicholson, Ross Bischoff, Elmer Anderson (board president), and Greg Anglemyer, with KPMPD Executive Director Scott Gallacher and real estate agent Dottie Mazza, on the property shortly after the sale closed.

At the end of February, Key Peninsula's park district became the owner of a pristine waterfront property on Taylor Bay. The 39-acre parcel, which includes an eight-acre estuary, has a rich diversity of native flora and fauna. It is one of the few pristine waterfront parcels left in Pierce County. And the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park got it for as good a bargain as it comes: \$7,000 in legal fees. The rest, nearly \$1.4 million, was paid by Pierce County Conservation Futures and Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants.

The park, yet to be named but known so far as the Taylor Bay Property, is the district's first acquisition (not counting the two parks it received through a transfer from the former KP Parks and

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A wish comes true in Allyn

Local electrician joins star designer, foundation to help young boy

By Danna Webster, KP News

Make-a-Wish and Style Network stars from the "Clean House" show teamed up to help an Allyn family the weekend before St. Patrick's Day. Both agencies had high praise and sincere gratitude for Key Center's Birch Electric Co. for coming to the project's rescue.

Last July, 4-year-old Jayden Anderson was diagnosed with Myoclonic-astatic epilepsy (Dosee epilepsy). According to his mother, Jennifer Anderson, on bad days he may experience between 20 and 30 seizures and on a good day, 10 to 15. They range from head nodding, knee bending, drop attacks or body jerks followed by loss of muscle tone and lapse of consciousness.

Jayden wears a protective helmet to



Photo by Danna Webster

The Anderson family with Mark Brunetz on the day of the makeover reveal. For more photos, visit www.keypennews.com.

protect his head from injury during the drop seizure. All of the furnishings in the family living room were capable of inflicting severe injury during a seizure

(See WISH, Page 23)

Shortening the leash on animal control

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Pierce County Animal Control Officer Tim Anderson is one of only four enforcement people covering the 1,679 square miles in the second most populous county in Washington state (780,000 residents, according to Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee). Although it can be argued that the animal control detachment (administered by the auditor's office) only covers unincorporated areas, these individuals, working alone, must travel through incorporated towns to get to outlying areas. The resulting equation

(See DOGS, Page 37)

Permanent ban douses development fires

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

On Feb. 28 in Seattle, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's Board of Directors adopted a permanent ban on land-clearing burning in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties beginning July 1. According to the PSCAA Website, the following are "not affected" by the new ban: silvicultural fires (forestry), agricultural burning (commercial farms), recreational fires (campfires), fire department training fires, emergency burning of flood and storm debris (requires a fire permit).

The board deferred a decision to prohibit residential yard waste burning in nonurban areas of these same counties until October, pending further analysis of available alternatives. Their unanimous intent, however, is that residential yard waste burning should ultimately be banned in denser sections of rural areas.

The board's decision was preceded by a public hearing, several rural workshops, and public written testimony both in favor of and opposed to a total burn ban. Owners of acreage argued alternatives to burning, such as curbside pickup, chipping onsite or hauling yard debris to dropoff sites, a not reasonably and economically viable, or even available in some areas. As a result, agency staff were directed to work with county solid waste and fire officials on expanded burn ban boundary lines, development of additional alternatives to burning, and enforcement mechanisms for rural areas.

The KP News conducted an interview with Seattle-based James Nolan, director of compliance for PSCAA, to get answers to rural-based questions.

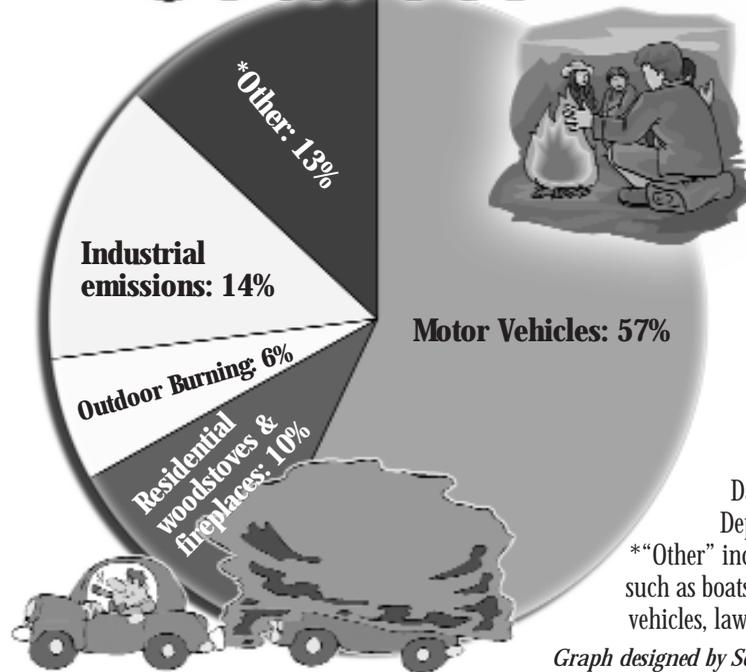
KP News: The PSCAA Website (www.pscleanair.org) shows a chart indicating the respective costs of hiring

equipment and watchmen to control an average half-acre building site fire (about 45 tons of clearing debris) for \$3,660, or hiring commercial trucks to load, haul and dispose of the debris in a landfill for \$4,130, a cost increase of only \$470. Does this ban penalize the "do-it-yourself" rural landowner who had no intention of hiring out something he/she could easily do in the first place?

Nolan: No. The new ban only addresses land-clearing burning for construction development. It was never our intention to impact landowners' ability to keep their property clean.

KP News: So landowners cleaning up after storms or repairing pastures are exempt?

Air Pollution Sources



Data from state Dept. of Ecology.
*“Other” includes sources such as boats, recreational vehicles, lawnmowers, etc.

Graph designed by September Hyde

Burning definitions

PSCAA administers Washington state law. Shown below are the three burning definitions from Chapter 173.425 WAC, abbreviated:

Land clearing burning: outdoor burning of natural vegetation from projects that clear land to develop (build), change the use, or leave unused.

Recreational fire: cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires using charcoal or firewood on private property, not including debris disposal burning.

Residential burning: outdoor burning of yard, orchard, garden refuse on land adjacent and approximate to landowner's home, by landowner or designee.

cleared vegetation are (miniscule) relative to the end price of acreage with a new home on it. (He cited a completed price tag of \$1 million in King County, acknowledging that may be high for other areas.)

KP News: Seattle's pretty far away. How will the rules be enforced?

Nolan: Penalties for ignoring the ban — illegal burning — can run up to \$15,000 per day. The amount of the fine depends on the intent of the landowner. We have had a number of calls on the KP in the last few months... We are the "black hats" and step in when the local fire department reports an illegal burn.

KP News: What is the next step?

Nolan: We are taking another look at reasonable alternatives to residential burning, such as curbside pickup, in the fall. We will hold more public hearings before any decision on further regulations are made.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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Unsolicited submissions deadline including press releases:
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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.

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Saved by fate

Local hero honored by Red Cross

By Lori Colbo, KP News

Webster's dictionary defines a hero as "a person of great courage and spirit... any admirable or highly regarded man." The Red Cross program, Real Heroes, recently honored Rick Covert, a Key Peninsula resident, as a bona fide hero for keeping a cool head and acting quickly to help save the life of Phil Radcliffe during a very serious saw accident in December 2006. Covert received the State Farm Good Neighbor of the Year award from the Red Cross.

Many may remember Radcliffe's saw accident in which he was caught in his saw and cut from sternum to midleg. His intestines were exposed as well. What many didn't hear about that accident is the calm, timely way that Covert, who was visiting with Radcliffe that day, responded to the accident. Covert took action

quickly by turning off the saw, which to this day he does not remember doing.

Trained and certified in first aid many times over, Covert quickly assessed Radcliffe's condition. "I saw more of Phil than I cared too," he says. He looked for arterial bleeding, which he could not find. Actually, according to him, there was not a lot of profuse bleeding. He sat Radcliffe down and went to call 911. While he was making the call, Covert looked out the window to see Radcliffe heading toward his shop in a golf cart. Covert went out to him, got him out of the cart and laid him on a couch in the shop, then went out to meet the ambulance since Radcliffe had changed locations on the property.

"If Rick had not been there, I would have laid down and died," Radcliffe says.

Covert is convinced to this day that his being at Radcliffe's on that particular day, at that particular time was divinely arranged. "I am convinced that I was supposed to be there," he says.

The two men have been friends since they were 5 years old. Both lived in Tacoma and went to school together for



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Phil Radcliffe (right) and Rick Covert are heroes to each other, though Covert was officially recognized as one by the Red Cross.

many years. Radcliffe's family owned property out near Silverbow Farm since the early 1900s. In the '50s, Covert's family bought the property adjacent to Radcliffe's. Phil moved there in 1965 and Covert came out about 10 years ago.

Covert has high praise for Radcliffe, as he helped Covert's parents tirelessly when they lived on the property and Covert's father had Alzheimer's. Covert

lived 25 miles away at the time and couldn't get out there as much as he wanted to. Radcliffe filled in and Covert is full of gratitude, saying, "I'm glad in a way that I could be there for Phil after all he did for my parents." In his mind, Radcliffe is the real hero.

Radcliffe was hospitalized for 115 days and has had 28 surgeries, which included cutting out 18 inches of damaged intestines and many skin grafts. Today he is fit and healthy and gives all the praise to the Harborview Medical Center trauma team and all the doctors and nurses who helped him.

"I can't speak highly enough of Harborview and their staff," he says. When the doctor in charge saw Radcliffe's injuries, he did not think his patient would make it. But Radcliffe defied all the odds and survived.

"I think this is about his phenomenal will to live," Covert says. Radcliffe is now aptly called "the miracle man" by all the doctors and staff at Harborview, and that he is. Covert, on the other hand, is called the hero who saved the day, though he is not comfortable with that title. Both are men of "great courage and spirit, admirable and highly regarded." That they were meant to be together on that fateful day cannot be denied.



Gig Harbor YMCA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The YMCA of Tacoma-Pierce County is seeking experienced, energetic, service-oriented team players to join the Gig Harbor YMCA team. We are currently looking to fill the following full-time (including some evening hours) positions:

- **Health and Wellness Director** who will maintain & develop group exercise programs, and will recruit, hire, train and evaluate health and fitness staff. **Requires** ability to teach step, HiLo, yoga or pilates and cycling. Must have previous fitness exp & knowledge, degree in PE pref'd. Salary \$30K-\$35K.
- **Aquatic Program Director** who will develop & teach swim lessons & water safety ed. and will recruit, hire, train and evaluate aquatics staff. **Requires** 2 yrs exp working w/ aquatic based programs, demonstrated strong work ethic & teamwork/organizational skills, degree in related field or equiv. know/exp. Salary \$30K-\$35K.
- **Maintenance Technician** performs preventative, routine and emergency maintenance for the building, building support systems and membership program equipment. This position also performs custodial tasks as requested or required. **Requires** mechanical abilities, previous maintenance exp. & excellent customer service skills. Exp. w/ exercise equipment & pool maintenance a plus. Hiring range is \$9.78-\$12.23/hr.

Each position includes an excellent benefits package. See www.ymcatacoma.org for full job announcements and a virtual tour of the Branch! Send cover letter and resume to: Maureen Borba, 10550 Harbor Hill Dr, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 or e-mail to mborba@ymcatacoma.org.

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities. EOE

Meet Dan Towey

Close to
Camp Seymour



Dan is an archiving wonder machine at work. He has had a professional background as a producer and editor at KIRO, Seattle. He now restores Family motion pictures from 8mm, Super 8 films and slides.

Dan says, most everyone has a "box of stuff." Dan had impressed the locals with his talent, restoring these films and slides by putting them onto DVD for folks. And they look great!

It is truly amazing to watch this guy work. He is a very warm person to work with.

Dan has a great way of making an old film look new again. The restoration tools that Dan uses are state of the art, for a fraction of the cost of a commercial lab. Your memories will spring back to life and your Family will love the results.

Why haven't more people done this? Simply they won't risk their memories to some warehouse application. What's nice

about Dan Towey? He is a local hero, and has a un-canny talent to organize and save your memories.

His customers speak very highly of him, exceeding expectations at every corner.

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EDITORIAL

What happened to decorum?

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

On March 3, a Pierce County Council committee held a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Pierce County Code, Auditor's Animal Control Division, at its conference room in Tacoma. The daylong hearing first addressed a countywide towing issue, which consumed all morning into early afternoon, during which time those waiting to testify for the animal control revisions sat and observed quietly. A short recess ensued, after which time the council returned and began hearing animal-resolution testimony. While council members were attentive and engaged during the towing discussions, the majority of them appeared to prefer to be elsewhere during testimony and suggestions made by citizens testifying on the "dangerous dog" issue. That these people had waited the entire day to have their three



minutes at the podium afforded them little regard. The chairman of the health and safety committee, Councilwoman Barbara Gelman, both tolerated and engaged in side-talk and laughter during testimony. Other committee members were observed yawning, looking at their watches, and on occasion getting up and leaving their seats. The seriousness of the subject on the table appeared of little interest; committee member Councilman Terry Lee was alone in resisting the disregard of citizen-speakers. At the close of the meeting, Councilman Tim Ferrell gleefully jumped across to the audience, laughing loudly about "guinea pigs..." Having observed similar behavior at other committee meetings among members, the KP News asked Lee for his take on the situation. He did not hesitate to offer an opinion. "There are seven individuals on the council, all with big egos and no boss." He said efforts had been made to instill some decorum in meetings, all met with failure. He noted he was the lone councilman who was not running for something in the upcoming

election. He hoped new members with a commitment to all county residents would join the council, yet feared that, after the novelty of elected-officialdom wore off, some would "drift into complacency." He said the only way to force council members to be more attentive to the people who elected them, whether the issues before them affected their district directly or not, was to hold them accountable in a public way. "Their behavior is unattractive, disrespectful, and unacceptable," he said. Local-governance bodies emulate the county council meeting format, based on KP News observations. Fortunately, few locally elected individuals attend Pierce County Council and assorted committee meetings, and are therefore insulated from the poor example of presiding council members. Random exit comments by citizen attendees, however, indicate an awareness of lackluster interest shown by some council members. According to Lee, citizen-demand (or lethargy) precedes council protocol; respect and accountability lie in the hands of the voters.

Not all is well in animal control

The recent pit bull attack at a veterinarian clinic showed the connection between the county animal control office and the sheriff's office is broken. When witnesses to a brutal attack on two goats and a goose called 911, they may have expected to get help from law enforcement — specifically since a teenager decided to fend off the two pit bulls, potentially putting herself in danger. We do not know if the dispatcher knew the animal control officer was an hour away, but we do know no call was placed for the Peninsula Sheriff's Detachment to respond. Fortunately, the brave 17-year-old wasn't hurt — but she deserved to receive a visit from a sheriff's deputy to make sure she was OK. Tougher regulations for dangerous dogs are needed, indeed — but let's fix the system too, and make sure human lives are not disregarded just because two jurisdictions' job descriptions don't cross.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Burn ban infringes on property rights

This comment is in response to the article in the February issue regarding the attempt by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to permanently ban outdoor burning. Here we go again. First it was the health department banning smoking everywhere, taking the rights away from business owners and individuals who are perfectly capable of making choices for themselves. Now it's the PSCAA wanting to ban outdoor burning everywhere. Not only is this infringing on our right to choose what we do on our own property, but they are gleefully suggesting we incur additional expense in an already difficult economy by "signing up for curbside services, buying or renting a wood chipper, hiring the service done or hauling stuff to the dump (yet another

fee)." Not to mention the added problems and costs imposed on the fire departments as noted by James Bosch and Guy Allen in the article. Phooey. The bottom line is that people have burned outside since man left the Garden of Eden, and we still have air to breathe. Nature repairs and recycles itself without our help. We do not need "health Nazis" to dictate how we live, the choices we make or what we can and cannot do on our own property. And the small number of issues that present themselves in more densely populated areas should not dictate what thousands of people have to do in the rural areas. Nor do we on the Key Peninsula want our valuable fire fighters wasting their time policing the neighborhoods for violators of an unfair ban.

Linda Anderson, Lakebay

Famine Banquet success a group effort

There is little doubt that Key Peninsula News coverage contributed to the success of the Fat Tuesday Feast or Famine Banquet on Feb. 5 at the Longbranch

Improvement Club. Colleen Slater's articles before and after the event were very effective in explaining our goals. The demonstrated broad-based community support was heart-warming, as was the feedback from participants. Thanks to the KP News, the sponsoring organizations, supporters, and participants, the local food bank has more flexibility in providing balanced meals to residents of the Key Peninsula. Although Feast or Famine was a success, it must be recognized that the benefit is only a short-term fix. Ideas for future events are being considered.

Carolyn Wiley, LIC Events Chair

Give support to our troops

The U.S. Post Office has made available free shipping materials for boxing and sending special gifts to our military personnel serving around the world. This kit contains priority boxes, shipping envelopes for overseas and a roll of priority mail tape. Even though the packing supplies are free, you still pay normal postage costs to ship the box. To order the military kit, call (800)

610-8734, or check out the kits at www.usps.com. Some of the best items to send in those boxes are nuts, gum, Pringles potato chips, microwave popcorn, instant coffee, cocoa mix, beef jerky, turkey jerky, (no pork products), jelly beans, Ziploc bags, baby wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, playing cards, crossword puzzles, sudoku, ink pens, new car magazines, etc. If you can't send a package, then send an online message through the program called "Any Service Member Mail Program" known as Operation Dear Abby. Write a supportive letter of encouragement to our troops on www.americasupportsyou.com. Don't forget the families left behind waiting for their loved ones' return. There is no program for wives, children, parents, sweethearts and friends who also endure loneliness during the time of separation. We need to keep those boxes, card and letters going to military families for the families' encouragement also!

Patsy Tiegs, Key Peninsula Veterans Institute

KP hunters and gatherers of 2008

Even with a few cold snaps here and there, spring is coming. The frogs are out. Snakes are basking in the sun when they can. Birds are chattering and darting around the tops of the trees. And, as the air warms and the sun shines through our rain-specked windows, people are looking around in their houses in disgust like they haven't been living there for the past six months. "We've got to clean in here! Where did all this junk come from? Why on Earth are we saving that?" And they start fiddling around here and there, moving things to the garage, perhaps, and notice that stuff is piling up in the garage too, and there's nowhere to walk, adding to their frustration. And then, a little flare goes off in their mind. "Hey, ya think we can sell some of this? Let's have a yard sale and get rid of this stuff!"

In the spring, you may look at things you couldn't possibly part with last year and think, "Dear God, why did I save that?" These things are now glaring

KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



reminders of what pack rats we can be. We quickly figure up a price tag on each item. Hmmmm. Those cassettes that barely play are worth a quarter each! That lamp's five bucks, easy. This Snoopy vase should fetch \$2. Ah, then you start to see the big-ticket items. A dusty bike perhaps, or some workout equipment, or maybe a piece of furniture you no longer need or have room for. Once you get a couple of those, you start looking around at the really good stuff you weren't even thinking about throwing out, but now you think they may bring you some cash. Some days I'd like to open the whole house, put price tags on everything like I'm dead, and just start over with my earnings.

Most of us love yard sales. In the spring

and summer, I'm usually heading back from the dog park on a weekend, and sure enough as I'm driving down KP Highway there's one, two, three yard sales! I must stop at each one! No matter how far they are, I don't care. Do you do that? You see the sign, start down the side road and just start driving. Maybe it's past the crab guy, way back by Port Orchard, where you weren't even thinking of going. Who cares! You might find that One Essential Thing you've been looking for. They might have any one of the long list of items that you keep on your mental, continuously updated list. We are, after all, hunters and gatherers by nature. Our ancestors pushed past the next mountain, the next river, the next horizon. We push on to the next yard sale. Not as dramatic, but a parallel behavior nevertheless. And we do it because the payoffs are terrific. You can get a terrific corner hutch for five bucks. Great books for a few dollars. Tools and lawn equipment for next to nothing. You could get a booster seat for 50 cents or baby

clothes that save you gobs of cash. Then, a year later, after you've stopped using whatever you got at yard sales, you can store it up in your garage and in turn, have your own yard sale. Recycling at its finest.

I'm always perplexed by the season-long estate sales that crop up. What's that all about? How big is that family? That's like one person dying in the family every 14 days, like clockwork, all spring and summer long. I dunno about that. I like the genuine estate sales, where you have some old house full of books and cool, wacky stuff you never would have dreamed of buying when you woke up that day (but you do), and everything in the whole place has a sticker or a tag on it and smells nice and musty. Then when the house is empty, they sell the house too. That's an estate sale.

So here's to spring with its promise of summer and an ever-wondrous yard sale tradition, oh mighty hunters and gatherers. See you out there!

Burn ban, community council, bad dogs, and SR-302

Burn ban

A complete ban of all outdoor burning is inevitable. This eventuality is already law in Washington state, awaiting a "reasonable alternative." The Clean Air Agency recently deferred until October its proposal to ban all residential burning starting in 2010.

If yard debris is burned, it becomes carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. If yard debris is left to decompose, it becomes methane gas, a greenhouse gas 22 times more harmful than carbon dioxide. Chipping and mulching merely speed up the decomposition process. What's really needed are lawmakers with insight and foresight. We need our yard debris (biomass) processed into alcohol and/or the methane recovered for alternative fuels to propel our vehicles and feed our industries. Adopting and fulfilling such goals would turn a citizen revolt against a burn ban into an eagerly embraced patriotic and ecological commitment.

Community council

Thanks to extensive coverage by KP News, the KP Community Council is no

RICK SORRELS THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



longer "that mystery organization." Public awareness of the council has never been higher. The council's directors have a golden opportunity to increase membership, stimulate public involvement, raise funds, re-evaluate its purpose and direction, and determine what the KP residents really want.

If the council fails to act now, then perhaps it does belong on the scrap heap of lost good intentions.

Vicious dogs

Vicious dogs are insidious. Everyone has a tale of close encounters. People are afraid to set foot in their own yard, or walk down a public street. These are intolerable conditions that demand quick corrective action, but the legislation being considered by the Pierce County Council will make the situation worse, not better. The current

proposal is to make it very expensive to own a dog that has been determined to be vicious.

A dog must commit viscous acts (biting, maiming, killing animals or humans) before the process even starts which will lead to a determination that a dog is vicious.

Making it exceedingly expensive to own a "vicious dog" will simply force the owner to either disavow ownership of the animal, or give consent for the animal's destruction before viciousness is even determined. These same owners would turn around and obtain cheap replacement dogs, just as nasty as the original, but free to terrorize the neighborhood once again, because they have not yet committed their "first bite."

Instead of empty words and more meaningless and unenforceable laws, what is really needed is more money to increase the number of "dog catchers" enforcing the existing leash laws. Removing the existing terrors from our neighborhoods before our children's flesh is rendered (instead of after) is the only action that makes sense or would be acceptable to the potential victims.

SR-302

The options for relocating SR-302 are many, the logical choice is just one. On the western side of the KP, using Powerline Road for the new routing makes a great deal of sense. It's a straight shot, a good location, extremely wide right-of-way, and it resolves the existing dispute between property owners and Tacoma Power.

On the east side, routing just north of the Burley Lagoon avoids severe environmental and cost problems, avoids the dislocation of existing businesses, and allows for use of the Purdy Spit for parks and recreation.

A problem exists though. The vast majority of SR-302 drivers turn south at SR-16. Most of them would refuse to drive farther north to a rerouted 302, thereby retaining the intolerable traffic jam-up at the Purdy Spit and interfering with recreational uses.

Restricting the Purdy Bridge to pedestrian use only would force drivers to the northern route, while opening great opportunities for park and recreational use of the Purdy Spit.

Chuck West is 2007 KP Citizen of the Year

By Danna Webster, KP News

The very special characteristic that is the Key Peninsula, volunteer work, was celebrated at the Citizen of the Year banquet on March 22. The KP Lions Club has recognized KP volunteers for 24 years.

After all the citizens of the year of 2007 were introduced by master of ceremonies Hugh McMillan, KP Lions Club President Marvin Keizur said, "Do you realize without these people this peninsula will collapse?"

It is the duty of the Lions' president to tally the votes and keep secret the name of the citizen who will become the ambassador volunteer for any given year. The 2007 Citizen of the Year, KP Fire Department Division Chief Chuck West, received that honor on his 50th birthday.

West has served on numerous committees on behalf of the Key Peninsula, including the Pierce County Comprehensive Planning committee for the KP; currently, he serves as president of the KP Land Use Advisory Commission. Particular gratitude was

expressed to West for establishing the Zech and Adrienne West Memorial Skate Park at Volunteer Park.

Consideration and care for the youth of the peninsula are West's top priority. "The children are our future," he said. "If we can have an effect on one kid, we can be successful. So turn off the TV, turn off the video games, and make those kids really successful."

Many of the volunteer honorees of 2007 worked for the success of the children of the Key Peninsula and two honorees are examples of our successful young citizens. Tracey Wilber is a Peninsula High School senior and Cole Becker a third grader at Purdy Elementary.

The "importance of the youth" theme was also endorsed by the keynote speaker, Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg, who presented some of the amazing changes accruing in these exponential times observed on the Karl Fisch blogsite, "Did You Know." For example: "It is estimated that a week's worth of the New York Times contains more information than a person was



Chuck West receives his Citizen of the Year award from KP Lions Club President Marv Keizur.

Photo by
Rodika Tollefson

likely to come across in a lifetime in the 18th century." And, according to former secretary of education Richard Riley, "The top 10 jobs that will be in demand in 2010 didn't exist in 2004. We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't exist... using technologies that haven't yet been invented... in order to

solve problems we don't even know are problems yet."

Ladenburg encouraged the Peninsula to invest in children. They are the ones who must meet the challenges of the times ahead. "We cannot waste that resource. Make sure the kids have a future," he said.

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Lions Club honors all nominated citizens



Above, Cole Becker, the youngest nominee for the award and a Purdy Elementary third grader, with his mom, Laila, are looking through the KP News to see the profiles of this year's nominees.



Right, Laura Stafford (left) and Bestry Joliffe, the owners of LeGarmache Catering of Port Orchard behind the scenes, getting ready to serve the dinner.

Photos by Rodika Tollefson



The Citizen of the Year nominees receive an ovation from the audience after being introduced by the MC Hugh McMillan. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



Above, Claudia Jones, one of the nominees, gives Chuck West a hug when his name is announced as the Citizen of the Year.

Below, Nominee Vicki Biggs receives her certificate from the keynote speaker, county Executive John Ladenburg. *Photos by Mindi LaRose*



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KGHP visits with supermodel

When successful businesswoman and supermodel Kathy Ireland visited Gig Harbor in late February for a women's conference, local radio station KGHP arranged a broadcast interview. The interview was part of the station's series of special programs encouraging young people to find success in their personal and business relations after high school and in life.

The supermodel-turned-businesswoman delivered the keynote address at the "Steppin' Up Leadership" conference at the Best Western Wesley Inn in Gig Harbor. KGHP staff member Diane Coleman talked to Ireland about the main theme of the conference, "Life Changing Lessons," and discussed Ireland's views on increasing opportunities for women in a rapidly changing modern world. The interview was recorded and broadcast on KGHP at several different times.

"Ms. Ireland has great ideas for women on the go," said Coleman, who met Ireland for the first time. "In a time when there is so much pressure to have it all and do it all, Ms. Ireland suggests women of all ages set their priorities and put boundaries in place to protect those priorities."

Ireland believes, "Honoring your needs



Kathy Ireland with KGHP's Diane Coleman, who interviewed the supermodel and businesswoman for the local radio station. *Photo courtesy KGHP*

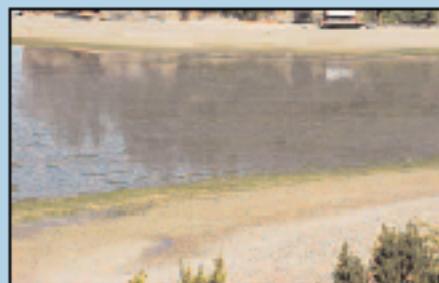
is not needed. It is an important element in becoming strong and having the energy to accomplish your dreams."

Ireland's efforts and Website (www.kathyireland.com) center on family, and are geared especially to busy mothers. "I found her to be quite sincere, genuine, and very sweet," Coleman said. "Her message is of great value to women in today's rapidly changing world. She has some interesting insights about educational opportunities and business situations where there is the challenge of combining work with family."

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Vaughn's youngsters treated to new books

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

For the third time in the past two years, Vaughn Elementary School's library has all but overflowed with youngsters excited at the prospect of receiving gifts of books from the school's Marsha Iverson Foundation. Spearheading the event again was PE teacher Marc Ross, whose enthusiasm for the project is infectious. Not just the kids are fired up, but parents, teachers and Vaughn's "Rock of Gibraltar" librarian, Patricia VanValkenberg, simply exude a passion for printed pages and all the wonderment derived from the books in which they are found.

The foundation is named after Marsha Iverson, a reading teacher at Vaughn for many years who passed away during the summer of 2006 after a long battle with cancer. She had just recently retired from teaching. Ross said, "She wanted kids to have books here at Vaughn instead of flowers at her funeral. That was the beginning of her foundation.

"We have handed out nearly 500 books to over 400 kids," Ross said. "We have collected nearly \$10,000 since Marsha's death, and every dime that comes into the foundation is used to purchase quality, hardback books for the kids here at Vaughn."

If Santa Claus himself had been in the library that day, the kids wouldn't even have noticed him. They were there for something far more important: a chance to get a book of their very own to take home and read and share.

"Roger Iverson, Marsha Iverson's husband, spoke to the kids for the first time since we started these book hand outs," Ross said. "This is something that is



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Kindergartener Malachi Friant and second-graders Tyra Cysouw and Samantha Sayers share their newly obtained books.

Marsha Iverson Foundation

Contributions to support the Marsha Iverson Foundation may be sent to 17521 Hall Road KPN, Vaughn, WA 98394. For information, contact Marc Ross at 530-4700.

very dear to him, as was Marsha. He talked to the kids in a very motivational way, told them that they are equal with everyone in the world, that as long as they can read, write, and do math, there isn't anything that they can't do."

Iverson is a story himself. Also a retired teacher from the Peninsula School District, his career in teaching was spent at Peninsula High School, where he was the basketball coach. He played basketball at Pacific Lutheran University and, in 1971, was inducted into NAIA Basketball Hall of Fame.

Iverson had the kids recite a saying of his: "If it is to be, it must be me," and also told the kids that they must "dream big!"

Tyler, an 11-year-old Vaughn student who was among many kids writing about their giveaway experience, said, "Thank you for getting me two books. It felt really good because you don't really get free books every day."

Kindergartener Abby, 5, said, "It is great getting a book today. I like to read all the time."

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KPMS introduces new academic program

By Kayla Burton
Special to KP News

Key Peninsula Middle School has started a new program called Cougar Academy this school year. Cougar Academy was created to help students meet standards, according to KPMS staff. School officials knew that some students needed extra help, but didn't want to take away any electives. Instead, they created a half-hour class to help students learn or review things they missed along the way.

Cougar Academy gives students more one-on-one time with the teacher. "Just like when you learn volleyball serves, you aren't great until you practice," said KPMS Principal Sharon Shaffer. "Every time you do something new, it is a risk," she added. She says the staff feels that this "risk" is a good decision.

Cougar Academy was mainly created so that students who didn't pass the WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) could get the extra practice they needed with basic skills like math and reading. "These students need time and structure so that they can improve their skills," says Mrs. Waterbly, who teaches language arts. "Even though you have passed in the past, (students should) be engaged in Cougar Academy; there's always room to improve."

The reading academy emphasizes reading skills such as strategies and comprehension through silent reading, reading aloud, and class discussion. The math academy focuses on skills to help students be more successful in regular

math classes and on the WASL.

"Any new program takes awhile. I'm excited to see how it turns out," Mrs. Waterbly said.

Students have mixed opinions about Cougar Academy. Many students think Cougar Academy is very helpful and enjoy having time to get extra help on concepts they don't understand, while other students feel that Cougar Academy should be converted to a time where they can work on homework, or projects from other classes. Mrs. Shaffer said, "It is always good to get input all along the way, and to receive constructive ideas on how to make it all the better."

KPMS also offers many after-school help programs, including for reading and math.

Kayla Burton is an eighth-grader at Key Peninsula Middle School and the editor of Eye of the Cougar, KPMS student newspaper.



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Program helps address child development

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Local parents concerned about their young child's development have an opportunity to get the child screened, free of charge, under a program offered by the Peninsula School District. Children who are found to have developmental issues have the option of enrolling in a special preschool program, which is also offered for free and includes transportation.

Called Childfind, the program is the district's tool for actively seeking families who may qualify for early childhood special education services. Washington state mandates school district to offer such services, as well as to find children who may benefit from them. One local parent said, "It is easy to get discouraged, as a parent, about how my daughter is developing but I feel blessed to have found this option and it's great that it is free."

Screenings are scheduled 11 times a year on a monthly basis. Twice — in April and November — the screenings are held on the Key Peninsula and in Gig Harbor

Key Pen screening

Childfind will be on the KP on April 11 at the KP Lutheran Church. To schedule an appointment, call Michelle at 530-1168.

during the rest of the year. "Our purpose is to invite families to bring children in if they have questions or concerns about development," said Janet Buzzard, PSD early childhood coordinator.

Parents may also request to screen children under age 3, and in those cases they are referred to an agency that sets up a home visit for the screening.

Childfind screenings are staffed by several specialists, including a school nurse, speech therapist and occupational therapist. Hearing, vision, motor skills, speech, cognitive skills are among the aspects included in the screening. "It's a nice way to take a first general look at the whole child in a relatively quick way, to see if there are any areas where we want to dig deeper," Buzzard said. If any areas of concern are found, the child will be scheduled for further screening. In some cases,

children are monitored for a few months, or rescreened later.

For kids ages 3 to 5 who have developmental delays, special education preschool is offered at several Peninsula School District sites, including three classes at Vaughn Elementary. Some children will then continue on to special education in kindergarten, while others catch up and no longer need specialized services. They can also "graduate" from the program before they reach 5. "Some kids just need a little boost and exit the program without needing further help," Buzzard said.

The preschool classrooms have about 14 children, with three to four spots tuition-based — which means parents whose children have no delays may elect to participate and pay tuition. The routine is typical of a preschool classroom, with play, songs and other activities, but the class has teachers who are certificated in special education as well as speech and occupation therapists.

"We want our kids to have early intervention, which is well known to have proven results," Buzzard said.

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Peninsula School District refinances bonds

Peninsula School District has refinanced its outstanding 1996 bonds in order to take advantage of lower interest rates. The recent refinancing will save the district's taxpayers a total of over \$100,000 during the next three years, according to PSD officials. Superintendent Terry Bouck emphasized these savings flow directly to taxpayers through reduced tax levies and are not available for district expenses. "This is a direct savings to our community members in the form of taxes they expected, but will not have to pay," Bouck said.

The Peninsula School Board approved the issuance of more than \$3 million in refunding bonds at its March 6 meeting. The district has been monitoring bond market conditions and recent low interest rates allowed PSD to exceed its savings target. Interest rates averaged 3.05 percent on the new bonds, compared to 5.34 percent on the old debt.

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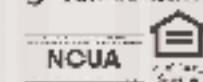
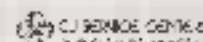
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Academy gives glimpse into police work

By William C. Dietz, KP News

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a cop? More than 25 local citizens are in the process of finding out by participating in the Community Academy organized by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. Classes are being held Wednesday evenings from 1830 hours to 2100 hours at the Home fire station. (That's 6:30 to 9 p.m. for you civilians.)

But Session 84 of the academy is full —so don't show up unless you're already signed up. Each session includes between 20 and 30 people, and just about anyone can take part so long as they pass a basic background check. "We don't want to communicate what we do to career criminals," says Deputy Rich Folden. So bad guys need not apply.

The Key Peninsula session is drawing around 27 people (out of a maximum of 30). "I think it has been pretty popular all over the county," says Folden, who works in the Peninsula Detachment and is the Key Peninsula's neighborhood patrol officer.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Pierce County legal adviser Craig Adams talks about constitutional rights during one of the academy's evening classes.

The topics covered include hiring, the promotion process, state and federal law, communications, patrol procedures, forensics, domestic violence, and much, much more. And, are you ready for this? Participants get to see a K-9 demonstration, tour the Pierce

County Jail, drive a patrol car, and fire weapons on the range!

The first community academy was held in 1992. The program was inspired by a similar one in Tempe, Ariz., but was restructured to meet Pierce County's specific needs.

When asked to describe the program's benefits, Folden says that because many people get their information about law enforcement agencies from watching television dramas, "I think people have some unrealistic expectations about what we can do... And, after they take this class, they have a better idea."

As Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor put it when he spoke to the "students" on the first night, "Public safety is not a spectator sport. We need your help — it ain't a one-way street."

Folden wasn't able to provide a specific budget figure for the academy, but indicated the classes are generally held in donated spaces, and most of the cost is in labor.

So does Deputy Folden enjoy taking part in the Community Academy? As he puts it, "As a police officer, it's nice to talk to people who aren't unhappy with you!"

For more information regarding the academy, including how to sign up for the next session, visit www.piercesheriff.org and click on "Community Academy."

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"More powerful than the will to win, is the courage to begin." unknown

A life interrupted Accident claims 25-year-old Lakebay woman

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Saturday, March 1, was one of those bright, clear pre-spring days. Not a drop of rain in sight, dry roads. And on the short, near-level highway straightaway between Hoff and Cornwall roads near the Home bridge, it was the day Hildi Johnson died.

Four weeks earlier, Johnson's family had buried her father's mother. Phil Johnson says his daughter took the last year of his mother's life off from work. (Hildi was a partner with her father and her uncle, Dave, in Johnson Bulldozing and had been working at the family business side-by-side with them for six years.) She moved in with her grandmother, caring for the elderly woman, taking her to doctors, cooking, cleaning, keeping her out of a nursing home. Family members say her death was hard on Johnson. She was distraught, distracted with grief.

Johnson had a broad gift for working with seniors, was well-liked. She had previously assisted with her grandfather's care, helping her mother, Dale Michaelson, to take him to dialysis. She was at her grandfather's side, holding his hand when he died. Both Michaelson and Phil Johnson remarked they had no idea how many people's lives their daughter had touched. At her funeral, "the church was packed," Phil said. "People were standing outside to listen; it was quite a tribute." The family had a second printing of the memorial program, so many friends sought the remembrance.

She had a soft heart for animals. Michaelson recalls, "Hildi always had a dog." On that last Saturday morning, Michaelson said, one of Johnson's two dogs had to be put down, an anguished decision for the 25-year-old. She had the other dog, Lucy, with her in the car. A neighbor of Johnson's came home that night to find Lucy sitting on his front doorstep, shaken and uninjured.

Also on that Saturday, Johnson once again visited the grave of her grandmother. Friends told her mother and brother, Jason Morin, that Johnson wept, telling her grandmother she would be with her soon.

Phil Johnson was in Tacoma when the accident occurred. Dave was on the KP and somehow heard his niece may have been involved and headed for the scene. He told officers he would tell his brother. At no time has the sheriff's

Tragic accident

Hildi Johnson, 25, was heading north on KP Highway around 3 p.m. on March 1 when her 1986 Crown Victoria sedan crossed the center line into southbound traffic near the Home Bridge in the 600 block of the highway. The vehicle was hit broadside by a Ford pickup heading south. According to police, she died at the scene. The male passenger in the pickup, walking around and complaining of pain, was transported to a hospital by Gig Harbor responders. According to Pierce County Sheriff's spokesman, Detective Ed Troyer, both vehicles were traveling above the speed limit. Johnson was not wearing a seatbelt.

office contacted Johnson's mother or father, they told the KP News. Nor have they received either the accident report, or been offered information from the county medical examiner, they say.

When Michaelson found the courage to call the medical examiner's office, she was shocked at the rudeness of the person returning her call. "She died of blunt force trauma," the caller said, according to Michaelson. "Is there anything else you want to know?" The caller indicated a toxicity test had been done and when Michaelson asked what it had shown, she was told to "call back in four months." She says she's been afraid to call in an attempt to discover more.

Sometime in mid-March, Michaelson downloaded all recent calls from her daughter's cell phone, looking for clues, trying to find a reason, closure. She found none there, nor on the phone's camera, which held only pictures of the grave of Johnson's grandmother.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions," Phil says, adding, "There are rumors of a third car," but nothing he can pinpoint. Michaelson nods in agreement. "Hildi's car was turned practically into the ditch across the road. If she had been momentarily distracted, wouldn't the other driver at least have swerved (to try and avoid collision)? There are no skid marks from either car. Nothing in any direction."

Morin says his peace with grief "comes and goes." Michaelson holds back tears, says she's ready to begin counseling. Phil Johnson's priorities right now are to finish the jobs he and his daughter



Hildi Johnson with her two dogs, Daisy (left) and Lucy. Johnson had to put Daisy down the morning of her death, while Lucy was in the car with her during the accident. Lucy was uninjured.

Photo courtesy Johnson family

had started together, like demolition of the Longbranch Mercantile. After that, with every new job, he says he will ask himself, "How would Hildi have done this?" He is grateful for the support of his community. "If it weren't for all the love generated by our community," he said, "I'm not so sure I could take it."

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KP youngsters brighten their smiles in the SmileMobile

By Danna Webster, KP News

Healthy teeth for Key Peninsula children was the aim of the SmileMobile that parked at Vaughn Elementary in March. It was the first time this dental clinic on wheels has provided care to Key Peninsula children ages 15 and under. The SmileMobile was brought to the KP through the combined efforts of the Pierce County Dental Society, Community in Schools of the Peninsula, and Washington Dental Service Foundation. This is a program that helps all families receive dental care. Medicaid and sliding scale fee are accepted as reimbursement for services. The SmileMobile travels the state year-round, providing services ranging from exams and preventive care to fillings and minor oral surgery.

"Twenty-five percent of the days missed from school is (due to) tooth related problems," says Jennifer Bunch, program coordinator for Pierce County Dental Foundation. Bunch worked with Laurel Shultz of CIS-P to register and schedule the children's visits. She also coordinated schedules for Gig Harbor



Volunteers Dr. Eric Kvinsland and his dental assistant, Candace Hegseth from Kvinsland Dentistry in Gig Harbor, treat Alexander Black, a Vaughn Elementary fourth grader, in the SmileMobile. Kvinsland is a Gig Harbor High School graduate (1993) and Hegseth is a Jackson Lake resident who attended Vaughn Elementary. More photos at www.keypennews.com.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

dentist volunteers, Drs. Kvinsland, Coyner and Heacox, to work during the week.

"I think there is a huge void that this van serves," said Dr. Eric Kvinsland, as he and his dental assistant, Vaughn Elementary alum Candace Hegseth, prepared to see their first patients. This team from Kvinsland Dentistry in Gig Harbor worked side by side with Seattle dental director Dr. Chris Delecki from Children's Hospital. The goal of the

program was to provide treatment for about 75 children during the one-week visit. If all appointments and schedules are kept, the KP will qualify for a return visit of the Smilemobile program on a regular yearly basis.

"I love that they are coming (to the KP)," says Key Center dentist Dr. John Olsson. "I'm glad they are choosing to serve our community." Olsson has provided service to Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

More information

The Pierce County Dental Foundation serves as a referral service for families needing dental assistance. For information, contact Jennifer Bunch, 253-272-1101 or email pcdc@nwlink.com.

families for the past 23 years. His work helped call attention to the needs of Key Pen and encouraged the efforts of the cooperating agencies to provide the SmileMobile program.

"My practice is 10 percent DSHS; over 10 percent becomes overwhelming," Olsson says. "That we are not taking care of everybody is disappointing to me." He applauded the efforts of Bunch to get other dentists involved and to bring awareness of dental opportunities to the schools in the area.

"Getting into treatment is really challenging (for families)," Bunch says. "Dr. Olsson does a phenomenal job. So hopefully, this (SmileMobile) will support Dr. Olsson, too."

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Angel Guild turns 30

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

The Angel Guild continues to spread its wings after 30 years of serving and helping the community. A celebration party will be held April 28 at the Civic Center for all members, current and former.

This popular thrift store first opened its doors Feb. 17, 1978, in Home with the goal of helping raise funds for the local health clinic. Eight members got together to make this happen; now, membership has grown to 40 or so active members, including three honorary ones: Gerry Reeder, Lou Dalton, and Arvilla Merchant, one of the original eight founders who celebrated her 100th birthday in February, making her the oldest Angel.

Merchant has an interesting history and extensive community service. She has traveled a lot, including to the Panama Canal, Hawaii, Canada, Alaska, and most of the United States. She square-danced for 15 years, was involved in many community clubs and retired from the Angel Guild in 1985. She says she



Shopping at the Angel Guild thrift store is like visiting a mini-department store—only much better bargains.

Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

continues “to enjoy life one day at a time.”

Bonnie Stinson, coordinator for the shop for the past 13 years, says, “This is a great place, excluding food items, for one-stop shopping for many of our clientele.” She says many more volunteers are needed, and the rewards are “the satisfaction of helping the community.”

In 1980, the Angel Guild moved to the KC Corral, then moved again next door in October 2006, more than doubling

the space.

President Marlene Miles says shoppers not only get bargain prices for quality items, but help support the community; proceeds are used for grants to local organizations that range from schools and sports teams to the library, Children’s Home Society and the Civic Center. That means shopping at the Angel Guild is not only a bargain, but also a way to help the community.

BRIEFS

news

Public campaign launched for St. Anthony

Leaders for the St. Anthony Campaign announced in March the start of the public phase of the initiative to raise a total of \$10 million to help equip and enhance the new Franciscan Health System hospital. Thanks to area donors, the campaign has received \$7 million in pledges during an eight-month “quiet” phase. The focus of the public campaign is to raise the remaining \$3 million; the campaign will continue until St. Anthony Hospital opens in early 2009.

The campaign is chaired by Gig Harbor business leaders Sharon Snuffin and Rick Larson. It was launched in 2007 with a \$1.5 million gift from the George F. Russell Jr. Fund at The Russell Family Foundation in Gig Harbor. Twelve subsequent pledges of \$100,000 or more were received from lead donors, including the Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation (\$2 million), KP resident Mary Ann Walters (\$1 million); TRA Medical Imaging (\$350,000) and the Ben B. Cheney Foundation (\$300,000). The hospital is estimated to cost \$150 million, and funds generated by the Campaign for St. Anthony Hospital will help pay for special medical technology and many other enhancements to the facility and its campus.

Cootiettes host convention

The Cootiettes hold both Washington state and national conventions in Tacoma this year, says Sharon Rikansrud, a Longbranch resident who is the supreme grayback (national president) of the organization. The PennAnts Club of Vaughn is in charge of everything for the Grand Crawl, the state convention, held April 5-6 in Tacoma — arranging rooms, decorations, favors, grab bags, etc. Jane Van Slyke, who resumed as chief grayback of the PennAnts at the March 29 installation, will receive her 45-year pin (earned last year) at the Grand Crawl. The Cootiettes wear white pants and blouses, with a red vest, or red T-shirt for casual events. Their mascot, the “Cootie,” resembles a ladybug. Several members maintain collections of assorted kinds of ladybugs. Members of the organization participate in various activities supporting veterans. Members may purchase annual bars recognizing their service for \$10 that is contributed to national scholarships for nurses who need financial assistance to complete their training.

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Traffic signal under consideration for KC

By Danna Webster, KP News

County survey crews are creating a topographical map of the Key Center intersection at the flashing light. This is an initial step toward the consideration of traffic light installation, but there are plenty of steps after the first one.

The initial scope includes traffic signals and turn signals, according to Pierce County Program Engineering Manager Ramiro Chavez, who oversees all county transportation projects. Putting together a design team will be the next step, and an engineering supervisor has already been selected.

The preliminary phase will determine a plan for the intersection, along with costs and timelines. The second phase will determine needs for storm-water drainage, signal lighting and acquisition of any right of way that may be necessary. Construction will occur in the final phase.

KP Fire Department Division Chief Chuck West doesn't expect to see something happen on the project this year with all the drawings, engineering and design work that need to be done. West has been a strong advocate for improving the intersection, calling attention to the safety and maneuverability factors for large fire equipment.

"One of the problems with that intersection — and several others — is that it doesn't come in at 90 degrees," West said. "Fire trucks only have visibility at 90 degrees and have to square up for clear visibility. I've noticed the county public works trucks do the same thing — go into the other lane in order to square up."

West introduced the problem as he worked on the KP comprehensive plan committee and has continued to target this problem for the peninsula, making requests for funding from the county to solve it.

"The intersection is my pet peeve. We have a lot of those intersections on the KP," West said. "It's easy to fix, in my mind... Line those up to be at 90 degrees."

After about four years of persistent advocacy by West, the county has turned its attention to the problem. Funding is often a stumbling block to a project. Determining funding is an essential component to the preliminary phase. The county has that component already in place. This project "can be considered a most likely funded program," Chavez said. "We have a grant from County Administration Board, a rural arterial project state grant."



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The Sound of Music

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

Anyone driving along Tacoma Avenue South cannot miss the 10 foot tall, red neon, grand piano symbolizing the home of Clinton's Music House, owned and run by Kip Clinton of Longbranch. The store is an exclusive Yamaha dealer but does carry a few used Baldwins.

The store was started in 1898 by her great-grandfather, Frank Clinton. He would load several pianos aboard a horse-drawn wagon and sell them door to door as far south as Chehalis. By 1916, this was a thriving business; in 1946 her grandfather took over the business. He located it around 11th and Fawcett, where it operated for 18 years until its move to the current location at 23rd and Tacoma Avenue South.

The original store sign was built by Clinton's great-grandparents and consisted of a sheet of plywood in the shape of a grand piano painted red; 50 years ago it was replaced by sheet metal and more than a year ago the Neon Sign Co. made a new one of aluminum with baked-on enamel. This sign, intended to last 70 years, stands 10 feet tall and 10 feet square above the building.

Throughout the store, the walls are decorated with plaques awarded to Clinton and her father, stating, "Touchtone Award for outstanding performance and commitment to customer satisfaction." Among the dozens of pianos, the oldest is an 1855 vertical Yamaha in the basement, whereas the showroom displays an 1880 Baldwin upright. For the novice, the store offers a couple of low-back styles but most on display are of varied sizes and instrumentation of acoustic and digital (complete with dozens of background sounds). One player grand piano utilizes a



Photo by Minda LaRose

Key Pen's Kip Clinton owns and runs her family's business, which is more than 100 years old. More photos at www.keypennews.com

floppy disc system that stores 50,000 song set ups; just push a button and there is piano music without a person at the keyboard.

The Clavinova Yamaha has been in business since 1887 and in 1889 it displayed a reed organ at the New York World Fair. For more than 50 years, Clinton's has had a Yamaha display under the grandstand at the Puyallup Fair, generating many sales.

Clinton was born in Tacoma and has lived on the Peninsula since the early '70s. Her parents bought a beach home in the early '60s and when they moved, Kip inherited it. She came into her father's music business 20 years ago. When he died in 2004, she and her brother, Curt, inherited Clinton's Music House; Curt runs a second store in Olympia.

Clinton does more than run a business. She is also a Key Peninsula parks commissioner on her second term as a clerk. She was also commissioner with the old park district. Along with her busy life, she has a 3-year-old Filly and loves to ride. Keeping active, Clinton does gardening, rowing and working on interconnected trails systems for the community; her goal is to help save the environment and have trails for hiking and riding.

This petite, ambitious businesswoman invites anyone who drives by the big red piano looking to the sky to "stop and say hello."

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COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to news@keypennews.com • Deadline 17th of the month

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Key Peninsula Toastmasters

Become the speaker and leader you want to be. The Key Peninsula Toastmasters meet from noon-1 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Adults only. Frank, 884-2283

April 3 – Fuchsia club meets

The next meeting of the Lakebay Fuchsia Society will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Myvanwy, 884-2283

April 4 – Coed softball rosters due

Key Pen Parks is accepting team registrations and rosters for Tuesday night co-ed softball. Teams will play an eight game season plus a single elimination tournament at the end of the season. Games start April 15. Cost is \$475/team. Players without a team can contact Scott, 884-9240, to be put on a player availability list.

April 12 – Tall tales at library

The Friends of the Key Center Library invite children and adults to an afternoon of story telling with living history performer Karen Haas, an experienced teacher and museum curator of education. She brings the past to life with her effervescent style and engages the emotions, from the sublime to the ridiculous, in audiences both young and old. She will entertain those favorite tales of American originals who meet life head-on in most amusing ways.

Saturday, April 12, 1:30 p.m. Key Center Library, free; 884-2242

April 12 – Pitch, hit & run

Key Peninsula Metro Park District and Key Peninsula Little League will host a free Pepsi Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit, & Run competition for area youth ages 7-14. This grassroots program is designed to

provide youngsters with an opportunity to compete by age in a challenge that recognizes individual excellence in core baseball drills. All participants must fill out a registration/waiver prior to the start of the competition.

Saturday, April 12, 12 to 3 p.m. Volunteer Park; Scott, 884-9240

April 11, 19 – Student fundraisers

Two separate fundraisers will be held for two PHS students who will participate in the People-to-People program this summer. A silent auction at PHS on April 11, 7 p.m., will include raffle items and bunco. The Key Peninsula Firefighters Association will hold a fundraiser for a second student on April 19, 1-4 p.m. at the Key Center Corral. Come support two worthy ninth-graders who will represent our youth and our country overseas!

April 19 – Parks Appreciation Day

Parks bring tremendous benefits to people of all ages and to the community by contributing to help us live longer, better lives through active pursuits, new life skills; educational programs and safe activities; building a stronger community, connecting individuals, families and groups through the power of play; engaging and exciting facilities help keep kids active and off the streets; plus the benefits for the environment and the economy.

All of these are great reasons to come to a designated park between 9 a.m. and noon and celebrate Earth Day, Arbor Day, and National Parks Week in one fun event.

For individuals or families, there's no need to preregister, just show up and start working. Bring your work gloves, rakes, clippers, loppers and small tools if you have them-be sure to label them. Come to: Purdy Spit on Goodrich Drive and SR 302; Rocky Creek Conservation Area on SR 302 and 150th Avenue KPN; Maple Hollow at Van Beek Road and Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay; Taylor Bay at 17916 16th St. KPS, Longbranch; Home Park at 8th Avenue and Key Peninsula Hwy, Lakebay; or Key Peninsula Civic Center at 17010 S. Vaughn Road, Vaughn. Scott Gallacher, 884-9240

April 19 & 26 – Penrose Point battles ivy

English Ivy is slowly, but surely, taking over the forest at Penrose Point, and smothering native plants. Come help cut back and pull up ivy plants and make a real difference for the future by helping the park. There are two different "Earth Day" battles against the ivy, both at 1 p.m. Call to confirm your attendance, Dan or Janet, 884-2514

April 21 – KPVI holds open house

Key Peninsula Veterans Institute will hold an Open House meeting for military veterans and their spouses. This event will include information on KPVI community involvement, brochures, membership applications and pictures of the Key Peninsula Veterans' Memorial at Vaughn Bay Cemetery.

Monday, April 21, 7 p.m. Key Peninsula Community House; Mike Coffin, 884-9852

April 23 & 24 – art workshops

Longbranch Improvement Club will host a two-day Sumi and Watercolor/Mixed Media workshop with Reni Moriarity, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Preregistration required; cost is \$140/person; a modest materials fee (\$10-\$17) will be collected at the workshop.

Moriarity will demonstrate several different watercolor background techniques she uses in her paintings; you will learn how to mount paper on board and some sumi painting techniques and suminagashi. Bring a hake brush, Japanese sumi brushes, scrap handmade paper for collage, Daniel Smith watercolors, and/or Japanese or Chinese watercolors. To register, call Carolyn Wiley, 884-9157.

April 24 – Speaker at library

Friends of the Library present Sidney Rittenberger, who went to China in the '40s with the military and ended up staying in China for 30 years, part of it in prison. He will share his stories.

Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m. Key Center Library, free; 884-2242

April 26 – Friends of Library meet

The Friends of the Key Center Library will have a brunch meeting at 10 a.m. to plan for an entire year. All are welcome to share ideas. 884-2242

April 26- East Africa presentation

In conjunction with Pierce County Reads, Heather James, a Key Peninsula resident, will share her trips to East Africa through pictures and stories.

Saturday, April 26, 2 p.m. Key Center Library; 884-2242

Tuesdays – Wee Readers at library

Wee Readers (for ages up to 36 months) and their adults will meet at the Key Center Library on Tuesdays, March 25-April 22, at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays – Family story time at library

Family story time will be held at the Key Center Library on Wednesdays, March 26-April 23, at 11 a.m.

Ongoing – Key Pen Historical Society

The Key Peninsula Historical Society at the Civic Center in Vaughn is open to the public on Thursdays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. through November. The exhibits are changed quarterly. Currently on display are furnishings and accessories from early 19th century kitchens. This Historical Society may also be able to help one learn the history of pieces of land on the Peninsula. 884-4401

Ongoing – TOPS

T.O.P.S. # 1325 meets Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at McColley Hall, Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Free childcare provided. Dues are \$5/month or \$24/year. 884-2554

(See **EVENTS**, Page 19)

OFF THE KEY

April 12 – Luncheon hosted by veterans

The Northwest Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (Ardennes Campaign World War II) invites all veterans, their families and those interested in World War II history to its semiannual luncheon, which is a sit down meal with a choice of two entrees. The price includes tax and gratuity.

The event will feature a display of World War II restored vehicles and personal displays. The Hon. M. Ronald Masnik, consul of Belgium in Seattle, will be guest speaker. The Friends of Willy and Joe, wearing World War II uniforms, will attend as will the NW Chapter of the 11th Armored Division and a group 101st Airborne from Oregon.

Saturday, April 12, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. LaQuinta Inn, 1425 E 27th Street, Tacoma, Reservations required by April 8, \$17; Doris, 206-242-9028

April 14 – Deadline for photo contest

The deadline for the Arbor Day Photo contest is April 14. The contest will award \$100 for first prize, \$50 for second prize, and \$25 for third prize. See the Arbor Day ad in this paper for further information. Carol, 858-8797

April 26 – Arbor Day celebration

The Eighth Annual Arbor Day celebration, including art displays, performances, and activities, will be held at the Gig Harbor Civic Center, 3510 Grandview St., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. The celebration is free. Carol, 858-8797

April – Register for theatre arts camp

Theatre Arts Camp, sponsored by the Paradise Theatre and the City of

Gig Harbor, will be held in both indoor and outdoor locations in Gig Harbor.

Junior camp for children ages 3-5 will be July 7-11 from 9-12 a.m. at a cost of \$125. Camp for children ages 6-18 is July 14-26 with three sessions by ages. Prices vary by sessions - \$295 or \$345- if paid by May 1. After May 1, prices increase for all camps. At the end of camp, plays based on Disney or Broadway will be performed by participants at Milton S. Boyd Auditorium.

Camp will include daily workshops taught by professionals in acting, dance and voice as well as performances by special guest artists like Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare, Clay Martin the Puppeteer and more.

Employment opportunities for directors are available; apply now.

For more information or to register, contact Vicki Richards, 851-PLAY or vrichards@paradisetheatre.org or www.paradisetheatre.org

APRIL PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Fire District 16, April 8 and 22, 3 p.m. at Lakebay Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, April 9, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library
- KP Metro Parks, April 14, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex (some meetings preceded by 6:30 p.m. study session)
- Peninsula School District Board: April 10, 5:30 p.m. (special meeting) and April 24 (regular meeting), 6:30 p.m., at the District Office, 14015 62nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor (near PHS)
- Pierce County Council, every Tuesday, 3 p.m., Pierce County Annex, Tacoma

Email public meetings to news@keypennews.com.

(From EVENTS, Page 18)

Mustard Seed Project meetings

Transportation and Mobility for Elders Community Task Group -- Friday, April 11, 10 a.m.

Elder Health and Wellness Services Community Task Group -- Thursday, April 17, 10 a.m.

Housing Options for Aging in Place Community Task Group -- Friday, April 25, 10 a.m.

For questions or details email ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org or call 884-9814.

Ongoing – firefighters association meetings

The Key Peninsula Firefighters Association meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station at 6 p.m. There is an open membership. Their motto is: "Somebody, somewhere could use a little help, beat the heat & tame the flame, volunteer, it could be your life we change."

Molly, 884-6368

Ongoing – Pee Wee T-ball registration

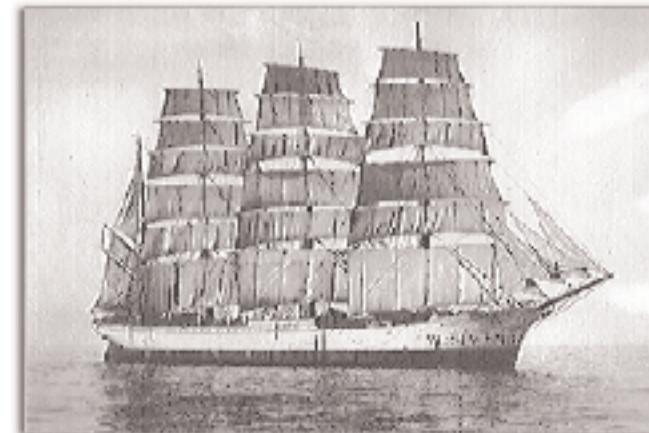
Pee Wee Sports is designed for boys and girls who will be 3 ½ to 4 ½ (as of Sept. 1, 2008) to learn and improve skills of fundamentals of baseball. Parent involvement is strongly encouraged during the weekly classes. Mitts are OK to bring, but no bat or balls are needed. T-ball will run six weeks on Tuesdays, starting May 13, from 5 to 6 p.m. at Volunteer Park. Cost is \$35/youth and includes a shirt or hat, certificate and end-of-program party. There will be a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 24 participants. Call Scott to register, 884-9240

TBA – Free classes

The Pierce County Library System is offering classes at the Key Center branch for people who are interested in improving computer skills and making e-mail a more effective tool. The upcoming workshop will focus on sending attachments. (Date and time to be announced) Information and registration, 884-2242

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Spring into Spring

When Sheila's Ark headed west

A local farm is sanctuary for dozens of animals

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The Key Peninsula is home to some animals one may not expect to see in this rural area: donkeys, a camel, a Capuchin monkey, a muntjac and a zebra. These animals — and a long list of others — are part of Summertree Farm.

Summertree Farm is a year old in June. The 20 mostly-wooded acres were cleared and fenced for an amazing diversity of animals owned by Sheila Gainey, her husband and two young daughters. After two unsuccessful bids on other Washington farms, the Gainey's discovered their Vaughn property.

"We made our offer sight-unseen," Sheila says, "...packed our 'ark,' and headed west to our new home."

Originally from Bellevue, Gainey has been a flight attendant with Delta Airlines for 17 years, based on the East Coast post. "(The East Coast post) was only supposed to be for two years," she said with a laugh.

If not for her illness, the family might still be living on their Ohio farm. Happily juggling a full schedule that included an equestrian shop and facility there, Gainey was diagnosed with breast cancer and "wanted to come back home" to the Northwest. Still on medical leave a year later, Gainey has completed the major therapies. On the days she didn't want to get out of bed, she said, the animals were waiting; they kept her



Sheila Gainey with "Bill," a 2-year-old dromedary. See more photos at www.keypennews.com

Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

active, helped speed recovery.

Gainey, whose parents emigrated from England, grew up around horses. When she was 17, she got a thoroughbred named "Summer Tree," and owned her until the horse died at age 29. She later raised Hanoverians and participated in dressage.

She was known as a soft-touch among friends and colleagues, and it was not uncommon for people to travel across states to reach her Ohio farm with just one more unwanted rabbit, pot-bellied pig, or llama. Gainey found dogs left on her doorstep. "I placed (re-homed) quite a few dogs," she said. Her farm offered children's riding lessons, summer camps, and hands-on animal education work (badges) through Girl Scouts and other groups. She hopes to pursue those community activities here in a year or so.

The exotic animals at the farm are also rescues of a sort. Gainey began purchasing unusual "pets" by default, at a central Ohio auction house offering exotic species. The first time, she thought she was going to an Amish farm sale to purchase sheep. "If I'd known it was an auction house, I wouldn't have gone," she said. Lucky for the animals that day, she did. Although there were no farm animals present, she saw known meat buyers there bidding. She went home with two fallow deer fawns (raised for meat), a pony, donkey, and two elderly horses, all bound for slaughter. "They (meat buyers) were bidding on others, but that was all I had room for," she said almost apologetically. Gainey went back and made more purchases, this time deliberately with

sanctuary in mind, except in the case of the 2-year-old zebra acquired for her girls, who hope to ride it someday.

Summertree Farm is now home to 18 horses, two llamas, three sheep, two cows, several donkeys, family dogs, a one-humped (dromedary) 2-year-old camel named Bill, a Capuchin monkey, a muntjac (small Asian deer), numerous rabbits, chickens, housecats, and a zebra. Nearly all of them, according to Gainey, are rescues either purchased at auction, or relinquished from private parties. Each animal has a sturdy all-weather shelter, clean bedding, large enclosures appropriate for them, and is visited daily by a woman devoted to their care. Gainey goes through seven tons of hay a month. She feeds little grain, and mixes her own. Other animal feed and routine care bring animal maintenance costs to around \$2,000 monthly, she figures, and then adds another \$2,000 per month for the five part-time employees who help run the farm.

"For Christmas," Gainey says, "I get sweatshirts printed with 'I don't need any more horses' and 'Say No to Dogs.' But I can't." She has plans for her farm, which in some ways is reminiscent of the sprawling animal enclosures at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, a childhood favorite for Gainey. Her animals are not for sale, are not bred; she does not board animals. She hopes, when her energies fully return, her unusual pets will help children learn how to care for and respect all of life's diversity. Until then, like Gainey herself, these animals have come home.



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Ranger Dan shares explorations of KP wildlife

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

First, there were bird walks. Then came mushroom walks. One never knows what idea comes next from Ranger Dan.

Washington State Park Ranger Dan Christian has been offering his knowledge of Penrose Park wildlife through organized weekend events, some of which are hugely popular. The latest, in March, was a "flower walk" — a chance to identify spring flowers and edible plants. Next month, he invites people to join him and Ranger Matt Smith and venture off Key Peninsula for a similar walk at Kopachuck State Park in Gig Harbor.

Christian's recent mushroom walks were wildly popular. On one December Saturday, 17 soggy, curious folk spent three bone-chilling hours in a drizzle — occasionally hiding under a picnic shelter — while Christian gave a fascinating presentation on mushrooms and their proliferation in this area. Many in the group were surprised to learn that the area is a lush breeding ground for these delicious bits of fungus, and some were astonished at the seemingly limitless varieties of edible (as well as inedible) mushrooms flourishing in these wooded areas.

Christina Payment of Lakebay described the experience as "a fabulous way to spend a raining day at the beach." "Learning about the wild mushrooms that grow in our area and how important it is to accurately identify the species was a wonderful experience. Our host, Ranger Christian, was enthusiastic and taught us valuable information," she said. "I hope others on our beautiful peninsula will take the opportunity to attend future workshops and learn as much as they can about this amazing place we all call home."

The first mushroom walk, last October, produced more than 100 people, "really too many to walk in the woods," Christian said. "There hadn't been that many cars since summer. I had to stand on a picnic table to be heard or seen by a group of over 100 people," he said. "...A total of 147 cars, about 89 more than usual, came to Penrose with each car having more than one person, just to see some mushrooms."

About 50 people showed up for the second walk. After that, Christian made it clear that registration was required and the group would be limited at 15. The walk became a "workshop" instead.

Christian was surprised at the level of interest in mushrooms just among Key Peninsulans. Bird walks he had last fall "did not attract anything even remotely like the kind of numbers of people that the mushrooms did."

"This is a good thing," he declared. "Mushrooms are to the woods as clams are to the beach and salmon to rivers and streams. When people can go out and make a connection with all of their senses to a piece of this world then they will feel an ownership and a responsibility to protect what they know."

While the mushroom season is over, there are more walks planned for next fall — so stay tuned. In the meantime, there is plenty more to see and do at Penrose, Christian said.

"Don't despair, there is more to the woods than just mushrooms," he said. With winter now gone, "we need to get out there and see what is happening," he added.

More spring walks and other events are planned by the ever-knowledgeable Ranger Dan. And the best part — they're all free.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Washington State Park Ranger Dan Christian, who works at Penrose Point State Park, and Kopachuck State Park Ranger Matt Smith check on the readiness of "wild carrots" prepared on March 22 for guests who accompanied their guided walk to discover edible wild plants.

Penrose Park events

There is no walk scheduled for April at Penrose Park, but rangers Dan Christian and Matt Smith are inviting you to walk Kopachuck State Park with them on April 5. Walk to identify early spring flowers, find out why some plants get everything done in the early spring and then mostly disappear in the summer. The Kopachuck forest holds some unusual species for the area, which will be pointed out. The first 15 people who call to register will be accepted. To preregister for the 1 p.m. walk, call Matt Smith at 265-3606.

Penrose will host a different kind of "walk" in April — a battle with English ivy, which is slowly but surely taking over the forest at Penrose Point and smothering native plants. Come help cut back and pull ivy plants and make a real difference for the future by helping the park; the "battles" are scheduled for 1 p.m. on April 19 and 26. Call to confirm your attendance, Dan or Janet, 884-2514.

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Barnyard pets, a heroine, and 911

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

On Feb. 24, two pit bulls breached an enclosure at Brookside Animal Hospital and killed one of two goats and their devoted companion, a Canadian goose. Lisa Woods, a Key Pen veterinarian, was away from home but hurried back to her practice when neighbors called with the terrible news. She told the KP News the goose, Gander, had his wings clipped because he kept flying out and attacking clients who strolled or parked too close to "his" goats.

The barnyard pets were permanent residents on the fenced grounds at Brookside, a facility Woods opened in 1994. Woods said the approximate two-acre pasture was securely fenced with hog panels at the time she had the clinic built at its current location in 2000.

Sarah Baum, a 17-year-old high school student working down the hill from the pasture, was alerted by a co-worker to the carnage in progress. While other people called for help, she acted, plowing over the fence and through brush up the hill to save the life of the second goat, Ralph, by shielding him with her own body. Not thinking of her own safety, she yelled at the goat to come to her after distracting the dogs by pelting them with rocks from the outside of the pasture. Once the goat was again near its shelter, Baum climbed inside the pasture and stood between the goat and the dogs, who dared not advance up the hill.

Two separate passers-by who stopped called 911 on Baum's behalf, one at the site, and one from a nearby home. The first call was made at 5:12 p.m. Incident text from 911 dispatch reads, in part, "There are three people at the yard now protecting the other goat... two pit bulls are the suspects..." A second distress call



Veterinarian Lisa Woods with the two goats and the goose at Brookside Animal Hospital last October. Gander, the goose, and Buckle, the goat on the right, were killed by two pit bulls Feb. 24. Gander and Buckle were often seen walking, eating or resting together.

File photo by Kristen Pierce

was made one minute later. At 5:19 p.m., the dispatch routed the call to animal control officer Tim Anderson, who was in Federal Way.

According to a search of dispatched calls made at the request of the KP News by Pierce County Sheriff's Community Service Officer Emily Watson, no calls were dispatched regarding this incident to local deputies patrolling the Key Peninsula area. Anderson arrived on the scene one hour and 11 minutes after dispatch. By that time, Woods' employees had contained the two bloody dogs in a kennel, so all he had to do was transfer them to his truck, take photos of the dead and damaged, and write the report.

Woods' initial treatment notes for the second goat on that February afternoon read like a grisly novel "...Ear torn in ribbon-like strips... large area of tissue missing along right muzzle. Two lower incisors missing; punctures through lower jaw, neck and tongue." Three days later, Sue MacDonald, Woods' employee and owner of a Longbranch sheep farm, gave the vet a 3-week-old orphaned lamb (Mazey) as a welcome companion to the recovering goat.

Karly Moxon, owner of the two dogs,

discovered what they had done only when going to the Tacoma Humane Society to retrieve them. Shortly thereafter, she had the pit bull mix, the younger of the two, euthanized. "It was the right thing to do, but it didn't make it any easier," she told the KP News. Moxon had four dogs, and is now down to only the other one involved in the attack, now classified as a "potentially dangerous dog" by animal control.

Anderson inspected Moxon's premises for containment of the Japanese tosa mastiff/American bulldog mix on March

19. The dog, Scoobie, is now on leash and muzzled when outdoors, and Moxon is installing an invisible fence as an extra precaution. The dog has also been microchipped and neutered. "This has been the worst month of my life," said Moxon. "You can't pay for a life, but I would give anything to undo what has happened." Moxon said she has called the veterinary hospital twice, but has yet to speak with Woods.

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Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula

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Total	79 Homes	34 Homes	\$27 for Sale
Highest	\$1,350,000	\$2,100,000	\$4,300,000
Lowest	\$77,500	\$115,000	\$76,500
Median	\$422,000	\$329,500	\$509,500

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(From WISH, Page 1)

incident. His parents wished for a safe room, a place where Jayden could watch his shows and play without being in constant danger. They wrote for help to Make-a-Wish and to Mark Brunetz, the star of their favorite television show. As the Disney song says, when you wish upon a star, your dreams come true — it certainly did for the Andersons.

Doose epilepsy is often diagnosed in early childhood and usually strikes boys. It is a type of epilepsy that his grandmother, Linda Swan, says is ravaging.

"Life has been a freight train with Jayden's medical appointments and hospital stays," Anderson says. "The three days before Christmas were seizure-free, but that was the lull before the storm. The seizure medicine he takes was causing him to starve to death. That's how we rang in the New Year: in post-op in the hospital."

The operation implanted a gastric feeding tube. "They put a gastro feeding tube into his tummy," Swan says. "It will be at least another year with that. Liquid feeding saved his life. It was torture to get his meds into him. We had to force him to take them by mouth and then go in the



Photo by Danna Webster

Wish coordinator Jessie Elenbaas from Make-a-Wish and home designer television star Mark Brunetz teamed up to create Jayden's new room (pictured behind them).

other room and cry."

Jayden's first symptom was a head-jerking motion observed by his grandmother and mother, and it sent them rushing to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. A neurological exam confirmed epilepsy. Jayden had his first grand mal seizure in the doctor's waiting room.

"He has a lot of Doose kinds of seizers — drop seizures," Swan says. "It's like going unconscious a couple seconds. He wears a helmet to protect his head but it doesn't cover everything... his poor nose."

Because of the drop seizures, normal household furnishings became hazardous materials in Jayden's daily life. In November, his mother contacted the Make-a-Wish foundation for help. She wished for a safe room in her home for Jayden. When she was notified they qualified for help, she emailed Brunetz, her favorite television interior designer. She asked Brunetz if he would help plan the room.

He responded immediately: He would come to Allyn and make the family living room a safe place for Jayden. In less than four months, Brunetz and his art director on "Clean House," Donna Marie, flew in from Los Angeles, ready to go to work. Meanwhile, Jessie Elenbaas, Make-a-Wish wish coordinator, and wish-granting volunteers Jessica Beem and Gretchen Hubbard had arranged for volunteers and received donations for the project.

All was going well right up to a week and a half before the start day. That's when the arrangements for both the electrician and the handyman volunteers fell through. Beem was visiting family in Lakebay when this predicament hit. She stopped in at KC Computers for service and told the story to Sheryl Mirenta. "Sheryl told me Birch Electric was right

Make-A-Wish Foundation®

For more information about the foundation, call (800) 304-WISH or visit www.northwestwishes.org.

For more information about Mark Brunetz, www.MarkBrunetz.com.

next door in the library and I should walk over there," Beem says.

The good people at Birch Electric said they would do the job. She got a similar response from Aron and Natalie Moreau of On the Spot Handyman Services in Shelton. In fact, the list is long on volunteers from neighboring businesses near the Allyn community.

Birch Electric owners Kevin and Miranda Canavan went to work, getting participation from their suppliers. They assigned foreman Ken Liberty, from Gig Harbor, and Josh Dulaney and Ryan Pritchard, both from the Key Peninsula, to the task. "Basically, the little boy has health issue seizures," Kevin Canavan explained during the makeover process. "We are elevating everything used in that room — raise the TV wiring receptacles, mount the new TV, and install seven new wall sconces so the room is lit well. Right now they have lamps and they don't want him to grab a lamp when he falls. That's a house fire danger."

This is the first time that Make-a-Wish has worked together with a celebrity to grant a wish. And it is the first time for this star, Mark Brunetz, to do a completely charitable makeover. As a celebrity home designer, he has participated in many charitable events and made lots of personal donations but Jayden's room was a project where his heart worked together with all his talents and skills. Brunetz told the KP News his home design projects for television "rarely make such a big difference."

"This is something special," he says. "Jayden's family are big fans of the show. Jennifer (Jayden's mother) sent an email... in November. We called vendors, mapped it out where people could be involved, and connected the dots to make a better room. We wanted it to be a collaboration with Make-A-Wish."

Brunetz met Jayden for the first time on Friday morning, March 14, before he drove to Allyn. He told him he was going to give him a new room.

"He loves the movie 'Cars,'" says Brunetz. "I ordered from Disney a poster of the movie and had it framed out. We're creating an area for him — and another relative to the family — so he feels he has own space." He says he

could visualize how the room would look before he left LA and lists some of the changes to the room: upholstered walls, two small soft chairs (one Jayden's size and one to grow into or share with a friend), a sofa without detachable pillows so the frame is always covered, installation of wall lighting and a plasma television with components above Jayden's height.

Brunetz used his designer skills to determine colors and styles that would make the family happy and comfortable.

"I did a homeowner interview. I asked questions that clue style and color pallets," he says. "If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?" and "If you were reincarnated as a piece of furniture, what would it be?" were two of the questions.

Brunetz, originally from Cleveland, loves visiting Seattle and the Northwest. It reminds him of his boyhood excursions to Wisconsin and Canada on hunting and fishing trips. He said Jayden's living room makeover was a welcome break from his show's heavy production schedule. All the work, plans and schedules for the room fit together. "It was a giant effort with Make-a-Wish," he says. "You know you are doing something right" when everything works together so well.

"I'm very attuned to this kind of thing," he says about the phenomenal outpouring of community help and the magic of everything working out. "It's a continual blessing of what I do," he says.

The electricians' drills sounded just after noon on Friday and about the same hour on Sunday, Jayden and his parents, Jennifer and Richard, drove up to their home for "The Reveal." Jennifer carried Jayden in her arms while she and Richard were led blindfolded to the new living room. Jayden closed his eyes. Cameras flashed, catching the surprise of the little family when they saw the cornflower blue room filled with soft furniture and warm lighting, complete with a soft sculptured car and a Jayden-sized Mickey Mouse. Jayden headed for a collection of new car toys and asked his grandmother to help remove the packaging. He left the room to get his 13-year-old cousin and favorite companion, Shawn Berry. He brought Shawn to the new room to share the fun.

Every aunt, uncle and cousin joined Jayden and his parents and grandparents to celebrate with cake and pizza. Jayden's eyes lit up when he was handed a sparkling silver wand from the Make-a-Wish people. He gave it a wave and laid it aside to try the pizza. His wish had been granted.



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Renaissance Faire lands in new location

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

The fairies, gnomes, fire-eaters, jugglers, tinkers, pirates, knights, and queens have found a new home.

The Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire signed a lease purchase contract Feb. 29 for a 206-acre parcel located on Bear Creek Dewatto Road, 3 ½ miles northeast of Belfair and 6 miles southwest of Gorst. The site is

approximately 18 miles from the prior Minter Creek location, which had been the faire's home for the past 10 years.

"Ren Faire will be held, as always, during the first, second, and third weekends in August this year," said Ron Cleveland, the CEO of the corporation that runs the event. "It will be a real challenge to get ready, as the land was forestland. The vendors and shows will be placed in the woods amongst 65-year-old trees, but the parking area and

jousting arena are still fields of large stumps and snags left over from recent timber harvesting."

Cleveland said 25 acres will be dedicated to parking, while the event site itself will be 11 acres, and 20 acres will be reserved for campers. "If all goes well, there's a good chance that we will be able to hold some private events before the August Ren Faire," he said. "Events such as (those by the) Society for Creative Anachronism, which does simulated medieval battles with knights in armor and swords."

Planning for the August festival is well under way. The jousters from the Cavallo Equestrian Arts will return, as will the Rogues, Thomas the juggling fire eater, and many other popular acts from past years. Cleveland said 10 additional vendors have already signed up, bringing the total to 100.

After this year's faire, plans are in the works to hold year-round events at the site: a Dickens festival in December 2008, a Shakespearean festival in April 2009, and Highland games and other events with dates not yet determined. Existing Renaissance historical educational programs will also continue

Faire preview

Interested Ren faire attendees and volunteers can monitor developments and needs online at www.washingtonrenfaire.com.

and will also be expanded as facilities become available, according to Cleveland.

"We've had tremendous support from the residents of the Key Peninsula, but the limited size of the Minter Creek property (only 27 acres, 11 of which was parking, with only 7 acres for the faire site) severely limited what we were able to do. We had grown too big for the old site. Our growth potential now is essentially unlimited," Cleveland said. "We already have become Washington state's largest theatrical event. Even bigger things are in our future. Our roots are with the Key Peninsula; we expect to remain and become an important year round social event for Key Peninsula residents."

Cleveland said the faire's success depends on volunteers. "Our only limiting factors are time, manpower, and money. All are short. We need lots of volunteer help to get ready for August," he said.

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KEY PEN PARK ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- Purdy Sand Spit – Goodrich Dr NW and SR 302;
- Rocky Creek Conservation Area – State Route 302 & 150th Ave. KPN;
- Taylor Bay – 17916 76th ST KPS, Longbranch 98351;
- Home Park – 8th Ave Key Peninsula Hwy, Lakebay 98349;
- Key Peninsula Civic Center – 17010 South Vaughn Road, Vaughn WA



Aquafina and Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run competition

Key Pen Parks and Key Peninsula Little League will host a free Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit, & Run Competition for area youth on April 12, 2008 from 12 PM to 3 PM at Volunteer Park located at 5414 Key Peninsula Hwy N

Competitors are divided into four age divisions: 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13/14, and have the chance to advance through four levels of competition, including Team Championships at Major League ballparks and the National Finals at the 2008 MLB All-Star Game.

Pee Wee T-Ball

Pee Wee Sports is a program designed just for the little guys and gals. This program gives youth ages 3 ½ to 4 ½ (age by September 1) the opportunity to learn and improve their skills and fundamentals of baseball. Scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all kids. Parent or adult involvement is strongly encouraged during the weekly classes. Mitts are ok, but no bat or balls are needed. T-Ball will run six weeks on Tuesdays starting May 13 at

Volunteer Park. Program will be from 5 to 6 pm. Cost is \$ 35 per youth. Price includes shirt or hat, certificate and end of program party. There will be a minimum of 10 participants and a maximum of 24 participants.

Spring adult coed softball league

Key Pen Parks is now accepting team registrations for Tuesday night coed softball league. Teams will play an 8 game season plus a single elimination end of the season tournament. Games will start April 15, 2008. Individuals without a team may contact Key Pen Parks and request to be put on a player availability list. Cost of the league and end of season tournament is \$475.00. Team registrations and rosters are due by April 4, 2008.



Summer sports camps

Key Pen Parks will be partnering with Skyhawks Sports to offer a variety of recreational Sport Camps at various locations on the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor for ages 4-14.

- Basketball Camp, Dates, Time and Location TBD 
- Cheer Camp, Dates, Time and Location TBD 
- Mini Hawks (Soccer, Baseball, Basketball) July 14-18 and Aug. 11-15, Discovery Elementary, 9 am - 12 pm \$99 
- Soccer Camp August 4-8, Minter Creek Elementary 9 am-3 pm \$133
- Beginning Golf June 23-27, Discovery Elementary 9 am-12 pm \$109

For more information visit the following websites:

www.keypeninsulaparks.com or www.skyhawks.com or to get involved please contact the park district at: 253-884-9240, info@keypeninsulaparks.com or visit the parks website at www.keypeninsulaparks.com.

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Road vacation denied

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

A group of property owners lost their attempt to convince Pierce County to vacate a portion of 162nd Avenue. By a vote of five to one, the Pierce County Council defeated on March 18 proposed Ordinance No. 2007-114, which would have vacated part of the road in favor of private property owners Susan Wilson, Theodore Koenig, and David and Cynthia Pappas. The action was spearheaded by Councilman Terry Lee, in rare opposition to requested passage by the county executive through the Public Works and Utilities Department.

The subject right-of-way was originally deeded to the county in 1894. The resolution reads, "...the right-of-way...is not useful as a part of the county road system and the public will be benefitted by vacation..."

Lee told the KP News he felt the request to vacate the property was in conflict with the Key Peninsula Comprehensive Plan

and its parks plan. "This is a trial balloon," he said, adding that any future requests by property owners must stand on their own merit. He is concerned about these strips of land that could become crucial in the park district's plan to develop a linking trail system throughout the KP. "I will be keeping my eyes open and scrutinizing (any similar resolution) thoroughly before recommending approval," he said.

In an email to the KP News, KP Metro Parks Commissioner Kip Clinton pinpointed the location of this right-of-way land that may become part of the trail system. Clinton said the property was within one mile of Department of Natural Resources' 480-acre parcel the park district is likely to receive within the next few years.

KP Metro Parks Executive Director Scott Gallacher was pleased with the council's decision. "The Pierce County Council recognized the value and the intent of the KP Comprehensive Plan by refusing this vacation," he said.

BRIEFS

news

Tolls will likely go up

The state Transportation Commission will release its official proposal on April 7 on the proposed new toll rates. The Tacoma Narrows Bridge Citizen Advisory Committee sent its recommendation in March to the commission to increase toll rates by \$1 starting July 1: to \$2.75 for Good to Go! users and \$4 for cash payers. The commission will hold a public meeting on May 20 at The Inn at Gig Harbor, 3211 56th St. NW in Gig Harbor, and a final public hearing on May 27 at the same location.

Foster care fundraiser coming

The Key Peninsula will be part of a nationwide fundraiser benefitting programs and services for foster care families. The fundraiser, called "Walk Me Home ... to the place I belong," will start at 8:30 a.m. on May 3 at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church to honor foster families in America. The 5K walk is sponsored by the National Foster Parent Association and Foster Parent Association of Washington State and is one of more than 100 walks held throughout the country.

"Citizens of Key Peninsula are very

excited to participate in Walk Me Home," said Karen Jorgenson, KP coordinator. "More than 513,000 children are in foster care and they desperately need our help and support, as do the caring adults who care for these children."

To participate in the event, walkers just need to collect at least \$30 in donations. Upon completing the course, each walker will tie a blue ribbon to a tree. Blue ribbons symbolize children in foster care and are used during National Foster Care Month in May.

While Walk Me Home is a nationwide event with more than 25 states participating, 70 percent of the funds raised will remain in Washington to benefit programs and services of the foster care association. Currently, more than 18,000 children are in foster care in Washington.

Anyone interested in participating or volunteering can get more information at www.walkhome.org.

Lantz calls it quits

Rep. Pat Lantz, D-Gig Harbor, announced in March she would not seek a new legislative term during this election season. "After 12 years in the Legislature, I believe it is time to turn my full attention to my family — my husband, my three children, and five wonderful grandchildren," she said in a statement. "I plan to serve out the remainder of my term, but will not seek a seventh term."

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The Farmer's Market

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APRIL Entertainment

5 th	11:00-1:30		Cesar Meda A classical guitarist, Cesar continues giving concerts and recitals, delighting audiences with his performances
12 th	11:00-1:30		Kel Schmitz Oldies, Pop, Country & Folk "North Dakota Lonesome," Kel's well received first CD, is fresh out of the studio and has caught fire on the performance circuit
19 th	11:00-1:30		Kristin Connell Award winning singer/songwriter, she sings with ease, clarity and a voice so untainted and pure it draws the listener back for more; contemporary folk to Americana
26 th	11:00-1:30		Rick Gonzalez Rick's musical and lyrical influences range from Classical, Big Band, Sinatra and Ella Jones, to the Beatles, Paul Simon, James Taylor and Steady Dan

Open Saturdays

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WE MOVED!



New Location at Kimball Drive

Visit us at the Downtown Market at Sausie Bros. Park starting June 4 on Wednesdays from 11-4.

New farmers market coming to Key Pen

By Colleen Slater, KP News

There's a new Key Peninsula Farmers' Market starting in June. Market Day will be Sundays, from noon to 4 p.m., in the parking lot of O'Callahan's in Key Center. June 22 opens the season, which will run through Sept. 28.

The farmers market project originated with the Livable Key 2020 group and is supported by the Key Peninsula Community Plan. Key individuals working on the project include Claude Gahard from Trillium Creek Winery; Holly Hendrick, manager of the Civic Center; Tara Froode, coordinator of the 2020 group; and Kari Trivette. They people are looking for any others who want to be involved in the planning. The group estimated needing about \$1,000 in startup funds.

They hope to draw at least five or six produce vendors, plus seafood, etc. They want to limit the number of crafts

booths and be supporting local agriculture. Any products in the market will need to be of Washington state origin, but they would even like to keep the market to Key Peninsula products if they are able to attract enough local vendors.

The group is working on bylaws and contracts for vendors and details of the location agreement. Organizers are looking for committed vendors and would like to hear from prospective vendors as soon as possible. Booths will be available for \$10 per market day or \$100 for the season of 15 market days.

During the market summer Sundays, O'Callahan's beer garden will be open with live music entertainment, outdoor service and a Sunday barbecue.

Vendor registration for the farmers market will be available Sunday, April 27, at 4 p.m. at the Key Center Library.

Contact Froode at tarafroode@centurytel.net or call 884-6350 for details.

BRIEFS

Business

Hendricks changes hats

Joe Hendricks has left his partnership in JOBehaviors, Inc. to work with his wife, Heidi, on their own SoftwareRunners Co. products, as well as taking contract work on business websites. He will still work out of Suite C at The Landing. The new phone number for SoftwareRunners is 777-4417.

Local taxi services available

Gig Harbor-based Harbor Taxi is a metered taxi service serving residents Western Pierce County, including the Key Peninsula. The company was created by New Yorker Steve Summerday, who was inspired by him or his family being left many times without the means to get where they needed to go. Harbor Taxi is a 24-hours service operating seven days a week, and also services travelers to and from Sea-Tac airport. In addition to Dodge Caravans, the fleet includes a Lincoln Town Car (available for special occasions).

For details visit www.harbertaxicab.com or call 253-255-5665.

Windermere adds new managing broker

Sue Davis has joined Windermere Key Realty as managing broker. She is replacing Cyndi Wilson, who was promoted to Windermere Port Orchard as broker.



DAVIS

In her new position, Davis will be responsible for client communication, marketing efforts and community relationships.

Davis previously has been a sales agent with the Gig Harbor Windermere office. She has a bachelor's degree from Washington State University and is a native of Gig Harbor. She also holds a commercial pilot's license and enjoys flying, boating, running and gardening.

To submit a brief for the business briefs section email to news@keypennews.com by the 15th of the month.

Key Peninsula Community Services



Saturday April 5th
Rummage Sale
10:00 am to 4:00 pm



Welcoming new Board Members
Vicky Lilyblade, Perry T. Anthenat
and Marguerite Bussard

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Great floor plan with
Bonus room, Den & Master
Bdrm on main level.
\$349,000

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Middle school students are introduced to Chinese through elective class

Students at Key Peninsula Middle School do not have to wait until high school to learn a world language. The school's electives program includes Chinese and German classes — and some students take both.

'I wanted to learn another language after learning Spanish in elementary school and taking German,' says Ben Phillips, an eighth-grader who enrolled in this semester's Chinese class. 'I thought it would be fun to learn another culture... I like going ahead of the class to learn at my own pace.'

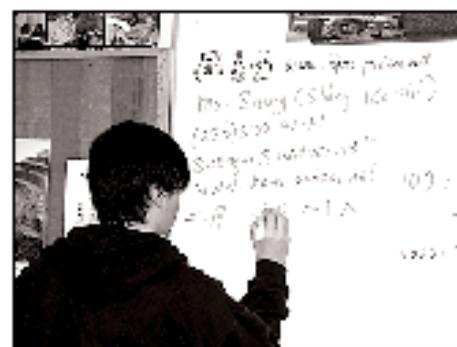
Learning about culture is part of the objective of the class, which is designed to introduce the basics of Chinese including vocabulary and language history. Students also engage in a variety of cultural activities and read Chinese literature.

'I see this class as an introduction to world language study,' says Nancy Sheng, who teaches both the German and Chinese classes at KPMS. 'It gives students a chance to explore Chinese. After taking the class, they'll understand basic parts of the language, and maybe even decide if it's the right language for them to study in high school.'

With China advancing an



Nancy Sheng leads students in counting to 10, using the right tones (Chinese is a tonal language, which means the same word may have different meanings based on its tone). Below, Eighth-grader Kyle Hartjoy writes the date at the beginning of class.



important trade partner for Washington state, the study of Chinese has grown in popularity. 'If

you travel to China, especially for business, it's a different experience when you understand the language,' says Sheng, who has visited China herself.

Some students in the KPMS class are looking forward to building upon the basics of the class, and use their language skills later in life. 'I took this class because I want to be part of a foreign exchange program in college, and I thought this was a good way to start,' says seventh-grader Kayla Williams.

April 2008

- 10** School Board Special Session
5:30 p.m. at the District Office
- 17** Community Forum Alcohol & Drug Prevention at Peninsula High School Library 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Lynn Mock GHPD is presenting. This presentation is suitable for teenagers, parents and the community. It is designed to further educate parents on the warning signs of drug abuse, prevention and resources to assist if your child needs help. There will be two guest speakers as well as a counselor available for questions.
- 24** School Board Regular Meeting
6:30 p.m. at the District Office

Graduation 2008



Henderson Bay High School,
June 13, 2008 7:00 p.m.
Chapel Hill

Gig Harbor High School,
June 15, 2008 12 noon
Tacoma Dome

Peninsula High School,
June 15, 2008 3:30 pm.
Tacoma Dome

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Jill Guernsey
President
District 3



Jill Haddenberg
Vice President
District 4



Jill Johnson
District 5

School Board Members



Matthew Wilkinson
District 1



Wendy Wojtarowicz
District 2

Did you know...

A Request to Transfer within Peninsula School District form must be completed on an annual basis by any student requesting transfer. Requests should be submitted to Peninsula School District, Attention: Shannon Wiggs, 14015 62nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 between April 1 and April 30. Please call or email Roxann Tallman at (253) 530-1007 or tallman@psd401.net for further information.

At a glance...

Several foreign exchange students sponsored by different exchange agencies are hosted in the Peninsula School District each year. These students attend either Gig Harbor or Peninsula High School. Agency application packets are due to the district by April 1. For further information on the process for enrolling an exchange student in Peninsula School District, contact Roxann Tallman at (253) 530-1007 or email tallmanr@psd401.net.

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GIG HARBOR \$389,000
 Grand Mediterranean home with tiled entry and Kitchen, great floor plan and vaulted ceilings. Cozy Family Room with a Fire Place of the Kitchen, decorator colors and a formal Dining Room. Spacious Master Suite with 5 piece Bathroom and walk-in closet. Level 1/2 acre back yard with sprinklers. #27104398 Sue Davis 253-370-6210



HERRON ISLAND \$329,000
 Fabulous view of Case Inlet and Olympic Mts. Completely remodeled-large 900+ sq ft, new appliances, sub granite, on demand hot water system, new lighting, new deck and covered porch. Lots of car, RV, and boat parking. #27126409 Dallas Amidon 253-606-0972



QUIET PT. ROSICK DUPLEX \$625,000
 3100 sq ft, custom built, owner occupied and never rented. Open floor plans, vaulted ceilings and gas fireplaces. Bright kitchens with skylights, islands and built-ins. Corner 1.38 acre lot on a quiet, dead end street. Full length deck, garages wired for generators and much more. #27207483 Dottie Mazza 253-225-0530



WARM & INVITING RAMBLER \$237,000
 3BD/2BA rambler nestled on a lovely tree bordered 1-1/4 acre lot. Desirable floor plan w/vaulted ceilings in the LR and kitchen, granite entry, SS appliances and eating bar. Air conditioning, roomy attached 2 car garage, RV or boat parking and a great place to enjoy peaceful country living. #27078583 Dottie Mazza 253-225-0530



NEW CUSTOM RANCH \$399,900
 2125 sq ft of sun filled home on your mini ranch of 4.97 Acres. Land is level, partially cleared and on the end of a CuFD-Sac. This spacious home has 3Bedrooms, 2 Baths plus a Den. Stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops and hardwood laminate floors. #271172656 Laura Mosley 253-377-6025



NEW PALMER LAKE HOME \$228,000
 New 2 story house just waiting for you to move in and make it your home. Wonderful open area concept with spacious beautiful kitchen. Minutes walk to Palmer Lake where you can fish or swim; enjoy a relaxing picnic or basketball game. Subject to short sale. #27211076 Cinda Baldwin 253-884-1754



LONG BRANCH ESTATE \$999,000
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LONG BRANCH FARMHOUSE \$295,000
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LAKEBAY HOME W/AC REAG E \$399,500
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Dallas Amidon
253-606-0972



Cinda Baldwin
253-884-1754



Liz Gefre
253-241-1797



Mike Maroney
253-820-1020



Dottie Mazza
253-225-0530



A.J. Million
253-884-9537



Laura Mosley
253-377-6025



Jessica Smith
253-514-0471



Ben Urvara
253-459-2108



Sue Davis
253-370-6210



Key Pen resident helps 'paint community beautiful'

By Jeanette Brown, Special to KP News

Key Peninsula is home to Sally Shawl, director of the Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful program that provides free house painting for low-income and disabled seniors. The program has helped hundreds of homeowners around the county, many of them on the west side of the Tacoma Narrows.

Shawl loves living on the Key Peninsula. She said she likes "the peace and quiet, the beauty, the people, and the community spirit" she has found on the KP.

The longtime Key Peninsula resident moved to the area in 1975 from New York City, where she had been working at the National Council of Churches while attending New York University in the evening. About two years later, she received her master's of arts in performance studies and headed west. Shawl received her bachelor's degree in dramatic literature at the University of California at Berkeley.

Shawl's family had early roots in Seattle, where her father was born. "His parents had come up here from California during the Gold Rush, heading toward the Klondike, but word was coming back at that point that all the claims were taken, or something like that, so they stayed in Seattle for a number of years, moving back to California when my father was around 6," she said.

Shawl was born and raised in San Francisco and has worked with nonprofits most of her life. She became director of Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful in 1990. The program is part of Associated Ministries, a nonprofit organization that has served the greater



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Key Pen's Sally Shawl has found her calling by managing a successful nonprofit that helps homeowners.

Pierce County community since 1969.

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization," she says. "I never cease to be amazed at how many people are willing to come out and help; this can be hard work, and there are some crews that come back year after year to help yet another homeowner."

In the past Shawl has also worked for Martin Luther King Ecumenical Center (emergency and transitional housing for homeless folks), and at a YWCA shelter for abused women and their children.

Her hobbies and interests include music and social justice. She said, "I'm putting in a lot of volunteer time these days working on an interfaith camp for kids in the seventh through ninth grades. This summer will be the third year; we had 44 campers the first year

and 62 campers last summer." The Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp is an overnight camp, and organizers rent YMCA's Camp Seymour in Glencove during the last week in August.

Shawl said her long-range goals at Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful are to continue improving the program, "trying to recruit more crews so that we can paint more homes." Some years, the program has more than 2,000 volunteers helping out. Many volunteers come from the Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas; the program's new tech adviser, George Moergeli, is also a Key Pen resident.

"He first volunteered as a crew coordinator from his Rotary Club, but when I realized that he's a retired painter with a lot of expertise, I asked

Applying for the program

To apply for house painting, an application must be submitted, and may be obtained at www.paintbeautiful.org or by calling 383-3056, ext. 106 and request one to be mailed. The deadline to apply is May 1.

The organization receives around 250 applications yearly and paints about 90 homes each summer. Of the 13 Key Peninsula applicants last year, five were accepted. Four homes were also painted in Purdy and Gig Harbor. Only exterior painting is provided, and there is no cost to the homeowner.

“

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization."

— Sally Shawl

”

him if he would also be a tech advisor, and he agreed. He's been marvelous," she said.

Shawl encourages any interested individuals or groups learning about the program to create new teams. "We'll paint as many homes as we have crews. This means that if the club or organization of ...forms a crew, one more home on the Key Peninsula gets painted. It's as simple as that."

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FROM PIONEER STOCK CLINTON BUCKELL LIVED FOR BASEBALL

By Colleen Slater, KP News

D'Arcy and Edna Buckell visited the Tacoma area in 1907 on their honeymoon from Alberta, Canada. They moved to Sumner. Buckell worked in asparagus fields. He volunteered at Camp Seymour at Glencove, arriving by boat. His parents visited to see their first grandchild, bought a home in Vaughn, and moved down in 1908.

In 1910, D'Arcy was a YMCA secretary in Tacoma, but moved to Vaughn near his parents by 1918.

D'Arcy's son, Robert Clinton Buckell, known as Clint or Buck, arrived on the scene in 1926. His boyhood chores included cutting wood and kindling and carrying water for his grandfather.

Buckell and neighbor Audrey Whitfield were the only students in second grade, with first through third in the same classroom.

As a boy, Buckell and his pals swam "all the time" in the summer. They fished for perch from the dock near Freeborn's

store. The summer he was 15, he worked in that store.

"All I ever wanted to do was play baseball," ever since he held a baseball in his hands, he says.

Tall for his age, young Buckell practiced both football and baseball with neighbor Glen Whitfield, four years his senior. They took turns pitching nine innings, with the catcher being umpire. They ran and practiced football plays Glen heard on the radio.

Buckell wanted to be a professional ball player more than anything else. As an eighth grader, he was recruited to play with the high school team against a team of Niemann cousins.

"We beat 'em," he says with a grin.

He was called the best high school pitcher in the area. Both the Vaughn and South Kitsap baseball coaches encouraged him, and he was about to try out for the Seattle Rainiers when he was drafted into the Army. He served 18 months in the Philippines, driving an amphibious tank.

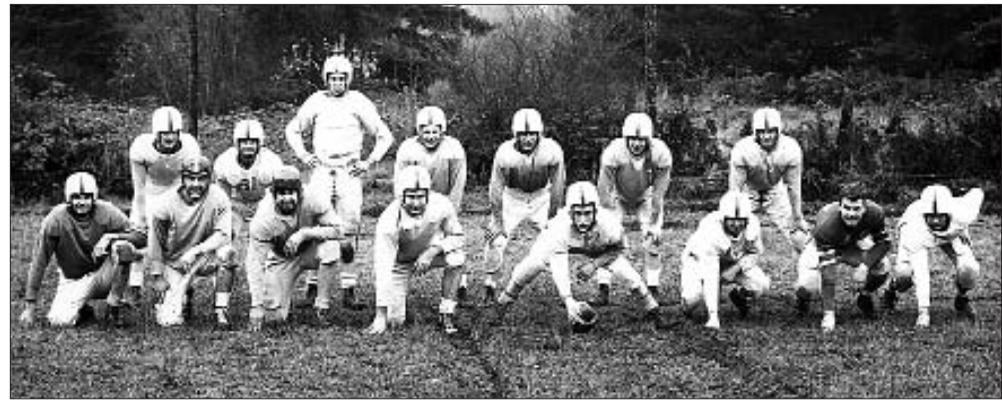


Photo courtesy of Clinton Buckell

Players on Buckell's team that played Gig Harbor to buy lights for the Peninsula High School ballfield are, front row, left to right, Ron Schillinger, Burt Ross, Buckell, Dan Stoican, Eddie Fenton, Don Olson, unknown, and unknown. Back row, Rusty Van Slyke, unknown, Art Petersen, Nelson Jensen, Melvin Brooks, unknown, and Harmon Van Slyke. (The unknowns were from Seattle, friends of Jensen.)

Back from the war zone, he celebrated a 60-day leave by dating a different girl almost every night. His cousin, Joyce, convinced him to date a new girl at the high school. Bessie Oneita Barrett, called Bobbie, was "really pretty and really nice," says Buckell. She was the only girl he dated for the rest of his leave. He returned to Ft. Lewis and requested an additional three-day leave to be married.

Buckell managed a Ft. Lewis ball team as a 20-year-old. He'd bring the team out to play at Vaughn one weekend, and at

Longbranch the next.

He was transferred to San Francisco, and drove his Model A south, spending \$17 for gas.

He continued to play ball there. His team beat the University of California team the first week, and the University of San Francisco champions the next. Charlie Walgren, Boston Red Sox scout, called him out to watch him pitch, and after half an hour, introduced him to seven other major league scouts.

"If you don't think this kid from Vaughn High School was excited!" he says. But he was in the service.

Out of the service, married, he wanted to put off going to training for a year, so he lost out on that career. He did "anything I could to make a nickel" to support his family — picking brush, berries, logging, working at the local grocery store and lumberyard.

Soon after Peninsula High School was built, Buckell organized a baseball game to raise money for the high school ballfield lights.

Buckell has spent most of his life on the Key Peninsula, and has grandchildren who make the fifth generation of Buckells to live on the original property in Vaughn.

sound byte

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We've changed our name!

Vaughn Community Church
is now

WayPoint Church

10am

Sundays @ Vaughn Elementary



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

Paramedics respond to a March 1 accident near Home that killed Hildi Johnson, 25, on the scene (see related story, page 13).

FD-16 STATS

Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

Feb. 15

Paramedics and firefighters responded to an adult male who had fallen from a 15-foot ladder. He was treated for multiple injuries as a result of the fall and was transported to a Tacoma trauma hospital.

Feb. 18

Paramedics were called to evaluate an adult male following an outburst at a local business. The patient was transported to a Tacoma facility for further evaluation.

March 2

An elderly male driver said he fell asleep while driving, which led to him leaving the roadway and crashing into a utility pole near 150th Avenue and 24th Street KPS. The OnStar system in his vehicle notified authorities of the crash. He was transported with minor injuries to a Tacoma area hospital.

March 3

Firefighters responded to the Key Peninsula Middle School after a fire in a trash can sounded the fire alarm. The fire was obviously started by a vandal and was extinguished when firefighters arrived. School officials were investigating and had several leads by the end of the day.

February total calls: 140

Medical aid: 99
Fires: 17
Burn complaints: 7
Vehicle crashes: 12
Weather related: 0
Other: 5
Mutual aid from GHFD: 8

March 6

Paramedics and firefighters responded to the intersection of 118th Avenue and SR-302 for a report of a head-on collision. A total of six people were taken to area hospitals for various injuries.

March 7

Paramedics responded to a report of a vehicle crash at South Vaughn and Lackey roads. Units arrived to find the occupants uninjured. A tow company was called to remove the car from the ditch.

March 15

Firefighters were called to the home of a senior citizen who was locked out of her home. Access to the home was restored.

March 18

Firefighters responded to an excavator fire on 128th Street KPN. When they arrived, they found the engine compartment burning. Water and foam were used to extinguish the blaze. The excavator was being used at a controlled land clearing fire.

Mike Gentle
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cell. 376-6227



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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

Freelance writer wanted

Key Peninsula News is looking for a paid news correspondent to fill a new position. Write a specified number of news stories per month; pay is per story depending on experience and story length/depth. Complete job description at www.keypennews.com

To apply, send resume, letter of interest and 3-5 clips to
Key Peninsula News, Attn: HR, PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394,
or email materials to jobs@keypennews.com

OBITUARIES

Patricia Anne Haley

Patricia (Patt) Anne (O'Hara) Haley, born in Gig Harbor to Jim and Kathleen O'Hara of Vaughn, died at Kittitas Valley Community Hospital in Ellensburg following a brief illness.



HALEY

Haley grew up in Vaughn, graduated from Peninsula High School in 1956, and attended Central Washington University while working there. She married Donald J. Haley in 1957.

She was active in sports, played piano and clarinet, sang in church and school choirs, and competed for the Ed Sullivan Show in high school.

Patt and Don lived in California, then Australia for three years, Grays Harbor, and moved to Ellensburg in 1972.

She held the post of executive secretary with Student Services at Central

Washington University for 36 years, under several changes of administration, and was employed there at the time of her death.

Haley loved to garden, and grew prize-winning roses. She was an excellent cook, loved music, gardening, travel, family activities, and animals.

Preceded in death by her parents and brother Dennis O'Hara, she is survived by her husband, Don, sons Timothy of Portland, Ore., and Sean, grandchildren Dominic, Dakota, and Ethan, all of Ellensburg, brothers Arnold (Mona) O'Hara of Ayr, Scotland, Terry (Elaine) O'Hara of Shelton, sisters Colleen (Frank) Slater of Vaughn, Shannon (John) Lumsden of Olympia, sister-in-law Annette (Jensen) O'Hara of Raymond, and numerous other relatives. Burial was at the Vaughn Bay Cemetery on March 15.

Hildi Johnson

Hildi Grace Johnson, a lifetime resident of Lakebay, died at age 25 from an automobile accident on March 1. She attended Lakebay Community Church and worked alongside her father and uncle in Johnson Bulldozing. She was known for her infectious laugh and sense of humor. Johnson was a talented oil paint

artist. She enjoyed animals and fishing with her friends and family in Chinook. She was kind and dedicated to her family, especially to her grandmother, Edyth Johnson, who preceded her in death by a month.



JOHNSON

Johnson is survived by her mother, Dale Michaelson of Port Orchard, father, Phillip Johnson of Lakebay, sister, Jennifer Sagerser of Olympia, brother, Jason Marin of Port Orchard, and grandparents Clyde and Joann Mayberry of Gig Harbor.

A funeral service was held at Lakebay Community Church on March 7 and graveside services followed at Lakebay Cemetery. Remembrances in Hildi's name may be made to any animal rescue or shelter.

Harold Thompson

Harold E. Thompson was born in 1918 in Palmer, Mass., and died Feb. 28, just two months shy of turning 90. He turned down an athletic scholarship for college, choosing to join the Army Air Corps. He

was stationed at Hickham Airfield in Hawaii and was sent to flight school after the Pearl Harbor attack. He became a B-17 pilot and joined the 388th Bomber Squadron in England. He survived being hit twice by German anti-aircraft, once ditching in the North Sea and the other time bailing out over Paris, where the French hid him until he was returned to England by the British Coastal Forces. He retired from the Air Force in 1963, after tours in Japan and Korea, and began to farm in Longbranch.



THOMPSON

He started a new career handling farm seed for Northrup King when six of his seven children were still living at home. He retired for the last time in 1982.

Thompson's family says he lived his life well, kept his pets fat, and was a hard act for his sons-in-law to follow. The family will celebrate his 90th birthday with tears and joy to honor Harold and all he has given them.

To submit an obituary, mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394 or email news@keypennews.com.



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(From **PARK**, Page 1)

Recreation District).

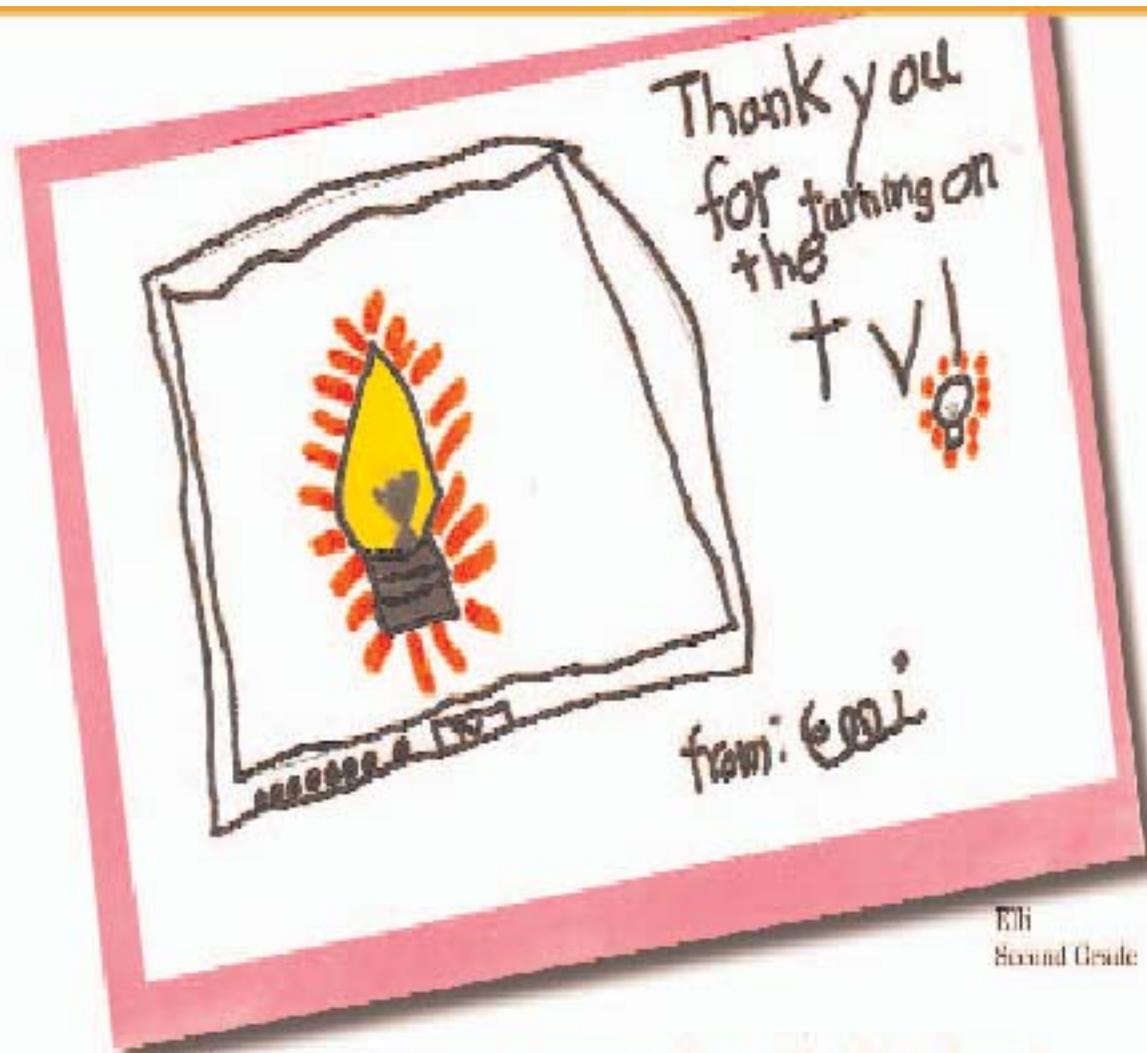
"It's a very significant acquisition," says KPMPD board President Elmer Anderson. "It's a wonderful piece of property — an incredible waterfront piece of property that we'll be able to utilize in a variety of ways."

The primary use will be conservation, and some covenants restrict the development of the upland piece of the three-parcel property. That portion may see some trail development later on. While commissioners are far from discussing a master plan for the park, Anderson said the waterfront parcel could be suitable for a small campground, picnic area, or kayak/canoe launch.

The idea of the park was first presented by Dottie Mazza, a realtor with Windermere Key Realty. "When I first looked at the property, I starting putting it in the back of my mind that it could be a good piece of conservation," she says. The sellers, liked the idea, so Mazza approached the Great Peninsula Conservancy first, and was later referred to The Trust for Public Lands. This nationwide conservancy organization pursued the property as part of the Alliance for Puget Sound, whose plan is to deliver 10 new parks and natural areas around Puget Sound shorelines by 2009. According to TPL, "the Suquamish and Squaxin tribes have long regarded Taylor Bay as important because it supports the complex and fragile life stages of salmon and trout. Recently, both spawning adults and young salmon have been seen in the creek that is home to many species, including Coho, Chinook, and chum salmon, and cutthroat and steelhead trout."

The seller, Sylvia Schlag and her adult children (through her late husband's family trust), agreed to give adequate time for the conservation group to secure funding, while knowing the grant process would take time. Sylvia and Jack Schlag lived on the property a few decades ago, and their children grew up there. The home has long been gone, but a garage structure is still standing. "This is a modest income family. It's very great they chose to do this," Mazza said. "They were pleased to set the property aside for conservation." Anderson said the official opening day is yet to be set, but the park is already accessible to the public.

"There were so many different people who worked so hard on this," Anderson said. "It was an amazing team effort."



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BACK IN TIME



Photo taken by Cheryl Niemann in 1959

Flame was the Key Center pet deer that browsed freely in the late '50s until someone shot her. Here Flame is seen with the Key Center mongrel of the time, Michael Wells and Donald Anker, in front of the Feed Store.

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Everyone can play the game with PAA

By Danna Webster, KP News

The PAA (Peninsula Athletic Association) basketball season drew to a close with final games March 8. For three months, PAA league teams like the Evergreen Eagles and the Minter/Vaughn Spurs put their athletic skills, game strategies and the will to win out on the basketball floor. Game after game has been decided in the last few minutes.

"Every game we have is a fight to the finish," says Evergreen Eagles fourth-grade coach David Mikelson. "Parents walk out just exhausted — tears flowing and everything," he says.

Mikelson credits athletic director Sandra Kern for the balance of teams in the leagues, which has resulted in the hard-fought, fight to the finish games.

"We want everybody to be 500 — we want everyone to be level," says Kern. "We don't want too many good kids on one team." A team with a lot of players with well-developed skills means the kids without those skills sit on the bench. According to Kern, those are kids who need to play. "If they keep playing, then they might develop into something they never thought they could be," she says.

It is easy for families and their children to participate in a sport program. There are no tryouts. Practices are "something kids can do after school," Kern says. "They can step right out on the field of their own school." There is little travel required; games are played on the Key Peninsula or in Gig Harbor. It is a program with a short-term involvement for coaches and their players; there is no long-term commitment. The basketball season, for example, is finished after 10 games, with only one game and one practice a week.

Kern has been the athletic director

Schedules, fees and program information are available at www.paayouth.org or by calling 858-7678.

since 1994 and was a PAA volunteer for a dozen years before that. PAA was founded in 1950 and the organization's insurance carrier believes that today it may be the only program of its kind. It is unique because it was started by volunteers and is not an alliance of any park district. It is funded by its own fees; a program like basketball, which has over 800 boys and girls playing, is managed by one paid director with a part-time assistant and volunteers. The volunteers include an executive board of six members, many of whom no longer have children involved in programs. More than 200 coaches and over 25 commissioners serve throughout all of the sport programs.

PAA has a long steady relationship with Peninsula schools and has expanded facility cooperation to include the city of Gig Harbor, Tacoma Community College and the Gig Harbor Metro Park District. The programs have also expanded from the three sport activities of baseball, basketball and soccer to volleyball, martial arts, fine arts and summer camps. All grade levels have athletic programs, from kindergarten through high school.

The PAA Website emphasizes the goal is for all children to participate in the programs regardless of skill level, experience or athletic ability. According to the Website, "It is very important to our program that children have the opportunity to grow, learn and come away from the season feeling positive about themselves and having the desire to play again."



Above, the last game of the basketball season played at Minter Creek Elementary. *Photo by Danna Webster*

Right, Evergreen Eagles coach David Mikelson watches his team during the last game of the season. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



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(From DOGS, Page 1)

would be over 40 square miles of patrolling area per every 10-hour shift of every four-day week, if all four officers worked simultaneously. But they don't. At any given time, only two are on duty, and some of that time is spent in-office, report writing in Tacoma.

Anderson appears to defend recent 911 action that resulted in individuals fending off two pit bulls having to wait over an hour before "help arrived" (see related story on page 22). By that time, they had essentially handled the situation themselves. "That call should have been dispatched to us," Anderson told the KP News, adding in frustration, "Anytime we have a dangerous animal call, we get there as quickly as possible. I was in Federal Way." To his credit, he called Dr. Lisa Woods, whose animals had been attacked, saying he was an hour out and was responding.

Asked if there was enough need to have a full-time animal control officer west of

the Narrows, Anderson said, "No one would be opposed to having a regular Peninsula animal control officer. There is enough there that we could respond to or generate (licensure, off-leash, etc.)." It all boils down to money. Anderson said the detachment had recently gone before the county council asking for more funds and officers. They got no funds for patrol officers; approval was gained to hire a supervisor, who will most likely split time between paper shuffling and fieldwork. Anderson acknowledged the difficulty of his job. "Ideally, we want to have a fast response time anywhere in the county," he said.

In response to the same question, Lee replied, "Apparently a manager is more important to the auditor than more officers in the field." Lee said budget decisions were revenue-driven, and deep cuts were made in 2008. "We don't have enough deputies, corrections officers, fire district personnel; cuts were made across the board." He foresees no way to stop more cuts in 2009, and said the

county is hurting financially in all areas, with no end in sight.

On March 3, a Pierce County Council committee held a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Pierce County Code, Auditor's Animal Control Division at its conference room in Tacoma. A variety of fees are proposed ranging from \$50 to \$500, in many scenarios where no fees currently exist. Liability insurance/surety bonds are also likely, ranging from \$250,000 for "potentially dangerous animals" to \$500,000 for "dangerous animals."

Of significance is a change that includes formerly excluded animals — livestock. Sections 16.08.010 permit "liability for injury to stock by dogs." And 16.08.020 reads, "Dogs injuring stock may be killed." Under the amended ordinance, livestock are also protected against failure to provide adequate care, abandonment, and use of animals in illegal activity.

At the end of the hearing, the committee voted unanimously to send

“

Apparently a manager is more important to the auditor than more officers in the field.

— Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee

”

the proposed revisions to the full council with a "do pass" recommendation. It goes before the full council at an April 15 hearing. Lee expects the revised code to pass, after which time it will go to the county executive for signature. If that office has no revisions or objections and signs it within the 10-day period, Lee said it will most likely go into effect immediately, possibly by May 1.

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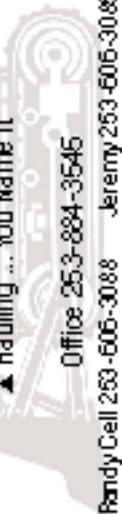



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Out & About

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



Seattle fiddler Dale Russ, Gig Harbor guitarist Mike Saunders and Michael O'Grady, a concertina player, present musical entertainment at the LIC St. Patrick's Day party. Russ and Saunders have been mainstays of the NW Celtic music scene in the mid-1970s and currently play with Irish piper Tom Creegan as the band "Crumac."

Photo by Danna Webster

Artist and his muse: Chris Bronstead (left) stands with Terri Hunziker, the subject of his charcoal pencil and brush drawing inspired by a wedding photograph taken over 20 years ago, at the Two Waters Arts Alliance's annual Spring Fling in March. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Artist Taylor Forehan discusses her acrylic montage with Key Peninsula Middle School math and digital photography teacher Mike Hunziker and his 11-year-old son, Brae, at the Spring Fling. See more photos at our online gallery. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Left, Adefua Music and Dance Co. performs at the Key Center library in March. The event, sponsored by the Friends of Key Center Library, drew more than 30 people.

Below, NASA astronomer Dr. Michelle Thaller discusses infrared light and night vision cameras during the Key Peninsula Middle School's NASA Celebration on March 20. See more photos at the online gallery. For complete coverage, read the May edition of KP News.

Photos by Mindi LaRose



Key Peninsula Lions Club treasurer George Robison with Virginia Hardy, president of the Altrusa Foundation of Gig Harbor, and Pat Jones, president of the Gig Harbor Altrusa Club, after delivering the Lions' check for \$1,300 dedicated to the senior citizens' kitchen to be established in the up and coming Gig Harbor Boys and Girls Club.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Sunshine high and low: Minter Creek Elementary third grader Juliette Kearney and her brother, Jack, a kindergartner, enjoy and "draw" inspiration from the brief sunny weather in mid-March. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*