

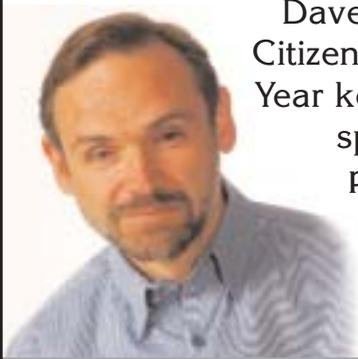


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### Key Pen News exclusive

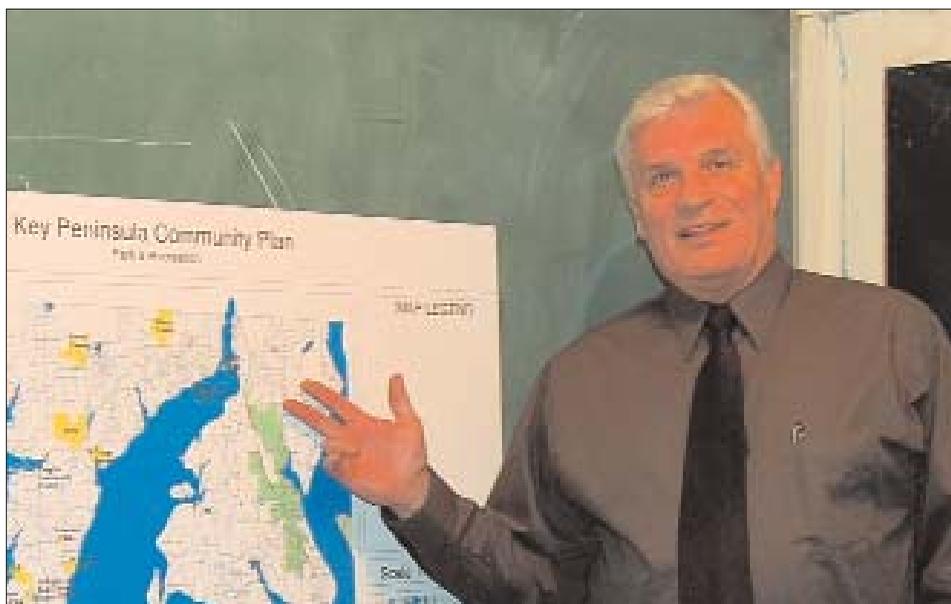


Photo by Mindi LaRose

Councilman Terry Lee makes a presentation at a February meeting of the Key Pen Metropolitan Park District.

## Terry Lee announces intention to run for reelection

By William C. Dietz  
KP News

During an interview with Key Pen News, 7th District Pierce County Council Member Terry Lee announced his intention to run for reelection at the end of his first four-year term that will end this fall. He said he planned to kick-start his campaign later in March or April. And looking even further into the future, Lee says that he may eventually run for Pierce County executive as

well. But for the moment his sights are set on the upcoming election.

And that's of considerable interest to Key Peninsula residents, whom Lee sees "...as a unique group" that differs from neighboring communities. To prove that, the council member points to a long list of peninsula-related projects he's been working on during the last 12 months.

To find out what people on the penin-

(See LEE, Page 20)

## KP basin plan ready for public review

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Pierce County Water Programs unveiled in February a draft basin plan for the Key Peninsula and the nearby islands (Herron, Fox, Raft, Ketron and Anderson), following two years of study of the local streams and water quality issues. The plan includes a list of capital facility projects and programs for the restoration and protection of the basin's water quality.

Pierce County has been collecting surface water management fees from every property owner, and the money must be spent in the area where it is collected. The basin plan study, and the resulting planned projects, are part of that funding.

Water quality, habitat and flooding (as it relates to streams and habitat rather than homes) are the focus of the plan for the basin, which covers an area of about 114 square miles.

"We are trying to make sure (the basin) meets state standards for surface water quality, and potentially reduce sources of pollution," said Barbara Ann Smolko,

(See BASIN, Page 14)

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## Logging practices continue to drive concern

By Chris Fitzgerald  
KP News

Logging on the Key Peninsula is the focus of an ongoing battle that inflames landowners, conservationists, developers, reputable logging stewardship enterprises, and land-grabbers who indiscriminately log and leave behind deplorable conditions defacing the area. Under the

auspices of Class III permits through the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), it's all legal. A leisurely drive up or down the peninsula proves that little, if anything, has changed in the six years since the roughly 77-acre parcel at the corner of S. Vaughn Road and Crescent Beach Road was stripped under such a permit granted to Western Timber, Inc. in only 18 days, sparking public outrage.

These permits need no county approval, require notice to affected neighbors.

Then, as now, residents originally concerned with wildlife and beauty of their neighborhood saw the whole tract become a denuded "mess" that remains today. At the time, state and county officials both said their hands were tied by

(See LOGGING, Page 9)

# Peninsula Detachment adds NPD, one more on the way

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

The Pierce County Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment added a new position in January, a Neighborhood Patrol Deputy, with a second NPD to be added later this year along with another investigator. The changes follow the addition last year of a Community Service Officer.

"We have never had a resource with the detachment to exclusively address community problems," said Lt. Larry Bauer, the head of the detachment.

"(The NPDs) will give us that tool for the first time. They will be able to go into the neighborhoods, and focus their efforts on resolving issues and improving the quality of life."

The NPDs will meet and work with community groups and neighborhoods in the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor areas, direct them to resources and help solve consistent issues. Bauer said it's one of the most exciting things he has seen in his 25-year career.

NPD Rich Folden, who has worked with the detachment for five years and a total

of 10 with the county sheriff's department, started his new role in January, and by mid-February already was working on a project in Palmer Lake. The idea for the NPD is to serve as a liaison between various communities and the detachment, and address pattern problems that are not necessarily criminal and could range from speeding issues and disaster preparedness to unsupervised children and identity theft education, he said.

As a patrol deputy, Folden said he and his colleagues have often discussed all the things they could do in the neighbor-

hoods if they had the time. "Now I have that time," he said. Part of his role will be public education on issues such as methamphetamine and identity theft, which are closely related.

Folden said the problems he is learning about so far are not new — these are things he saw while patrolling the area. His first step is to hear from the neighborhoods directly by meeting with various groups. "I want to hear what the communities have to say," he said.

To contact NPD Folden or CSO Emily Watson, call 798-4940.

## Crime task force to hold open forums

The Key Peninsula Crime Prevention Task Force, comprised of local group representatives, and officials from various agencies will change its meeting format starting in April.

The group, which has been meeting monthly to work on crime-related issues on the Key Peninsula, will alternate business meetings with open forums.

Anyone interested to hear safety related news, talk to law enforcement representatives and get assistance with neighborhood issues is invited to attend the open forums.

The forums will be held every other month on the last Friday of the month, at 9 a.m. at the Key Center Library.

The first open forum will be on April 28. For information, call 884-7899.

## KPFD staff recognized with annual awards

The Key Peninsula Fire Department held its annual awards luncheon in February at Miracle Ranch. The department recognized the following people: Service Pins: (5 years) Tony Carr, Scott Campbell, and Christina Bosch; (15 years) Mike Riegle and Ken Foss; (20 years) Robert Bosch.

Awards for year 2005 were given to: Volunteer Rookie Firefighter of the Year, Jerry Kozak; Resident Volunteer Firefighter of the Year, Bryan Johnson; Volunteer Firefighter of the Year, Saul Wolverton; Volunteer Officer of the Year, Tim Davis; Helping Hands, Claudia Jones; Career Firefighter of the Year, Tony Carr; Career Officer, Guy Allen.

The Chief's Award went to Christina Bosch, the Firefighters' Association Award to Claudia Jones and the Commissioners' Award went to Ruth Bramhall, Tom Lique, and Christina Bosch.

Pictured in the photo, Jerry Kozak, who immigrated to the United States from Poland — where he served as a career firefighter for two years — expresses his appreciation for his Volunteer Rookie Firefighter of the Year award and the work he enjoys with the department.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*



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# KP salt water intrusion distant but possible threat

By Chris Fitzgerald  
KP News

In the mid-1990s, the Pierce County Health Department (PCHD) began approving siting, construction, water quality, and quantity for new well permit applications. Since that time, "the approval of construction for new wells has become much more rigorous," says Brad Harp, a hydrogeologist with the Environmental Health Program at PCHD.

Zoning regulations place greater restrictions on areas known to have salt-water intrusion, and the impact of new wells into existing areas undergoes additional county scrutiny. According to Harp, relative to construction activity taking place elsewhere countywide, the Key Peninsula is not experiencing a high volume of new wells being drilled. "The rural-5 and 10-acre zoning does not provide enough density of wells on Key Peninsula to get a good handle on water chemistry along the shoreline," he said.

Yet, the Key Peninsula has an abundance of waterfront homes and land still available for new construction. (And) he

cautions that the potential for saltwater intrusion exists anywhere groundwater is inadvertently directed into freshwater well systems.

The KP Community Plan's natural environment section, dated April 27, 2005, reported minor instances of salt-water intrusion in individual wells in Longbranch, Taylor Bay, and Glen Cove. Harp acknowledged this report, and indicated neighboring wells are not necessarily affected. He says greater importance to drinking water quality lies in where a well is located relative to the shoreline, rather than to the number of wells in the immediate area.

For instance, an existing well located 5 feet from the high-tide line may experience water usage consistent with its freshwater reservoir capacity. At a neighboring location, however, a cluster of several houses whose wells are set 50 to 100 feet back from the high-tide line may experience a change in their water chemistry due to the amount of fresh water they simultaneously extract. Water follows the path of least resistance. If fresh groundwater is depleted where sea

**"Once you get sea water intruding landward, you want to maintain equilibrium, and that's difficult to do."**

-Brad Harp, hydrogeologist

water is present nearby, it intrudes landward to fill the vacuum.

Concern for acceptable levels of chloride and conductivity (the amount of specific dissolved chemicals in water allowing it to transmit electricity) elevations in drinking water have, over the last five to eight years, tightened regulations for shoreline well construction. Unless a property owner can demonstrate to the state Department of Ecology and PCHD that no saltwater intrusion has occurred in the immediate area, according to Harp, well construction may be prohibited, and most certainly will be heavily regulated. Still, he said, the potential exists for such intrusion anywhere groundwater deple-

tion is proximal to tidewater. It is possible to "see the impact of tides on water levels in a well and the water chemistry."

"We charted one (well) and it matched the rise and fall of the tide. The amount of chloride and conductivity went up as the tide came in, and receded when the tide went back out," he said.

Concern for adequate drinking water is the reason some property owners can be required to dig test wells. It's why they must provide seasonal tests and both high- and low-water marks, along with tests during both high tide, when there is more pressure for sea water to move inward, and low tide, when that pressure is reduced. That concern is, in part, why zoning regulations mandate density limits, and why the impact of new wells into areas of pre-existing sea water intrusion problems must be thoroughly analyzed before they can be approved.

"Once you get sea water intruding landward," Harp said, "you want to maintain equilibrium, and that's difficult to do."

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**Editorial**

**Lions Club's tradition showcases local heroes**

This year's Citizen of the Year tradition has brought a record number of nominations. Some of the names and faces are familiar — and we take our hats off to them for continuing to commit their time and efforts to their community, despite their work schedule, health, or family commitments. But it's good to see so many new people recognized with the honor — it we hope it means there are many more heroes among us willing to take on community involvements or sharing their acts of kindness with friends and neighbors.

Although at the March banquet only one plaque will be awarded with the name of the Citizen of the Year engraved on it, the ceremony is not about who wins. It's about the people of the Key Peninsula, people who do rather than talk, roll their sleeves up rather than complain. It's about the energy of the human spirit that we are proudly witnessing in our own back yards. And, in the end, it's about the hundreds of others who make a difference in our community every day, but remain anonymous — or perhaps will get recognized next year.

Read the short stories (pages 10-13) and you'll be amazed of how diverse the contributions are. From a science teacher who brought national attention to the local middle school, to the neighbor who became a "guardian angel" to an ill person in need, to an Eagle Scout who undertook a park improvement project — their stories serve as an inspiration to all of us.

Kudos to the Key Peninsula Lions for organizing this event for 22 years in a row; the Lions themselves are not eligible to be nominated for the award, but they all deserve the same honor as those citizens who are in the spotlight this month. The Lions, busy during the rest of the year with many projects, have been working behind the scenes for more than two decades to make sure their fellow community members get the recognition they deserve.

Take this opportunity to congratulate the nominees next time you see them, or better yet — attend the March 11 celebration and show your community support.

**Ramp metering continues to show flaws**

By Mike Baum  
Special to KP News

**O**n Aug. 30, 2005, the Washington State Department of Transportation started metering the morning eastbound traffic at the last five onramps before the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Previously I had advocated the use of meters and then closely watched the development of the current system. Due to that experience and a fundamental understanding of the complicated processes of flow control, I felt an obligation to be something of a ramp meter watchdog.



BAUM

I have now relieved myself from that self-appointed position, but not before I learned a great deal and arrived at some interesting conclusions. I would like to share five of those conclusions with you.

The state of Washington is a leader in flow control. I expected that level of expertise to show up in this project. Very little did. What I learned was that State Route 16 falls under the jurisdiction of the Olympic Division of the WSDOT. The needs' analysis, design, implementation and continuing operation have been done by relative amateurs with little practical experience. Our state experts were only utilized in limited consulting capacities. Many mistakes were made. While they can improve on their day to day operations, it will be much harder to correct the mistakes made in the design of the system.

After six months of usage, I feel the staff has gained enough experience

**It remains to be seen if the WSDOT staff can keep improving. It will take six months of positive impact equal to the previous six months of negative impact for there to be a net gain of zero. So don't look for a return on your million-dollar investment till almost 2007.**

that we are starting to realize a breakeven situation. While congestion has been ending sooner, the price has been surface street congestion and additional start/stop cycles. That price has exceeded the mainline gains until recently. It remains to be seen if the WSDOT staff can keep improving. It will take six months of positive impact equal to the previous six months of negative impact for there to be a net gain of zero. So don't look for a return on your million-dollar investment till almost 2007.

I have pointed out the futility of storing a small number of vehicles at the Purdy and Burnham ramps. WSDOT staff agreed and promised that if storage at those was less than 10 cars for a few minutes, they would turn the affected meters off. Even after repeated reminders and then their assurances, I kept seeing small queues at those ramps. Please arrive at your own conclusion as to the trustworthiness of the WSDOT.

I have identified part of what makes our section of the freeway so hard to meter. Upstream, at the Olalla/Burley interchange there is a reduced speed limit. I believe platoons of cars collect there and by the time then gets to the bridge, the highway is over-capacity and congestion occurs, further reducing capacity. This creates multiple spikes in

volume that are almost impossible to address with metering. Since the new configuration of that interchange eliminates crossing traffic in the eastbound lanes, I have proposed that the speed restriction be removed. This, like many of my suggestions, has fallen on deaf ears.

Every project the WSDOT considers involves some form of public input process. They spend millions of dollars annually disseminating information and then collecting opinions. While that sounds great I am of the opinion that although they appreciate the concept, but they don't practice it. They collect information so they can say they have done it. I feel they would rather just do their jobs and never mind what all those people driving by in the cars think. I don't blame them for having that attitude but find it hypocritical for them to have both. They could easily prove me wrong by delaying implementation of the planned HOV lane until it is needed. That seems reasonable. Many people have expressed a similar solution.

Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula, I'll still be watching the meters but not particularly closely. I have submitted our ramp meter program to the state auditor's office for consideration in their auditing program as set forth by our recently passed initiative.

*Mike Baum lives on the Key Peninsula.*

**Letters to the Editor**

**KP News offers interesting articles**

(I) looked through the February issue and found myself compelled to read a number of articles. You and your staff are covering the Key Peninsula like a comforter.

The residents are fortunate to have a community newspaper written and

assembled by people who clearly care.  
*Dick Ferguson  
Pierce County Communications Media & Community Relations*

**Day care provider clarifies information**

I would like to clarify the article on my offer of emergency child care. In the editing process the intent wasn't clear any more.

I'm not offering emergency child care services to "new customers." My new clients are told that information when we meet to enroll their child. They know that is a standing offer.

My offer is to families who have no regular child care provider. Families that don't have relatives or friends who live close-by that they could call on day or night in an emergency.

*Helen Macumber  
Key to Learning Childcare and Preschool*

# Planning board looks at KP transportation issues

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

The Key Peninsula Community Planning Board will begin writing policies in March related to local transportation, including a list of projects and priorities. The planning board began discussing the transportation element of the plan in January, looking at issues such as traffic congestion, safety, public transport and pedestrian improvements.

Once complete, the KP Community Plan will be incorporated into several county documents, including the county's comprehensive plan required by the Growth Management Act.

The county's transportation element in the Comprehensive Plan includes a total of 63 motorized and nonmotorized projects for the Key Peninsula ranked by priority, but the community board will have the ability to reevaluate those projects, according to Mike Galizio with the county's Public Works and Utilities.

"They'll set their own criteria for prioritizing all the projects," said Galizio, who has been guiding the board in the transportation element discussions. "Each community has slightly different criteria. Instead of us saying, 'Here, use this criteria... we let them decide which criteria best fits their area.'"

The county's transportation element document is used to outline the county's six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a document that identi-

## March Community Planning Board meetings

The next meetings for the Pierce County - Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are scheduled for the following Wednesdays: March 1, 15, and 29. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the meetings. For information, see [www.pierce-countywa.org/landuse](http://www.pierce-countywa.org/landuse).

fies projects to be funded countywide. The recently installed stop light on State Route 302 and Elgin Clifton Roads was one of the projects in the current TIP—but being in the TIP doesn't guarantee full project funding, as some of those projects only receive partial funding through the TIP.

The KP plan will also address projects that fall within state jurisdictions, such as State Route 302 improvements. "I think the plan does have value to the DOT (state Department of Transportation) because it tells them what the community feels is important," Galizio said.

One of the challenges, however, is that State Route 302 is currently not classified as a "highway of state significance," which makes state funding difficult to obtain. Last year, as part of the Legislature's \$8.5 billion transportation plan funded largely by a gas tax increase, \$5 million was allocated toward building



Photo by Mindi LaRose

The Key Peninsula's first traffic light that recently became functional was one of the projects outlined in the county's TIP, or Transportation Improvement Plan, which is one of the documents that the KP Community Plan may impact.

a new SR-302 corridor, a project estimated to cost \$143 million. The funding would only cover preliminary study and design expenses.

Additional spending for 302 was initially earmarked in a draft plan by the Regional Transportation Investment District that includes Pierce, King and Snohomish counties, a proposal that will require additional taxes. However, funding for SR-302 has since been eliminated, and an effort is under way to exclude the west side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge from the RTID's projects list as well as taxes.

Another challenge, as with many other elements of the KP plan, is being able to strike a balance between transportation improvements and maintaining the character of the community — which is part of the plan's mission.

Galizio said the county is relying on the local residents' expertise in outlining priorities because they know their community and their future needs the best, but the staff will give feedback on the proposed projects' feasibility and potential problems. "The feedback goes both ways," he said. "It's a two-way information process."

# 'Catnapping' trial set

By Chris Fitzgerald  
KP News

Attorney Matthew Rusnak and John Libner are neighbors whose disagreements have grown beyond their abilities to settle them peacefully amongst themselves. If no change of dates occur during pre-trial motions and readiness hearings, April 3 will be an eventful day for these two Lake of the Woods residents. On that date, Libner is scheduled to stand trial in the criminal division of Pierce County District Court 1 on charges of two gross misdemeanor counts of theft in the third degree.

According to court records, on or about June 24, 2005, Libner trapped Rusnak's

two cats, Teddy and Morey, and abandoned one in Purdy and the other near Allyn. Having noticed the cats missing several days prior to that date, Rusnak's wife saw a baited cat trap on Libner's property. When Rusnak confronted Libner about his missing cats, Libner admitted trapping, removing, and abandoning the two cats, and a third cat as well, according to charging documents.

Rusnak agreed to pay Libner \$65 to drive to the abandonment locations. Later in the same day, the Rusnaks returned to both locations and succeeded in rescuing Teddy at the Purdy location; Morey remains missing somewhere near Allyn.

The upcoming proceedings also

include a civil anti-harassment order issued on behalf of the Rusnaks against Libner. Rusnak told officials he observed Libner standing in his back yard around 3:45 p.m. on July 22, 2005, taking photos

of the Rusnak residence, in violation of the anti-harassment order. According to court records, the order would have expired Aug. 30, 2005, had the violation not occurred.



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# Medicare prescription insurance plans

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

For more information, visit  
[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

The first word about the new Medicare Prescription Plan is to not rush your decisions. There is still time before May 15, the cutoff date, to determine what you need to do.

Step one is to determine what coverage you have now for prescriptions. Insurance providers were required to send letters before December to tell clients stating either their coverage is adequate according to Medicare requirements, or that it is not and they need to upgrade or change. If you have some prescription coverage, but didn't receive such a letter, call the company to verify.

This letter is important to keep, because you may, at a later date, want or need to change companies. The letter provides proof you had adequate coverage and did not need to change in 2006. If you received a letter and discarded it, ask the company to send another copy.

People who receive military retirement benefits (TRICARE), veteran benefits (VA) or Federal employee retirement (FEHBP) can stay with those programs for adequate coverage. Some organization and company pension plans have coverage as good as or better than the new prescription programs.

Not all medical insurance providers carry the prescription coverage.

Must at least meet the standard mathematical Medicare formula. This can be done by adjusting premiums, copayments and drugs covered. For example, a policy with a zero premium may have higher copayments, higher deductible, or only cover generic drugs.

Each company determines which drugs it covers, and which pharmacies are on its plan. Some companies have a fat book of these lists, and most have a Website where a search can tell whether or not your need is covered. An alternative is to call the company for a list of your medical providers, facilities, pharmacies, and drugs used.

Each insurance company also determines its premium for coverage, ranging from zero to \$40, depending on the company, the client and the client's needs.

This coverage is an insurance policy. There may be a few clients who will never need it, a few more who hardly need it, and many who need more than the average person. If only those who already pay out several thousand dollars for prescriptions opt for the plan, the premiums will increase to show that.

This is why the government put a "penalty" on those who don't wish to get a plan now, but a few years down the road will likely need it. This penalty is 1 percent per month of the national average premium, determined by the government.

An example: The average cost right now is \$37. Suppose a person decides to not sign up for five years. At that time perhaps the average cost would be \$50. Sixty months means a 60 percent increase in premium cost, which would be \$30. The premium would cost that \$30 over the standard amount for the rest of the client's life.

However, if premiums aren't paid for five years, that may be \$2,000 or more

not spent on insurance, which would cover the following five years of penalty payments. On the other hand, if that basic cost increases a great deal more than that amount, the penalty amount will also have increased.

People who have good health, are taking no prescriptions now, and have sufficient financial means, may well determine to wait until they need more prescriptions. Another option is to sign up for a plan with zero premium costs.

For those who have less than \$500 worth of prescription drugs per year, joining a plan now may cost more than they spend, figuring \$250 deductible plus \$20 or more per month premium.

If prescription costs are more than that, some kind of plan will save money, the amount determined by the plan selected, and the prescriptions used.

On the Medicare Website, there is a cost estimator that uses the lowest premium in this state, which is about \$7, so "savings" need to be adjusted if a higher premium is paid.

Make a list of your current prescriptions, and the monthly cost, before inquiring of Medicare, online or by phone, 1-800-633-4227, or your current insurance company.

Only state certified insurance agents can sell these policies, so be sure the person you talk to has had this recent training. He/she will have a card to verify it.

Trained SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefit Advisors) volunteers can meet individuals at the Point Fosdick Library by appointment, and work on a computer with them. Call 1-800-562-6900.

Some pharmacies have certified insurance agents available at appointed

hours to talk with individuals. They will advise their own insurance, but prospective clients should get their questions answered, and take the information home and study it before signing. Comparing with another company might be a good idea, too.

## Sign only with a reputable company

Seniors who do not use computers can perhaps find a relative, neighbor, or friend who can check out the Medicare Website and get some of their questions answered.

A word to those not yet 65: There is an "open window" for enrollment for three months before the month of your 65th birthday, and three months after, to sign up for a prescription plan. These folks will not be penalized, as they cannot sign up until they are eligible for Medicare.

Each individual is different, and the specific course of action for that person should be considered carefully, with input from experts if needed. Take time to consider the options available. May 15 may come too soon for some, but the next two months give you the opportunity to study, ask questions, make comparisons, and determine the best plan for yourself, your spouse or parents.

*The information for this article was compiled from various insurance agents, Medicare resources and pamphlets, and other sources. This article should be viewed as informational only and not construed as professional advice. Consult your insurance agent or a SHIBA volunteer for further details.*

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**MEXICAN 3 COURSE** - with Lynn Reeves - This is a hands-on class. Learn the art of making Tomates and enjoy your meal! \$40 per person. Sunday March 26th 2pm-3pm. Lynn Reeves' home in Vaughn.

**BEGINNING WEAVING** - Margo Macdonald - For those of you who have a room gathering and or those that just have a desire to learn how to weave. \$35 per person plus \$10 materials fee. April 1st 10am-3pm. At Margo's home in Vaughn.

Call Brynn Rydell 884-2029 or email [brynnr@twowatersartsalliance.com](mailto:brynnr@twowatersartsalliance.com) for information and registration.  
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**Two Waters**  
ARTS ALLIANCE

# Veteran KPMS teacher hangs up his hat

By Kristie Byrd and Amanda Smith  
Special to KP News

What does one do after retiring from teaching? Golf, of course! That's not all Dave Tarabochia plans to do. He will be relaxing, fishing, and spending time with his parents in Gig Harbor as well.

In January, Tarabochia taught his last class at Key Peninsula Middle School, ending a 30-year career.

David Tarabochia grew up in the Gig Harbor/Peninsula area and attended local schools, including Goodman Middle School and Peninsula High. He graduated from PHS in 1971.

He lived in Gig Harbor, then moved to the Key Peninsula when he accepted a position at KPMS. Twenty-one of his 30 years teaching have been spent at KPMS. During those 21 years, KPMS was a better place of learning because of him, according to staff and students. He taught math and social



Students say good-bye to retiring teacher Dave Tarabochia on his last day of school.

Photo courtesy of Mike Hunziker

studies to all three grade levels.

Tarabochia, known at the school by the nickname "Boach," had a positive influence on every student, teacher, administrator, and support staff member who spent any time at KPMS. He impacted the lives of every student who entered his classroom. Whether it was basic sixth grade math, eighth grade advanced math, or social studies, his students learned.

One of his students, Tara Miller, a seventh grader at KPMS, said, "Because of him, I learned to be better at math. He helped not only me but even my brother,

who is now doing much better, and it's all thanks to Boach."

Another student, Adrienne Torres, had almost a whole page of notes about her favorite teacher. "Boach is a very good teacher. He's my favorite out of all of them because I used to hate math and I never understood it. Now I actually like it. Every time I had a question, he would have the answer. Whenever I needed help, he was always there. He has a good sense of humor and if we were good, he'd crack some jokes. He is nice to everyone no matter what. All of his students respected him. I'm sure that

everybody will miss him. No one will ever replace him here at KPMS."

Even at Peninsula High School, the impact on his students is evident. "Mr. Tarabochia was the best math teacher I've ever had. He taught in a way that was fun and entertaining. For example, we played Frisbee as a way of learning about parabolas," said his former student Charlie Hagen, now a PHS freshman. His classmate Travis King said, "Boach was hands-down the best math teacher I have ever had or ever will have. He was a very fun person to be around and he lifted my spirits."

Wesley King, Travis' brother and a senior at PHS, added, "Boach had a real gift for dealing with children. His mannerisms were charming to everyone who knew him, and the monotony of math was drained away in his class."

Tarabochia's colleagues will remember him fondly as well. One of the teachers at KPMS had an interesting story about his first encounter with Tarabochia. One of the first teachers Tarabochia met when he took the job at KPMS was Rick Selfors. Selfors, a legend himself at Key Peninsula, began teaching when the school opened, two years prior to Tarabochia's arrival. When the two teachers conversed the very first time, Selfors told Tarabochia about a piece of machinery he wanted. Selfors explained that it was valued at around \$20,000. He explained to Tarabochia that he knew where he could get one for only \$7,500. The only problem was Selfors couldn't pay for it because he had no credit and, being a third-year teacher, he really didn't have much money. Selfors further explained that the timing was most unfortunate because in 60 days, he would be receiving an \$8,000 paycheck from a recent fishing job in Alaska. Tarabochia pulled out his wallet and wrote Selfors a check for the entire amount! Forty-five days later, Selfors paid him back. In exchange for Tarabochia's generosity, Selfors promised he would act as general contractor on a house that Tarabochia wanted to build on the Peninsula. Now, 22 years later, Tarabochia is still living in that house. How many people would give someone that kind of money when they first meet? That's just the kind of guy Tarabochia is.

Tarabochia has been a huge part of making Key Peninsula Middle School what it is today. He will be missed very much.

*Kristie Byrd and Amanda Smith are eighth-grade students at KPMS and members of the school's student paper, Eye of the Cougar.*

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# Show & Tell

Minter Creek Elementary School music teacher Paula DeMoss shows first grade students Isaac Catlow, David Bessex, and Braxton Gossett how to create music on electronic keyboards made possible in large part by a Peninsula Schools Education Foundation grant. DeMoss purchased 10 keyboards with the help of a \$1,000 PSEF grant and matching funds from the PTA as well as students collecting box tops.

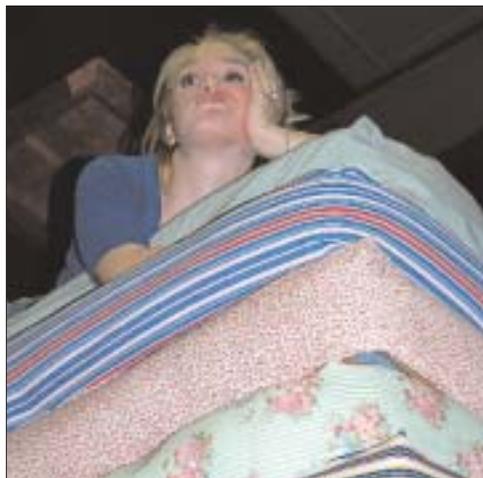


Photo by Hugh McMillan



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Vaughn Elementary third graders are rocking to the blues during the presentation of minimusical "The Queen of Hearts and the Case of the Missing Tarts."



Photos by Mindi LaRose

Left, Peninsula High School senior Kirsten Helland rehearses her part as "Winnifred" in the high school's play "Once Upon A Mattress," which will be staged at the school on March 23-25, 31 and April 1. Tickets are \$8 for general admission and available at the door.

Right, PHS drama teacher and play director Nancy Wilkinson works on the set.

KPMS eighth graders Kayla Erickson (left) and Mallory Guthrie are constructing a rocket with clay, straw and paper during the NASA Family Night at the school. They then took their "rockets" to a "rocket launcher" to see how far the rockets would fly based on their construction. NASA's Col. G. Warren Hall was the guest speaker at the event.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

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(From LOGGING, Page 1)

various regulations; that conundrum remains.

“The peninsula is going to have this kind of thing happening over and over again,” warned former Vaughn resident Richard Brudvik-Lindner six years ago, according to a report published at the time by the Peninsula Gateway. “A lot of laws are there to protect timber industries and not residential communities like ours.”

Today, based on wreckage left behind after a recent DNR-permitted strip logging operation on the peninsula, some residents believe the state still does not consider the effects of clear-cut logging on adjacent property, adjacent property devaluations resulting from “tree-stump farm” neighbors, or increased runoff on hillsides resulting from stripping the land of erosion and water-controlling trees.

On March 23 at 7 p.m. at McColley Hall in the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, a timber harvesting forum intending to provide information about current logging rules and regulations will be held. Moderated by Key Pen resident Frank Shirley, a retired consulting forester, the program includes panelists

**Logging issues forum**

A forum addressing logging issues on the Key Peninsula will be hosted by the Key Peninsula Community Council on March 23 at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, McColley Hall. For information, call 884-0557.

Tom Van Slyke, a third-generation logger; Ben Cleveland, a DNR forest practices forester; and Adonais Clark, a Pierce County planner with the resource management section. Shirley said this is not an opinion forum, although a question and answer session will be provided. The forum is sponsored by the Key Peninsula Community Council.

Six years ago, Brudvik-Lindner was quoted as saying, “People didn’t move here to live on a stump farm. The GMA is supposed to protect and preserve the rural area. But is it being used to protect the character, or as a license to ignore it?” It’s a question that still begs an answer that local community leaders are hoping to address.

*Chris Fitzgerald is a KP Community Council director.*



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# Banquet celebrates Citizen of the Year honorees

By Hugh McMillan  
KP News

The sponsoring Key Peninsula Lions Club invites everyone to the 22nd annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards dinner at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn on Saturday, March 11. KIRO Radio's Dave Ross will be the event's keynote speaker.

"Thirty five nominations were in our hands before the deadline," said Lions President George Robison. "That's the largest number we've ever had. This should be our most spectacular event ever."

The doors open at 6 p.m. and the

Lions encourage "everyone to attend to demonstrate appreciation to these citizen volunteers who make ours such a fine community in which to live."

Nominees are residents, property owners, or employed on the Key Peninsula and were selected for their volunteer activities in support of the KP community on an ongoing basis or for a special one-time accomplishment. Each nominee will receive a framed certificate of appreciation, will be the dinner guest of the Lions, and will have a table for eight reserved in the nominee's name.

For reservations, call 884-5097; for questions, call 853-2721.

**Phil Bauer.** No one on the Key Peninsula has done more to create a spirit of unity and community than Phil Bauer. He has worked tirelessly for the KP Fair, having served on its board since its inception. He is president of the KP Civic Center Association, treasurer of Two Waters Arts Alliance, and volunteers his time to distribute the KP News. Additionally, he finds time to help others; in September he gathered a group who built a new shed for a local resident after the last one was flattened by a tree. He knows not only his own gifts but the gifts of others and is able to divert this energy to the improvement of all of us who live on the KP.

**Mike Baum** volunteered countless hours on a project for the highly capable students at Key Peninsula Middle School and more hours in an ongoing commitment to KPMS sports programs. He has

also contributed his time and talents at Evergreen Elementary School teaching students knitting in the school's AFTER 'OURS activities.

**John Biggs'** list of local community achievements is long and includes participation on the coordinating committee for the Home Centennial Celebration, president of the Longbranch Improvement Club, and five years on the Board of Directors and Executive Board of the KP Fair Association and part of the fair start-up committee. He wrote the Fair Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws under which it operates today. Despite being in constant demand, he always finds time to provide wisdom and assistance to anyone who asks. No problem seems too big, no situation too lofty, no person too small, to garner his attention.

**Karl Bonn** served as a volunteer firefighter until other commitments compelled him to resign after many years of service. He has long volunteered both in our community and others as a tax preparer and is a volunteer at the KP Community Services/Food bank. He never turns away from voluntarily helping friends and neighbors with a plethora of assistance efforts including sharing his expertise with computers. He is a very dependable, self-effacing contributor to the welfare of the KP community.

**David Blunk**, a massage and aromatherapy specialist with offices in Gig Harbor, generously provides his skills to several needy persons in the Key Peninsula community without charge or fanfare. He visits these folk in their own homes knowing that for most of them it would be virtually impossible to travel to benefit from his expertise. He is a caring, selfless, wonderful helper to those in need.

**Kareen Borders**, a science teacher at Key Peninsula Middle School, went well beyond her teaching responsibilities and managed virtually single-handedly to bring, for the first time in Washington state history, the honor of making KPMS the only NASA Explorer School in the state and one of but 50 such schools in the country. What a huge honor to bring to our KP community.

**Donna Bowen** has spent many years as a foster mother to people with disabilities and for over six years has been running an adult family home for adults with disabilities. Above that she volunteers her time helping others who need help. The adult family home is truly dedicated to being a home environment with people really caring for everyone there.

Its success is due to the dedication of Donna Bowen.

**Donna Chapman** of Palmer Lake twice monthly takes the "older home bound folk" to get their groceries, to their doctor, ophthalmologist, and dentist appointments, and whatever other things they need. She does so without expecting reward or praise but out of the goodness of her heart.

**Kip Clinton**, to paraphrase a famous personality's description, is "a mild mannered woman with a small town park board" who, once she steps out of a phone book, becomes Superwoman. She has been involved in making the centennial of Home a success. She served on the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District's board of directors and when that body was dissolved and the new KP Metro Parks District was formed, she was elected to that organization's board, and was elected secretary by fellow board members.

**Paula DeMoss** has served as president of the KP Little League, where she kept a happy family of coaches and managers and made every Babe Ruth wanna-be feel special. She served on the KP Parks and Recreation District board and, as it phased out, was elected to the KP Metropolitan Parks Board, where she serves as president. As the dynamic music teacher at Minter Creek Elementary School, she went after and won a grant from the Peninsula Schools Education Foundation that enabled her to equip the school's music room with 10 new electronic keyboards. She just doesn't believe there is anything that is impossible to accomplish.

**Terry Fandell** poured many hours into her volunteer work with the highly



BAUER



BAUM



BIGGS



BONN



BLUNK



BORDERS



BOWEN



CHAPMAN



CLINTON



DEMOSS



HAWKINS



JOHNSON



JONES



KEZELE



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capable student program at the Key Peninsula Middle School and, in consort with other committed innovators, helped create and service the Key Peninsula Youth Council under the auspices of the KP Community Council, and helped lead the youngsters in a food drive that benefited the KP Food Bank.

**Daphne Frickelton** is an incredible volunteer for the Key Peninsula area. She has served the KP Middle School population in many ways. She is central to organizing the Gig Harbor Kiwanis' Great Give Away at the end of summer, where needy families from our area are supplied with school clothes and other necessities. On top of that, she has been instrumental in directing Kiwanis' dollars to support KPMS programs. As a volunteer she came to the middle school weekly to offer a craft/art club for our students free of charge. She has made such a positive difference for our children and families.

**Miriam Goad** is one of the hardest workers in the Palmer Lake community. She organized neighborhood watch programs there and has involved many of her fellow community members in efforts to clean out crime in her neighborhood and the Key Peninsula. She served as secretary of the Citizens Against Crime and was a dedicated member of that organization's Citizens' Patrol.

**Bonnie Graddon** does home health care for a Key Peninsula senior two days a week, works with the pre-school children during church a couple of times a month, is active in Crafty Angels, making crocheted items for people in the community, is very active in Harvest Share, a group that provides food to anyone in the community each

Wednesday afternoon, is often at Key Center Peninsula Market asking for donations to Harvest Share, and helps find places, such as a bread store, that will donate food to Harvest Share. She is a wonderful and caring asset to Key Peninsula.

**Linda Hacker** was instrumental in getting the Little League youth program on the Key Peninsula. Indeed, it can be said that Linda Hacker started Little League on the KP. She is a nurse who also helps families in need. Around the holidays, she helps a family with gifts.

**Jeff Harris** assumed the presidency of Communities in Schools some years ago and gave it direction and dynamism before turning the job over in his virtually hand-picked equally dynamic replacement. He was instrumental to the formation of the KP Community Council, serving as co-chair of the organizing committee until the council became a reality. Since its formation he has served effectively as its elected president. He also serves on the KP Planning Commission. He is always ready to share his talents and expertise for the benefit of the KP community.

**Ed and Marla Hawkins** were both very involved with Key Peninsula's Little League and soccer clubs. Both served on the KP Little League board for 13 years in many positions to help establish the league in our community. They volunteer endless hours to the two youth organizations. Ed also helps the coaching staff at Peninsula High School. Giving to the youth of our community, and wanting our youth to have good activities to make better choices is important to Ed and Marla.

**Victoria Hawkins** has served on or

led committees at Minter Creek Elementary School, which raised substantial sums of money to enhance the quality of life for the students. She organized fund-raising opportunities for school groups and other nonprofit organizations with the blessings of her employer at the Harbor Rock Café in Gig Harbor. When her daughter, Chelsea, moved up to KP Middle School, she was aghast at the rundown condition of the landscaping and organized a group of student and parent volunteers to spruce things up. She is a wonder woman for her work in support of KPMS' staff room remodel and other fundraising efforts that benefit the school.

**John Jewell**, a retired school teacher/principal, volunteered many hours as a mentor to struggling students at Vaughn Elementary School for years until his work as a fabulous sculptor took him from that pursuit. In his art, he gave at cost to the Key Peninsula branch of the Pierce County Library the wonderful bronze statues of two youngsters, one sitting with books, the other balancing books on his head. His greatest triumph to date has been a huge bronze of explorer Meriwether Lewis, after whom Fort Lewis is named, and his dog Seaman, which graces the fort's grounds near the main entrance. Smaller versions of this work are located on such hallowed ground as the office of the Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon.

**Howard Johnson** has lived on the peninsula approximately nine years, during which he has been very active in the community by providing food for the needy and help for many alcohol and drug abusers. He travels many miles weekly to bring donated food to his church, where it is given away every

Thursday to senior citizens, disabled citizens and people who cannot make ends meet. He has helped many people to get into long-term and short-term treatments for drug and alcohol addictions. He also delivers food, clothing and bedding to the Tacoma Rescue Mission, one of Tacoma's soup kitchens and Tacoma's Family Shelter. He is active in the Lakebay Community Church, where, among other things, he hosts AA meetings every Tuesday evening.

**Claudia Jones** has been an active member of the KP community for many years and has performed as a member of the KP Fire Department, serving the community of Herron Island until recently when she moved to the Vaughn area. She continues to provide first response functions with the department and is an active member of the Key Peninsula Fire Fighters Association. She has been active in the Peninsula School District working with elementary and middle school students. Her cheery disposition at the local grocery store and medical facilities where she works sets the tone for our happy community.

**Tim Kezele** is the volunteer's volunteer. He is the founder and for more than 12 years president of the KP Historical Society, has served on the KP Parks and Recreation board of directors, including as chairman, has served for 21 years on the KP Civic Center Association board of directors of which he was twice president, secretary once, and buildings and grounds chairman. While employed as grounds supervisor at the University of Puget Sound, before starting his own tree and shrub care business, he frequently gained access to

(See **CITIZENS**, Page 12)



FANDELL



FRICKELTON



GOAD



GRADDON



HACKER



HARRIS



HAWKINS



JEWELL



YANITY



MIRENTA



NEDERLEE



ROBISON



SALATINO



TROTTER



WILKINSON



WULFF



YANITY

(From **CITIZENS**, Page 11)

the school's surplus materials that he scrounged for use on the KP including lights for Volunteer Park, scores of items for the Civic Center, even for KPMS and Peninsula High School.

**Patricia Latshaw** is the effective no-nonsense president of Citizens Against Crime/Citizens Patrol. She has spent countless hours on patrol with her husband, Dean, also a CAC/CP member. She is secretary of the Gig Harbor Sportsman's Club and secretary of its Friends of the NRA banquet/auction, is heavily involved with the Longbranch Improvement Club, where she is past secretary, and is an active member of the Crime Prevention Task Force. She also puts a lot of time into cleaning the public access area near her Bay Lake residence on a regular basis. She attended the 75th session of the Pierce County Sheriff's Community Academy.

**Linda LeBlanc** has been busy in our community, mostly in Longbranch, with handling many aspects of the Longbranch Improvement Club. At most dances, she has promoted community participation in food drives for the KP Community Services as well as financial

donations. She has organized the community Christmas party for local children the last two years, which has been a strong part of this area and children love it. She cares about the Key Peninsula.

**Rick Lingle** is a neighborhood watch participant at Palmer Lake, where he daily walks his dog, Scrappy, not just for exercise but to be observant of neighborhood concerns, which he is quick to act upon with appropriate actions. He is not hesitant to call the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. He is an active member of Citizens Against Crime/Citizens Patrol and a member of the KP Crime Prevention Task Force representing Palmer Lake. He is the sole male member of the Palmer Lake Improvement Club and always dedicated to promote neighborhood safety and quality of life.

**Seana Lutz** is an amazing mom who puts in hours of volunteer time at Evergreen Elementary. She is a great volunteer in both her children's classrooms and takes time to be involved in her school community. She is the PTA secretary and works with the PTA to make sure there are activities for both families and students. Most recently she

helped with the implementation of the Reflections art program, a National PTA contest for students to show off their art talents. She spearheaded the event, which included advertising, planning and purchasing, and arranged for judges from the Two Waters Art Alliance. With her leadership she was able to get this wonderful program for the school.

**Betty Mayer**, an active Citizens Against Crime/Citizens' Patrol volunteer, is also a VFW volunteer, Sons of Italy volunteer, and together with husband Larry, a volunteer at chili cookoffs and BBQ cookoffs for charity. She is rarely seen without her knitting needles producing baby afghans, lap afghans for the elderly, and afghans and teddy bears for charity auctions. She is a volunteer for KP Fair, the annual Salatino Holiday Dinner, helps with events at Fort Lewis for returning servicemen and women, bakes cookies for charity events, and has been a companion to many people dying of cancer, all the way to the end. She also creates and contributes chemo hats and military helmet liners, and is a loving wife and mother.

**Sheryl Mirenta** is a caring and sharing human. She helps her neighbors who are without transportation or in need. One

resident, who is wheelchair bound and has Multiple Sclerosis, nicknamed her Guardian Angel because she was always making sure this person's needs were looked after. Her nominator said her family was fiscally challenged, so Mirenta would pick up food from the food bank for them while she was going that way, and she is always helping to keep their computer operating and helping around the yard.

**John and Shirley Nederlee** spend countless hours getting to know nonprofit organizations that support families of the Key Peninsula and have advocated to the Geneva Foundation for our community to receive tens of thousands of dollars to build a healthier community. Some of the organizations receiving these grants include IMPact House, Children's Home Society, Communities in Schools of Peninsula, the KP Lutheran Church, and KP Community Services/Food Bank. Their volunteerism and dedication has changed the lives and dreams of many volunteers and organizations they work so hard to keep afloat. Without their advocacy and support the community would not have realized some of the vital programs that have been developed to support our residents.

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**Nicholas Robison**, as part of qualifying for Eagle Scout rank, planned a retaining wall needed to prevent erosion that was undercutting the entry road to KP's Volunteer Park. He presented the plan to the KP Metro Parks District, gained approval for the project, obtained from Peninsula Light a donation of 500 retaining wall blocks, organized volunteers and supervised construction of the wall, which is now holding the embankment in place and providing attractive "bleachers" for sports spectators.

**Joyce Salatino** has been the unobtrusive, almost unseen dynamo responsible for helping her husband Mike's many projects and endeavors to be the huge successes. She has been there at the KP Civic Center each year for the annual Salatino Christmas Dinner in the kitchen, running about the room serving, helping gather up what needs picked up, decorate and un-decorate, all the while encouraging Mike to make it a success. She was in the background urging whomever needed urging to make the KP Fair a success. And no one even knew she was there. She is an unsung hero whose time has come.

**Barbara Trotter**, who once served as a member of the Peninsula School Board,

formed and spearheaded the award-winning Peninsula High School debate team, formed the school's Young Democrats Club, and was elected to the KP Community Council, where, as chair of its youth activities committee, she successfully encouraged students from Peninsula High School and KP Middle School to form and make active the KP Community Youth Council. The youth council has been involved in food drives and will be contributing to the success of this year's 22nd annual KP Citizens of the Year Awards dinner.

**Kari Wilkinson** is president of both the Evergreen Elementary School and KP Middle School PTAs, has served on the Washington State PTA convention committee for the last six years and this year co-chairs its convention. She was instrumental to bringing the Reflections program for the enhancement of knowledge and practice of the arts among our younger students and four years ago co-chaired the recognition area, which is where the Reflection creations are displayed.

**Monica Wulff** and her family have been very generous in sharing time and energy to support Minter Creek Elementary and other children-centered programs on the

Key Peninsula. She has spent countless hours volunteering in classrooms and supporting or organizing school-wide events. She is on the PTA Executive Board and is an active participant in all of the PTA-sponsored events, especially Teacher Appreciation Week. She not only volunteers, but she volunteers her family, too! Her husband has built auction items for displaying children's work, and her daughter volunteers in classrooms and as a child-care provider during meetings and other events.

**Jean and Al Yanity** are longtime supporters of Fire District 16, with which Al served on the long-range planning committee and is an associate member of the firefighters association. He has volunteered many hours at the Civic Center, was a member of the KP Historical Society and the Gig Harbor American Legion Post. Jean and Al are members of Citizens Against Crime, of which Al is a past president, and the Citizens' Patrol. He is a past member of the Longbranch Improvement Club, where he volunteered many hours, is a volunteer at KP Community Services and for the Lakebay Community Church food share program. Jean has supported Al in these endeavors, working beside him in most of them.

## Dave Ross to speak at March 11 banquet

Radio talk show personality Dave Ross will be the keynote speaker at the Citizens of the Year banquet that will be held on March 11 at the Civic Center. Ross started his talk show on KIRO Radio in 1987, and began a daily commentary on the CBS Radio Network in 1993. He also substitutes regularly for Charles Osgood on "The Osgood File."



ROSS

Dave has regularly taken his show into the field, broadcasting from Baghdad in 2004, from Doha, Qatar, headquarters of U.S. Central Command in 2003, as well as from Jerusalem. He also covered the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the revolution in the Soviet Union in 1991, and both Bush inaugurations.

Ross has been recognized with a Marconi nomination and the 2001 and 2005 Edward R. Murrow Awards for Commentary. He was unable to accept the 2001 award; the ceremony was scheduled for Sept. 12, and he ended up on assignment at Ground Zero in New York City instead. Ross took a leave of absence in 2004 to run for Congress in the 8th District, winning the Democratic primary, but losing the General Election. He was back on the air the next day, and now holds the 3-6 pm slot.

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## News briefs

### New physical therapy services offered

North Harbor Physical Therapy recently established a clinic on the Key Peninsula. While they mainly practice in Gig Harbor, the Key Medical Center agreed to allow NHPT the use of its rooms on Mondays and Fridays.

After visiting with doctors on the KP, joint owner Bonnie Tutierrez and Preston Buckhobz discovered the previous therapy clinic on the KP had closed. Former patients had to deal with transportation to Gig Harbor and other issues.

"There was a real need for one out there," Tutierrez said, "and we just wanted to do something for the community." For information, call 858-8555.

### Handicapped parking enforced on the Key Pen

A volunteer with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Peninsula Detachment is reinforcing parking regulations in handicapped spots. Al Levins, who has volunteered for the sheriff's office for many years in other areas of the



county, has started volunteering for the detachment after moving to the Gig Harbor area.

The parking reinforcement program is mostly centered on education; however, the volunteer can issue citations, detachment chief Lt. Larry Bauer said. Levins rides in an unmarked police car and wears a special volunteer uniform and Bauer said the detachment planned to improve the visibility of the uniform so he is easier to recognize.

### Humane Society launches no-kill campaign

Backed by overwhelming community support, The Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County kicked off

an "End the Heartache" campaign and pledged to lead Pierce County to become a "no-kill community," effective Dec. 31, 2008.

The decision to adopt a no-kill policy at the society's shelter came after more than a decade of work focused on increasing spay and neuter rates county-wide, which has significantly reduced the number of homeless animals.

Before announcing its intent to become a no-kill shelter, The Humane Society polled local residents, asking them about spay/neuter programs, pet adoption services and if they supported the organization's plans to end euthanasia of healthy pets. Pet owners rated their support for the policy at more than 9 on a 10-point scale.

(From **BASIN**, Page 1)

Water Programs project manager.

An action plan previously developed by the Key Peninsula Gig Harbor Islands Watershed Council has assigned work to various agencies, including the county, Smolko said. The basin plan took into account those directives. The proposed

projects are categorized by priority, with the capital projects including flood plain acquisitions, stream restoration and culvert replacements (which make for the majority of the projects). Other proposals are programmatic, focusing on aspects such as education and outreach.

"One of the things that is really unique about the plan is we've added shellfish as part of the programmatic aspect,"

Smolko said. "The Key Peninsula and the islands offer the most recreational and commercial shellfish opportunities (in the county). We're hoping we put together a program that puts us in a better position to respond to downgrades... and not have a piecemeal approach."

A public meeting to discuss the draft was held on Feb. 21, and at press time the

county's planning commission was scheduled to review it on Feb. 28. The plan will then move on to a county council committee and to the full council for approval. The plan has a 10-year implementation timeline, and Smolko said there is no current proposal to change the surface water management fees.

For details on the draft plan, visit [www.piercecountywa.org/kibasin](http://www.piercecountywa.org/kibasin).

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## KPMS celebrates 25 years

The Parent Teacher Association of Key Peninsula Middle School invites all present and former students, administrators, staff members and community supporters to the 25th birthday party for the school on Friday, March 31, 7 to 8:30 p.m. The celebration will be held in the commons area of the school, located at 5510 Key Peninsula Hwy, Lakebay. For information, contact Vicky Young Schauer, at 884-4800 or via email at SchauerV@Peninsula.Wednet.edu.

## Key Peninsula Sportsmen's news

The Pierce County Sportsmen's Council sponsored the trout pond at the O'Loughlin Sports Show held at the Puyallup Fairgrounds Jan. 25 through the 29. For the past four years, members of the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club have contributed to the success of the event by providing volunteers to help the children learn to catch fish. This annual event is fun and exciting for small children, many of whom have never fished before. The volunteers baited hooks, helped land the fish and bagged the fish for the kids who did not want to release them. Participating club members included Jim Blundell, Larry Hagen, Harry Haynes, Bob Jewett, Verne Luedke, and Jim Smith. Other volunteers included friends of the club Ron James, Joe Beckmen, and Robert Chapman.

If you would like to learn more about the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club and their involvement in our community, attend the annual Fishermen's Breakfast held this year on Sunday, April 30, at 3503 Jackson Lake Road KPN, in Lakebay.

## Discover SAVE Thrift Store this spring

It's spring, the perfect time to visit the SAVE Thrift Store in Purdy for fresh togs, toys, books or home décor. Now in its 20th year, SAVE just gets better as time goes by. With high quality used clothing, shoes, housewares and more, the store offers you a new surprise every time you stop in.

SAVE is easy to find, located just below Peninsula High School. Watch for the signs. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. six days a week.

Funds raised through sales at SAVE support the scholarship and activity programs at Peninsula High. If you are more in the mood for spring cleaning than spring shopping, think SAVE as the donation drop off for your reusable discards.

Only furniture and large appliances are restricted due to lack of space.

Or, if you are looking for a pleasant place to spend your community volunteer hours, think SAVE again. Help is sought for sorting, pricing and displaying items as well as at the sales counter. Volunteers are the backbone of SAVE and are well appreciated.

For questions, call 857-2800 or just drop in. You will be glad you did.

—By Marsha Williams

President, Hawks Scholarship Fund

## Book discussion group invites readers

The Book Discussion Group will have three more meetings before the summer recess. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library.

March 23: "One Man's Bible" by Guo Zingjian. This is a fascinating novel about China during the Cultural Revolution. Copies of this book will be available at the checkout desk before March 11 and after March 20.

April 27: "A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift. This is the great classic satire, which is a quick read with much to discuss. Ricard Cole will also present several soliloquies from Shakespeare's plays. This will be an unusual evening away from TV!

May 25: "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson. This is a moving, spiritual novel, which was selected as one of the 10 best books of 2004 by the editors of the NY Times.

## TCC offers special classes

TANF eligible or low-income parents can earn college credit for classes taken within the Tacoma Community College WorkFirst: Medical Office Clerk program at the Gig Harbor/Peninsula campus. You must be TANF or a low-income parent to qualify. Call 253-565-9610 or 253-566-5229 for information.

If you are not TANF eligible but want information about medical office programs, call TCC-Gig Harbor at 851-2424. Train for the following: medical receptionist, billing clerk, admitting representative, registration clerk, insurance follow-up, or medical records clerk.

## Fuchsia Society announces plant pre-sale

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society, in connection with its spring plant sale, offers a pre-sale in March. Flats and half-flats of a large variety of geraniums, assorted annuals, and bedding plants are available to be ordered

before April 1. Flyers are available from Society members, or call 884-2283. Fuchsias and other plants will be available at the annual sale on May 13 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

## Grief support group meets weekly

A new grief support group is meeting on the Key Peninsula on Thursday morning, 10 a.m. at the Fire Station No. 5 building, which is near the Wright/Bliss and SR-302 intersection. For more information, contact Claudia at 884-2054.

## Get your dancing shoes on

Rich Kuras, a congenial and spirited dance caller, will lead a contra dancing on Saturday, March 4, at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Music will be by the Home Brew Band with Bob Olson, who has been very supportive in getting the dance at Longbranch started and has contributed to the dance's momentum. In the 7:30 p.m. workshop, Kuras will teach the basics of contra dancing while making newcomers feel comfortable in the process. The dance follows from 8-11 p.m. Admission is \$7 at the door.

Contra dancing is walking in time to music, assisted by a caller who does a "walk-through" before each dance and "prompts" you while the music is playing. The music is lively and exhilarating. This is a smoke-free, no-alcohol event in which folks can get together for an evening of good and exuberant fun.

Longbranch dancers were all sad to miss the dance that was scheduled for Feb. 4. It was canceled due to the wind-storm that day. The caller, Mary Devlin, has agreed to come on Oct. 7. Contra dances will be held at the Longbranch Improvement Club on the first Saturday of each month through June.

## KPCCA news

Our February Sweet Heart Dance was a lot of fun. The band (the Rock O'Diles) was everything they said they were — recognizable, good natured and great to dance to. We plan to have them back. The Pee Wee Basketball program, which meets every Saturday morning, is a lot of fun to watch. Metro Parks Director Scott Gallacher and his crew are remarkable. Over 70 youths are participating in basketball skills, dribbling, passing, shooting and even some warmup exercises. Open gym on Sunday evenings is picking up, with about 30 youth showing up. The games are quite lively. Our next fund-raising

event will be a crab feed on April 1. The crab feed is from 4-7 p.m. The prices are as follows:

Dinner: \$20; ages 6 – 12: \$10; under 5 years: free.

Just a reminder of other classes happening on a regular basis: Clogging on Mondays; Karate on Monday and Thursday; Tennis on Monday and Thursday; Tae Kwon Do on Tuesday and Thursday, and for your little ones, Indoor Park on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

If you have any suggestions of what you would like the center to be doing, please call 884-3456 or e-mail KPCCA@keypeninsula.com.

— By Phil Bauer, KPCCA President

## TOPS has big losses

TOPS, WA, #1091 in Vaughn had a great month of losers. TOPS losers of the month were Judy, Frankie, Andrea, and Annette. Come and join them for a night of fulfilled ideas and weight loss support at the Wright Bliss fire station on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. An evening swim party is planned at the Easter Seals swim facility for March 2.

## Historical Society presents sculptor

John Jewell, artist and sculptor, will present the program for the March 23 meeting of the Key Peninsula Historical Society.

Jewell, sculptor of the children at the Key Center Library, will discuss the historical research he did for his sculpture of Meriwether Lewis and Lewis' dog, Seaman, which was erected at Fort Lewis last September. The fort, originally Camp Lewis in World War I, was named for Meriwether Lewis.

Officer elections will also be held at this meeting, which begins at 6 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For more information, call 884-3272.

## Angel Guild sells vintage wedding dress

Angel Guild receives many unique donations. We recently sold a vintage wedding dress, which has more items that go with it that we did not find at the time of the sale. We hope that the customer who purchased the dress will read this article and return to our shop. We will be delighted to give her the "rest of the story."

From time to time we receive requests from individuals seeking financial assistance for some goal. These are no doubt very worthwhile projects; however, it is Angel Guild's policy to give only to groups.

We cannot help individuals. At this time, we would like to remind any group looking for help from Angel Guild, that the request must be received in writing no later than the 10th of the month before the funds are needed.

Angel Guild is always looking for new members. There is much work to be done between when the donations hit our porch and the ready-for-sale items go into the shop. If you have spare time you can commit, please come into the shop and volunteer, or call our coordinator, Bonnie, at 884-5983.

Valentine's Day is over and we hope you found what you needed at our shop first. Now spring is coming and we will be getting spring and summer items ready for sale. Our new shop is bright, cheery, clean and a joy to visit. We hope you have been in and that you come often. New items go on sale every day, and it is our pleasure to serve you. As always, we thank our faithful and generous donors.

—By Betty Barkubein

## Bayshore Garden Club meeting

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. March 3 at the Longbranch Fire

Station. The hostess will be Maryanne Hawthorne. The theme will be "Plants that Thrive in Wet Soil" by Sylvia Retherford. Horticulture will be discussed by Linda Armour. Design will be done by Marjorie Hall. For information call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

## Bloodmobile at Penlight

Cascade Regional Blood Services is looking for blood donors. The Bloodmobile will be at Peninsula Light Co. in Purdy on March 14 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. For other dates and locations or information, call 383-2553.

## Tree lovers wanted

The Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Arbor Day Foundation is accepting nominations for its annual Arbor Day "Good Stewardship" award. This award is given to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to the planting and preservation of trees in the community. The winner(s) will be presented with a personally engraved plaque during this free public event, held at the Gig Harbor Civic Center on Grandview Street, Saturday, April 22, at 11

a.m. KP resident and parks supporter Nancy Lind was the award recipient in 2004. Send a letter or email with the person's name, contact information, and why they should be honored. You may nominate yourself and must be received by April 8.

## Nature photo contest held

The Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Arbor Day Foundation is sponsoring a nature photo contest. The photos should send a visual message about the positive impact of trees on people, animals and our environment. The award is \$100 and photo submissions must be postmarked by April 5. For complete details on the rules, visit [www.gigharborarbor.com](http://www.gigharborarbor.com) or call 858-8797.

## New Cub Scout group created

A new Cub Scout group is looking for more members. The group is based in Gig Harbor but some meetings are held on the KP. The group consists mainly of homeschooling families but is not limited to only those who homeschool. Members can join at any time during the year. Cub Scouts ranges up to age 11, all age groups

have open positions. For details, contact Rob or Jennifer Taylor at 857-5929.

## Dust off your cleats and grab your glove

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District (KPMPD) is accepting team registrations for men's and women's weeknight double header softball league. Games will start the week of April 17 and take place on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Individuals without a team may request to be put on a player availability list. Cost of the league and end of season tournament is \$650. Registrations accepted until April 4 or until full. For details, call 884-9240.

## TWAA presents Spring Fling

TWAA announces its fourth annual Spring Fling event featuring many local artists presenting their originals, prints and cards. It is on Saturday, March 18, 6-10 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, at 17010 S Vaughn Road KPN.

\$15 suggested donation. \$10 for members. Hors d'oeuvres and no-host bar are available. Attend and support the community in the arts.

# Volunteer spotlight: Leona Britt

By Chris Fitzgerald  
KP News

When Leona Britt and her husband moved from Redmond in 1998 to retire in the Elgin-Clifton area of the Key Peninsula, she had no idea she had such an interest in, and talent for, historic outreach. Shortly after arriving here, for her own interest, she began to explore peninsula communities, using descriptions and historical events chronicled in books checked out at the Key Center Library. As a member of the Friends of the Library, she was soon introduced to like-minded members of the Key Peninsula Historical Society, where she began volunteering as a docent at the museum. There, sharing local history with visitors, and helping people reconnect with their own area roots through research of museum archives, Britt discovered she had acquired a preservationist's passion for "the whole peninsula." "These are not cities, or towns, but distinct communities...and all of them are historic," she said.

Now the vice president of the historical society, Britt has been nominated to advance to president through elections held in March. She looks forward to implementing new programs aimed at including area schools, and developing new exhibits for the museum. Also on her busy agenda is acquisition of a major grant, needed for equipment replacement and archival maintenance.

Britt humbly refers to herself as "just a housewife" who discovered she likes history. Her own story, however, includes a business of her own, in addition to being a successful homemaker. She readily admits to a love of dogs, and in years past, she



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

Leona Britt at the Key Peninsula Historical Society.

trained dogs in Redmond and south King County, as well as participated in show trials. Her golden retriever, Barney Google, sometimes accompanies her on travels around the peninsula as she accepts donated artifacts, oral histories, and encourages other residents to become involved. Britt's volunteer efforts give her "an intimate connection to the community." "History is my thing," she said. "So many people have lived here their whole lives; it's important to preserve (this heritage)."

## Get Involved: Volunteer opportunities

**Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank** is looking for volunteers for its new "Partnership Program." Applications will be available starting March 1. KPCS is looking for energetic, enthusiastic, and committed persons. Call 884-4440 for details.

**The Two Waters Arts Alliance** is looking for replacements for directors. If you are interested in being involved with a very fun group of people and are ready to commit a bit of your time to your community, TWAA is looking for people with secretarial skills. A part-time, paid position as a coordinator for workshops and classes is also available. Contact Brynn at [brynnfoss@harbornet.com](mailto:brynnfoss@harbornet.com) or call 884-2029.

**Key Peninsula News** is looking for volunteer writers, call 884-4699 or email [news@keypen-news.com](mailto:news@keypen-news.com).

# From Pioneer Stock Marge Hall: A Longbranch lady

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

The family of Marjorie (Marge) Hall's father came from Germany to Wisconsin in 1892, and to Longbranch in 1901, when her dad, William (Bill) Otto, was still a baby. Wilhelm and Wilhelmina (Mina) Rickert Otto's younger sons, George and Art, were born in Longbranch.

Marge's maternal grandparents, George and Caroline Curl, emigrated from England to Washington with uncles and a brother. They arrived in Longbranch about 1900.

George Curl's occupations included truck driver, street car conductor, and fisherman, although Marge isn't sure where he worked on street cars.

Wilhelm Otto was a farmer, raising cattle and a large garden that helped feed his neighbors. Bill Otto logged, but after Prohibition was repealed, he built a tavern where the Longbranch Mercantile now stands. Otto added groceries, and eventually had no tavern, just a store. The



*Photos courtesy of Marge Hall*

Marge Hall with her dad, William (Bill) Otto, in 1989. Right, Harry Curl, uncle to Marge (Otto) Hall, fourth from right, at Camp Lewis (later Fort Lewis) during World War I.

hours were easier and he didn't have to deal with those who drank too much.

The Ottos lived in what was the Wyatt Hotel. He remodeled it and took a story off the top. He built chicken houses, a brooder house, and they sold chickens and eggs. Live chickens were crated to send to Tacoma. Marge's jobs included cleaning eggs and dressing the chickens.

Neighborhood friends gathered to swim from the Longbranch dock. They also had rowboats and fished, or went out



of Filucy Bay to McDermott Point for picnics. People who worked in the store also had picnics at Faraway, the McDermott home, and Marge recalls long tables laden with food — meats, salads, desserts and more.

Marge and Rich Hall went to school together, graduating in 1941 from Vaughn Union High School. Marge worked at the store, and Rich worked for Boeing Co. as an airplane mechanic. They married the fall after graduation.

Rich was drafted and became a tail gunner during World War II. Marge was able to follow him to various posts in the United States — Boise, Salt Lake City, Glendale, Calif. — but when he went overseas, she stayed with her folks in Longbranch, where daughter Phyllis was born before Rich returned home. Daughter Janice joined the family later.

His plane was shot down, and Rich was

one of five to survive, but suffered a back injury. He was a POW for 11 months, and on a forced march for 88 days.

Chet Hipp, Key Center grocer, taught Rich to butcher, and he worked there until lifting the carcasses hurt his back too much.

Marge and Rich bought her dad's store when he retired. They had an adding machine, but kept records by hand. When postmaster Ellen Shellgren retired from the old post office on the dock, the Halls were asked to submit a bid to have a postal station in their store. They built a room on the end for mail boxes and postal equipment.

Marge Hall doesn't look her 83 years, and rarely needs her glasses.

"I always ate healthy food," she says. "Dad wanted two vegetables for dinner, and we usually had a salad, too."

Marge's gardens grew green beans, peas, carrots, although she's down to a few containers and boxes now.

"I have to keep my hands busy," she says. She plays solitaire a lot. She doesn't do as much crocheting and embroidery as she used to, but shows off a bright sunny afghan she crocheted.

The 1946 home the Halls built is full of family memories for this third-generation Longbranch lady.



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# Island educator launches native-species learning adventure

By Chris Fitzgerald  
 KP News

A 10-minute ferry ride carries passengers to a uniquely rural, platted community of fewer than 100 residents, in off-season, on tiny Herron Island. In February, island resident Nancy Broege began a three-part presentation on deer to Herron Island Booster Club members.

Broege's first love is marine life. She has received naturalist training at the Whale Museum in Friday Harbor, where she created a "whale bingo" game, and aquatic fact sheets. She also completed an "instructor training program" with the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, and volunteered there as a guide, newsletter editor, and special events assistant.

"Dolphins are my passion," she says. "Teaching other people about them helps me stretch and do things I've always wanted to do."

She says Pacific white-sided dolphins, which she has observed both in Elliot Bay and the San Juans, as well as Dall's

**"Dolphins are my passion. Teaching other people about them helps me stretch and do things I've always wanted to do."**

-Nancy Broege,  
 Herron Island resident

porpoises and harbor porpoises, swim in Puget Sound waters. Orcas are the largest member of the dolphin family and are also called killer whales.

"I love teaching," Broege says. Although committed to her career at Weyerhaeuser, she wanted to share her appreciation for nature with others. She volunteered at a local school, developed a class involving dolphin information for Junior Achievement seventh-graders, and found it satisfying.

"Why not teach about dolphins and porpoises on cruise ships?" she wondered. Investigating this venue, she was invited to submit a proposal, and did so last October. Then she realized



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

Nancy Broege on Herron Island.

she lacked adult audience experience, and contacted the booster club. Broege chose deer as a first topic because they are tame and plentiful as pets on Herron Island, and she thought learning about them would interest her neighbors. She admitted going outside her "comfort zone" in giving a nature talk to her own small community, but her motivation to develop a strong presentation about wildlife propelled her forward. She challenges herself by using a variety of learning techniques, including PowerPoint presentations, audience participation, and handouts.

"I know a lot about dolphins, porpoises and marine mammals — and now deer," she says, "but it's the teaching I'm after, really."

A seminar she attended several years ago showed Broege the volatile side of naturalist conservation. She realized there that, while she respected and appreciated marine life, she wasn't willing to go to jail to protect it. She was encouraged to learn that educators were needed, too. "The more information people have, the better decisions they will make, whatever that may be for them," Broege says. "That's where I can help."



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(From LEE, Page 1)

sula think of Lee's efforts, Key Pen News took a partial list of accomplishments provided by his staff out into the community to find out the impact of Lee's work.

**Transfer of 360-acres from the state Department of Natural Resources to the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District and funding for the skateboard park that might be constructed on the 360-acre property:**

As Ed Taylor, owner of the Westwynd Motel in Purdy, explains it, the effort to acquire additional park lands began about five years ago when he was asked to chair the now-disbanded Key Peninsula Park and Recreation District's land acquisition committee. Eventually, having examined various properties on the north end of the peninsula, Taylor and his committee came across a 360-acre parcel that belonged to Washington State's Department of Natural Resources. They wrote a letter to the state, and secured support from state legislators, including Rep. Bob Oke, who had been through the process before.

Lee was elected to the county council as the effort began to gain traction, and sponsored a meeting that brought state officials, elected representatives, and citizens together to talk about the opportunity.

"He was a big help by bringing everyone together," Taylor says. "As a result of that meeting, and many others, we got on the list and the Legislature approved the transfer... Sometime this year we're going to get a deed to the property — and the (Key Peninsula) Metro Park District will hold title to the land."

When asked for his opinion regarding Lee, Scott Gallacher, director of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, says, "I feel that Terry Lee is a great asset to our local community out here. He's a strong supporter of our parks. Being a newcomer to the area. I've heard the representation wasn't always the best... Terry is looking to assist in the development of both the skateboard park and the whole park in general."

**Round the clock police protection:**

Key Pen citizens have been asking for 24/7 law enforcement for quite awhile now, and according to Community Mobilization Specialist Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets, "During the budget cycle each of the council members assesses what the funding needs are for their budget. And, I'm sure that every member gets everything they request — but working with Terry ever since he was elected, I know he puts a high priority on the peninsula's law enforcement needs.

"For 2006 they (the sheriff's depart-

In spite of our best efforts to sample opinion it's possible that we missed individuals or constituencies with opinions other than the positive ones found in this article. If so, we urge such persons or groups to write the paper with their perspectives.

ment) have a new Community Service Officer, Emily Watson, and then two new neighborhood patrol deputies, one of whom has been hired and is already working. They also have funding for a new deputy who will be doing investigative work. Strictly on community-related safety issues, because that's my responsibility, I would give him (Lee) an A-plus."

**Drug paraphernalia county ordinance:**

"What happened," Taylor says, "was that it was brought to my attention that there was a smoke shop in Purdy that was selling pipes only used for drug use. After further research it turned out that there were six such shops in the greater Gig Harbor area, all selling what amounts to drug paraphernalia."

After rounding up support from Lt. Larry Bauer of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Peninsula Detachment and Gig Harbor Police Department Chief Mike Davis, Taylor took the issue to Lee, who visited one of the stores, and in Taylor's words, "...was appalled by what they were selling..." After that Lee took the matter back to the county council, where according to Taylor, "He's been shepherding the ordinance through the process and we're near getting that ordinance passed."

**Reduction in the number of false alarms:**

"The problem," as Lt. Bauer puts it, "has always been that 99.9 percent of the (burglar) alarms that come in to the sheriff's department are false. And if you spread that over the peninsula you can see that responding to the alarms can eat a lot of time and effort. This is a problem throughout Pierce County. The sheriff and his staff came up with a proposal that went to the county council. And as a result there was a new ordinance that came into existence.

"I think he (Terry Lee) is a great council member and I'm really pleased with the work that he's done. I don't know what happened in the council itself — I just know that we have an ordinance that should reduce the number of false alarms, which is a good thing. He's done a great job... I look forward to working with him on a whole range of issues."



*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

A decades-old dispute involving so-called Powerline Road is one of the KP problems Terry Lee said he's tried to address. Tacoma Power recently installed gates to limit access to the road (gates have not been locked yet).

**Shoreline related issues:**

Lee has 179 miles of shoreline within his district, and for some time now has been working to find a way to balance the rights of property owners and the need to protect critical areas. "We've already got regulations on bulkheads and docks. I think shoreline owners are great stewards of our shoreline," Lee says. "We have developed new regulations for high value shoreline. It applies mainly to feeder bluffs, estuaries, and tidelands."

At this point the new regulations have been approved by the county council, and were sent to the Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board, which approved them. A 60-day clock for appeals started on Feb. 2. Any group with legal standing can appeal, but to the best of Lee's knowledge, there are no plans to do so.

Frank Slater, Key Pen resident who owns waterfront property, says, "In this case Terry acted like a politician. Actually I think he did the best he could for the majority of his constituents. On the last revision they cut down on the number of individuals affected from 4,000 to 5,000 to 400 to 500. From that standpoint he's helped most of our shoreline people quite a bit."

**Key Peninsula Community Services and Food Bank:**

The Key Peninsula Community Services is a food bank and senior center. According to Director Linda Hubbard, Lee, "...has allotted funding, and when we receive the funds, it will be a tremendous benefit for our community. We have a very positive working

relationship with Mr. Lee."

**Farm Voucher program:**

As described by David Hanson, program specialist with the Pierce County Department of Aging and Long Term Care, the "Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program provides people 60 years and older with \$40 worth of vouchers to use at farmer's markets or roadside stands." They do need to meet income criteria to qualify for the program. "This year," Hanson says, "if someone has a monthly income below \$1,510, they qualify for the program."

Funding for the voucher program comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the state of Washington, and county funds requested by individual council members including Lee for their specific districts. When asked how important the county level funding is to the program, Hanson says, "Very important. It allows us to serve more people."

The program served more than 1,200 seniors last year — and Hanson's department expects nearly 2,000 seniors to take advantage of it during 2006. Shiloh Farms in Lakebay is authorized to accept the vouchers and it's likely that the farmer's market in Gig Harbor will be able to take them as well.

**Key Peninsula Community Council and the Key Peninsula Community Plan:**

In order to get some perspective on Lee's work with the Community Council and the Key Peninsula Community Plan, Key Pen News spoke with Jeff Harris, president of the nonprofit Key Peninsula

(See LEE, Page 21)

(From LEE, Page 20)

Community Council and member of the county-funded KP Community Planning Board (currently working on a 20-year plan for the Key Pen). "Clearly, from the Community Council's perspective, he's been very supportive," Harris said. "Each council member has a fund, and he's used a portion of his to support some of our administrative expenses."

When asked about whether folks on the peninsula ever received the short end of the stick, Harris answered this way. "They had until Terry showed up!

He provides superb representation. He's at almost every community meeting. He invests a lot of time making sure that he's accessible to the community."

**Powerline Road:**

As previously reported in the Key Pen News, the owners of six properties recently filed a lawsuit against the city of Tacoma and its Tacoma Public Utilities following a long-standing dispute related to 144th Street, a primitive road owned by the utility, and used by local residents to access their homes. As reported earlier, Lee has been active in trying to help resolve the issue — though unsuccessfully up to this point.

So what do the property owners think of Lee? Doug Sherman, one of the property owners involved in the suit against the city of Tacoma, had this to say: "I think he's a pretty decent man. He's been of help to us, the simple laymen, in terms of getting someone to take a look at our situation. He's not God.... He's done what he can do."

Key Pen News attempted to contact other residents as well but without success.

**Boat ramp at Home:**

The boat launch in Home has been the subject of controversy for more than 10 years. Some of the local homeowners don't

like the traffic the ramp generates, or the parking problems associated with it, but other Key Peninsula residents feel that the launch is an important amenity. According to Claude Gahard, owner of Trillium Creek Wineries and Home resident, the launch is in need of maintenance too. Fortunately for those who favor a public boat launch, help is on the way. "The metro park district is trying to absorb the boat launch into the park district," Gahard says. "And Terry Lee is helping to accomplish that. To me, Terry Lee is a problem solver."

**Key Peninsula Basin Plan:**

According to Barbara Ann Smolko, senior planner with Pierce County Water Programs, the Key Peninsula Basin Plan "...is a work plan for the Water Programs Division of Pierce County's Public Works and Utilities Department. And it is specifically for the Key Peninsula and the islands."

Smolko goes on to say that, "What happens is these plans have to be adopted by the county council. What we found in the case of Gig Harbor was that it's helpful to have a council member supporting the plan through the adoption process. He (Lee) was very supportive of adding a shellfish component to the basin plan."

**Education:**

The subject of education wasn't on the list of accomplishments that Lee's office gave to the paper, but when Marcia Harris, deputy superintendent of the Peninsula School District, heard that KP News was doing an article on Lee, she volunteered the following: "From the school district's standpoint, he's always been there for us. For example, we wrote a grant with help from the sheriff's department to install a solar power traffic sign in front of Evergreen Elementary. Terry Lee has been very, very helpful in getting us through the county paperwork to make that happen."

It's clear that Council Member Lee is not only held in very high esteem by many on the Key Peninsula but is genuinely liked and admired. Partly because of his personality, but largely due to the fact that he delivers results. Will that performance garner votes for a Republican candidate on what Lee describes as a largely Democratic peninsula? The likely answer is "yes."

So, given all of the different constituencies he has to deal with, and the extremely long hours, why does the councilman do it? Lee, who has a tendency to look you right in the eye, puts it this way: "It's all about serving people. When I came across the Narrows Bridge 33 years ago, I felt like I had stepped into paradise and I wanted to protect it. And that's still the way I feel."

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# 'Good Stuff' coming to Key Center

By Danna Webster  
KP News

Dawn and Eric Kerkes have been making business plans for about three years.

"We're going to make cooking and being healthy convenient," says Eric Kerkes about his new store in the KC Corral. When he saw a "For Rent" sign as he left his dentist's office, he drove straight home and said to his wife, Dawn, "Let's do it."

A Grand Opening Celebration is planned in April to celebrate two newcomers to the KC Corral. Eric and Dawn Kerkes will open their health food store, JED's Good Stuff, and the new owner of KC Computers, Sheryl Mirenta, will celebrate the completion of her store's remodeling project.

Putting the plan in motion and getting the store ready to open has taken a lot of work, patience and perseverance. After three months of remodeling projects and a donated cooler from the Home Texaco, they were ready in February to schedule the county's next inspection, stock up the inventory and open their door.

"This is our big leap of faith," Eric says of their decision to open a health food business in Key Center.

Catering to the community interests and needs for natural health products is one driving force behind the Kerkes' goal to open their business. Another is the credit they give to the Bastyr Center for Natural Health for Eric's recovery from a 1999 accident.

Kerkes grew up in Longbranch. He experienced the embrace of his home-



Photo by Danna Webster

The initials in the family's first names spell JED: Julia, Eric, and Dawn Kerkes.

town KP community when, on March 5, 1999, emergency aid rushed to his rescue. A Bobcat bucket had smashed his head, breaking over 20 bones including his jaw and eye socket. The rescue operation included an ambulance ride to Evergreen Elementary School and a helicopter flight to Harborview. Kerkes remained aware and conscious throughout the entire ordeal. But there was one thing that confused him. "I just couldn't figure out why they had to cut my pants off for a head injury," he says with a grin.

At Harborview, Kerkes learned his

medical prognosis was poor. He was told he would not regain muscle control on the left side of his face, nor the ability to close his left eye, nor the ability to hear from his left ear. Walking was difficult due to his loss of a sense of balance. When he returned home, Dawn left her job to take care of her husband.

With word of the accident and its devastation to the Kerkes family livelihood, the KP community stepped in to help. A spaghetti feed at the Civic Center raised money.

"The Civic Center and the community helped us out... from losing our house

... saved us, basically," Kerkes says.

In April, Kerkes went to Seattle's Bastyr University hospital. The university's Website states that Bastyr is the largest natural health care facility in Washington; and, according to Kerkes, Bastyr is a nationally renowned alternative treatment center.

"What they did for me helped a lot — dietary changes, acupuncture, positive reinforcement, herbal teas, vitamins and supplements," Kerkes says.

After three months of treatment, on the Fourth of July, he was able to move the left side of his face.

"It was kind of a miraculous recovery," he observes. He is convinced that the treatment and education from Bastyr deserves the credit.

The store will be a full-time family project. Dawn will run the store, and Eric will work there at every opportunity, but he will keep his job at Active Construction in Gig Harbor to "keep the finances coming in."

Their fifth-grade daughter, Julia, says she plans to read and study about the products in order to "help people in the store after school." Then she quickly adds, "After school, and after homework." She says kids are interested in healthy pop-tarts, sodas, trail-mix and teas.

The Bastyr experience and Eric's recovery drove the Kerkes' determination to open JED's Good Stuff. The support from their business neighbors in the KC Corral and all the messages in the store's suggestion box give them encouragement.

"Thank everybody who has dropped off suggestions in the box," says Dawn Kerkes. "There's a lot of support out there. That's what keeps us going!"

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Let's look at a few of the options in your choice of agents and real estate brokerages.

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**Discount brokers:** Advertise a lower rate to list your home and perhaps put it in the local Multiple Listing Service (MLS), but you, as seller still do most of the above mentioned duties. Even though a Realtor (or member of the MLS) may sell your home they cannot give you as seller, any advice or answer any of your questions without violating the state law of agency. They represent only the buyer. Discount brokers may charge a flat fee or offer a sliding fee scale depending on which of the above services they perform.

**Full Service Brokers:** Including Windermere / Key Realty perform all the above services for you and many more. These agents (brokers), escort pre-qualified buyers through your home, negotiate on your behalf, oversee inspections, appraisals and any other persons requiring entry to your home and generally oversee every aspect of your listing and sale. Full service brokers also generally have excellent website presentations. Windermere's site ([www.windermere.com](http://www.windermere.com)) receives approximately 2 million hits a month. It has been documented by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) that homes listed with a Realtor sell for 16-18% higher than those of unrepresented sellers.

And remember that commissions are always negotiable before you sign the listing.

So when choosing a real estate salesperson and brokerage to market your home, you will want to consider very carefully how much representation you want - and need.



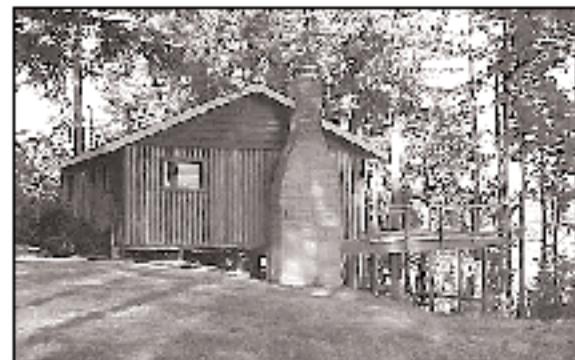
**ROLLING HILLS AND PASTURES** \$450,000  
This 20 acre farm is one of the nicest pieces of property on the Key Peninsula. The farm house, built in 1935, has quality older detailing. Home features Moratch range (combo wood/electric) in kitchen, nice fireplace, good size basement for storage/work space and a 2-car detached garage/carport. Property fully fenced with a newer 40x70 barn, pastures, walnut and fir trees. MLS 25066915



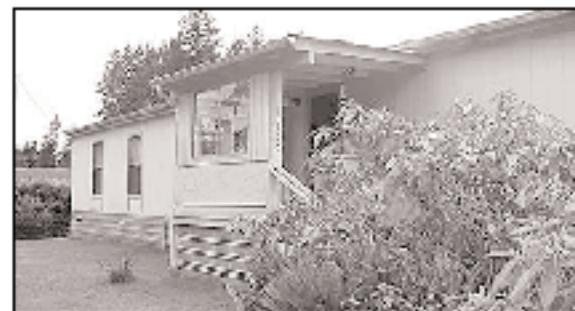
**PALMER LAKE** \$125,000  
Home is on a large corner lot only one block from the lake. Open concept living room, dining room and kitchen area has a lot of natural light and cabinet space. You will certainly enjoy the warmth of the pellet stove this winter! French doors lead off the dining room to a nice private fenced back yard. MLS 26009052



**DRIVE HOME TO THE COUNTRY!** \$170,000  
On 25 acres, this 1998 home has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and open floor plan, large kitchen, pantry and wood stove to keep you cozy. There is a 30 x 60 concrete pad poured for garage/workshop. Land slopes gently for good sun exposure, enjoy nice sunrise too! MLS 25153237



**HERRON ISLAND WATERFRONT** \$439,000  
Old made new! This charming waterfront log cabin has been completely remodeled! Large deck, new roof, new windows, fresh new landscaping plus a bunk house with three bunks and W/D hookup!! Great for entertaining. You'll enjoy a private sandy beach w/60' of waterfront and excellent views of SE Case Inlet to the Black Hills. Private ferry to the island. MLS 26020765



**LAKE OF THE WOODS** \$149,900  
This cozy charmer has a large family room, roomy kitchen w/pantry and handy utility room. You will enjoy the covered patio, fenced back yard, covered front porch. This large lot offers you garden space, landscaping and an RV hookup. Plus you have access to the community beach, where you can swim, fish, and boat. MLS 26009727



**OLALLA** \$137,000  
Good commuter home close to new shopping center, Narrows bridge and ferry to Seattle. Home has nicely updated interior w/tile entrances & laminated floors, large deck for entertaining. The yard is private, fully fenced yard and has low maintenance landscaping. MLS 26001956



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# Allyn company delivers sweet treats that are good for you

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Moms looking for healthy snack alternatives not loaded with sugar and preservatives are likely familiar with the name of Stretch Island Fruit Leather. The 100 percent natural, 100 percent fruit-made snacks have been winning the hearts of kids and their parents for 30 years, long before "natural foods" became a buzz word.

The company is tucked away in Allyn, just off State Route 3, and anyone driving by will likely get a whiff of sweet fruit. The multimillion-dollar company, which started literally in a laundry room, is celebrating its 30-year anniversary this year. The family-based business was bought out late last year by another natural foods company, Kashi Inc., a subsidiary of Kellogg's.

The company employs about 100 people, and has come a long way since two couples, Ron and Mary Sagerson

and Harry and Marry Branch, got together to make healthy snacks in a relative's laundry room. Sagerson started making the fruit leather, which got its name due to its smooth, leather-like feel, because he was looking for a use for grapes grown on Stretch Island. As it turned out later, to make the snack efficiently they would have to use purees — so the grapes didn't really get the chance to shine.

But the snack did, and the Sagersons, who soon bought out their partners, moved the company first to a large garage near their home and then, in 1986, to the current location. Last year, before the sale, the company doubled its manufacturing space.

Ron Sagerson has been considering retirement for a few years, and enrolled his son, Bob, to help run the company in 1994. Sagerson has remained the company president up until the sale, which now has finally allowed him to truly retire.



Photo courtesy of Stretch Island Fruit Inc.

The tasty leather snacks are being sent off for packaging.

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# The Sign Man turns commercial niche into art

By Irene Torres  
KP News

First came the Bionic Man, then the Ironman. Since fall of 2001, the Key Peninsula has been home to The Sign Man, Chuck Kraft.

Raised in North Dakota, Kraft moved to Tacoma with his family in the early 1960s and graduated from Lincoln High School, later serving five years in the U.S. Navy's submarine service.

He began his sign design career by decorating windows with Christmas paintings. Formally schooled at UCLA under the tutelage of master of fine arts from Otis Parsons School of Art Richard Shelton, Kraft learned the craft of sign making over three years. "I never regretted a day. I'm big on education," he says.

In animated conversation, the 60-year-old mustachioed Kraft explains the science behind the art of signage — "visual communication and design," as he refers to it. "It's a game of sign dominance, to interrupt the subconscious scan patterns. The eye is drawn to the most perfect form."

In the sign business since 1984, Kraft describes himself as a Gestaltist. "Based on past and previous experiences, the eye develops a meaningful relationship within two seconds — that's all the time there is to communicate your business' intentions," he explains the theory of sign design.

He demonstrates the impact of foreground, midground and background printing using his own business cards as an example: "They are printed on thicker stock than most business cards. Gild the text, like they did in Biblical times. People hold on to shiny things. They won't throw them away."

Kraft quotes William A. Lawrence, "On the Plains of Hesitation, bleach the bones of countless millions who, at the dawn of victory, sat down to wait, and waiting, died."

It's the same advice he passed along to students at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, to whom he lectured while serving on its board of directors. His personal

**"I have an obligation to make them more money. If they have more money, that will make them happy. If they are happy, they will tell their friends."**

**-Chuck Kraft, The Sign Man**

philosophy is, "Endeavor to persevere."

Freely offering his professional advice to businesses, Kraft says, "They need to have an advertising budget, and they need to spend it. Businesses become complacent. They should change their signs about every five years, and maintain them, to keep up with changes in the market and competition."

He promotes "sign dominance, with appropriate use of format, color and negative space." A "visual-type guy," Kraft knows how to manipulate the eye, using thickness and height of letters and contrast of value.

A true artist, he admits he dislikes the installation phase of the sign business, but he sees no downside to the location of his business on the Key Peninsula. "I can see the businesses are coming...the changes in store for this area. It's a gold mine," he says. Among his goals is to speak to the Key Peninsula Business Association about the impact of signage — good and bad. "I want to help people understand visual communication," he explains, "from the perspective of design criteria, versus production (of signs)."

"I have an obligation to make them more money. If they have more money, that will make them happy. If they are happy, they will tell their friends," Kraft says.

Kraft works in a variety of media but most of his work is in glass. His glass techniques include glue-chipped, reverse gilding, clear and sandblasting. His own log home near Carney Lake is decorated with fine examples of his work. He says he gets some of his ideas from other signs: "Good artists borrow. Great artists steal."



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Chuck Kraft looks through a glass piece that is one of a sequence of three designs lining the wall going up the stairs in his gorgeous log home. He says the three pieces "architecturally compliment the stairs and open up the room." The techniques used for this piece and others like it are called "sand-blasting" and "nipping."

Of his technique and equipment he says, "I do it the old fashioned way — with a No. 2 pencil."

His art "niche" consists of commercial wood and reverse glasswork interior designs for restaurants like Rock'nFish in Manhattan Beach, Calif., where his son is the executive chef, and a chain of restaurants across America.

His work includes "point of purchase" signs for back bars, and what he calls "ham and eggs signs" for smaller eateries. Beer and ale breweries have contracted him for their designs, and he is among the top five producers of those signs, he says. "They will be collector's items someday," he muses.

Kraft was among the first to design graphic art for the sides of boats and to add lettering to the tops of billboard signs. He created the artwork for the monster truck "Rolling Thunder," from which a Matchbox toy model was made.

On a grander scale, one contract was the gilding of a statue of the Virgin Mary for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' Mary Star of the Sea Chapel, erected 100 feet in the air. Others were for Reuters International and Universal Studios in Los Angeles. He has even collaborated with Bill Gates.

Hundreds of pieces of his work are on display in California, Washington, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, and as far away as Japan. Kraft also makes personal signs to commemorate births, deaths, and milestones in between. He makes address signs and even has designed an entrance

sign for a ranch in Colorado. Locally, he designed signs for O'Callahan's and On The Way Deli, both in Key Center.

He recently designed a logo for a pacemaker company, Micropulse. "Pacemaker patients will be wearing my art next to their heart," he quipped.

He colors his conversation with an analogy to the sparrow and the spider. "The spider sits and waits for his prey to come into his web. I'm more like the sparrow. I go out and look for the fly. I never know where the next job is coming from. Most of my work comes by word of mouth."

With his wife, Ruth, and Char Bantula helping with the sign business, The Sign Man has time for a second interest, horse handling, working with difficult horses. He serves on the committee for the development of equestrian activities on the 360-acre park property to be transferred to the KPMPD this year.

□ On a grander scale, one contract was the gilding of a statue of the Virgin Mary for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' Mary Star of the Sea Chapel, erected 100 feet in the air. Others were for Reuters International and Universal Studios in Los Angeles. He has even collaborated with Bill Gates.



## M&M Ministry reaches out

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Debbie Hanna, Nita McPherson, Mary Everitte and Loraine Newsham select a modest supply of food items from M & M (Mingle & Minister) at the Lakebay Community Church. "M&M Ministry started in 2004 and the church board unanimously undertook to support it in 2005 to help meet the needs of its congregation and neighbors in the community," said Diane Johnson, who with husband Howard directs the program.

M&M is geared to serve both the church congregation and the community. Its outreach includes giving away food to people in need every Thursday at 3 p.m., and no one is turned away.

The church recently undertook a homeless count in the Lakebay area. "We had a great turnout and many took the coats, gloves hats, scarves, blankets, sleeping bags, hygiene products and bottled water that were offered," said Diane Johnson. The Lakebay Community Church and M & M are located at 11 Cornwall Road and can be reached through the Johnsons at 884-3659.

**KP News Summer Guide is coming in June!**

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# Family shares talent, passion for art

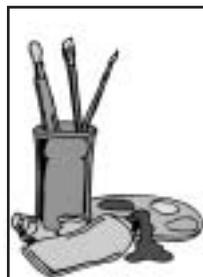
By Jerry Libstaff

The Key Peninsula is home to a family of artists who live their dream. Chris Bronstad, his wife, Colleen Carrigan, and their daughter, Kathryn, are deeply engrained in the local art community.

Colleen and Chris met at the University of Texas at Arlington. They had common interests; both were involved in art and both had family traditions in the arts. They quickly formed a bond that eventually led them to the Key Peninsula, where they became teachers. It was here Kathryn was born and became part of the tradition.

Carrigan, a substitute teacher, has taken a year's sabbatical to devote time to her artistic desires. With a degree in biology, it's no surprise she is passionate about her environment.

Carrigan says, "I love nature and I truly



**The Genuine ARTICLE**



*Photo courtesy of Jerry Libstaff*

Colleen Carrigan and Chris Bronstad with their daughter, Kathryn.

enjoy fashioning my work in smaller images." She is currently producing art cards known as ACEO. The cards, 2 ½ by 3 ½ inches in size, were originally created by classic artists to share with their associates. The cards have become collectibles and an entire movement has developed around them. Carrigan has produced 54 cards since October and sells them on the online auction site eBay. She has traveled to Australia on three occasions to study the unique and diverse flora and fauna

## For more information

Carrigan's work can be seen on eBay under the code Coral2Cove.

Bronstad does portraits on commission. He can be found on the Artist's Page at [www.twowaters.org](http://www.twowaters.org).

found there.

Bronstad, a teacher at Key Peninsula Middle School, can't remember when he wasn't involved in art. In his early years he traveled through Europe for a year and a half, studying the masters. He spent a great deal of time in Italy and was fortunate to study da Vinci's work in close enough proximity to see how the master's brush strokes were produced.

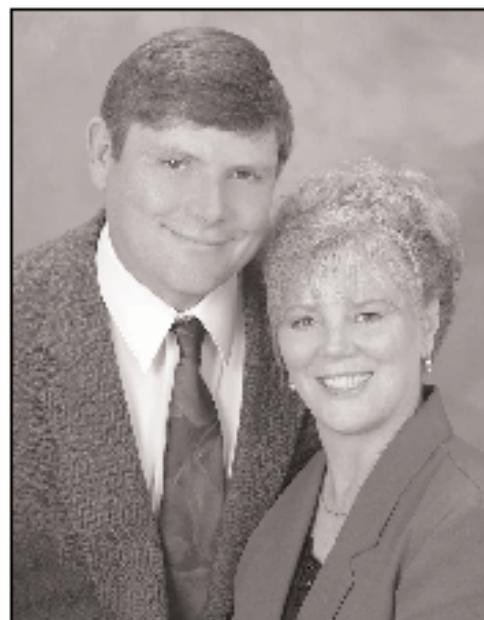
Bronstad and Carrigan were equally interested in wildlife art; however, 10 years ago Bronstad created charcoal portraiture based on the Native American photography of Edward Curtis. He has since focused much of his efforts on portraiture. He has developed a realism that characterizes a photo but also shows the depth and life of the subject. His portraits seem almost able to

converse and draw the viewer to almost sense their breathing.

One of Bronstad's favorite subjects is another artist, his daughter. Kathryn has grown up surrounded by art, and the family often spends weekends together, each at their own palette, creating works of beauty. Kathryn, like her parents, has known and practiced art as far back as she can remember. Chris and Colleen have always encouraged Kathryn's creativity. In fact, until recently, the walls of the living room held examples of her abilities, dating back to her earliest years. Last year Kathryn entered a work in an Audubon Society contest and took first place.

Bronstad says, "Kathryn has a natural ability. She doesn't need a specific subject. If she sees an image she can draw it from any perspective." She was given an assignment to recreate an old aircraft from a photo in a book. Kathryn didn't like the perspective so she drew the plane from another angle and recreated the details as though she had seen it that way.

*Jerry Libstaff, a writer who lives in Vaughn, is president of Two Waters Arts Alliance.*



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## PSD to implement new literacy curriculum

Peninsula School District elementary and middle schools will start a new literacy curriculum next school year that will provide consistent instruction throughout the school district. A new curriculum will also be adopted district-wide at the high school level in the near future.

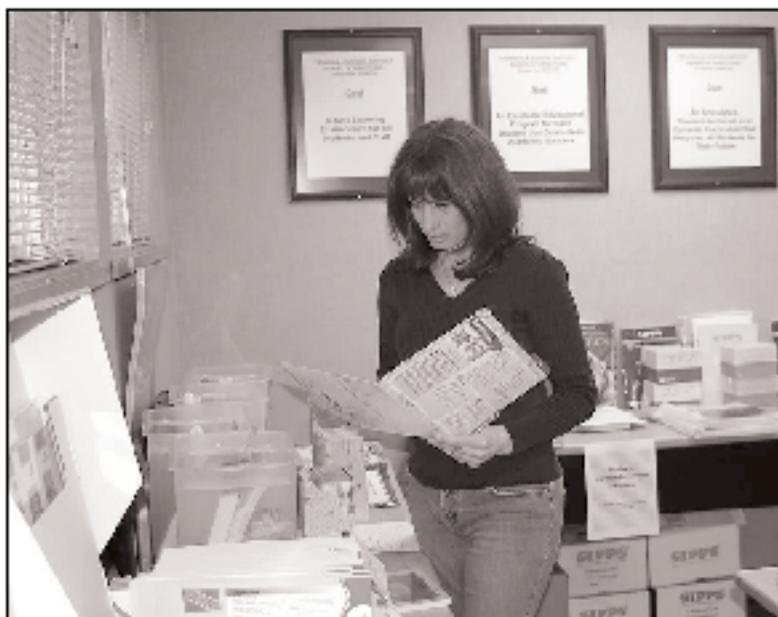
‘Our primary goal is to make sure we have consistent materials and staff support throughout the district,’ says Director of Curriculum and Staff Development Claudia Thompson. ‘The ultimate goal is to have a seamless K-12 language arts experience for all students.’

For the last two years, a literacy leadership committee has met regularly to solidify a literacy philosophy, research best practices, discuss the district’s needs and consider instructional materials. The committee is comprised of teachers and administrators from each PSD school.

‘Consistency means every child is learning the same strategy and using the same set of tools,’ says Literacy Specialist Judy Cromett. ‘Consistency’ will also encourage teachers to collaborate and share ideas and resources.

The new curriculum builds on a strong foundation of professional development.

‘We have done so much professional development around our core beliefs — the committee looked at best practices in



Purdy Elementary teacher Amy Perine, a member of the Literacy Leadership Committee, examines new materials during a committee meeting.

“It really develops a love of reading in children.”

-Literacy Specialist Judi Wilbert

reading and writing, then looked for materials to support that philosophy as well as meet state standards,’ says Literacy Specialist Judi Wilbert.

The materials selected by the committee are being tested this year in several district schools. Amy Perine, one of the committee members who is

piloting the program with her first- and second-grade split class at Purdy Elementary, says the materials being field tested make reading fun.

‘It really develops a love of reading in children,’ she says. ‘They get an opportunity to continually discuss opinions and ideas with each other.’

### March events

- 2** School Board Study Session 6:30 p.m. District Office
- 10** Non-Student Day
- 16-18** GHHS Spring Musical “Bye Bye Birdie” 7:00 p.m. ASB \$6 w/o ASB \$8
- 23** School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Voyager Elementary
- 10-14** Spring Break

### April events

- 20** School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. District Office
- 6** PHS Campus Clean-Up!

### May events

- 11** School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Key Peninsula Middle School
- 15** Non-Student Day
- 25** School Board Study Session 6:30 p.m. District Office
- 26** No School — Possible Snow Make Up Day
- 29** No School — Memorial Day

### GRADUATION 2006

Gig Harbor High School & Peninsula High School

Graduation Ceremonies will be at the Tacoma Dome on Sunday, June 18th, 2006.

The PHS ceremony starts at 3:30 PM and the GHHS commencement will begin at 7:00 PM

Henderson Bay High School Graduation Ceremony Monday, June 19th at 7:00 p.m. Klworth Chapel UPS Campus

### Photo of the month



Geoff McNeish and Ezra Miller are coaching a third-grade basketball team as part of their senior projects at PHS. Team members attend Minter Creek, Vaughn and Evergreen Elementary schools.

### At a glance...

Title II, Professional Development: In the Peninsula School District, 73% of the grant dollars are allocated directly to the district schools. Each building determines how their allocation is spent within the grant parameters. The remaining 27% is used to provide district-wide training opportunities.

### Did you know...

PSD serves 31 English Language Learners who speak Russian, Spanish, Bulgarian, Korean, Japanese, German, Turkmen, and Tagalog.



# Home sellers need 'new eyes' view

By Joyce Tovey  
Special to KP News

The most important task in preparing your home for sale is to improve the "curb appeal." An overused term perhaps, but so important because sometimes if buyers are not impressed by your home's outside appearance, they won't even want to go in. Also, much of today's marketing is done online and the first picture prospective buyers look at is the outside picture of your home, so you will want it to show at its very best.

The changes do not have to be drastic or expensive in most cases, although a fresh coat of paint can't hurt (unless it's purple). But, it does help to clean the moss off your roof, making sure gutters and downspouts are in place; put some seasonally blooming plants around the front entrance and clear out any visible clutter as you approach the house. Remember the old car parked at the side of the house or the old play set in pieces in the yard are things you may have gotten

used to, but are definite eyesores to a prospective buyer.

I often ask potential sellers to approach the house with me from the street to look at their home with "new eyes"; sometimes it's amazing what we as homeowners can pass by everyday and not notice!

Once inside, the same principles apply. Look at each room with your "new eyes" and eliminate as much clutter as possible; make all rooms odor-free and pack away as many of your collectibles as possible. You want buyers to look at your home, not your belongings.

Make sure all the systems in your home are functioning as well as possible. Have the furnace serviced, fix any appliances that are not working, replace light bulbs — do all those service jobs you would want done if you were staying in the house.

Then stand back, admire your home through your "new eyes" and call your nearest real estate agent to help you market your property.

*Joyce Tovey is a broker at Windermere/Key Realty in Key Center.*

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# Out & About



*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

A group of friends and supporters gather to celebrate the 80th birthday of Key Pen resident and community volunteer Keith Stiles, co-founder of the KGHP radio station. In the photo: Joe Barrow, president of the Longbranch Improvement Club; JoAnne Grey of Peninsulas Emergency Preparedness Committee; Keith Stiles; Marcia Harris, deputy superintendent of Peninsula School District; Patricia Scott, principal of Peninsula High School; her husband Curt, a teacher of aviation at Peninsula and Gig Harbor high schools; Tom Stiles, Keith's son; and, hiding behind the deck railing, Gretchen Wilbert, former mayor of Gig Harbor.

A group of adults are enjoying a game of basketball during the open gym night held weekly on Sunday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Civic Center in Vaughn.



*Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Left, The Vaughn Dozers, members of the Gig Harbor Soccer club, went undefeated the last two years, last year in PAA and this year in the District 3 region, which includes teams from Pierce and King counties. The boys are fifth graders from Vaughn, Minter and Evergreen elementary schools. They also won the Mason County soccer tournament in the u-11 class with teams from all over the state and were in the semi-finals in the Presidents' Cup. *Photo courtesy of Vaughn Dozers*



Key Pen residents Marcia Harris, PSD deputy superintendent, and husband Jeff, KP Community Council president, on the trip of their lifetime to Peru, where Jeff served with the Peace Corps more than 30 years ago. "It was a perfect trip and a renewal of our relationship," Jeff said. *Photo courtesy of the Harris family*



*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

At about 5:30 a.m. on Feb. 9, the skies are bright with the descending moon as it makes a spectacular exit toward the west behind Home on Von Geldern Cove.



KP Civic Center Association president and retired commercial pilot Phil Bauer (center) celebrated his 70th birthday with a rollerskating party at the center.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*