

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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Happy Mother's Day May 11

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Little League scores \$75,000 grant



Photos by Hugh McMillan

The powerful Bayside Animal Lodge T-Ballers charge "menacingly" onto the field behind their coach on Opening Day of the KPLL season at Volunteer Park. Below, Les Schwab Juniors' player Randy Nimrick gets on first with a line drive from Taylor Park of Angel Guild's Juniors. More photos at www.keypennews.com

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The Key Peninsula Little League received a \$75,000 grant in April from the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for renovation of baseball field No. 1 (the field with lights) in Volunteer Park. Funding for the project comes from the Youth Athletic Facilities grant program, created through a referendum that provided public financing for the Seahawks' stadium. "Washington has a wealth of outdoor recreational areas," said Kaleen Cottingham, director of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers



the program. "These grants help us take care of and expand those resources."

Grant applicants not only must compete on the technical merits of their projects, they must bring additional resources to the table.

(See KPLL, Page 23)

Fire commissioner found guilty

Sentencing to follow in May

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

On April 24, 2007, a scuffle at the Key Peninsula Fire District 16 headquarters between commissioners James Bosch and

Allen Yanity during a meeting recess ended with Yanity in handcuffs headed to the county jail in Tacoma, and Bosch on his way to the hospital with a head wound. The following day, Yanity was released on \$10,000 bail, and Bosch was preparing to press criminal charges.

Palmer Lake man covers Dalai Lama event

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

When the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu spoke in Seattle during the weeklong "Seeds of Compassion" conference in April, people from all over the Northwest sought tickets to hear the holy men. All events filled quickly; many people who wanted to attend could not.

One of the professional cameramen covering the conference was Greg Magoc, a Palmer Lake homeowner. Recounting one evening in particular, Magoc said, "As Desmond Tutu was leaving the stage, he put his hand on my shoulder and blessed me. How many people can say that?"

Magoc has covered Pope John Paul II, Willie Nelson, presidents Clinton and Bush Sr., Tom Petty, and numerous sporting events, including current Mariners games at Safeco Field. When he talks about what his life might have been had his parents taken the advice of a physician many years ago, this grateful man, usually so animated and talkative, becomes pensive.

Magoc describes his behavior as "disruptive" beginning at about age 6, worsening as he grew. He could not be still;

(See MAGOC, Page 32)

Almost a year later, after many continuances, a trial brought by the state of Washington against Yanity began on April 2. At the conclusion of the trial, on April 11, Yanity was found guilty of assault

(See YANITY, Page 33)

Fire district hopes to build a new tower

By Irene Torres, KP News

Fire District 16 is working on a new communications tower, probably in the Vaughn area, that will allow for improved emergency communications. Division Chief Guy Allen, who is the liaison for the district's communication with the dispatching center, FireComm at Lakewood Fire Department, has been working on a new tower for the past three years. Last year, Laura Worley, director of FireComm, submitted a grant application on the district's behalf for funding for the project. "The concept includes an opportunity to improve communications for Pierce County Sheriff units as well," Allen said.

The grant is moving forward, with anticipation of the tower being built by the end of 2008 or early 2009. The tower will belong to Pierce County Department of Emergency Management.

Tim Lenk, division manager for E911 Communication and Radio Division for Pierce County, will lead the installation. He explained that the grant funding was

through the State Homeland Security Program, and the Equipment Committee has approved \$125,000 for the design and coordination phase. Additional funding will come from FireComm and some from FD-16.

Allen said, "As our emergency calls steadily increase, the frequency of emergency incidents along our western-most shore have increased. Due to topography, that area has always been difficult at best to transmit radio communications to FireComm. Often times, we assign one firefighter to a vehicle at the highest point possible so they can relay communications between units at the scene and FireComm... obviously, not the most efficient use of personnel, and this causes additional radio traffic to communicate a single message." A new tower built off 144th in Gig Harbor (Purdy area) does not have sufficient height for signals to reach the west side of the KP, according to FD-16.

Allen indicated the location of the Vaughn Fire Station, at 12310 Wright-Bliss road, is the best opportunity to

improve radio communications along the western areas of the Key Peninsula, with the least amount of funding to complete the project. He said, "The fire district owns the property. There is a backup generator already on site, the pump house is suitable for the radio equipment and building codes allow for this type of use. The location is also far enough west to provide for a line of sight corridor that reaches south of Herron Island. A new tower was built on Anderson Island last year, which benefits the southern Key Peninsula areas. The line of sight for that tower reaches the south end of Herron Island. The two sites combine for nearly 100 percent radio coverage on the western areas of the Key Peninsula."

Lenk said the property must meet the requirements of permitting, soil evaluation, wind loading and other logistical issues, including notification of neighbors, before development can begin. The tower can be erected on a plot about 50-feet by 50-feet and must have a fence and ribbon wire and

security mechanisms (cameras). Its height could range from 50 feet to 200 feet, depending on the topography. He said the tower would be designed to withstand 100 mph winds, ½-inch of ice, and earthquakes. "It will be part of a regional program and will enhance communications for faster interagency response and mutual aid," he said.

As of the end of March, the grant request was still being reviewed and prioritized. "We have been having discussions to push this along and I believe that it will occur," Allen said. "One baby step concept we talked about with FireComm is to install a 'receiver' antenna to improve our units' ability to make contact with the dispatch center. That is much easier to do given that they won't have to obtain an FCC license until it becomes a 'transmitter' site. Anytime you're attempting to get FCC licensing within 150 miles (it might be 200-plus now) of Canada, their government has the right to approve or deny the request. That is one reason these things take so long to complete."



Photo courtesy Washington DNR

Derelict boat removed

Exodus, a derelict trimarian that had been abandoned for years, was removed in March from Von Geldern Cove, near Home, by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The vessel (pictured here before removal) was taking on water and had a history of breaking free and going aground in various locations in the bay. It posed a safety hazard to local residents and area boaters and also presented a pollution risk, according to

DNR officials. The removal was part of a larger effort to reduce hazards to responsible boaters and clean up Puget Sound.

DNR hired the Port of Olympia to haul the vessel to Olympia where, unless the owners reclaim it, the vessel will be properly disposed. The owners will be responsible for the cost of the vessel's salvage and disposal.

Owners of recreational vessels are required to register their boat each year with the Department of Licensing, even those vessels that are documented with the U.S. Coast Guard. Part of that registration fee, \$3, pays for most of the state's Derelict Vessel Program.

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Car accident claims life

Newly promoted volunteer lieutenant Eddie Reeves is among the responders to the scene of a fatal car accident on Key Peninsula Highway on April 16. Vaughn resident Donald Earl Auburn, 81, was killed after the vehicle he was driving crossed the centerline of Key Peninsula Hwy, north of Key Center and struck another vehicle head on. The driver of the other vehicle was taken to a Tacoma Trauma Center with serious injuries. According to reports, witnesses saw Auburn speeding away from the scene of an earlier accident in Purdy, where he reportedly struck a school bus. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Shoreline committee convenes

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The state of Washington has mandated that Pierce County update its 1979 Shorelines Master Plan prior to 2011. Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee told the KP News he sponsored a motion to accelerate that date so the update is completed during his last term, which ends in 2010.

"It is critical that we take (informed) action now, with all the geoduck issues, development, and environmental factors facing the county, particularly in my district, which includes the Key Peninsula," Lee said.

The initial steps in the three-year update began in June 2006. Lee expects adoption by the full council in 2009, subject to subsequent review and approval by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

The Pierce County Shoreline Citizen Advisory Committee (SCAC) was needed "to provide a forum to discuss shoreline management issues, set goals, review technical work and proposed regulations, and to promote communication with the general public concerning shoreline management issues."

The 22-member committee is comprised of a cross-section of private and public interest groups, environmental and business organizations, and citizens from throughout the county, as well as representation from both the Nisqually and Puyallup tribes, Anderson Island, lake and river waterfront owners, and the aquaculture industry.

Its function will be to advise county staff, the Pierce County Planning Commission and the council. The SCAC is expected to review staff proposals and make recommendations on proposed environment designations, policies, regulations, and other elements of the SMP in an open discussion format. Members are charged with having recommendations ready for the planning commission by Jan. 30, 2009.

The first meeting was in early March. The committee will meet twice monthly throughout the year on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. in the county planning annex in Tacoma. Meetings are open to the public. To be placed on the "interested party" list, contact merkkinn@co.pierce.wa.us.

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Fresh, original voices are wanted! The Key Peninsula News is looking for guest columnists to contribute bi-monthly columns (a total of 6 columns) after the current guest columnists' term expires later this summer.

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

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

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

The finalists will be selected by a panel. Deadline is June 15.

Heat or eat? That is the question

Winter is over. Spring is here. I am almost always "the glass is half-filled" guy. This time "the grocery bag is half empty." As many of you know, either by attendance or coverage in the Key Peninsula News, in February there was a fundraiser for the local food bank. The event, Feast or Famine Banquet, brought attention to worldwide hunger, and specifically, families who are hungry living here on the Key Peninsula.

We are all faced with paying bills, but people living in poverty (right here on our very Key Peninsula) are forced to "solve" the problem of whether they are going to spend their limited money to heat or eat. Payment problems can be even more of a dilemma for people living in poverty, and are either underemployed, unemployed, receiving insufficient welfare, or have poor money management skills. This is especially true in the winter when energy usage rises and adults, children, and the elderly get sick because of insufficient heat, food, or medicine. People in poverty (whether they are receiving welfare or not) usually owe not the supermarket, not the

JUD MORRIS
FROM THE WATER'S EDGE



landlord, but the utility company.

Many local organizations, churches, companies, government agencies, and individuals provide help to people in need of food, rent, mortgage, medicine, or utility assistance, and still it is often not enough. I know there is individual responsibility, but no one on the Key Peninsula should ever be hungry or cold. We all know these facts. Fuel prices are rising, cost of gas rising, we now have bridge tolls, many homes have insufficient insulation, and people are losing their jobs.

We have had much discussion whether our economy is slowing down, or whether we are in a recession. I was always told, "When your neighbor is unemployed, it is a recession. When you are unemployed, it is a depression (in many ways)." When people live in poverty, a slowing of the economy is their recession. When there is

a recession, it is their economic depression. The last to get hired are the first to be fired, and the first to be fired are almost always the last to be rehired.

So let me bring this back to the Key Peninsula (though I never really left it) What I have noticed at the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, and have also been told by Key Peninsula Community Services staff, is there has been an increase in families needing assistance, and many of these families are also "first-timers." These are families who have recently not been able to pay their bills because of rising gas and food prices and/or unemployment. As a parent recently shared with me, "I never imagined needing help, but I am so grateful."

What I have learned is our Key Peninsula neighbors who are living in poverty are like the canaries in the mine. The canary gets sick before the miner does. We are all in the mine together here on the Key Peninsula. If we don't take care of the "canaries in the mine," we will all eventually get sick, and then we will all have to answer the question: Are we going to heat or eat?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parks Appreciation Day a success

On April 19, in spite of the cold miserable weather, 45 hardy souls turned up at the Key Peninsula Civic Center to prune, rake, mow, whack and weed until all the growth and debris of winter had been removed and the grounds had the look of a well-manicured estate. The tennis courts were swept and cleaned and the cedar poles provided by Peninsula Light were arranged around the periphery of the parking lot.

Representatives from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the LDS church, Children's Home Society, Keys to Sobriety, and others showed up to pitch in and help.

The Civic Center Board of Directors, I wish to thank all who contributed to a very successful Parks Appreciation Day.

*Lloyd Miller,
KPCCA vice president*

Land owners' view ignored

I am responding to the article in April issue titled "Road Vacation Denied." I was surprised to read this article concerning the denial of our recent application for a road vacation. The wording implies malicious intent on the part of we, the property owners, in our "attempt to convince Pierce County to vacate a portion of 162nd Avenue" (a road that has never existed except on the plot map, since the 1894 deed was recorded). The "defeat" of this proposal was made into a story to celebrate some sort of victory for the parks district and success for the County Council. We, the property owners, along with our neighbors, were never contacted to give our opinion. I question the ethical integrity of printing people's names without their permission, even when it comes from public records. This is not the kind of journalism a respectable newspaper needs.

*Cindy and Dave Pappas
Key Peninsula*

Bridge should be named for the people

Since the Legislature failed to act on the naming of the second Narrows Bridge after former state Sen. Bob Oke, I believe it should be named for the people who are paying the bulk of it: "The Peninsula Narrows Bridge."

People of the 26th District voted to turn down the bridge paid for by tolls. They voted at the rate of 70 percent against it in my district. But Sen. Bob Oke and the Department of Transportation forged ahead anyway. The second Narrows Bridge has won over a lot of dissenters of that vote because of the ease of crossing it provides, but that doesn't negate the original vote.

Lois McMahan, former state representative, 26th District, Olalla

Response to column

I find it interesting that Rick Sorrels is concerned about managing yard waste but not about the environmental issues of

sending southbound commuters further north to get onto Highway 16. Not only are there exhaust fumes and increased fuel use, but building another, longer road certainly isn't conservation-minded. The population is growing out here so it will only get worse. And who wants a longer commute?

Maybe KP people should start thinking bigger. Advocacy for flexible four-day workweeks, distributed work centers, telecommuting opportunities — even part time, and hydrogen infrastructure would make a dent in the pollution and congestion issues statewide, nationwide, globally... not just here. Like the Clean Air Act, state and federal mandates do have an impact, but it takes people to push them through.

Another thing, I was at the County Council meeting about dog problems. It was my understanding there isn't the money for more "dog catchers"... maybe some of these increased penalties will facilitate that. Further, Rick's tone seems to condemn the dog rather than the owner. People are the problem. Dogs aren't born mean.

*SD Galindo
Vaughn*

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Cell phone law makes sense

People talk about the athletes in the Olympics like they're a big deal. And they are, I suppose. But we sell ourselves short. Just look at what we do in our vehicles every day while we drive — often nothing short of majestic feats of physical and mental eye-hand-foot coordination. We sip coffee and put it in the cup holder or on the seat, fiddle with our iPods, feed children in car seats, let small dogs sit on our lap, smoke a cigarette, eat a danish, mess with the radio/CD player, and if what we're doing takes two hands, we'll wedge a knee up under the steering wheel and steer that way.

We picture the news events of the world in our minds, daydream, scheme, or plan our work day. Some of us — yes — some of us even talk on our cell phones while we drive, and the really evil people text message (texting) when they drive. Now, I'll fiddle with my iPod, feed children in the back seat, move my coffee around and talk on the phone, but that's where I draw the line. I liken texting while driving to those women you see going 80 mph in the fast lane on I-5 in the dark, in the morning, with the interior light on, putting on eye makeup. Risk is relative, I suppose.

So when I heard about the new texting law that went into effect in January that said you can't text and drive, I thought, "Good! Keep those text-messaging maniacs off the road!" But then I heard about the new law that's going into effect this July that targets hand-held cell phones and driving, and I thought, "Now wait just a minute! That affects me personally! That goes too far!"

I was worried about it and actually thought it had already gone into effect, so one day when crossing the Tacoma Narrows, I was talking on the phone (hey, it's a straight road, man, back off!) and I saw a cop buzzing up behind me so I

KEVIN REED
HERE'S SOMETHING



nonchalantly tossed the phone on the floor and started whistling. I thought for sure this guy had seen me talking on the phone and was chasing me down with the intention of pulling me over and wrestling me to the ground. He just drove past me. So then, while driving, I had to reach way down and pick the phone up, further jeopardizing public safety.

But all my stupidity was for nothing, since the law is not in effect yet, but will be starting in July. It targets hand-held cell phones, so you can use a hands-free cell phone while driving, no problem. Talking on a hand-held is not enough to get you pulled over by itself; you have to do something else wrong first, and then you get a ticket for \$101 on top of whatever offense you make. Of course, now instead of people weaving all over and talking on the phone, we'll have folks who get a call and immediately slam on their brakes and jolt over to the side of the road so you almost crash into them from behind. Some people are already doing this.

On the one hand, it's like, what next? No Talking In The Car, period, you might get distracted, or No Eating While Driving, or No Coffee, or No Listening To Barry Manilow. They'll make sure you get plenty of sleep, are in a good mood, have acceptable blood pressure, eat a healthy breakfast, and then you'll strap on a Camelback liquid supply unit with a straw, and off you go into traffic.

On the other hand, part of me is all for it. It always seems that when some clod drifts into my lane and cuts me off, or when someone's driving 10 mph in a 55 zone, or when I have Mr. Brake Every Eight Seconds Man in front of me, nine times out of 10 those jokers are babbling on a cell phone. So then I think, "Sheesh, do I look like that when I'm driving and talking?" I try my best not to, but I can't tell — I'm too busy talking!

They've done some studies on this and have shown that people of all ages react several seconds slower while they are talking on the phone (hands-free and hand-held both, which was interesting). Several seconds can be critical if a child runs out in front of you or you need to avoid an accident, so when I think of it that way, I think, well, OK, I'll do it.



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Ruling issued against geoduck farm

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

In late summer through winter last year, supporters both pro and con packed a hearing room at the Pierce County Annex to witness attorneys representing Pierce County Planning and Land Services, an environmental coalition, the Foss family, and Taylor Shellfish Farms (TSF) battle with boxes of exhibits, and massive binders stacked like fortress walls on defense tables. At issue were two questions: the permanency of the 12-acre tideland Foss geoduck farm permit, obtained by TSF in December 2000, and whether or not a permit was necessary in the first place. TSF assumed from the permit's acquisition it would be perpetual, based on county assurances. It was the first shoreline substantial development permit issued for a geoduck farm in unincorporated Pierce County. At the end of March, a Pierce County hearing examiner ruled against the company with regard to the permit claims.

During ensuing years, neighboring shoreline owners began noticing at times what they described as an unbearable odor coming from the site, as well as debris of tubes, rubber bands and nets washing up along the shore, and an absence of shore sealife. They were also concerned about safety, and obtained copies of the public permit for the farm last year. Believing it had expired, they contacted the county to confirm; subsequently TSF was instructed in August to cease operations until a new shoreline substantial permit had been obtained. The company's response was to file a petition for administrative appeal. The case was assigned to Pierce County Hearing Examiner Terrence McCarthy.

On March 25, McCarthy issued his 32-page decision, which concludes, "The appeal of the Taylor Shellfish is denied. The appellants are required to obtain a

shoreline substantial development permit for their operation at least once every five years."

On March 27, TSF issued a press release. "Now, after we've invested millions of dollars based on what we've been told, county planners have changed their minds," Bill Taylor, CEO, said in his statement. The company claims the decision potentially threatens other types of shoreline development with expiration, including docks, marinas and bulkheads.

Billy Plauche, legal counsel for the company, said, "This ruling contradicts what (my client) was previously told and significantly damages (them). We estimate a damages claim against the county will be in the millions of dollars." The company's press release stated the decision was met with "shock and disappointment." "What's really unfortunate here is that shellfish growing is good for the environment and good for local economies," said Taylor, adding that the examiner had placed neighbors' aesthetic concerns ahead of an industry that provides "hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars to local economies in the Puget Sound."

A State of Washington Shorelines Hearings Board Petition for Review and a Land Use Petition Act Petition were filed by Plauche on behalf of TSF on April 16. He confirmed that TSF had also filed a formal application for a new substantial shoreline permit with the county on Feb.19 as a precautionary measure.

Vicki Diamond, a supervisor with Pierce County Planning, was present at the hearings and testified before McCarthy. She said prior to the formal department opinion in August 2007 (regarding the expiration) there had been no official administrative determination. She stated that geoduck aquaculture was new to the county at the time (2000), and staff was unsure whether or not the permit expired.

In a statement to the KP News in April, Diamond responded vaguely to several questions concerning the site. TSF geoduck manager, Brian Phipps, told McCarthy there are probably 1.3 million pounds of geoduck on the Foss farm, with an estimated value between \$15 million and \$20 million. The KP News asked Diamond if the company would be permitted to harvest the crop as it became

mature. "We haven't come to a conclusion on that yet," she said. Asked to comment on the likelihood of Taylor Shellfish Farms' success in obtaining a new permit to continue operations, Diamond said, "I would not speculate on that; that's why it goes to the hearing examiner." She stated McCarthy's decision "obviously supports the administrative determination and interpretation we made" and added, "Other than that, I have no comment."

Represented by counsel as interveners (as was North Bay Partners/Foss), Henderson Pay Shoreline Association President Laura Hendricks sent an email to the KP News following McCarthy's decision. "Our shoreline coalition is grateful that Terrence McCarthy, the Pierce County Hearing Examiner, recognized the significant impacts of geoduck farming," she wrote. "...His opinion (speaks to) the enormity of the impacts, lack of science, that the nets and tubes constitute a 'structure' and interfere with use of the surface waters... and most importantly, that a Shoreline Development permit is necessary and is valid for five years."


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Livable Community Fair to showcase best of community

Annual fuchsia sale, special museum display part of the event

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Key Peninsula Civic Center at Vaughn hosts the Sixth Annual Livable Community Fair on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Civic Center and Safe Streets sponsor the event.

This year, special informational presentations will be held in the Whitmore Room, where Two Waters Arts Alliance will also set up a display. Presentations include a discussion on land use and permits, animal control and emergency preparedness.

Outside, Fire District 16 will demonstrate and discuss fire extinguishers, Master Gardeners will have a booth, and Pierce County Solid Waste will share tips about composting and recycling. A container to collect food donations for Key Peninsula Community Services will be available near the main door.

Livable Community Fair presentations/speakers

Sessions will be held in the Whitmore Room and are free.

10 a.m.: Friends of Pierce County, land use/permits

11 a.m.: Terry Lee, Pierce County Council

Noon: Pierce County Auditor's office, animal control

1 p.m.: Peninsula High School's Teens Empowered Against Meth

2 p.m.: Debbie Bailey of Pierce County Emergency Preparedness

About 45 nonprofit organizations on the Key Peninsula will have tables in the gym, with information, and in some cases, activities, for visitors. Special activities for children will also be available. The reptiles will be on the mezzanine this year, and Sparky the dog and Kawshun "D" safety clown will wander the area to greet people.

Lunch items will be for sale from the



WSU Pierce County Co-Op Extension volunteer master gardener Robin Pearson talks to Billie Hanson, of KP, about plants at Lakebay Fuchsia Society plant sale.

Key Pen News archive photo

kitchen, including hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, cookies, and soft drinks.

The fair's motto is, "Together We Can...Build a Better Tomorrow!"

Plant Sale

The 13th annual plant sale of the Lakebay Fuchsia Society will include 50-plus baskets of blooming or ready-to-bloom fuchsias, and starts of both hardy and nonhardy fuchsias, including uprights and trailers, assorted colors and sizes. The sale runs from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., and includes some perennials and annuals.

The Society planted and maintains the garden on the southwest corner of the lawn area at the Civic Center. This garden

demonstrates the variety of hardy fuchsias that grow in the local area, as well as a multitude of companion plants to create an all-season display.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society, under the direction of President Myranwy Shirley, meets each month on the first Thursday at the Key Center Library, 7 p.m. Guests are welcome. For more information, call 884-2283.

Museum events

The Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum, celebrating Heritage Month, hosts a display of vintage kitchen items during its Open House from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Jean Cammon Findlay, co-author of the just released "Mosquito Fleet of Southern Puget Sound" will be on hand to sign books for sale at the museum and at the museum booth at the Livable Fair.

More "Heritage plants" from local homesteads and properties settled a hundred years or more ago will be for sale, and surprise package items will be raffled off each hour.

Regular museum hours are Thursday and Saturday, 1-4 p.m. or by special appointment. Quarterly meetings of the Historical Society include educational programs of local interest. For more information, call 884-3702, or visit www.keypeninsulamuseum.org.

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KHGP undergoes changes, gears up to host state event

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

The local radio station, KHGP, has made several big changes recently. The station is owned and operated by the local school district at Peninsula High School.

Last September Spencer Abersold was hired as general manager. Prior to that, the broadcast journalism instructor, Leland Smith, was stretched thin, managing both the program and the radio station, which is on the air 24/7.

Abersold continues to present his own program on Friday evenings, like the 13 other volunteers from the community who work outside of regular school hours when the high school students aren't manning the microphones. Abersold reluctantly admitted he works in excess of 55 hours per week for the station. His enthusiasm is infectious.

"The general manager's responsibilities include all activities in the station, managing the volunteers, programs and formatting, the music library, the recording studio, computers

KGHP details

KGHP can be found at 89.9, 89.3, and 93.7 on the FM dial. Potential underwriters can contact the station manager at 253-225-1195. News tips, public service announcements, and comments can be submitted to abersolds@psd401.net.

and automation, relations with underwriters, licensing requirements, public appearances representing the station, etc," he says.

The station's programming included a lot of Americana, grass roots, and blue grass. "Starting in January 2008, we changed our late night and weekend automated programs to hit music since the 1950s in order to appeal to a broader spectrum of our listeners," Abersold says. "There are approximately one million persons living within our broadcast range that could tune in."

In April, a computer upgrade was finished, and changes were planned, including "Dark Side of the Moon" (Pink Floyd) program after midnight on

Fridays, dance music on Saturdays after 9:30 p.m., concerts after midnight on Saturdays, and a return to 1950s radio shows on Sundays," he says. Students and volunteers welcome requests and comments from listeners, who may call them in to 857-3589.

Currently, Smith is busy arranging the first-ever Washington State High School Radio Awards and Convention, to be held on May 15 at Peninsula High School. "There are awards presentations for students in many academic areas, but never before in broadcast journalism," he says. "This will give long-overdue recognition to some truly outstanding students from the nine high schools in Washington state with radio stations."

Students are nominated by their schools for the awards, with judging to be done by industry professionals. Among the 10 award categories will be best individual newscast, best team newscast, best news service, best sportscast, best production elements, and best public service announcements.

"The day will start out with the opening speaker, Andy Harms, a Seattle

rock jock very popular with teenagers at radio station KNDD 107.7FM. Then we move on to a series of 45-minute seminar sessions, followed by lunch and the awards," Smith says.

The event will take place during regular school hours and will not be open to the general public.

Another recent change is the addition of an emergency command post for KHGP at the Fire District 5 Emergency Operations Center in Gig Harbor. Keith Stiles, station engineer and one of the original founders, says, "This will greatly facilitate the services that we can provide during emergency operations for the community."

The synergism of teachers, students, school administrators, management, dedicated citizens, government officials, and underwriters has created a highly functional public service radio station that serves the community.

"We are still not quite self-sufficient," Stiles says. "We could use some more underwriters. They're called something different than advertisers because we are nonprofit. It's one of the rules."

Key Peninsula Community Services

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KPMPD flexes fiscal muscle

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

At the April 10 meeting of Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (KPMPD), among the topics under discussion by board commissioners were several financial decisions. Commissioner Greg Anglemeyer produced a survey he had devised to assess salary ranges for KPMPD employees, relative to salaries paid in other similar venues. The sampling included 16 small to midsize cities, PenMet and Tacoma Metro Parks districts, Peninsula Light, and Pierce County. The closest in population number to KPMPD (17,000 people) was the city of Burien, serving 31,040 people. The average director's salary range for all locations, including KPMPD (currently at \$3,333 to \$3,538/month), was \$7,276 to \$8,958/month. KPMPD ranked last in the salary survey, but of the 20 districts/municipalities owning park acreage, KPMPD owned more (247 acres) than five others. Only two

(Pierce County and the city of Sammamish) covered more geographic area in square miles than KPMPD (65 square miles). The director of KPMPD, Scott Gallacher, maintains and repairs park holdings with fewer than six employees, including himself; KPMPD ranks dead last again in number of employees and employee benefits.

The board unanimously agreed to raise the director's salary range to \$55,000-\$80,000/year, and approved a salary increase to \$4,916 (\$59,000/year), effective June 1. They also approved 50 cents/mile compensation when using a personal vehicle for park business, an allowance for cell phone usage, and is investigating a state personnel retirement program for all KPMPD employees, at an annual cost to the district of \$9,000 in 2008.

Gallacher was given the task of researching and selecting a tractor for the district. He favors the inclusion of implements that will benefit the growing holdings of the district: front-

end loader, brush-hog, post-hole digger, backhoe. Commissioners provided a budget of \$35,000-\$40,000 for the acquisition, with \$1,000 anticipated monthly payments.

KPMPD is aggressively pursuing multiple land purchases, and is looking into partnering with Trust for Public Lands to acquire a large tract of tide and uplands at Dutcher's Cove. Gallacher, approached by the owner last summer, forwarded the information to TPL, and a two-year option was subsequently secured by the conservancy organization. KPMPD is working with TPL toward grants through the state of Washington and U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. "We are trying to leverage as much funding as we can from as many resources as possible to reduce the amount of match that Key Pen Parks will need to come up with," Gallacher told the KP News in an email. "As with any grant process, it is very competitive, and there is no guarantee that we will be successful; however, we are sure going to try."

BRIEFS

news

Lions Club hosts Kilmer

The Key Peninsula Lions will hold a series of public forums following its regular meetings for the foreseeable future. The first presentation will be a report following dinner at the club's meeting on May 7 by Sen. Derek Kilmer on the proceedings of the recently concluded session of the Legislature. State Rep. Larry Seaquist, will address the group on May 21, and Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee is scheduled for June 18. The Lions plan to have a series of nonpartisan public forums following their 6 p.m. dinner meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The public is encouraged to attend the forums beginning at 7 p.m. as guests of the KP Lions. For information, call 853-2721 or 884-3566.

Vicious animals law adopted

On April 15 the Pierce County Council approved changes to the county's animal control regulations, making it more difficult and more expensive to own a vicious animal. The ordinance (2008-14) amends the county code to define a dangerous or potentially dangerous animal and how it must be kept, increases the fees for keeping such animals, and broadens the penalties for failing to comply with the new regulations.

For details on the new law, contact the county council or the auditor's office.

KPMPD launches grant program

Key Pen Parks is developing a program to help community groups improve park, recreation, and program opportunities for citizens of the Key Peninsula. Grant applications will be available around June 1; more information to follow. Call 884-9240.

Help needed for Home Park playground

Key Pen Parks is soliciting sponsors and individuals who would like to contribute to helping build a Playground & Picnic Shelter at Home Park. Volunteers needed. For info: info@keypeninsulaparks.com or 884-9240.

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KP real estate market follows regional trends

By Irene Torres, KP News

The real estate market has suffered a decline nationwide, and the Key Peninsula is not an exception. The picture is very different from a couple of years ago, when homes were flying off the market as quickly as they were listed, and buyers had several competing bids from sellers, some of whom even offered prices much above the listing price.

Over the past year, the inventory of homes for sale on the Key Peninsula has increased 5 percent, with 259 listed in March. Land-for-sale inventories are also up slightly, with 246 March listings. There was a 46 percent decrease in residential closed sales compared to a year ago, according to a report provided by Tony Lindsay, an agent with John L. Scott Key Peninsula.

But things are starting to look up. Dottie Mazza, a local agent with Windermere Key Realty, told the KP News, "In the month of March, we saw an increase in buyers and sellers stopping by our office to inquire about the market activity. This is a very encouraging sign."

Frank Nothaft, the chief economist for mortgage buyer Freddie Mac, told the National Economics Club in a speech that 46 states experienced falling home prices in the fourth quarter of 2007, and that prices nationwide were down 9.3 percent. In the Pacific region, prices fell an average of 17.2 percent, he said. Pierce County as a whole experienced a 6 percent decline in home prices over the past year.

"It's a buyer's market," Mazza said. The median home price of \$300,000 on the Key Pen is about the same as it was in April 2007. Northwest MLS Director Dick Beeson was quoted in the Kitsap Sun in early April as saying the market in the region has "reached bottom — or pretty darn close." Beeson, of Tacoma, said although inventory continues to grow, there is also a "vigor and energy in the local markets that we have not seen in more than six months."

In Washington state, statistics from March show an increase in foreclosures. However, according to RealtyTrac, a California company, "actual increases may not be as high (as originally calculated) due to data collection changes or improvements."

"It's taking longer to sell both home and land listings," Mazza said. "We haven't seen as many foreclosures in our area as in other parts of the country."

In an Associated Press release in April, it

For more details

For statistics on the local real estate market, visit www.keypennews.com

was reported the National Association of Realtors is lobbying for legislation to limit abusive lending practices, encourages credit union regulations, and favor a bill to let judges alter mortgage terms in bankruptcy court. That group spent \$13.7 million lobbying the federal government in 2007.

"Buyers will need to have a down payment and better credit scores than in the past" to qualify for mortgages and preferred rates, Mazza said. "However, there are still a few good programs for no down payment loans for properties in rural areas like the Key Peninsula."

Now, with more vacant, bank-owned homes competing for purchasers, sellers and their realtors must pay attention to "curb appeal" and extra enticements like appliances, contribution to closing costs, etc. A local RE/Max realty expert told the KP News it is important for sellers to change the way they live in a home when they put it on the market. Selling for a lower price can lead to greater value for a repurchase, especially in other parts of the country.

Mortgage lenders are shifting away from financing manufactured homes. Because they comprise many of the foreclosed properties, lenders are tightening criteria or declining to finance them altogether. FHA remains a resource for purchasers of manufactured homes, and provides a fixed-rate mortgage with a low down payment.

Interest rates are very good, as low as 5.5 percent, which makes it even a more appealing time for those who are looking to buy a new home or invest in real estate.

Lindsay told the KP News, "The real estate market has seen tough times this last year or so. In many areas of Puget Sound, we have had reduction in home values, but the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula markets are positive...The national real estate news paints a very negative picture and confuses the general public. The Pacific Northwest markets... are not affected the same as the nation's markets and have done well in general. My recommendation to home buyers and sellers is to research their local market and not make decisions based on national real estate news."

Ending on a positive note, he said, "We most likely will see 2008 activity much like it was in 2007, but all indications lead to a good recovery in 2009."



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Residential construction continues on the Key Pen, although the real estate market has tapered off.

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Advocating for foster families

Vaughn resident leads national association

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

May is National Foster Care Month, and foster care advocates around the country are organizing a variety of events to raise awareness and show support. Locally, a fund-raising walk is planned on the Key Peninsula May 3. Vaughn resident Karen Jorgenson, who is coordinating the event, is the executive director of the National Foster Parenting Association (based in Gig Harbor).

Jorgenson and her husband, Dave, started foster parenting in the early '70s and have been involved ever since. She has served as executive director of NFPA for 10 years. Jorgenson loves her work and is thoroughly dedicated to a lifelong commitment of helping others.

The Jorgensons have one birth child and one adopted. Karen's grandmother was always interested in children and the love carried through. Jorgenson wanted to do things for other people so she became a licensed social worker and

Today, the association has grown from 926 foster parents to over 513,000 children who are temporarily separated from their families because of abuse, neglect or many other reasons.

started a "head start" program where she intervened on behalf of children with special needs. While living in Ohio, she recruited families to become foster parents and since the early '70s she and Dave have fostered unnumbered children who needed a temporary home, whether that was a day, week, or months. The couple is still in touch with their first foster child, who is now 49.

Jorgenson has worked a variety of jobs, both public and private, and says, "It is a chance to share blessings with others." During their life in Ohio, she started working for the NFPA and soon became the executive director. When her mother, who lives on the peninsula, became ill, Jorgenson moved the headquarters to



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Karen Jorgenson of Vaughn has been the executive director of National Foster Parenting Association for 10 years.

Gig Harbor, where she could be close to her mother and still preside over her job. Her role now is caring for the foster parents and their needs in many ways through the association.

The NFPA is a nonprofit organization established in 1972 as a result of the concerns that the country needed a national organization to meet the needs of foster families in the United States. Today, the association has grown from 926 foster parents to over 513,000 children who are temporarily separated from their families because of abuse, neglect or many other reasons.

The national office in Gig Harbor works with child advocacy organizations to promote the improvement of the foster care system, as well as to help advance the laws and policies that affect foster families.

This May's event will consist of about 100 walks in more than 25 states. In addition to

More information

To learn more about the National Foster Care Association, visit www.nfpainc.org. Information about the fundraising walk, called "Walk Me Home ... to the place I belong," is available at www.walkhome.org.

the peninsula, many walks will take place between Olympia and Everett under Jorgenson's coordination. The May 3 Key Pen 5K fundraising walk starts at 8:30 a.m. at the KP Lutheran Church. It is being sponsored by the National Association and its affiliate, the Foster Parenting Association of Washington State. Walkers participating in the event need to collect at least \$30 in donations, and upon completing the course each walker will tie a ribbon to a tree. Blue ribbons, used during the National Foster Care Month, symbolize children in foster care.

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PHS yard makeover

Peninsula High School's courtyard received a complete makeover in April, thanks to a Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant, many local businesses and dozens of volunteers who worked on the grounds on April 19. The \$6,700 grant was the result of efforts by Peninsula High School Booster Club.

The new "Green Courtyard," will include handicap-accessible paths, low-maintenance plants and an overall beautified look.

Key Pen-based Gilliam Construction, Inc. helped the Booster Club make this project a reality, donating time and labor. "Chris Gilliam, owner of Gilliam Construction, took this project to heart and has helped secure other generous donations from such local companies as Purdy Topsoil, Morrison Gravel, RTC Construction, Haugen Construction, NC Machinery, American Laser Works and Stoneway Electrical Supply," says parent volunteer and one of the main project organizers Mindi LaRose. "Because of Chris' dedication, this project will see completion and at more than half off of



the regular cost of labor and supplies."

Other community supporters include Harbor Christian Center, and Sue Goetz of Creative Gardener who created the landscape architectural plans (purchased by National Honor Society students).

In the photo: Chris Gilliam of Gilliam Construction and his assistant, Jonathan Lloyd, are assisted by students of the PHS National Honor Society during the project. More photos at www.keypennews.com.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

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Boys & Girls Club to start construction

By Jeanette Brown
Special to the KP News

The new site of Gig Harbor's Boys and Girls Club will be known as the Jim and Carolyn Milgard Family HOPE Center, and the Milgards will be on hand at the ground breaking ceremony scheduled for Thursday, May 29, at 3:30 pm.

The site of the new community center is located near the water tower in the vicinity of Gig Harbor and Henderson Bay high schools.

Members of the administrative staff from the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound will also be on hand "to meet with interested community members, who are invited to attend the half hour-long formal ceremony," says president and CEO Rick Guild. "We expect to be fully moved onto the site and operational by September of 2009," he adds.

The Milgards, who reside in the Gig Harbor area, are major monetary contributors and have spent many hours volunteering their services on the fundraising committee. The couple has made the youth of Gig Harbor their top priority and donated approximately \$3 million toward the project. The estimated cost of the 34,000-square-foot facility is \$14 million.

"The purpose of the Boys & Girls Club's HOPE Centers is to maximize the use of the whole facility in addition to providing an affordable place for children to go after school," says Jinnie Hanson, director of Marketing and Communications. There will be a teen center, art room, programs room, computer lab,



Courtesy TCF Architecture

The architect's rendering of the facility, from the street wall looking north.

gymnasium and an area devoted to the dance and performing arts.

The multitenant-use facility will be made available to the community during nonclub hours, so while kids are in school during the day, the building will provide other services and social activities. In addition to a commercial-size kitchen, there will be office spaces, multipurpose rooms and conference rooms.

The Gig Harbor location will also be the new home of the local senior center.

"A program is also being planned which will provide outreach services to residents of the Key Peninsula, while working closely with the local school district and the Key Peninsula Civic Center to identify the area's specific needs," Guild says. "We hope to capture the interest of the community at the groundbreaking ceremony and I would like to hear from residents of the Key Peninsula about the outreach programs and after-school activities they would like to see implemented."

Guild may be reached at (253) 502-4602 or guildr@bh-clubs.com.

Job recruitment starts for hospital, campaign continues



Franciscan Health System began recruiting for some 60 jobs of the 450 that will be created at St. Anthony's hospital in Gig Harbor (See www.fhshealth.org/job/StAnthony.asp). With construction moving ahead as scheduled, a campaign to raise \$10 million is in full swing.

Funding from Campaign for St. Anthony will help equip and enhance the new hospital and the adjacent medical building, called Peninsula Medical Pavilion at St. Anthony. A quiet phase of the campaign brought in \$7 million from a total of about 65 donors including several major ones, and pledges are now being solicited from the general public.

The focus of the public phase of the campaign announced in March is to raise the final \$3 million of the goal. The campaign will continue until St. Anthony Hospital opens in early 2009. Donors who pledge \$25,000 or more are being offered an opportunity to have their name or the name of a loved one permanently linked with a specific room or area of the hospital.

For information, contact Campaign for St. Anthony in Gig Harbor at 857-1436.

In the photo: The view of the construction site in March.

Photo courtesy FHS

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Adventure of a lifetime

By Lori Colbo, KP News

Two Peninsula High School students will be doing us proud as they go to Europe as ambassadors from the United States for the People to People Program. According to Casey Kearl, 15, who was chosen to go to Holland, "the People to People Program was established 50 years ago by Dwight D. Eisenhower to create national unity in other countries around the world."

Kearl will be in Holland for eight days. Marshall Heinemann, 14, will be going to France, Italy and Greece for 21 days. Both will be sight-seeing and participating in various activities as U.S. representatives. Kearl will be wrestling, and Heinemann will be learning about the cultures and foods of the countries he is visiting as well as meeting with government officials.

According to Kearl, there will be 3,000 kids from all across the country participating in the People to People program this year. Heinemann will be going with eight other students from Pierce and Kitsap counties. At one point on the trip, his group will be meeting with two other delegations from Illinois and Georgia.

The nominations are usually made by teachers and coaches. After students are nominated, they interview with a People to People representative. After being selected, they must attend a series of meetings to prepare for the trip. "We talk about what to look for and what to watch out for," says Kearl.

Asked what they're looking forward to the most, Heinemann said, "Trying different foods. I love Italian food. Also, they will be testing our fears by having us rappel down a castle. If we make it, we get a sweatshirt that says we faced our fears and made this accomplishment."

Kearl says, "I'm looking forward to the wrestling. I'm also Dutch and am looking forward to learning more about my background."

Friendship Village, a special village for People to People ambassadors in Holland, will be the residence for Casey



Photo courtesy Heinemann family

Key Pen resident Marshall Heinemann (pictured) and Gig Harbor resident Casey Kearl, are two friends from Peninsula High School who were selected for two separate People to People trips.

If you'd like to help

To purchase Cutter's Point cards, contact Marshall Heinemann at 857-7640 and for car wash coupons, email Casey Kearl at carolkearlmt@msn.com.

Kearl in Holland. "We will be staying in a hotel," he said. "The village has stores and stuff in it too." Heinemann will mostly be staying in a hotel, but will be doing a home study for a day or two as well.

One of the greatest challenges the boys face in preparing for their trip is funding. Between the two of them, they need several thousand dollars. A silent auction fundraiser was held last week at Peninsula High School in April, but the results were disappointing with only nine people attending. They are grateful for the \$600 raised but were disappointed that more people didn't attend. Leftover auction merchandise will be sold on Craig's List to raise more funds. Heinemann also will be selling Cutter's Point gift cards for \$15 and Kearl is selling car wash coupons for \$8 that are good for one car wash at 26 different locations in Pierce County.

The boys are looking forward to the adventure of a life time and are proud to be representing their school and their country.

Due to an editing error, the name of Sallie Shawl was spelled incorrectly in an article in the April issue. Shawl is the director of Paint Tacoma-Pierce County Beautiful. We regret the error.

Minter student is ambassador

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Ten-year-old Hunter VanScoyk is possibly the youngest person ever nominated to be a student ambassador for the People to People Program. At least in this school district. The Minter Creek Elementary fifth-grader was nominated by a teacher because of his good leadership qualities. This modest, almost shy young man is, in his own words, "honored to have been chosen."

He wrote, "People to People is an educational program that is also fun. As a Student Ambassador I hope to understand other people better." He will travel to England and France for 14 days in July. "I am looking forward to going because my great grandfather fought in WWII and we will be spending some time on the Omaha and Utah Beaches where the D-Day landings were made and visit the American Cemetery. I also can't wait to see Stonehenge," he wrote.

Hunter needs to raise \$5,400 for his trip and has received some money from his family and friends. His father, Todd, is a local firefighter and member of the



Hunter VanScoyk may be one of the youngest People to People student ambassadors.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Key Peninsula Firefighters Association, which held a fundraising car wash on April 19 at the KC Corral in Key Center. Hunter plans to organize a canned food drive, with proceeds to benefit M&M Ministries at Lakebay Community Church.

"I know it seems like a 10-year-old is too young to go to England without his parents," Hunter said, "but I feel we are never too young to understand and experience other cultures. I hope this will change the way I look at people when I am older."

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CORRECTION

KPMS celebrates fourth year of NASA partnership

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

At the end of March, Key Peninsula Middle School hosted a daylong program, "To Infinity and Beyond," to celebrate its fourth year of a partnership with NASA. The program featured Dr. Michelle Thaller of NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope program.

Although KPMS, the first NASA Explorer School in Washington state, completed its three-year official affiliation with the program last year, KPMS is still very much involved with NASA as it moves into an unprecedented fourth consecutive year. The Explorer School program is a partnership designed to bring NASA's mathematics, science, and technology learning to educators, students, and families.

Over the past months, KPMS has hosted a flurry of NASA-related activities. Among them was a presentation to the aerospace class by frequent visitor NASA Col. G. Warren Hall, who shared his personal experiences in aviation and space.

Recently, three KPMS teachers, Patty Rivers, Karen Lindberg, and Phyllis Isbell returned from what Lindberg called "the adventure of a lifetime." They'd joined other NASA Explorer School teachers from across the United States in Houston, Texas, to fly experiments aboard a C9 specially modified aircraft.

The KPMS team participated in the program for 10 days at NASA's expense. They conducted an experiment designed by KPMS students that tested the theory that baking soda and vinegar would not mix and cause a chemical reaction in Zero G.

Ten separate experiments were conducted during the Zero G portion of the flight. The students' theory was proven, as there was no mixing during the experiment and, therefore, no gas reaction produced. KPMS students who served as the support team and part of the ground crew were Dani Richey, Sabrina Schroeder, Nick Mendenhall, Michelle McCormack, Andrew Mattingly, Jason Gunther, Willie Wilber, Devon Kennedy, Cheyenne Schoonover,



Dr. Michelle Thaller of NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope program holds her audience spellbound explaining the enormity of space during the March presentation at KPMS. For more photos see April's KP News online gallery at www.keypennews.com.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Felicia Kohlage, and Robert Casey.

"We were fortunate to have the opportunity to fly on NASA's C9 'Vomit Comet' or 'Weightless Wonder' as NASA likes to call it," said Lindberg, adding, "KPMS' opportunity for teachers to go in Zero G again this year was the result of a NASA grant submitted by NASA Explorer School team leader Kareen Borders. Last year four other KPMS team members went on the flight."

Recently, KPMS' library was the scene of a live video conference between students and NASA astronaut Dr. Janet Kavandi, with whom kids shared questions and answers — almost as if the astronaut were in the library. She was, in fact, in Seattle attending a NASA Teachers' forum; their conversations were relayed between her and the Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi to KPMS and back in real time.

Student Hunter Smith said the opportunity to speak with Dr. Kavandi was "a once in a lifetime chance — most people never get to do something like

that — it was incredible."

Borders said, "I watched the videoconference from the NASA Future Forum at the Museum of Flight (in Seattle) and am so proud of our students. I talked with Dr. Kavandi, who was very impressed with our students and their level of critical thinking. She thought student questions were great."

At the KPMS March 20 "To Infinity and Beyond" event featuring Dr. Michelle Thaller of NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope program, the audience was almost open-mouthed learning of the, literally, billions of years of the various universes in which our Earth is such a small (but very important) part. Thaller graciously entertained an almost endless number of queries from science oriented KPMS students and members of the audience. Her mind-numbing presentation displayed a continuum of wall-sized-screen exposures of newly acquired, space-placed telescopic acquisition which were virtually incomprehensible to even the most space-knowledgeable members of the audience.

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PHS robotics team attends regional tournament

By Cameron McMillan
Special to KP News



Joel Overly holds one of his team's robot creations during a demonstration for Peninsula High School students. The team, called "Fear the Hawk," showed off its skills in April prior to leaving for California. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Peninsula High School is the first school to have a Botball team in the Pacific Northwest, which includes Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The team attended a regional competition in California in April, winning Judge's Choice Awards for "Best Sportsmanship" and "Best Presentation."

Botball is a robotics competition that is sponsored by the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics (KISS stands for "Keep It Simple, Stupid," which is also the institute's motto). While participating in this competition, every student team receives an identical set of Legos and assorted metal parts with which to construct their robots. All the robots must be designed to operate autonomously, meaning they must perform their functions without receiving outside commands.

This is the second year PHS has had a robotics team. "The robotics team gives me a lot of experience working with things that don't work even though they should," said head team programmer Austin Cluff.

"It gave us an excuse to stay inside in front of computers on nice days."

But the Botball competition is more than just an enjoyable pastime; it provides the team members with practical experience in a highly technical field and helps teach them how to design, build and test a complex machine. Team captain Bryan Humlie said, "This gives me experience for my career field, computer engineering. And it's fun!"

Being the only Northwest team means there is no league in the immediate region, so the PHS team had to travel to California to compete at the Botball regional championship on April 19 at the University of Santa Clara. They faced stiff competition this year, going up against 27 other teams. In the end, PHS placed 11th in the ratings.

The coach for the team is Sheri Ahlheim, a math teacher at PHS. She's trying to increase interest in and support for the team since many of the current members are going to be graduating this year. If the team doesn't recruit more members, it may not be able to continue next year.

"I knew it would mean a lot of extra

hours outside normal school hours for me, but it's such a great opportunity for the kids to explore something different," said Ahlheim, who is volunteering her time to lead the team.

Botball is not a cheap activity. It costs \$2,500 to register a team and members have to pay their own travel expenses to go to California. Ahlheim arranged a partial scholarship from the KISS Institute to help defray the entry costs this year. The team also received a generous donation from the PHS Boosters, which covered the rest of the entry fee. With limited financial support from Peninsula School District, the team is actively seeking funding to ensure that PHS can to continue to participate in Botball next year. Ahlheim hopes to expand the program. Some students at both Gig Harbor High and Key Peninsula Middle School have already expressed interest. She hopes to eventually see a Botball Pacific Northwest competitive region. It takes 12 teams to start a new region.

Cameron McMillan is an eighth-grade student at KPMS and a member of the PHS Robotics Team.



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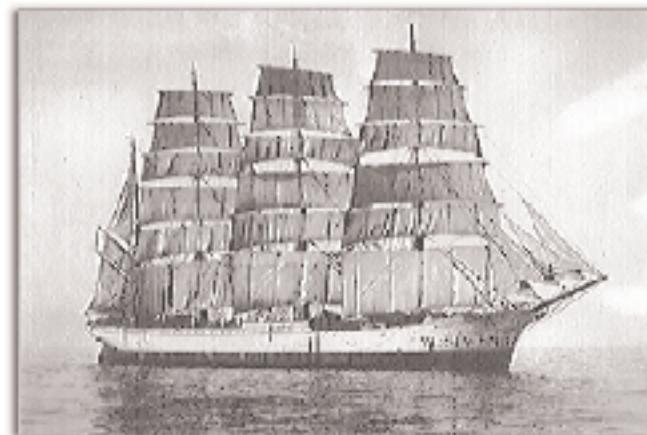


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Show & Tell



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Peninsula High School senior Grace Daily, National Honor Society volunteer, helps second grader Sam Schwenzer during the afterschool knitting club at Evergreen Elementary. Daily's mom, Donna, seated at upper left, is a longtime knitting instructor as part of the AFTER 'HOURS program.

Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck presents a certificate of recognition to PSD's Ron Stark, one of 10 finalists nationwide for the Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award that rewards excellence in developing and delivering technology.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Left to right, Kelsie Abel as stepsister, Lyndsi LaRose as Cinderella, and Allison Bill as stepsister, during the rehearsal of the "Cinderella" musical. Peninsula High School continues to present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" May 1-4. The amazing costumes were designed and handmade by junior Faith Higgins (playing the queen) and her mother. All shows 7 p.m., Sunday matinee 3 p.m. General admission \$10, seniors (over 55), students w/ ASB card and children under 12 \$8. (Tickets at the door or by reservation at 530-4450). See more photos at www.keypennews.com

Photo by Mindi LaRose

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Photo courtesy Travis King

In a crowded Anaheim hotel room, The Peninsula Outlook newspaper staff surround their first place trophy after an awards ceremony. The NSPA awarded the Outlook Best in Show" in its category at a national journalism convention in April.

COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Now – Future homeowners needed

Habitat for Humanity is currently looking for deserving residents of Pierce County to apply for the homeownership program to build a home in Gig Harbor area. Criteria include housing need, the ability to pay, and willingness to contribute 500 hours of sweat equity. For complete details or to request an application, call Orval Warren at 857-4873 or visit www.tpc-habitat.org.

Now – Pee Wee T-ball registration

Pee Wee Sports is designed for boys and girls who will be 3 ½ to 4 ½ (by 9/1/2008) to learn and improve skills of fundamentals of baseball. Parent involvement is strongly encouraged. Mitts are OK to bring, but no bat or balls are needed. T-ball will run six weeks on Tuesdays, starting May 13, from 5 to 6 p.m. at Volunteer Park. Cost is \$35/youth and includes a shirt or hat, certificate and end-of-program party. Register at 884-9240.

May 3 – Library hosts koto tales

Koto Master Dr. Elizabeth Falconer presents Japanese folktales and music in a show encompassing many stories, lots of props and other visual surprises including the sound of the koto, a 13-string board zither, usually referred to as a Japanese floor harp.

Saturday, May 3, 2:30 p.m. Key Center Library, all ages, free; 884-2242

May 3 – Dance for teens

A dance for high school kids is being hosted at the Civic Center on May 3, 7-11 p.m. This is a don't miss event with two DJs — Kip & Dr. Derek, who are bringing their advanced sound systems and pumping out high energy, techno dance music. The atmosphere will be complete with fog, laser and light shows; video feed projection on the stage provided by Dan Towey. Bring your student ID or age verification to enter; no in & out privileges. Tickets are \$10 and are on sale at KC Computer, Sunnycrest Nursery, and the Civic

Center business office, or at the door as available.

May 5, 12, 19, 23 – Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at Albertson's, 11330 51st Ave, Gig Harbor, on Mondays (May 5, 12 & 19) from 12:30 to 7 p.m. It will also be at Albertson's on Thursday, May 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. See the KP News online calendar for other dates and locations.

May 7 – Fundraiser for KP resident

Terri Radcliffe Hunziker has been battling stage IV lung cancer for nearly five years. She has never smoked nor has she lived with smokers. Friends and family will hold a dinner/donation fundraiser to raise some money to help with past and future treatments.

Wednesday, May 7, 6 p.m., Lighthouse Christian School, 3008 36th Street NW, Gig Harbor. Angie Cabe, 370-3674 or angiecabe@gmail.com.

May 9, 15, 23 – Mustard Seed meetings

Transportation and Mobility for Elders Community Task Group: Friday, May 9, Key Center Library, 10 a.m.

Elder Health and Wellness Services: Thursday, May 15, 10 a.m.

Housing Options for Aging in Place: Friday, May 23, 10 a.m.

Lower income seniors or disabled adults in need of transportation can call the Key Senior Information Center at 884-9814 where screened and trained volunteers are waiting to provide rides to medical appointments and grocery shopping. The center is open M-F, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. next door to the library.

May 10 – Bayshore Garden Club plant sale

The Bayshore Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale. In addition to plants and Mother's Day gifts, mason bee blocks designed to attract these important pollinators into the garden will be sold. Part of the proceeds will go to the Blue Star Marker project, which will honor

those who served or are serving in the armed forces. This project is sponsored by garden clubs throughout the nation. Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Charboneau's Supply, 11612 SR 302; Judi, 884-3744

May 10 – Peacekeepers host rally

In honor of the original proclamation of Mother's Day in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe, the Key Peacemakers welcome mothers and others to an anti-war rally. The intent of Howe's Mother's Day Proclamation was to petition women to oppose war. She wrote: "Arise, then women of this day...our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience..."

Saturday, May 10, noon, Purdy Bridge; Dory 884-9299

May 10 – 'hug fest' honors Sam Stewart

Two years after 14-year-old Sam Stewart lost his battle with leukemia, his family plans a memorial walk, a second annual event that will serve as a fundraiser for a charitable cause. The Stewart family invites everyone to drop in for a "hug fest" at their Lake Minterwood home for snacks, a balloon release at noon, and a walk through the neighborhood. This year, funds will go toward establishing a scholarship in Sam's memory at Peninsula High School, and for other projects. Those unable to attend may donate to the Friends of Sam Scholarship Fund, c/o Peninsula Seahawks, PO Box 283 Wauna WA 98395.

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 14615 113th St KPN

May 11 – The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering

The second annual event comes to the Key Peninsula once again at the KP Civic Center. Everyone, including men, is invited to gather at the flagpole on Mother's Day, May 11, at 12:30 p.m. for five minutes of silence. Last year more than 3,600 gatherings were held in 76 countries. Bring bells to ring at 1 p.m. before the start of the silence and once again at the end.

To read the complete statement that signifies the moment of silence, visit www.standingwomen.org. Mary, 884-4783

May 14 – Toastmasters open house

The Key Peninsula Toastmasters are hosting an open house so folks can find out how Toastmasters can improve speaking skills and help at work or home or other activities and achieve added confidence and new leadership skills. Sandwiches, tea, and coffee provided. Wednesday, May 14. Toastmasters, 12-1 p.m. Key Center Library; Frank 884-2283

May 17 – Jim Valley performance

The Key Peninsula Cooperative Preschool is hosting a children's interactive musical performance with Jim Valley, who has been performing and creating music with elementary level children for the past 30 years. CD, sign language books and posters are available after the show.

Saturday, May 17, 3-4 p.m. Key Pen Civic Center, \$5/family; Tara, 884-6350

May 17, 25 & 31 – Bird walks at Penrose Point

Bird enthusiasts are invited to walk the trails at Penrose Point State Park and listen for songs of the birds. A tape recorder and microphone will be taken to help participants learn the songs. Many of the spring migrants will be back just in time to be heard. A discussion will be held about what bird songs and calls mean to birds. Participation will be limited to 15.

Saturday, May 17 & 31, Sunday, May 25, 8 a.m. Penrose Point State Park, reservations required; Dan or Janet, 884-2514

May 18 – Key Singers celebrate 10 years

Kudos to Jo Sturm! Ten years ago she envisioned the talent and enthusiasm for singing on the Key Peninsula, and formed what is now the Key Singers.

(See EVENTS, Page 19)

Local Cootiettes elect new officers

Two chapters of Cootiettes recently elected and installed new officers. New presidents, called Chief Graybacks, are Debbie Dilley (Holliettes #670) and Jane Van Slyke (PennAnts #609). National president Sharon Rikansrud of Longbranch is the Supreme Grayback.

Jane Van Slyke says, "I wasn't a charter member of the PennAnts, but joined a year later," in 1962. "It's a good organization and we have good times together," she says.

Some of their titles indicate their duties, as these samples indicate: Lady Louse and Baby Louse are senior and junior vice presidents, the Shekel Keeper is treasurer, Scratcher is secretary, and the Pious Louse is chaplain. The Louse Hunter guards the door, the Rustling Louse is mistress of ceremonies, and the Tightwad is auditor. The Ivory Louse plays the keyboard, Ink Slinging Louse records history, and a Clickerbug is official photographer. The inspector is the Snoopy Louse, organizer is a Must Her In Louse, and the lady who handles appeals and grievances is the Moan and Groan. These women accept good-natured teasing about their names, but all are proud members of a worthwhile service organization.

Photo courtesy Sharon Rikansrud



(From **EVENTS**, Page 18)

Sturm was the first director, and plans to be on hand to help celebrate at the annual spring concert, "A Decade of Song." The Key Singers perform for various functions year-round without charge. This is the only performance with a price. A variety of lively music will be presented. Raffle tickets are available and refreshments will be served.

Sunday, May 18, 3 p.m., Key Peninsula Lutheran Church; \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and teens, 12 and under, free

May 22 – Folk musician at library meeting

Local folk musician Donn Allard will lead an old-fashioned sing-along

Hootenanny at the Friends of the Key Center Library Annual Meeting & Potluck. Thinking of becoming a member? Bring your favorite dish, ideas, and musical instrument to the library and have some fun!

Thursday, May 22, Meeting/Potluck, Key Center Library, 6:30 p.m.; Chris, 884-9560 or Rosina, 884-2242

May 22 – Home Band resumes practice

The Down Home Band begins practice for all interested or regular performers who show up. The band is open to anyone who plays a band instrument- it doesn't matter how long ago that was.

This year the band will be

performing at the Gig Harbor Cancer Run, Old Timers' Day, and a number of other events.

Thursday, May 22, 7 p.m. Key Medical Center, 15610 89th St.

May 24 & 25 – Boy Scout rummage sale

Troop 220 is holding its 11th annual rummage sale on Memorial Day weekend. There will be a lot of good stuff, including toys, tools, clothing, furniture, electronics. Donations will be accepted at the KP Civic Center on Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 8 p.m. during May.

Saturday/Sunday, May 24 & 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lake Kathryn Village; Cher, 265-6205

MAY PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Pierce County Council District 6, May 6, 5:30 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St. NW
- Fire District 16, May 13 and 27, 3 p.m. at Lakebay Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, May 14, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library
- KP Metro Parks, May 12, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex (some meetings preceded by a 6:30 p.m. study session)
- Peninsula School District Board, May 8, 5:30 p.m. (special meeting) and May 22, 6:30 p.m. (regular meeting) at the District Office, 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor

OFF THE KEY

May 4 – Artist reception for KP's Robin Peterson

"Jewels of Glacier Park," Adventures of an Artist in Residence is a show running through June 2 at Kimball Gallery and Espresso in Gig Harbor (6950 Kimball Drive) featuring the work of Key Pen artist Robin Peterson. A reception will be held May 4, 3-5 p.m.

Experience the magnificence of Montana's Glacier National Park from the paintbrush of an Artist in Residence. According to recent estimates the glaciers themselves won't last much longer, so come along for a view of this spectacular scenery as it

exists today.

Join Robin for an opening reception and hear about the Artist in Residence program and her experience at Glacier. She will have books and posters available for sale. A portion of the proceeds from this show will benefit the Glacier National Park educational program.

May 7 – Welcome Club hosts fashion show

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club will present a fashion show/luncheon at Canterwood Country Club, 12606 54th Ave NW, Gig Harbor. Marcia, 857-5324

May 8 – PYO open house

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra is an educational and recreational opportunity for students grades 3 - 12, all levels. Early registrations and auditions for the 2008/'09 season will be June 5.

Thursday, May 8, 4-6 p.m. Harbor Covenant Church, 5601 Gustafson Drive, Gig Harbor, Paula, 534-5384, www.harborpyo.org

May 17 & 18 – Open Studio

Port Orchard artist Marti Green, member of Peninsula Art League, will hold her ninth annual Open Studio Art show featuring her work and the work of Michelle Sleight.

The open house starts at 11 a.m. each day and ends at 4 p.m. on Saturday and 3

p.m. Sunday. Address is 1278 Lindstrom Road, Port Orchard; 360-871-2906

May 31 – Bark & Bid held

The Prison Pet Partnership Program (PPPP) will host a charity auction, with both silent and live auctions. The PPPP is a nonprofit within the Washington Corrections Center for Women.

The program rescues dogs from area shelters, who are then trained by inmates to be service dogs for disabled persons. The program also operates a boarding and grooming facility to provide vocational education for women inmates.

Saturday, May 31, 4-7 p.m. Best Western Wesley Inn, Gig Harbor, reservations required, \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. www.prisonpetpartnership.org for reservation form or 253-549-7370 or 253-380-7069

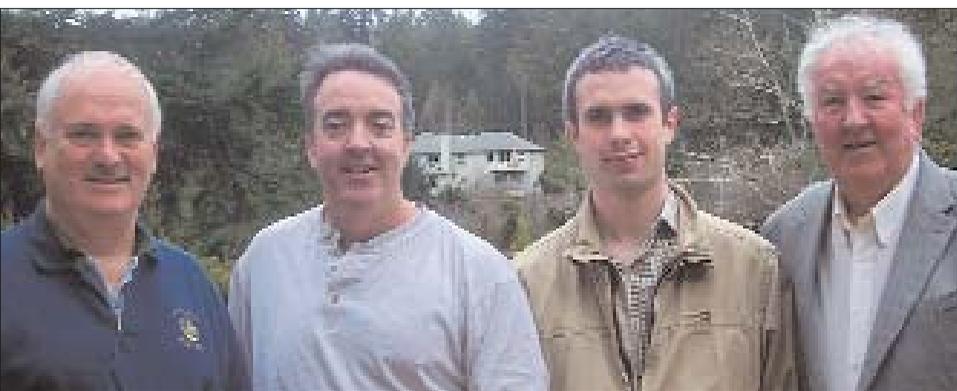


Photo courtesy Quinlan family

Left to right: Ambassador John Bruton, Tom Quinlan, Matthew Bruton (John's son) and Tom Quinlan Sr. at Quinlan Jr.'s Minter Bay home.

Ex-prime minister visits KP

By Sharon Hicks, KP New

The Key Peninsula doesn't get visited by many world dignitaries but last March, Ambassador John Bruton, former prime minister of Ireland, arrived in the area two days before St. Patrick's Day. The city of Seattle had invited him to be the Grand Marshal in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, along with Seattle's mayor, Washington governor, and other local dignitaries.

Tom Quinlan, a resident of Minterwood, was surprised as a distinguished car pulled into his driveway and out stepped his father (whose name is also Tom) accompanied by the ambassador. Quinlan Jr. was shocked and surprised, he says. His father, an Irish immigrant who has lived on the peninsula since the '70s, works for the city of Gig Harbor. The Seattle Irish Heritage Club had asked Quinlan to show the ambassador around, so needing a respite from the formal duties over the St. Patrick's Day weekend, he was brought out to the peninsula the day before the parade. Quinlan Jr. says the former prime minister was

unrecognizable as he is "just a down to Earth human, appreciative of everything, and blended right in with those around him." Bruton became prime minister in 1994 but resigned his position in 2004 to become ambassador to the United States for the European Union Commission.

Much of Bruton's visit with the Quinlans was just to rest and relax before the big parade and duties of the following day. This was Bruton's first visit to the Key Peninsula area, which was quite impressive to him.

He said "it is misty and green like Ireland," according to Quinlan Jr. The Trillium Creek Winery in Home had the honor of his visit. He sampled Claude Gahard's Trillium Creek Chardonnay and gave it a great rating. Asked by the KP News about his dignitary visitor, Gahard was surprised. He was unaware of his identity because the visitors didn't identify themselves (as is often the case). The winery owner says, had he known, he "would have treated him like anyone else and probably asked him a lot more questions about his visit and our country."

Aisle of Honor to salute veterans

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute (KPVI) will hold the 14th annual Aisle of Honor at the Vaughn Bay Cemetery on May 25, with the Ceremony of Remembrance to begin at 1 p.m.

Over 267 casket flags will fly at the cemetery, put up at 7 a.m. and flown until 6 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 220 helps set up and take down the flags.

All war veterans are remembered with a roll call, but this year, there is special emphasis on the Korean War vets. Wreaths will be placed to honor those who gave their lives in service during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Desert Storm/Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts. Veterans from each of those periods will place the wreaths.

The program includes a U.S. Air Force speaker, U.S. Navy Band, U.S. Army Color/Rifle Guard, Olympic Highlanders Pipe Band, and Key Singers.

Two local Korean War veterans, brothers Henry and Dale Ramsdell, are KPVI members. Henry was a U.S. Army foot soldier who participated in the Battle of Heartbreak Ridge, the last major UN offensive in the Korean War. He says he did his duty, but he never really wanted to be in the Army, and certainly not in Korea. One of his memorable experiences of his time in the service "happened before I got to Korea," he says. "The Air Force band was playing 'So Long, It's Been Good to Know You.' They weren't going anywhere!" He wasn't sure that was a good send-off song for soldiers heading out to fight.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The Aisle of Honor is a longstanding tradition at the Vaughn Cemetery.

Dale served in the U.S. Navy as an aviation machinist's mate, mostly in the South Pacific. He volunteered for naval duty in 1951 and served 22 years. He says he couldn't have done the service his brother did in Korea. "My involvement with the Korean War was that I could stand on the deck of the aircraft carrier and see Korea with a pair of binoculars," he says.

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Open Mic With Malcolm Clark
Every Tuesday
7:30-11:00pm

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May 11 10 am -3pm
Pre-Mother's Day Jewelry Show
May 4 1-4pm

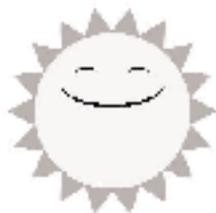
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Key Peninsula Fire Department offers a variety of public education classes

CPR and first aid classes are very popular classes. They are offered at the Key Center station on the first Saturday of each month, barring holidays. The particular level of training does skip around and is dependant on the individual need. Classes are priced to cover our costs and vary depending on the certification level desired. Contact Vanessa Wells at the Key Center station (253-884-2222) to pre-register.

Safe Sitter classes are offered during the summer months. This class is available for 11-14-year-olds. It teaches the safety aspects of child care and the business end of babysitting.

Safety information booths are set up at most every community event. Come see us at the Livable Community Fair and the KP Fair to answer your question and get safety information.

Fire Prevention week in October is supplemented in the month of May with a visit to each elementary school for grade specific lessons on safety related to fire, helmets, first aid, water and disaster preparation. We view our interactions with this age group as very important in preventing injuries and we're recruiting volunteer fire fighters ten years ahead.

Station tours can be scheduled for your cub scouts, pre-school or youth related groups.



The Wauna Fire Station opens their doors to tour groups like this group of 3- and 4-year-olds from a local preschool.

Contact information

Firefighter Association - Molly: 884-6368

Fire Chief - Tom Lique: tlque@piercefire.org
884-2222

Fire Commissioners - Chairman Jim Bosch:
884-3320

Personnel Manager - Christina Bosch:
cbosch@piercefire.org

Technical Services and Public Education -
Chuck West: cwest@piercefire.org

Volunteer Membership - Chuck West:
cwest@piercefire.org

Training and Medical Services Division Chief -
Paul Bosch: pbosch@piercefire.org

District Operations - Guy Allen, Division Chief:
gallen@piercefire.org

Use of Facilities - Vanessa Wells:
wells@piercefire.org

Phone contact for all others:
253-884-2222

Addressing Concerns with KP Highway

If you've been around for a while you might remember when SR302 went through Key Center. Several years ago the State and the County swapped roadways and SR302 was moved to Elgin Clifton. Unfortunately the addressing changes were never completed, creating some confusion. In fact, several properties along Key Peninsula Highway still have the old SR302 address, duplicating addresses on the real SR302.

After a little prompting from us, Pierce County is going to make the corrections happen, fifteen years late. The bad news is that it will cause some confusion initially but the good news is that it will make emergency response more efficient for our customers along this stretch. We want to thank Jim at 'Absolute Auto' for being the first to take the plunge.

Upcoming Event Schedule

Key Peninsula Livable Fair

May 10, 10 am-3 pm at the Key Peninsula Civic Center

Heart saver CPR/1st aid

June 7 (8am-5pm)

Safe sitter

July 12/13 & Aug 14/15

CPR

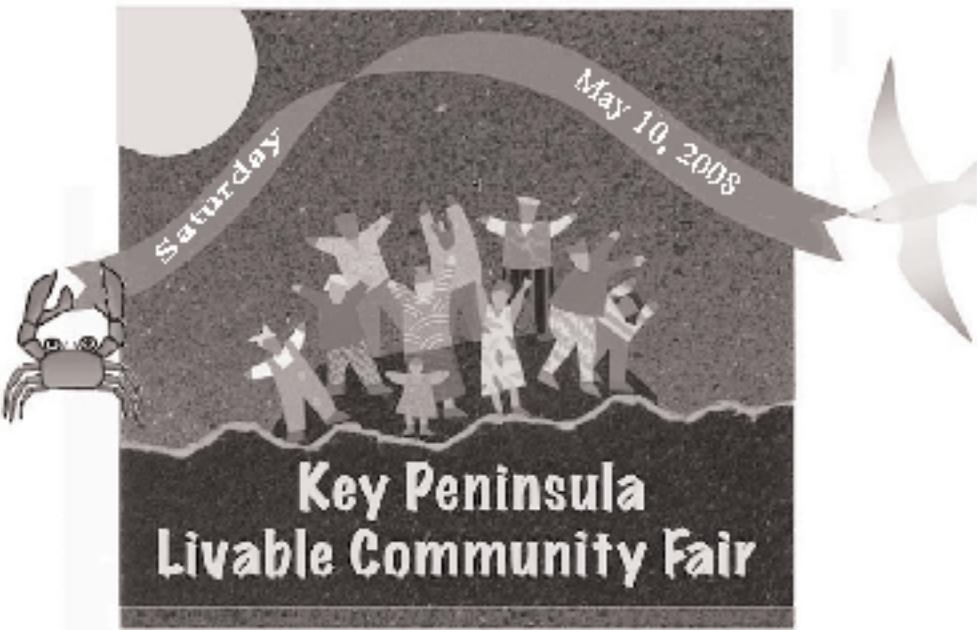
Call 884-2222 for the monthly date.

*All events to be held at the Key Center station, unless otherwise noted.

SPARKY SAYS: Contact the Key Peninsula Fire Fighters Association (KPFPA) at 884-6368.

The KPFPA provides scholarships for many of the safety classes!





"Showcasing people, agencies and organizations making the Key Peninsula more livable"

Saturday, May 10, 2008

10:00 – 3:00pm

Key Peninsula Civic Center

17010 South Vaughn Rd

Free Admission

Sponsors: Key Peninsula Civic Center,
Safe Streets Campaign, Pierce County,
St. Joseph Medical Center, Ravensara Inc.

Over 45 Booth Participants

Informational Classes

Whitmore Room

- 10:00am Friends of Pierce County, land use/permitting
- 11:00am Terry Lee, County Council
- Noon Pierce County Auditor's Office & Animal Control
- 1:00pm Teens Empowered Against Meth/PHS
- 2:00pm PC Emergency Management/Emergency Prep.

Outside

- Times TBA
- Pierce County Solid Waste, Composting/Recycling
 - Master Gardeners

Music provided by

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Special Attractions

Kids Craft Activities Area inside KP Center, Reptiles, Sparky the Dog, Kawshun "D" Safety Clown, Bunny's bunnies, Fire Fighters and Fire Truck, Sheriff's Deputies & Vehicle, Pierce County Search & Rescue Boat, Pierce County Marine Services Boat & Display, Pierce Transit Bus, Key Peninsula Historical Society



(From KPLL, Page 1)

"Asking local communities to contribute to a project helps ensure the board is funding only the best, most needed projects," Cottingham said. "It means those projects brought to the board are important to the communities."

Volunteer Park is home to the only high school regulation baseball field, and is the only lighted playfield on the KP. Originally built on clay without any subsurface drainage, the field has been damaged by flooding, leading to the need for a protective retaining wall. Work will include changing the irrigation system, installing new backstop fencing and increasing and improving access from the parking area to the field for people with disabilities.

Kurt Self, current president of the Key Peninsula Little League, said Key Peninsula Metro Parks District Director Scott Gallacher learned of the grant opportunity and approached the organization to partner with KPMPD for the application. That made funding possible — it had to come through a nonprofit 501(C)3 organization. KPLL has this designation; KPMPD does not. The resulting grant funnels through KPLL. Project costs are projected at about \$180,000, with a \$112,860 contribution



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Linda Hacker, founder of the 18-year-old Key Peninsula Little League, throws the first ball of the season during the KPPL Opening Day game on April 12.

from the grant recipient, according to Cottingham's press release. KPLL has no

Key Pen Little League

The KPLL season runs through June 10, with All Star games to be played in July. Read about the April 12 Opening Day and more about KPLL in a Web-exclusive story at www.keypennews.com.

money; KPMPD will provide that funding through donations of cash, equipment, labor and supplies. Self said no fundraising request was made of little league participants by KPMPD.

Gallacher said the district is in the process of working up specifications and a "Request for Proposals" for the entire project. Both he and Self anticipate breaking ground on the project midsummer or in the fall. A company specializing in ballfield construction has been identified.

In an email response to the KP News, Gallacher wrote, "Key Pen Parks is thrilled to have successfully partnered with Key Peninsula Little League on the Youth Athletic Facilities grant as we work together to improve Field No. 1 for all current and future users, both youth and adults." Self was equally pleased.

"This grant shows what great partnerships can be developed with KPMPD and KPLL, creating a common goal," he said.

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



KGHP to host first-ever statewide radio awards

Peninsula High School in Gig Harbor will serve as the host for the first-ever Washington State High School Radio Awards and Conference in May. The one-day program will include guest speakers from the broadcast industry, seminars as well as an awards ceremony for 10 categories.

The initial goal of the program is to provide radio broadcasting students with a comprehensive awards program in which prepared news, production, on-air performance, and public service components are judged in accordance with industry standards.

'The first goal is to be able to recognize student achievement. Students will also have the opportunity to learn from industry professionals,' says Leland Smith, Peninsula High School broadcast journalism teacher who spearheaded the conference.

When Smith researched high school radio awards programs in the state and found none, he decided to start a

program. Peninsula High School is the site for KGHP-FM (89.9, 89.3 and 93.7), an educational and community radio station owned by Peninsula School District. The radio station is operated

during the school day by PHS and Gig Harbor High students, and by community volunteers during school breaks.

At the conference, students will have the opportunity to



meet and visit with industry professionals, networking with potential future employers. Above, Ross "The Boss" Martin, Jake "Our Resident Thin Man" Houlsein and Lance "The Bouncer" Walkwork, all PHS seniors, during a recent on-air show. Left, Leland Smith with students editing their entries for the upcoming competition: Steve Spurling (foreground), Brett Roswell, and Gabby Fiano.

meet and visit with industry professionals, networking with potential future employers.

'This is also an opportunity for teachers to learn about industry needs and better prepare students for the workplace,' Smith says.

Washington state has nine student radio stations, and all will be invited to participate, as well as other schools that have more limited radio programs. KGHP staff and instructors are coordinating the event with instructors at high school radio stations in Seattle (KNHC-FM), Mercer Island (KMIH-FM) and Bellevue (KASB-FM). The goal of the organizers is to find enough industry and community sponsors for the event so students will not have to pay for the conference.

May 2008 events

- 21 Scholarship Awards Assembly
6:30 p.m. at Peninsula High School
- 22 School Board Study Session
6:30 p.m. at District Office
- 26 Memorial Day – No school
- 29 Vaughn Elementary School
Kindergarten orientation for
2008-2009

June 2008 events

- 12 School Board Regular Meeting
6:30 p.m. at District Office
- 13 Henderson Bay High School
Graduation 7:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill
in The Gathering Place
- 15 Gig Harbor High School Graduation
12:00 p.m. at Tacoma Dome
Peninsula High School Graduation
3:30 p.m. at Tacoma Dome
- 26 School Board Study Session
5:30 p.m. at District Office

Summer 2008

Peninsula School District's Summer Swim Day Camp 2008 – Camp is open to boys and girls ages 5-9 of all swimming abilities and will be held at Gig Harbor High School Pool and Discovery Elementary School. For more information call (235)530-4575.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



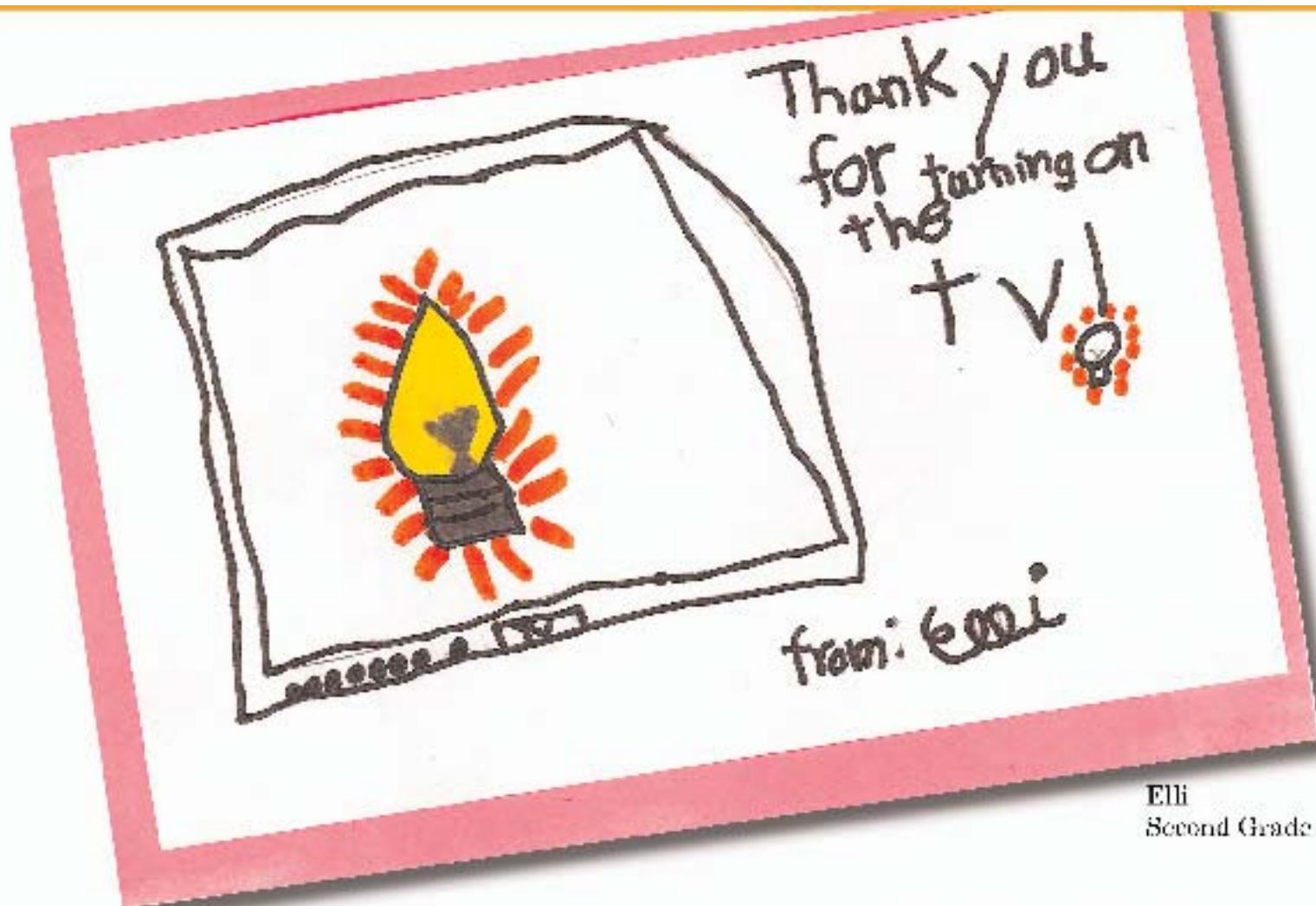
Picture of the Month: The boys are Cameron, Kie and Devin Stanton-Corder at Conference Camp. Conference Camp was a day-camp offered to students during Bergreen's early release days.

Did you know...

A sampling of post-secondary resources is available at our school district website at Career & Tech under the Learning & Teaching drop down menu. Among other sites you will find Apprenticeship in Washington state, community & technical colleges, and "It's Your Future" Guide.

At a glance...

Career & Technical Education is a planned program of courses and learning experiences that begins with exploration of career options, supports basic academic and life skills, enables achievement of high academic standards, leadership, preparation for industry-defined work, and advanced/continuing education. For additional information contact Kristine Fellin, Program Coordinator: Kfellin@psd401.net or 530-1076.



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Salmon fishing in Alaska, the fishermen's eye view

By Danna Webster, KP News

About the time that spring is busting out all over on the Key Peninsula, some of our residents head back to winter. They are the commercial fishermen who go to Alaska for salmon. Shane Hostetler (Lakebay), Rolf Torgerson (Longbranch) and Jim Walls (Rocky Bay) leave their homes on the peninsula sometime in May. They will miss summer and return in time to enjoy the colors of fall. It is a demanding seasonal occupation that requires self-sufficiency with respect to the boat, the hunt and the sea.

Why do these men fish? "The fishing occupation is a love/hate one," says Shane Hostetler. "It's the best job you'll ever hate; or the worse job you'll ever love." Hostetler's destination is Cordova, where he will get his newly acquired boat, the "Nasdaq," ready to fish for Sockeye and King on Opening Day, May 15. He fishes the Prince William Sound and the Copper River Basin. The Nasdaq is a 30-foot bow picker he bought from a critically ill friend last year. His friend was a retired investment broker. The boat was to remain the Nasdaq by name until after the previous owner's death. Hostetler kept that promise but sometime in the seasons ahead the boat will be renamed the "Pacific Solace."

After many seasons of fishing by himself, the comforts of the new boat are attracting visits by friends and family. Christian (13) and Malena (10), two of his five children, will join him about the middle of June. In future years, he hopes every member of his family will join him aboard. When he reflects on his memory of many lonely

fishing days, it causes him to think of the whalers of yesteryear, who sailed two and three years before they returned home. "That was when men where made of steel and ships were made of wood," he says.

Rolf Torgerson will go to Dillingham toward the end of May to de-winterize his 32-foot aluminum stern picker, "Questar." He fishes in Bristol Bay. In previous years, he started fishing in April during the herring season but that was too much time away from home. On opening day, Torgerson may spend only a couple of hours looking for Kings but, as the season progresses, those hours can stretch to 24.

"It's an intense experience when the harvest comes in. We catch 90 percent of our fish within about a two-week period," he says. The last two seasons have yielded excellent harvest. "Some years are better than others," Torgerson says. "This season's forecast is predicted to be good and above average."

Why does he fish? "At first, I thought I'd do it for five years and put myself through grad school," he says. He is still fishing long after getting his degree in sociology and environmental studies. "I really like being out on the



HOSTETLER



TORGERSON



WALLS

water. You work as hard as you can. You can be your own boss," he says. "There is no monotony. By the time I'm tired of one job, it is time for the other." He does carpentry work when he is home on the peninsula.

Hostetler and Torgerson have airline tickets and will fly to Alaska but Jim Walls will drive to Cordova to get his 28-foot jet bow picker, the "Lucky Jim," out of trailer storage. Walls' pickup truck has 260,000 miles accumulated by the 2,400-mile trips between Cordova and his home on Rocky Bay. On about 25 of those trips, he was towing a boat. "I drive every year. I love the highway. Been doing it for 30 years," he says.

"It's a labor of love," he says when asked why he fishes, and adds after a pause, "and money. Love and money. When we fish up there, every day is a new adventure. In my old age with a rocker, I can sit there and live every day I ever fished," he says.

Walls has begun collecting some of his adventures by writing about them. This year he packed a dozen tablets in

Fresh frozen and smoked salmon is available to Key Peninsula residents from the Hostetler and Torgerson harvests. For information, contact Hostetler Salmon at 884-3148 (email Shanech1@yahoo.com), Rolf's Choice at 884-1055 (email Lhallowell@gmail.com).

a fishing box. He plans to write about his talk with a sea lion, make a list of his "God promises," and record some of the death-defying adventures he has had on the high seas.

"We all get caught once in a while — heavy seas, swells 30 feet high," he says, adding that when one goes down the "back side of swell, the boat takes off like a roller coaster."

He doesn't just fish for the adventure; he loves the scenic beauty of the Copper River Basin Valley. "It's my opiate — running my boat across the flats, with a glacier on one side and the St. Elias Mountain Range on the other. You feel closer to God there than you do anywhere," he says.



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Friends of the Library annual event

Local folk musician Donn Allard leads an old-fashioned sing-along Hootenanny at the *Friends of the Key Center Library* Annual Meeting & potluck May 22 at 6:30 pm

Thinking of becoming a member? Bring your favorite dish, ideas, and musical instrument to the library. Let's have some fun!

More info at 884-9560/Chris or 884-2242/Rosina.



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GIG HARBOR \$289,000
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GIG HARBOR OASIS \$289,000
Tall trees, seclusion and privacy all found on this 1.13 acre property. The home features 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a wood stove and new paint. The large kitchen has oak cabinets, tile floors, skylights and a home warranty on the appliances. Outside is partially fenced and has RV parking. #28062220 Laura Mosley 253-877-6025



LAKEBAY \$274,500
Spacious 1700+ sq ft rambler on 5 acres! Bright open floor plan w/ LR, family room, DR and formal DR. Huge master suite and 2 other large bedrooms. Home warranty and all appliances stay. The home is wired for a security system, has an attached 2 car garage and a waterfall pond. #28059126 Jessica Smith 253-514-0471



LAKEBAY \$215,000
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KEY PENINSULA PRIVACY \$290,000
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TAYLOR BAY \$285,900
Case Inlet views from the wrap-around deck, main floor LR, kitchen & daylight basement family room. Recently remodeled, the home features new kitchen cabinets and new electrical. Private, gated saltwater beach community-situated on a corner lot with room for RV and boat parking. #28059454 Susan Hoover 253-884-9168



HERRON ISLAND \$267,500
Totally remodeled cottage in a private setting with a water view. Upgraded flooring throughout, top of the line appliances and recessed lighting. New electric, new plumbing, and thermo windows. Metal roof, deck and shy 1/8 acre lot. Fully fenced, RV parking and so much more. #28062804 Dallas Amidon 253-606-0972



GIG HARBOR LAND \$74,000-\$219,000
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LAKE OF THE WOODS \$249,900
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PALMER LAKE LAND \$89,999
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KP Baptist Church founding pastor retires

By Colleen Slater, KP News

James Rouse, whose great-grandfather settled his family in Longbranch in 1912, retires on May 4 after 30 years in the ministry.

Rouse, born in Tacoma, moved to the Gig Harbor area in second grade, and graduated from Gig Harbor High School. Playing professional baseball or being a logger were early aspirations, but following a try at logging and working in a lumber mill, a stint as a medic in the Air Force, and a machinist job at the U.S. Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, he felt a call to preach the Gospel at the age of 48.

By then, he'd married Hattie (his wife of 55-plus years), they had four daughters, and were members of the First Baptist Church of Port Orchard. His heart was set for new mission work, and his first position was in Artondale to establish a church there.

After that, the family moved to Texas, where he pastored a church for awhile, then worked in a department store and preached as called on. One daughter, Linda, lives in New Mexico, "just over the



Photo courtesy Rouse family

Pastor James and Hattie Rouse.

border," but the other daughters live in Western Washington.

Rouse returned to the Northwest, where he worked in the civil service at Bangor for 14 years.

Within two years of his 1992 retirement, he was called to be pastor of a new mission outreach in the Key Center area. The people met at the library every other Sunday, then moved to the KP Civic Center, where they became the Key

Pastor changes

The associate pastor, who will be acting pastor for KP Baptist Church until a new one is elected, is Steve Strauss.

Peninsula Baptist Church.

He remembers playing ball at Vaughn High School, with the athletic field where the parking lot is now.

The Rouses have just moved back to Port Orchard to live with daughter Carol.

When Carol and husband Steve built a new home, they included a "parents' room" for the eventual use of Jim and Hattie on their retirement. With three of their four children out on their own, the several bedrooms and baths can be put to use for housing visiting missionaries, Rouse said.

"I don't plan to just sit," Rouse insists in regard to his pastoral retirement. They'll travel some, including visiting the New Mexico family. "I'll have some speaking engagements," he added.

The church will celebrate his

retirement with lunch on May 3, and he'll preach his final sermon the next day.

"I won't be talking about me," he said. "It's not about me, it's all about the Lord." The Lord has given him some surprises in his almost 80 years, but he enjoys recalling his various experiences that led him to where he is today — a man satisfied with his life's work — "and it's all the Lord's doing."

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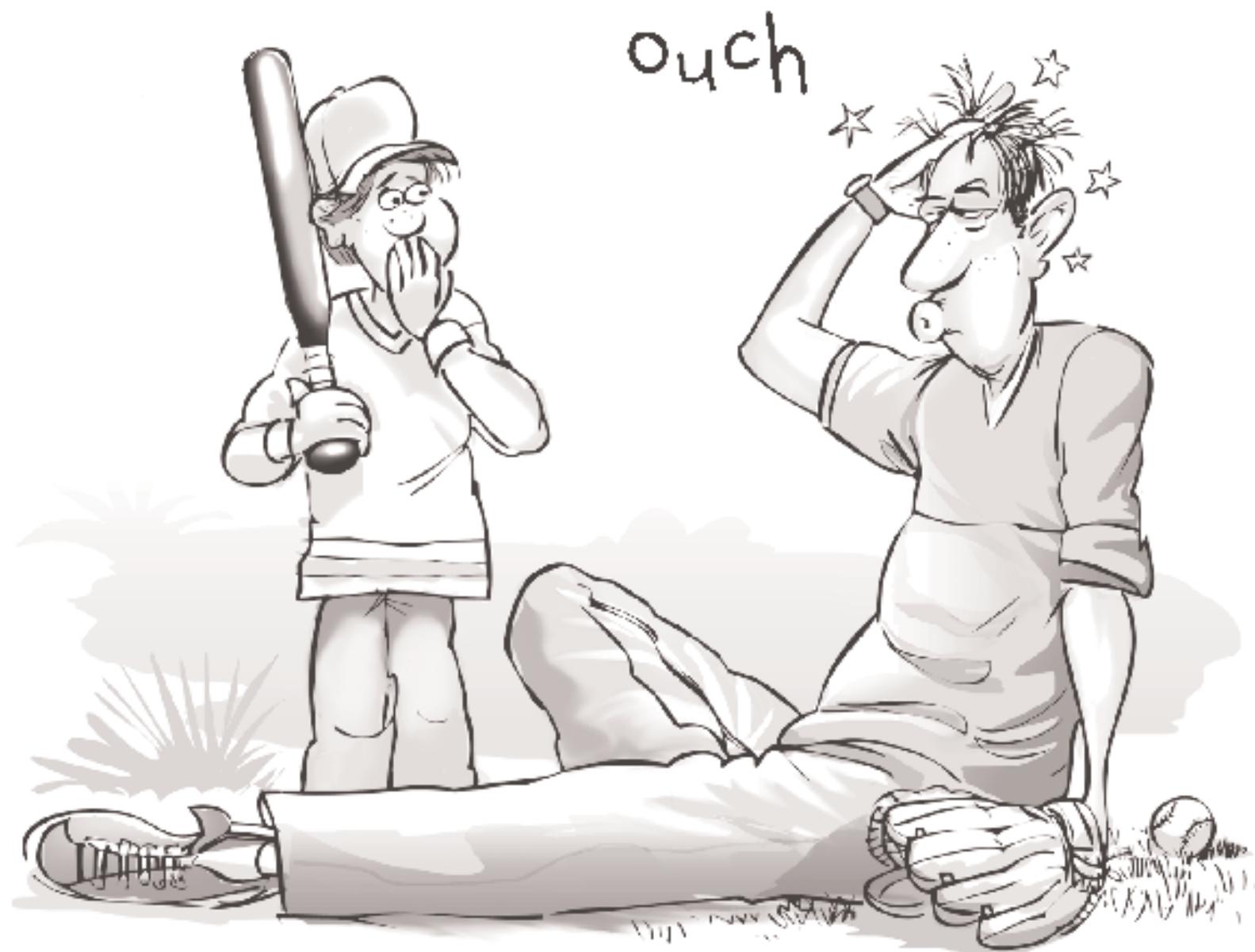
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Tweed Meyer: Using nature as inspiration

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By Jerry Libstaff

Tweed Meyer was born to art. She lived on Wollochet Bay, one of five children whose mother is an artist and father a photographer. She says, "I grew up with the smell of turpentine and salt water." The entire family is deeply engaged in artistic creation and holds an all-family art show each year at the Gig Harbor Library.



The Genuine ARTICLE

Meyer has worked in a multitude of media over the years, including a period creating with butter cream. "I loved the temporal nature of an artistic meal. Sure, it goes away, but you have both the satisfaction of the creativity and the enjoyment of eating what you've made," she says.

She has evolved into a documentary artist to help preserve the beauty of the Peninsula while it's still pristine. She works in the impressionist vein and paints plein



Tweed Meyer with her rendition of her teacher and mentor, Don Allen from Peninsula High School. *Photo by Jerry Libstaff*

air, or outside on sight. Meyer says, "The Impressionist painters became my favorites because they went out to the people; they experienced the world."

Her first plein air painting documented the original "Home" bridge on Von Geldern Cove. "In my first attempt, it was wet and so windy, I had to strap the canvas down, but it was exciting to experience the adventure of nature," she says.

As a documentary artist, Meyer says she is "hooked on the adventure of finding and painting the places where nature and

man meet and coexist in the Northwest." "The thrill of finding a sight is truly rewarding," she says. "Many go out to seek the big places but I find I'm drawn to the ones along the way. At times I just pull over to the side of the road. Nature seems to appreciate the attention. When the place feels right, you have to trust your heart despite what your head might tell you."

Meyer has painted scenes from the Hoh Rain Forest to the Key Peninsula and all places between. One series captures the work of Ruth Bartlett, a charter member of The Amateur Garden Club of 1926. Bartlett, an organic gardener and landscaper, exemplified the Northwest. Meyer says, "I documented her creations as payback for all the good she gave to the world." To Meyer, landscaping is another art form. "It all goes hand and hand. Working in nature feeds my art," she says.

Another series documents a farm at Horseshoe Lake that has remained in original form since it was established years ago. She says, "Each painting is a sentence and the series tells the story of the land around us."

A series titled "Slow Crossings"

documents old and beautiful bridges. "It's important to document the small icons, get to the essence, find out where the small things are and keep them alive," she says.

Recently, Meyer has incorporated native Northwest materials to frame her works. She creates raw, beautifully earthy frames. One, made from old rustic wood, gives an impression the observer is actually looking at Friday Harbor through a window from inside an old cabin.

Her next endeavor is creating broken pottery sculpture. She believes in the art of broken things and says, "You don't need to throw everything away. You can create something new and beautiful from the old."

Twice each year, Meyer paints at the Friends of the Holiday Benefit at the Swiss Pub in Tacoma. The events help the underprivileged and feature local bands. Meyer's interpretation of the excitement now adorns several album covers.

Whether Meyer's creates in oil or ink, pastel or pottery, her art is an essential contribution to documenting and preserving the places and people of the Northwest.

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(From **MAGOC**, Page 1)

head-jerking, body tics, energy that exhibited in odd ways troubling to both Magoc and classmates plagued him. “Nobody knew what was going on,” he says. Plausible adult reasons for the odd behavior included acting out, bad habits needing correction, attention-getting obnoxiousness.

Through sheer force of will, Magoc was an athletic and scholastic “comer” at his St. Louis, Mo., parochial school. The family saw scholarships on the horizon for this youngest of seven children. Two weeks in the hospital at age 12 and batteries of brain, neurological and psychiatric testing altered that future with a diagnosis of a little-understood disorder called Tourette syndrome (TS).

Magoc remembers listening to the doctor read one sentence from a textbook about the disorder to his parents. “That was all there was. One sentence,” he says. The close-knit family refused the doctor’s recommendation: indefinite psychiatric confinement. A second psychiatrist put the preteen on haldol, an anti-psychotic medication used to treat TS. To counteract side-effects, Magoc received ritalin, a drug now known to be adverse for treatment of TS, and cogentin, prescribed to relieve new and exacerbated TS symptoms caused by the first two. These drugs blurred the world for Magoc, sending him into deep depression relieved only through sleep.

Barely functioning, he still attended school, friendless, existing in a body fast becoming shapeless from prolonged lethargy. “My grades dropped,” he says. “The buddies I was tight with stopped coming around.” At 17, life was not worth living; he contemplated suicide.

Hopeful directions

About that same time, two events occurred that saved Magoc’s life. He learned a church member’s daughter, who was a school teacher, led her class in daily healing meditations. He believes he is one beneficiary of that compassion. And his eldest sister found literature suggesting vitamins B6 and B12 for natural symptom control. The entire family read the findings; Magoc tossed his pills and began self-medicating with vitamins, protocol he continues today. He was encouraged to learn from his life experience. When self-pity encroached, his dad reminded him that others with verbal tics (which Magoc does not have) or more severe symptoms “had it worse than me.”

Magoc usually disguises his symptoms; when he doesn’t, his body would twitch as though startled, or his neck jerk as if

Tourette’s syndrome

Tourette’s syndrome (TS) is a neurological disorder characterized by repetitive, stereotyped, involuntary movements and vocalizations called tics. The disorder is named for French neurologist Dr. Georges Gilles de la Tourette, who in 1885 first described the condition in an 86-year-old French noblewoman. It is not curable or contagious.

Early symptoms occur in childhood across all ethnic groups; males are affected three to four times more than females. It is estimated that 200,000 Americans have the most severe form of TS; as many as one in 100 exhibit milder and less complex symptoms. TS symptoms are involuntary; some people can sometimes suppress, camouflage, or otherwise manage tics in an effort to minimize their impact on functioning. However, people with TS often report a substantial buildup in tension when suppressing their tics to the point where it must be expressed. Tics in response to an environmental trigger can appear to be voluntary or purposeful but are not.

flinching from an insect bite, small grunts the only vocalizations accompanying some movements. Imagine hiccups that continue 24/7 throughout a lifetime. Imagine an itch, as Magoc attempts to describe the inner sensation, in the worst place that you can’t scratch. “You think about it and it grows and you think about it and it grows until pressure forces you to scratch. The result is not pleasure, but release. TS is with you all the time — it is you.”

Magoc comes from a union family with a strong work ethic. As great as his panic at the threat of institutionalization, he also feared something else. “It (confinement) meant I would never have a job or contribute, would be a drag on society.”

Determined to have a career while still a teenager managing his disorder through vitamins, Magoc devised a plan for his future. He had replaced sports with music, teaching himself to play guitar and keyboards. Outgoing and gregarious by nature, he wanted to be “part of the action” in some way that protected him from a public display of symptoms, and also earned the acceptance of his peers. He obtained a technical degree in electronics, became a stage-hand and liked it so much, he went back to get a bachelor’s degree in audio production when he was 28. Working alone in an audio booth seemed ideal. “Nobody could see me on the other side of the glass,” he says. That plan never materialized.



Photo courtesy Greg Magoc

Greg Magoc working at Safeco Field during a Mariners game.

Unexpected career shift

Through a twist of union-leveraged fate, Magoc was hired by nonunion management directly out of school to be a cameraman at the St. Louis Amphitheatre. Magoc quickly learned on the job and became not only a professional excelling in his field, but found a new wellspring of strength within himself. He says when he’s doing camera work, he’s focusing on the viewfinder or listening to his director in the earset, “and TS melts away.”

“It’s almost therapy,” Magoc explains. “TS is outside then; it’s like clouds just clearing away.” He marvels that he can be on a stage or media platform in front of thousands of people, and still be in an envelope of secure anonymity. “No one is focusing on me, yet I’m right there. It makes me feel strong,” he says. “I’m not Touretting at all during events. It’s like I’ve conquered something.”

His recent work in Seattle caught the eye of a Wisconsin event producer; another job offer came from University of Washington. He doesn’t tell employers about TS; doesn’t want to prejudice them. In a way, Magoc sees TS as a kind of gift propelling him forward. “I want to show any individual, adults or kids, that you don’t have to sit and be idle. Get involved,” he says. “You can overcome something (that seems too big to tackle).”

Magoc and his wife, Jenni Veregoni, have known each other since childhood. Once released from the torment of medication, he remembered the pretty girl who had not been afraid of him. “It took me two years, but I finally succeeded in going out with Jenni,” he says with a smile. “She knew about the Tourette’s and it was never a

problem for her. Jenni made it easier. She’s always been a friend.”

A calm, quiet woman, Jenni is a contrast to Magoc, who shifts constantly, hiding small involuntary movements his body has no choice but to display. “I don’t want to sound addicted to Jenni,” he offers softly, “but I am. I don’t know what I would do without her support.”

Since moving across country in 2003 to their home in Palmer Lake, the couple first experienced the delight of living in the small lakeside community, and then the prejudice that arises when misunderstood “differentness” is observed and feared. Early in those first months, Magoc said he found casual opportunities to let neighbors know he had TS. “It’s better for people to know so they don’t think you’re a freak,” he says. “It’s not contagious; people don’t have to be afraid for themselves or their children.”

Several unfortunate incidents occurred subsequent to Magoc’s efforts at becoming involved with the community homeowner’s association. In short order, the couple say their status went from welcomed newcomers to shunned outsiders encouraged to move away. Unsubstantiated claims of bizarre and obscene behavior surfaced among some neighbors in documents during a short-lived, dismissed court action. “I am not any of those things (they claimed),” Magoc says. “(The false accusations) were damaging and hurtful.” This former union shop steward is a tough nut; he realizes he is slightly right (or left) of average, and deals with it. “But,” he says, “Jenni — this good woman — does not deserve the way she has been treated.” They would like to join with neighbors in putting all misunderstandings behind them, and begin afresh in this community they hope to enjoy for many years to come.

And if anyone wants to know about TS, just ask Magoc — he’s a lifelong expert on the subject. In any given setting, except behind a camera, he’s easy to spot. He’s the one shifting about like a restless 4-year-old in a long church service, trying his best to make others feel more at ease. “I wish people had more empathy, more compassion,” he says. “If someone with a challenge does overcome it (but remains different than you), can’t that be considered a sign of strength and character?” Magoc says TS has taught him to put himself in someone else’s shoes and “not mess with the little guy.” In school, only other outsiders let him come around, and he learned that any person “might have a lot to offer that you are overlooking, because they are not like you.” The lesson he lives by is simple: “Give people an avenue to share what they can.”

(From YANITY, Page 1)

in the fourth degree.

Superior Court Judge Vicki Hogan presided over an essentially empty courtroom during the several days of the trial. (Many of the interested parties were being called as witnesses, including Bosch and Yanity's wife, Jean, and were forbidden to be in the

courtroom except during their own testimony.) The witness lineup also included individuals who were present during the altercation, the district's attorney, Joe Quinn, newspaper reporters, private citizens, former fire commissioners, and fire district personnel. Division Chief Guy Allen testified the two men "both had each other's clothing, grappling."

The state sought a conviction of assault in the first degree, a felony. What the 12-member jury delivered on April 11 was a guilty verdict of assault in the fourth degree, a gross criminal misdemeanor. According to both Prosecutor Terry Lane and defense attorney Gary Clower, that conviction carries a sentence of up to a year in jail and a maximum \$5,000 fine. Yanity has 30 days to file an appeal of the verdict after sentencing, which is scheduled for May 16 in Hogan's court.

"I don't prosecute frivolous cases," said Lane in an after-trial interview. "One person was attacking another with a coffee mug; the mug was a weapon." Lane said if there is an appeal, he will not represent the state.

Of the verdict against his client, Clower told the KP News, "I'm satisfied that it's a better result than it could have been, although logically the jury should have found him innocent." With Yanity having no prior record, Clower said it is "typical of any court in

Washington to suspend all or part of a sentence, with judicial conditions attached." Clower also said he would not represent Yanity if an appeal is filed. "That is a specialty," he said, noting that fewer than 5 percent of appeals are successful.

A question now pertinent is whether Yanity will continue as a fire commissioner. Responding to inquiry by the KP News, Yanity did not hesitate to affirm he will remain. "It was a misdemeanor," he said. "I'll get back to work and see if we can change the fire department." He had no comment on the trial or likelihood of an appeal.

In a voicemail reply to the KP News, Bosch said he was satisfied with the outcome of the trial. "I was hoping for a felony conviction. I feel fully vindicated, as I did nothing wrong," he said. "The jury....did not believe his claim that he was protecting his wife." Bosch, chairman of the board of fire commissioners, confirmed Yanity will retain his seat on the board.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

KEY PENINSULA ADVISORY COMMISSION

Date/Time: May 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Place: Key Peninsula Public Library, 8905 Key Peninsula Hwy. N., Lakebay WA

PIERCE COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER

Date/Time: June 11, 2008 at 9 a.m.

Place: Pierce County Public Services Building (Annex), South Entrance, Public Meeting Room, 2401 S. 35th St., Tacoma WA

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Planner: Mojgan Carlson

Applicant: Mark Cockerill and Marie Kennedy

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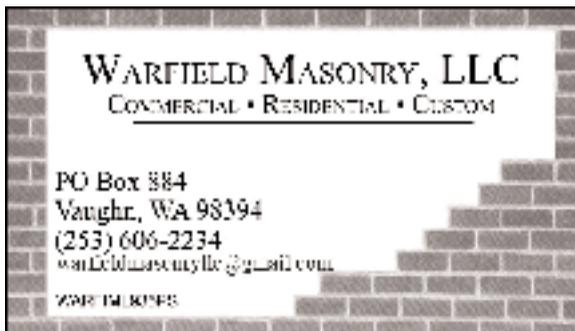
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Out & About

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Construction workers are installing water lines at 134th and State Route 302 for the new site of Waypoint Church, formerly known as Vaughn Community Church. Dale Harrison, chairman of the building committee, said he anticipates approval of the site development permit by early May and a building permit shortly after. The building, on a five-acre parcel off SR-302, will be a free-span metal structure with wood framing and will seat about 250. Its full commercial kitchen and barbecue area outdoors will provide activities for families. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Melissa Carman with Hannah and Ryan, Rich Phillips, Pat Ellis (Habitat board member) and pastor Dan Wilson at the Habitat for Humanity Gig Harbor Key Peninsula Chapter's groundbreaking/ground blessing on the Key Pen in April. The Carman family was one of two families selected for this year's Habitat peninsula projects. Groundbreaking for the KC Carter/Jennifer Speidel family home was held on the same day. *Photo courtesy Habitat for Humanity*



Ed Robison and Scott Fleck are cleaning up Home Park on Parks Appreciation Day April 19. *Photo by Vic Renz*



Members of the Mills family of Vaughn — Don, Mackenzie, Kelson, and Matthew — recently raised their new flagpole with the help of neighbors Dick Aardal, Gene Armstrong, and Frank Slater (not pictured). *Photo by Colleen Slater*



Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy John Munson, trainer and officer with the K-9 unit, shows off his canine helper, Fox, during a sheriff's Community Academy class at the Home fire station. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



Senior Kenny Markum sets a peaceful scene while enjoying the fresh air after school at Peninsula High School. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*