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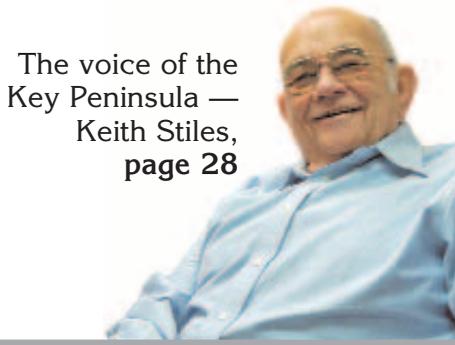
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Storm wreaks havoc

Residents lose power for days, roads a mess

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The Key Peninsula got its share of disruptions when the windstorm hit in mid-December. Although some residents were fortunate to get electricity back within 24 hours, others went without for six or more days. Downed trees and power lines along with debris were scattered all around the area roads, and some people woke up in the morning (if they slept at all) to find themselves stranded by trees blocking roads and driveways.

On Friday, Dec. 15, 29,000 Peninsula Light customers had no power; that number was down to 7,000 72 hours later, according to spokesman Jonathan White. Lackey Road, Danforth and Lake Minterwood were some of the areas that were in the dark the longest. Many Key Pen residents also lost telephone service for several days.

White said crews worked 36-hour shifts



Downed trees and power lines were a common site around the Key Peninsula after the Dec. 14-15 storm. Pictured here, crews are working on repairing lines at the junction of South Vaughn and Lackey roads on Friday, Dec. 15. See more photos on page 8.

Photo by Frank Slater

to first get the feeders back up, and literally had to reconstruct the system.

"I can't say enough for the power line crews," said Lakebay resident Ross Bischoff.

Some crews came from as far as California to help. Peninsula High

School's radio station, KGHP, provided outage updates every hour during the day starting on the Sunday after the storm.

"There will be a lot of cleanup work to

(See **STORM**, Page 19)

Parks board president tenders resignation

Family, work reasons cited

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Paula DeMoss, president of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District since its spring 2004 inception, resigned in December. She said she had stretched herself too thin by working two jobs, and her family life was suffering.

"I do not believe in staying in a position you cannot give full attention to. That park district cannot afford to have a single commissioner who does not give it the full attention," DeMoss said in an interview. "I have to give somewhere. I can't give of my career. I love both my



DEMOSS

(See **DEMOSS**, Page 18)

KP resident is 'Nurse of the Year'

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Georganne Trandum, director of Gig Harbor-based Improving Care Through the End of Life program, was recognized in December with the Nurse of the Year award by the Washington Chapter of the March of Dimes. Trandum, a Key Peninsula resident, was recognized for

(See **NURSE**, Page 25)

Discussions underway on Boys & Girls Club

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Representatives from several groups are discussing the possibility of establishing a Boys and Girls Club of America program on the Key Peninsula. The group had its first official meeting in December, spearheaded by Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck, Boys and Girls Club of South Puget Sound CEO President Gary Yazwa.



BOUCK

More than a dozen people were part of the meeting, including Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee and representatives from the Key Peninsula Civic Center, one of the potential locations for a program.

"I think there are several people wanting to work hard to make sure our kids on the Key Peninsula are afforded some of the same opportunities our kids in town will have when the Boys and Girls opens up and the YMCA opens up (in

Gig Harbor)," Bouck said.

The group will look at various options, including locating a program at one of the Key Pen schools or another facility such as the Civic Center. Such a program would probably be a satellite site or an outreach site of the Gig Harbor Hope Center, said Boys and Girls Club of South Puget Sound COO Rick Guild. The Hope Center, which is being planned and is anticipated to open in less than two years near Henderson Bay High School, will include a Boys and Girls Club as well as a senior center.

Lee said his role and the role of the county would be to help locate land, if a facility is to be built, help with permitting and possibly some funding.

"I've put \$170,000 into the Gig Harbor Boys and Girls Club, I can do the same here," he said. "It's a little more challenging to do out here (because of fundraising) but not so challenging that you don't want to try to make it a reality."

Although there have been other talks in the past about bringing a B&G program to the Key Peninsula, "there hasn't been enough interest in the

“

I've put \$170,000 into the Gig Harbor Boys and Girls Club, I can do the same here.

— Terry Lee, Pierce County councilman

”

community at that point," Guild said. The current discussion is in preliminary stages, but the local leaders feel the momentum will continue.

"(The meeting) was a great first step," Lee said, adding that the timing is right for the community because the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board is wrapping up its work and he feels some of the board members may be interested in becoming involved with an effort to bring youth programs to the area.

"We all believe there is a lot of need

here," Guild said.

The group is only starting to explore options, so no specific timelines have been set so far. A second meeting is planned for January. Bouck believes the goal is to find a short-term fix, possibly by creating a site locally or providing transportation to Gig Harbor, as well as considering a long-term solution by examining the feasibility of building. Vaughn and Evergreen elementary schools, Key Peninsula Middle School, Key Peninsula Civic Center as well as the Red Barn have been named as potential locations.

"We are going to have a Boys and Girls Club close to Henderson Bay and a YMCA; it's difficult for students to come from the Key Peninsula area," Bouck said. "We are exploring how we can bring similar services to those kids."

He believes a partnership with several agencies may provide better opportunities, and hopes to bring YMCA representatives to the table. "Right now, we're looking at how we can partner best for the kids," he said. "We'll continue to talk about (possibilities) and formulate a plan."

BRIEFS

news

Goings announces candidacy

Pierce County Councilman Calvin Goings (D-Puyallup) officially announced his candidacy for Pierce County executive in December.

Citing the recent decision by the Republican-led county council to raise their salaries and that of the executive by over 21 percent as well as to increase sewer rates to fund a luxury golf course

in University Place, Goings said, "The Republican majority has lost touch with reality and the issues that truly matter to Pierce County families."

A lifelong resident of Pierce County, Goings has extensive public, private and community expertise, according to his press release.

Citizen of the Year nominations accepted

The Key Peninsula Lions Club is seeking nominations of candidates for the 23rd annual Key Peninsula Citizens

of the Year Awards. The club sponsors the annual event to recognize outstanding Key Peninsula community members.

Nominees should either live, work, or own property on the Key Peninsula. Nominators are asked to provide the name, telephone number, mailing address, and a brief statement describing the volunteer activity or activities of the nominee, whether for a single accomplishment or for prolonged contributions to the welfare of the KP community.

The event will take place on March

10. Club members say that a lot of work goes into preparations and they need to know as far in advance as possible the number of nominations so the meals can be properly planned.

The dinner will be catered by Blondie's restaurant. Keynote speaker is Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck.

Send nomination letters to: KP Citizens of the Year 2006, PO Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394, email them to Pat Medveckus at: Patricia.Medveckus@Ferguson.com, or call them in to Hugh McMillan at 884-3319.

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County funds boost Civic Center expansion project

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association will receive up to \$20,000 from Pierce County toward an expansion project that will double the space for Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center. The funds will help pay for the engineering and architectural design of the project, which is estimated to cost about \$1 million.

"Terry Lee was the Pierce County council member who really spearheaded and identified this money," said Jud Morris, KPFRFC director. "He was also very instrumental in assisting us in dealing with our staffing budget (with another \$20,000 appropriation) for 2007."

Lee said the Civic Center and Children's Home Society are part of several organizations that will receive county funding in 2007.

"All us council members look for projects in the community we want to support," he said.

The expansion will include both the first and the second floor of the wing where Children's Home Society is located. The agency would then be able to improve space for its staff, accommodate more workers, and allow for client privacy. The expansion will push the wall out about 20 feet south of the tennis court. The second floor could be used by the KPCCA to add new activities, or possibly accommodate a Boys and Girls Club (see related story, page 2).

Morris said the project would be funded by private and public money. The agency will apply for state matching grants as well as private donors and foundations.

The expansion is part of a larger effort to remodel the building, which was originally built in the

early 1900s as a school. KPCCA outgoing President Phil Bauer said in December that the board of directors planned to replace gutters and paint the outside this year, and later start work on the inside. The entryway will also be remodeled, including an increase in size, the widening and covering of the wheelchair-access ramp and adding a sitting area on the expanded porch. Bauer said the KPCCA will apply for a grant from the Cheney Foundation and hopes to start the entryway project by this summer.

The KPFRFC expansion could also start in the first part of this year and continue for an estimated two years. In the meantime, the KPCCA has been remodeling a storage space and converting it into a conference room that will allow Children's Home Society to add new staff as soon as that conversion



Photo by Colleen Slater

Phil Bauer and Roy Danforth are working on wiring and painting the room that will soon be used by Children's Home Society.

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EDITORIAL

Acts of kindness help ease storm tensions

The December storm did more than disrupt schedules during a time when many people are usually busy with Christmas preparations. The storm was a reminder that living in a remote area requires special preparations for disaster — some local families were the hardest hit in the region. Old timers who have been through other severe storms are prepared, but many newcomers were taken by surprise.

The storm was also a reminder the community spirit is one of the reasons that many of us chose the remoteness of the Key Peninsula to call home. Local residents rose to the occasion in the days after the storm, offering their homes to strangers and helping their neighbors with cleanup. Businesses extended their generosity to frazzled residents, offering small but much appreciated freebies, from cell phone charging to a place to hang out, watch television, and have hot coffee.

The biggest feat was pulled by members of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, who were well prepared when they opened their doors for people to spend the night or have a hot meal following the storm. When the church's McColley Hall was planned several years ago, a community shelter was one of the goals. The church has already been serving free meals to anyone several times a month, but in December they fed an estimated 300 meals a day for several days. Volunteers from the church and the community at large, some without power themselves, worked tirelessly not only to prepare and serve meals three times a day, but also make sure hot coffee was plentiful, those who needed an overnight stay had a comfortable place, and those who came in simply to get some water were served as well. By coincidence, the church's process to become an approved Red Cross shelter was complete just the week before — but after the storm, they sprang into action immediately, even before the Red Cross came in with supplies.

Getting the Peninsula powered up again was a big job. Kudos to Peninsula Light crews who worked 36-hour shifts to restore power as quickly as possible, to the KGHP-FM radio station that gave hourly updates on the situation, and to the countless others who proved that the Christmas spirit was alive and well, despite a very stressful week.

HOV's dirty little secret

By Mike Baum, Special to KP News

You load your family in the car and head down I-5 for the airport. As you approach upcoming congestion, you slide over into the HOV lane and continue zipping past all those cars with single occupants. Life is sweet and the High Occupancy Vehicle lane idea is the greatest thing since sliced bread. Or... is it?

About a year from now our new Tacoma Narrows Bridge will be open for business and we should have another lane available from Olympic Street in Gig Harbor to Union Street in Tacoma. That extra lane is going to be an HOV lane. There will have to be two or more people in your car in order for you to legally use it.

I have problems with HOV lanes at two levels.

HOV lanes have been used to encourage ridesharing and thereby taking vehicles off the road and reducing traffic overall. Hmmm. Sounds good. What would motivate you to do such a thing? Congestion. Serious congestion. Right? So we are spending \$900 million and expecting serious congestion? I have a problem with that. But, I'll concede this objection, as traffic could eventually increase to extremely high levels sometime in the future and



we'll be ready. Fine.

Ready for that dirty little secret? OK. Let's say every lane can handle about 1,500 cars per hour. A three-lane highway would be able to handle 4,500 cars. Above that, and the highway is over capacity and congestion occurs. The term "demand" refers to how many cars want to use a highway. Now, if demand is at 4,000, then things should roll along nicely. Unless only 999 of them are in the HOV lane. Then the other two lanes are what they call saturated and capacity deteriorates rapidly. Of course things are still great in the HOV lane. Here's the catch. If the HOV lane were a general purpose lane, then all three lanes would have been fine. Once demand exceeds 4,500 then, the HOV lane truly benefits everyone. But it's that second phase that the HOV lane is actually a detriment to everyone.

Here's part two of that little secret. That interim period happens every day on every highway that has an HOV lane. Sometimes that third level would never happen and no congestion would

“HOV lanes have been used to encourage ridesharing and thereby taking vehicles off the road and reducing traffic overall.”

develop.

It's not a problem on I-5. Why? Five lanes and more diverse usage. All that is required is 20 percent of the cars to be HOV. The HOV lanes on the Valley Freeway, SR-167, are a perfect example of what we will have. Almost. SR-16 will have a more distinct commuter group so it will be even worse. How has the WSDOT addressed the underutilization of the SR-167 HOV lanes? They're turning them into HOT (high occupancy toll) lanes. Toll lanes. Expect them on our highway also.

It doesn't have to happen. The same technology that is employed with the HOT lanes can be used to enforce ODHOV lanes, on demand HOV lanes. Everyone can use that third lane until demand exceeds, say, 4,200 and then it becomes an HOV lane or even a HOT lane.

Mike Baum is a Key Peninsula resident.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Geoduck article on target

I applaud Chris Fitzgerald's courage in writing the November 2006 article titled "Geoduck Controversy Continues Unabated." The shellfish industry in the Puget Sound area has had the upper hand in forming legislation and policy for a number of years. Unfortunately, managers in state agencies and county governments have erroneously accepted the industry's party line as good science, without bothering to check on detrimental effects of intensive, extensive shellfish farming themselves. Whether it is lack of resources or conflict of interest (including friendships with the shellfish growers), these same governmental agencies have not provided any over-

sight to our state's natural shoreline and marine ecosystems relative to shellfish farming. They should not be protecting the profit-making interests of a few private shellfish companies, but should be protecting the state's marine resources for generations to come, for the public.

Regarding the letter by Jim Gibbons of Seattle Shellfish and Pacific Shellfish Growers Assn. (Dec. 06 issue: letters): As is his usual custom, Mr. Gibbons attacks anyone who either writes or publishes anything contrary to the promotion of the shellfish industry. He can take all the quotes out of context that he chooses . . . it does not explain what happened . . . in Totten Inlet, an inlet totally dominated by extensive, intensive aquaculture, and whose shoreline has suffered the assaults of geoduck harvesting and liquefaction. In a normally balanced environment, shellfish do play an important role in a

healthy system; however, when the balance is disrupted, i.e. excessive planting of just a very few species at the expense of all others, the whole system will collapse. That, too, is in the literature. Whether it is mussels or geoducks or any other shellfish planted in heavily concentrated quantities in bays that do not flush, the waste from the "crop" is so excessive, that it is no wonder the nitrogen level is 20 percent higher over those beds compared to unplanted areas. Excess nitrogen equals excess phytoplankton blooms or other detritus that must be decomposed, which means increased bacterial action at the bottom, lower dissolved oxygen leading to eutrophication (dead seas). It's too bad Mr. Gibbons and his industry advocates do not explain the whole truth about what really occurs in the depths, caused by intensive aquaculture.

Anita Woodnutt, Totten Inlet resident Olympia

Local business owner, grandfather injured in accident

By Frank Slater and Colleen Slater
KP News

Phil Radcliffe, known by his "Phil Dirt" truck, suffered critical injuries while sawing lumber with his portable sawmill on Dec. 2. He was airlifted to Harborview Trauma Center, where he received several surgeries and was placed in the Intensive Care Unit.

According to family members, he sustained a deep cut extending from the right knee, "up through the abdomen, stopping just below the sternum, with damage to the small and large intestine being the most critical."

The critical burn unit at Harborview specializes in massive wounds, and Radcliffe is in the same room his son-in-law, Mike Hunziker, occupied nine years ago with severe burns. Radcliffe's wife of 45 years, Lynn, has been by his side since the accident. Other family members visit daily.

"What happened is not completely clear," said Hunziker, adding that Radcliffe didn't fall on the saw as first thought. The saw jammed in a log and

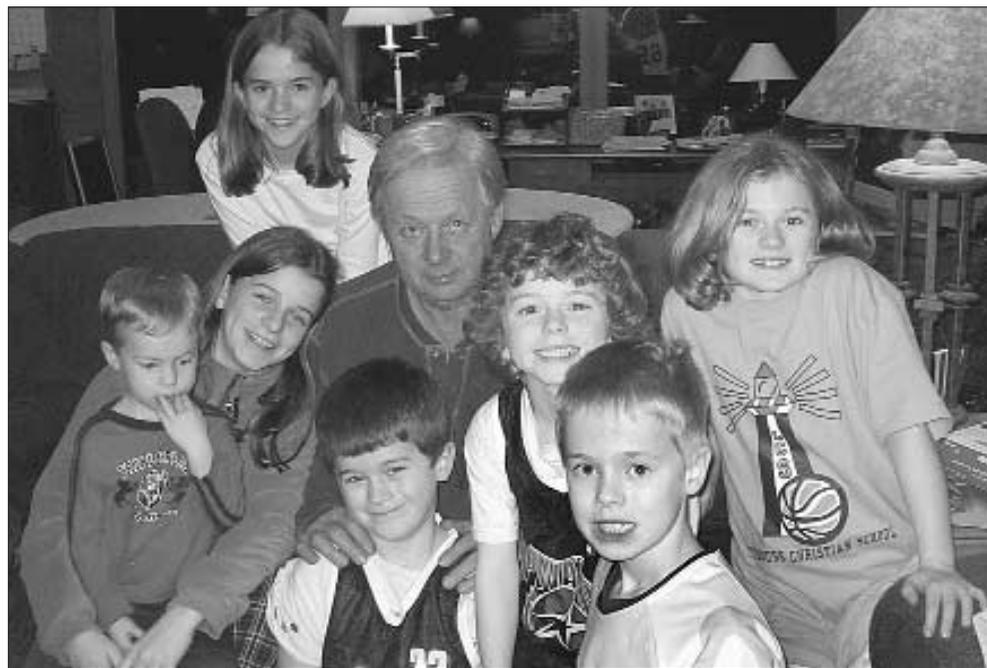


Photo courtesy Radcliffe family

Phil Radcliff with his grandchildren, who say their grandpa "can fix anything."

when he tried to remove it, his clothing got caught in the saw, pulling him into it.

Neighbor Rick Coovert was with

Radcliffe when the accident occurred, shut the saw down, got Radcliffe free, and called 911, likely saving his life.

Hunziker praised Coovert for his

quick response and said the Fire District 16 paramedics were phenomenal. "They were there very quickly, and responded in a very professional way," he said.

Radcliffe has run a "one-man-show" since 1971 with his Grader Services company — doing grading, site preparation, septic work, backhoe work, and rock walls. "He's very talented with heavy equipment," Hunziker said. "He does his own mechanicking."

Radcliffe is a hero to his seven grandkids. "Grandpa can fix anything," they say.

Radcliffe's parents had a cabin on Henderson Bay, and he's been around the peninsula since he was a boy. Terry Hunziker, Radcliffe's oldest daughter, lives with her family on the same property as her parents. His younger daughter, Traci Tovey, lives with her family in Gig Harbor.

"Radcliffe is a vital man," Hunziker said. "He can survive this wound if anyone can."

Radcliffe's progress is posted daily on a special Website; to leave a note and check medical updates, visit www.caring-bridge.com/visit/philradcliffe.

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WINDOW TREATMENTS

Community planning board ready to wrap up

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

After about two years of meetings, discussions and debates, the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board is ready to wrap up its work on a draft plan that will impact development on the Key Peninsula for the next 20 years.

The board is expected to discuss the last portion of the plan, commercial design standards, either in January or February. Pierce County hired the architectural firm BCRA to come up with proposed solutions based on input from the community. Only about two dozen community members turned out for the six-hour "design charrette" meeting sponsored by the county in December — a lower than expected turnout.

Participants were divided into three groups, which discussed various ideas about what Key Peninsula's commercial centers should — or should not — look like. Some of the recurring ideas included pedestrian-friendly amenities (such as common areas), use of natural materials, maintaining individual identities for each commercial area, and

central signage.

BCRA will include the ideas into an "existing and desired conditions report," according to Mike Krueger, county planner who has been overseeing the development of the Key Peninsula Community Plan. "The report will recommend design solutions including polices and regulatory strategies for implementation that will be considered by the CPB when we meet again," he said.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 17, but due to the holidays the exact agenda will not be determined until closer to the meeting and will depend on how much progress BCRA makes by that time.

In addition to the report examining current and proposed standards, the consultant will prepare a feasibility analysis of the proposed standards, and it will be up to the community planning board to determine how the recommendations should be implemented, and whether they should be mandatory or voluntary.

The Key Peninsula Community Plan includes sections discussing environmental, land-use, economic develop-



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Andrea Pope, owner of M&A Pizza, presents the ideas her group came up with during the design charrette hosted by Pierce County Planning and Land Services at the Vaughn Civic Center as part of the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board's land-use planning discussions.

ment, transportation and community character policies. The community board has been meeting since September 2004, although some representatives, who were appointed by the Pierce County executive, have not attended meetings regularly. The

completed draft plan will be forwarded to the Pierce County Planning Commission, which in turn will send its recommendations to the county council for final approval. A community open house and several public hearings will be scheduled before the plan is adopted.

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State appeal sought in Pierce County geoduck permit decision

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Lack of regulation in the permitting system of geoduck farming is often cited as one of the main concerns of local residents and environmental groups when permits are filed with Pierce County. These types of concerns have prompted meetings among interested parties beyond standard county hearing protocol. Among other concerns, acknowledged by Taylor Shellfish Farm's Diane Cooper in a letter to Pierce County Deputy Hearing Examiner Terrence McCarthy, is the industry's self-policing for compliance. She writes: "Taylors indicated they are looking to hire a third-party beach monitor to review Taylor compliance with Environmental Codes of Practice." Those codes of practice were created by the shellfish industry. Cooper's letter goes on to say, "Parties of record do not believe that a person paid for by Taylors to monitor compliance can be trusted to be independent."

A pair of permits (sought by Taylor Shellfish Farms acting as agents for two waterfront owners) in the Vaughn area, SD55-05 and SD53-05, were approved recently (see previous articles online at www.keypennews.com). Although the permits were approved by the county subject to acquisition of other relevant permits and regulations (standard protocol), recent activities by both county officials and Taylor Shellfish Farms, have brought them back for more scrutiny, this time at a state level.

Editor's note: This article is part of a series examining issues regarding geoduck farming. To read previous articles in the series, visit www.keypennews.com.

When the two initial applications were received in October 2005, Pierce County Planning and Land Services (PALS) prepared and sent a report based on existing requirements, site visits, and other criteria to all interested parties of record (applicants, groups and/or individuals following public proceedings) in June 2006. July 5 was set for the standard public hearing by McCarthy's office.

Documentation provided by permit opponents at that meeting compelled McCarthy's cover letter to his Nov. 30 decision to read, "I will review this matter in three years to... help facilitate the minimization of impacts upon the environment and those involved. I still have concerns about the Canadian study 'Sustainable Shellfish' by Heather Deal, M.Sc., which may need attention in the future." (That research document details potential environmental impacts resulting from the proliferation of intense aquaculture. Find it at www.davidsuzuki.org.) McCarthy's letter concludes by saying conditions given in his decision "may also be modified when and if the county adopts regulations governing geoduck aquaculture."

Both Taylor and PALS have submitted "Reconsideration of Hearing Examiner's Decision" applications within the seven-day deadline following McCarthy's deci-

"Who will monitor these sites? What is the penalty for violation? Who will enforce the conditions?"

— Sherri Luedke

sion. Each party (PALS and Taylor) requested minor rewording of some requirements, but several significant conditions were challenged by at least one of the parties.

Taylor requested broader harvest times to accommodate low tide. (McCarthy stipulated Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. only.) According to RCW 77.12.047, "The commission may specify the times... (when taking) shellfish is lawful or unlawful." WAC 220-52-019 says, "It is unlawful to take...geoduck taken for commercial purposes... between 7:00 p.m...and 7:00 a.m."

Taylor Shellfish was dissatisfied with language prohibiting access on the shorelands without approved county permits, and wanted the property owner "... or anyone approved by them (to have) ... legal access to the property," and requested the same change regarding vehicles and heavy equipment on intertidal areas and beaches. PALS requested language stating, "No wetland or fish and wildlife review will be required..." be amended because "fish and wildlife review will be necessary."

PALS added two new conditions: a final site plan submitted "for review and approval prior to any planting activity on site... showing farm location and boundaries, type and color of buoys proposed, location and number of tubes and netting, and the location of any eelgrass and buffers. Simultaneously, the applicant will submit the bond for materials. Upon approval of the final site plan, bond, and issuance of all other necessary permits, the work may begin." PALS also called for yearly status reports listing "all conditions of approval from this decision... describe actions the applicant has taken to comply... provide timeframes... explain modifications to approved plans."

McCarthy included, in addition to "a bond or financial guarantee in the amount of \$1 per tube placed," a provision addressing default by the permittee. Among other specific timelines for permittee action, he wrote: "All approvals granted to harvest the geoduck will become null and void if the applicant fails to remove all of the tubes, netting and securing devices." This default provision was unacceptable to Taylor, although the company did earlier

agree to post a bond. Another condition read: "This project shall be reviewed in three years from the effective date of approval by the Hearing Examiner to examine impacts of operations, and each of these conditions. If the county passes regulations governing geoduck aquaculture, either party may request a review." Taylor's representative, Diane Cooper, wrote this in reply: "We do not believe it is within your authority to review our operations again in three years... it is not appropriate to re-open review of these permits if the county passes additional regulations..."

Shortly thereafter, on Dec. 21, attorneys from Seattle-based Buck & Gordon LLP filed a "Petition for Review" before the Washington State Shorelines Hearings Board on behalf of Taylor Shellfish Farms regarding the examiner's decision. The petition cites as grounds for the appeal, "The conditions... are unreasonable and inconsistent with applicable laws and regulations...(and) are not supported by evidence... and are based on unsupported assumptions." Supporting their grounds are complaints that "the work window... functionally precludes the permitted activity." Regarding posting of a bond and the "null and void" default mechanism: "(This) condition is unreasonable... is more onerous than what is required to bring the development into compliance... revocation of the authorization is punitive..."

Testifying at the July hearing, Sherri Luedke brought four bags of debris collected from the beach over two years from the Taylor Shellfish operation near her home. Her written testimony asks, "Who will monitor these sites? What is the penalty for violation? Who will enforce the conditions?" McCarthy crafted a decision that addressed some of these community concerns, and permitted Taylor to move forward with some new regulatory obligations. PALS requested modest new compliance.

The Pierce County Council and state legislators are drafting guidelines; opposition continues to strengthen. In two years, a new shoreline plan will be drafted. Today, one thing most participants concede, from the industry itself to state agencies and opposition groups, is the idea best described in a statement made by State Rep. Pat Lantz in a September 2006 interview with the Puget Sound Business Journal, "The bottom line is, this (proliferation of geoduck farms/applications) happened so quickly...We have to know what the price is, in terms of the ecological balance of Puget Sound... and that's why the science is so terribly important."



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Stormy night

Scenes from around Key Pen of the December storm's aftermath; for more storm photos, visit our online photo gallery at www.keypennews.com.



A geoduck barge broke loose during high winds on Thursday, Dec. 14. Owner Doug McRae cruised around the barge in a boat in an attempt to stop it from hitting the Purdy Bridge. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



A home in Lake Minterwood sustained damage from trees that fell on the roof. *Photo by Kristen Pierce*

Mike Maroney, a Red Cross volunteer from Palmer Lake, his wife, Sandy, along with Pat Greetham and Denise Mose are some of the many volunteers who helped at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church's emergency shelter. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



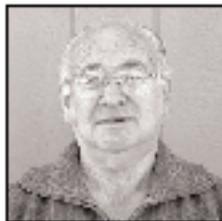
A tree hangs over the power line on Lackey Road, an area that remained without power the longest. *Photo by Chris Fitzgerald*

Drivers try to avoid a mess of downed trees and power lines along the Key Peninsula Highway in Home the day after the storm. It was a familiar scene around the Peninsula for a few days, as crews scrambled to clean up. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



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Safe Streets hires community mobilization specialist

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Safe Streets hired a new, full-time community mobilization specialist for its Key Peninsula satellite office. Mike Babauta, a resident of Lacey, started his new job in December. His previous job was as a program assistant for Community Youth Services in Olympia, following two years in the AmeriCorps.

"I'm really excited about this new challenge, and learning about the community and the people," he said.

Babauta said once he completes his training and meets with various local

groups and neighborhoods, he will be able to narrow down his priorities and focus on the top issues. He said his primary role will be to serve as a resource for the Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor area for safety related issues.

Moni Hoyt, Safe Streets operations manager, told the Key Peninsula Community Council at its December meeting that the role of Safe Streets and the relationship with Community



BABAUTA

Council will change, and Babauta's role will be primarily to mobilize groups and neighborhoods. He said Safe Streets will come up with an agreement with the community council board in a few months once Babauta is settled in his job. Hoyt said Safe Streets would like to continue its partnership with the council, as well as several other local groups Safe Streets has supported, including Teens Empowered Against Meth (T.E.A.M.), a Peninsula High School club.

"We are severely understaffed, as most nonprofits are these days, but we're working hard to create and continue

partnerships," he said. One of the new Safe Streets programs that Hoyt hopes to bring to the Key Peninsula is called Meth 360. The program, implemented in 2006, brings presentations by law enforcement and other agencies to communities on various aspects of methamphetamine.

"The number of meth labs in Pierce County has dramatically decreased, especially this year (2006), but the problem still exists," Hoyt said.

Babauta plans to maintain regular office hours at the Key Center Safe Streets office once his training is complete. The office may be reached at 884-7899.

Deer shootings upset neighborhood

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The shooting of several deer in Vaughn has caused outrage among local residents who have been enjoying the animals' company for the last few years. The four deer reportedly lived on a beach and made their presence known daily.

"We have counted the deer every morning and thrown apples over the fence, (and the apples) had always disappeared by evening," said one neighbor, who asked to remain anonymous.

According to a witness, some neighbors frequently wrote down license plate numbers of strangers during the hunting season. They placed "no trespassing" signs on the fence of the private property, but the signs were removed several times. At the end of November, two men were spotted on the property at different times. The neighbors noticed the absence of the deer after the first encounter. They confronted the second man, whom they

recognized as a Key Peninsula resident, and called the sheriff's deputies. The witnesses saw the man being handcuffed and questioned by law enforcement officials. According to the Pierce County Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment, the case was turned over to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"The subject had a hunting license. It was open (deer hunting) season but he was using an illegal firearm," said WDFW Officer Jason Czebotar, one of five officers whose detachment oversees Pierce, Kitsap and North Mason counties. "The subject was cited for (having) an illegal firearm and failing to tag the deer. Those two violations are fairly common; we write those all the time during the hunting season."

Czebotar said that despite the neighbors' allegations of trespassing on private property, the suspect, reported by witnesses as a Hispanic male, was not charged with trespassing. He said it's very difficult to put together a very good trespassing case and

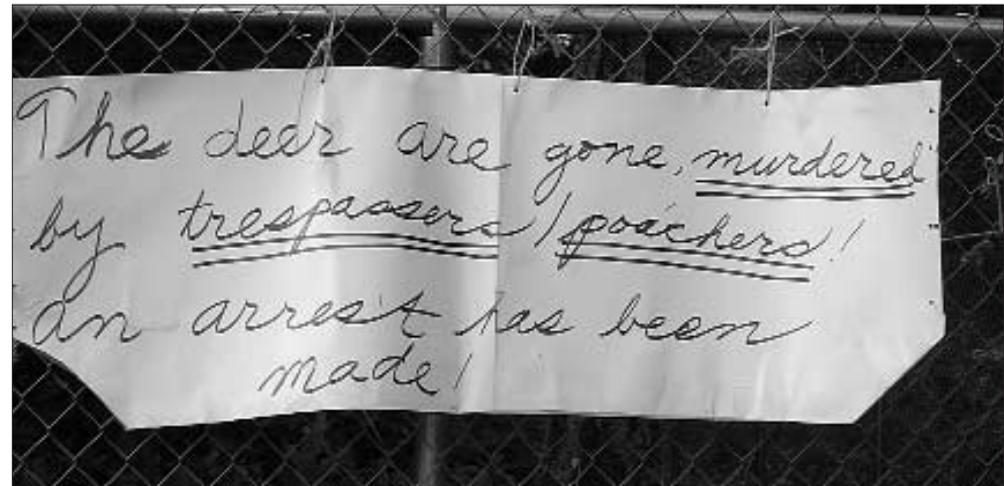


Photo by Colleen Slater

A property owner posted this sign after a man was detained following deer shootings off S. Vaughn Road.

being able to prove a person entered the property illegally, so those cases are frequently dismissed.

The neighbors believe the deer shot by the man was the young buck, and they believe the other three deer were shot earlier. Czebotar said he was aware about the concerns, but officers could not find any solid leads.

"(The killings) have a lot of people mad out here," one nearby resident said. "The deer really weren't frightened of people."

The incident was the second deer shooting on the Key Peninsula in the past few months. Earlier last fall, a resident found on his property a deer nicknamed Willow by some, Piglet or Sam by others. The deer had been shot dead by an arrow. The news upset many local residents, who were eager to share their stories and photos about the deer they saw as a "pet."

Jennifer Giles wrote to the KP News in

October, after an article about the shooting was published: "When I got the newspaper today, my children and I were so shocked and saddened by the article of him being shot. He touched our family also and we treasured the times that we were able to walk with him and pet him and feed him carrots and apples."

Officer Czebotar cautioned residents about their encounters with tame deer, saying any wild animal can be unpredictable and should not be viewed as a pet. He said people should resist taking in fawns when they find them apparently abandoned. Often times the doe takes off when a person approaches, leaving the fawns behind because the fawns do not have scents that attract wild predators. But the doe will not return if people get involved. "Wild animals in general don't want anything to do with humans," he said. "They don't like us at all."

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Powerline Road lawsuit goes to mediation

By Rick Sorrels, Special to KP News

The trial date in the lawsuit of Powerline Road property owners against Tacoma Public Utilities was continued in December until May or June; however, a new date has not been set.

At the Dec. 8 hearing, Pierce County Superior Court Judge Thomas Feltnagle, who has presided over the lawsuit, stated his expectation to see some "serious mediation" to seek settlement in the lawsuit so that a trial can be avoided. At the same hearing, he also allowed an additional Powerline Road property owner to join the lawsuit as the 12th plaintiff, dismissed Pierce County from the case as a defendant, and narrowed down the issues to be tried.

At earlier hearings, Feltnagle stated he does not like to see lawsuits involving citizens and government entities, and encouraged the parties to try to settle their differences. However, no effort was taken in this direction prior to Dec. 8. Feltnagle suggested a specific retired Superior Court judge who could sit as an unbiased third party to guide the

mediation; all the parties in the lawsuit must agree on which mediator to use.

William Fosbre, attorney for the city of Tacoma and its subagency, Tacoma Public Utilities (aka Tacoma Power), said in an interview, "The dismissal of Pierce County, the dismissal of plaintiffs' claim that a 'public road existed,' and the determination that 'residents must prove a 10-year usage prior to 1994 in order to obtain a prescriptive easement' have not yet been reduced to a written order. The attorneys must all meet again before the judge to argue and determine what exactly the judge's order will say. The judge's verbal order on Dec. 8 was rather skimpy; it's necessary to nail it down exactly."

The city of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Utilities are the only remaining defendants in the lawsuit. The suit was filed last year by several property owners following a longtime dispute between Tacoma Power and residents over Powerline Road, a Tacoma Power utility road noted on maps as 144th Street. The city of Tacoma obtained ownership of the road in 1923 via condemnation.

Utility officials have said the residents have been using the road illegally, while the residents had claimed Powerline should have been a public road.

Several dozen property owners used Powerline Road as the only way to access their homes. The lawsuit was triggered by Tacoma Power's announcement that gates would be locked, denying residents access to certain homes unless they signed a legal document. Many residents stated earlier they did not plan to sign any documents giving away any rights.

The court ruled at an earlier hearing that the city held ownership in a "proprietary capacity," not in a "governmental capacity," thereby allowing the possibility for property owners to obtain rights through a prescriptive easement claim.

Tacoma Power uses the road for its transmission lines that stretch from Tacoma to the Cushman Dam. The lines provide power for all Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor residents as well. Fosbre said the security of the road was an important concern, especially "if any

significant damage is done there, then the lights will literally go out for everybody."

"We have initiated discussion with Pierce County over past years to transfer ownership, responsibility for security, liability, etc, but have not gotten anywhere," he said. "County Executive John Ladenburg has strongly opposed any transfer."

He said if the case goes to trial, he expects that "one or another of the parties will file motions to reconsider, and then appeal to the Court of Appeals, and then appeal to the State Supreme Court."

"The 12 named plaintiffs are the only Powerline Road residents affected by this lawsuit," he said. "We expect additional lawsuits by other residents wanting to find resolution also. Final resolution is many, many years away, with the cost borne by the property owners, their insurance companies, and city and county taxpayers... We sincerely welcome and look forward to mediation and an acceptable settlement of these matters."

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Guitar theft puts band's dream on hold

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

A small group of local musicians had big dreams: After playing together for a few years as "amateurs," they decided to make a recording and go commercial. With the help of Tacoma's Jerry Miller, of the '60s band "Moby Grape" fame, and producer Robert Yeager, Key Pen's Wes Wilson and father-son duo Bob and Matt Bentley were ready to try out the big times.

Only a couple of weeks before the scheduled studio time, Bob Bentley came to his Longbranch home on Jan. 9 to discover five guitars gone. Three of those cannot be replaced, and two were handmade through hundreds of hours of work by Wilson. The stolen 1995 Taylor was the group's main sound—they wrote their original songs and practiced them to that sound.

"When you write songs, you produce them for the guitars," Wilson said. "They are all unique; they are our sound... They (the thieves) took our sound we've been working on (for months)."

The guitars, with a total value of nearly



Band members Bob Bentley and his son, Matt, perform at a party in Purdy recently. Bob is playing one of the guitars later stolen, the Taylor G12C.

Photo courtesy
Wes Wilson

\$10,000, were taken without cases. Wilson thinks they may have been taken by kids — since nothing else was stolen, and there was thousands of dollars worth of equipment in the house. The group has been trying to spread the word in hopes to get the guitars back, but Wilson doesn't hold out much hope. He doesn't think the guitars will reappear, and the thieves would have a difficult time selling them because they are easily identifiable.

The band, however, is moving on. Called "The Ruston a Way Band" (a play on words for Ruston Way, where Miller

grew up), the five-member band (Wilson, Miller, the Bentleys, and a drummer, Billie Jones, en route from Texas) plans to overcome the setback. Wilson said the timing was good for the group, which had played around the Key Peninsula (sans Miller and Jones) at various events.

Wilson and Bentley, longtime friends, started playing together on Herron Island in 1981. Wilson said Matt, a Peninsula High School graduate now in his early 20s, has come of age, and created his own following. The two

If you have information about the stolen guitar, contact Bob at 884-3477 or Wes at 884-2757. The missing guitars are a 1995 Taylor G12C, a 1975 Fender Stratocaster, a Washburn D-10, a handmade jazz base, and a handmade Stratocaster copy.

friends' desire to showcase Matt's talent, coupled with Miller's interest in teaming up with them (though he plays with other bands as well) has compelled them to create the new band. "This is the first time we were going to make a business out of it," Wilson said.

Their plan is to buy new guitars, redefine their sound, reschedule studio time — and make a debut in spring at the Longbranch Improvement Club. "We'll practice a lot, and we'll put on a show," he said.

Wilson is grateful for the community support and the help of the local sheriff's detachment in trying to locate the guitars. "We hope people keep an eye out," he said.

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Vaughn Community Church sold

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The Vaughn Community Church building has a new owner, after having been offered for sale, off and on, since September 2002, at an initial asking price \$30,000 above the final sale price. This last time on the market, it took only six days to locate a buyer.

The ownership transfer took place on Oct. 30, 2006; new owners are Russel A. and Kristi M. Stockdale of Woodinville. Most recently listed at \$750,000, and sold on a warranty deed for \$761,000, the 1.66-acre parcel has 152 feet of low-bank waterfront, and carries a "religious" universal use code within R-10 zoning.

According to a previous church member, original donors of the land upon which the church is built intended the site to be used for religious-based purposes into perpetuity. The church membership is moving to a new location and eventually, a new building. The actual church site and existing building are now under private ownership. The building was involved in a fire last year, after which time church services had to be held at a different location.

In a telephone interview, Russel Stockdale said an architect has been hired to see what can be accomplished with the existing structure, as it has been severely smoke-damaged from the sanctuary fire. The blaze was so hot, he said the upholstery melted from chairs at the other end of the church, and a computer in the balcony also melted.

Expressing both delight with their purchase, and surprise that it occurred so fast, Stockdale said, "(My wife and I) are extremely deliberate people. It's not like us to look at a property one day and just a few days later, buy it. But when we

“ (My wife and I) are extremely deliberate people. It's not like us to look at a property one day and just a few days later, buy it.

— Russel Stockdale

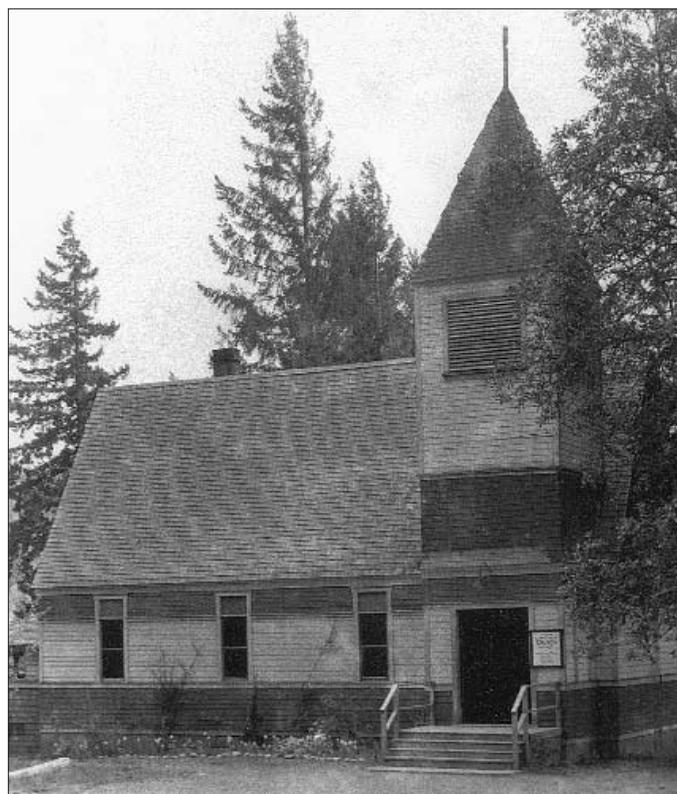
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first saw Vaughn Bay, we knew that was where we wanted to find a place to have a family retreat." They like everything about their purchase — the community, the neighborhood, the bay itself.

Stockdale says they had been thinking about a gathering place for their extended family for some time. Originally from University Place, where his parents and siblings still live, he "crossed the bridge many times" during his childhood, and was familiar with the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula areas. Kristi Stockdale's family is Seattle-based. The couple does not anticipate a move to the peninsula, and will be using the site for family celebrations and gatherings.

Themselves Christians, the Stockdales are pleased to know the proceeds from their purchase are going to the Vaughn Community Church "to further their plans." They acknowledge the history of the property and the special place it holds in many hearts; their plans are that it continues to be a place where many happy memories are fondly recalled as it is transformed into a private family retreat.

Church officials could not be reached before deadline.



Left, the building in the 1950s, before undergoing remodeling. *Photo courtesy Key Peninsula Historical Society*

Below, the building, recently damaged by fire, has a beautiful view of Vaughn Bay, and has been used for many community celebrations. *Photo by Frank Slater*



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Conservation agency's services focus on farm, environment

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Tucked inside an office smaller than some walk-in closets, behind a building with no signage (not even an arrow), past a propane tank and a storage shed, on the back, creekside of the single story office building south of the old Brookside restaurant, right in the middle of the building, is a door. If a silver pickup truck is parked alongside that building, chances are Erin Ewald, farm planner for KGI Watershed/Pierce Conservation District, is in her office, preparing a farm plan for a peninsula resident, or putting together the agenda for a workshop offering.

A quiet, thoughtful woman with a quick smile, and as much knowledge about pasture management as a seasoned farmer, Ewald describes her public service job as "a dream come true."

Her office has been open for a year, her job made possible through the 2004 voter-approved water-assessment tax; the farm plans, site visits and workshops she conducts are free to the communities she serves. A technician with Pierce Conservation District for two years, and



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

Erin Ewald's office is hard to find — but worth the effort.

for Kitsap Conservation District before that for one year, she is emphatic that "county" not be included in the title (as in Pierce "County" Conservation District). Ewald says every county in the entire nation has a conservation district, and yet they are not county employees, and answer to no county agency. Conservation

district technicians take no stand on environmental land and resource issues and act as neutral third parties.

"We are nonregulatory," she says. "People can discuss their farming concerns and issues freely (without fear of county agency intervention)." She can talk with various county agencies about anonymous "what if" scenarios, and possible alternatives, saving landowners time, frustration, and sometimes temper.

Originally hailing from Minnesota, Ewald came to her current position by way of Wyoming, and then a job at an environmental engineering company in Seattle, after completing a bachelor's of science (focus on water issues) through the University of Washington's Tacoma campus. She became discouraged about her career track at the engineering firm, unhappy at the prospect of being part of "paving everything over." Ewald really wanted to "help farmers and livestock owners live their own dreams," and if she could encourage environmental stewardship in the process, so much the better.

Ewald's office is packed with information useful to people who want to know

Native plant sale

The Pierce Conservation District will hold its annual plant sale in March. Orders are accepted through Jan. 31. For an order form, call Erin Ewald at 851-4313 or visit www.piercecountycd.org/treesale.html.

more about their individual tracts of land, soil types and topography of the area, and myriad other environment-related topics. Simply upon request, she conducts individual site visits, and prepares detailed farm plans based on the landowners' desires and goals, making specific recommendations for best land use practices to meet those goals. She provides information on pasture renovation, paddock systems, composting, and nutrient management systems, either for individual residents, or through workshops open to the entire community. Through her PCD office, she sets up public farm visits so hopeful future farmers, ranchers, and weekend dirt-diggers can tour local small farms that have found success with environmentally sound practices. All those services are free. The conservation district has a small cost-share program (highly competitive) a landowner can apply for to complete certain projects.

Ewald's office always serves more than 100 clients. Her door is always open to lend a helping hand. "The more places I visit, and the more systems I see, the more I can help people network to keep our creeks and water resources clean," she says.

Ewald cautions that hers is a "field" office, meaning she is often out on farm visits; an appointment can be made either by phone at 851-4313, or by visiting www.piercecountycd.org and clicking on her email link.

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PHS senior project lends helping hand

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Holiday Helper Program sponsored by the Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center helped bring holiday cheer to more than 500 children in 2006. Many of those kids were matched with community sponsors under a program that has been in place for a number of years.

"This year, Olivia Konicek, a Longbranch area resident, contacted me about her ideas of partnering with us for her senior project at Peninsula High School," said Kim Bauer, holiday helper, chief elf, and children's program coordinator at CHS. "I was excited to have a teen from the community so excited about doing this program. Olivia polled the classes at her school and informed me of the number of children that the youth at the school would like to sponsor. I was impressed by the total number of 53."

Bauer works with kids in a number of programs on the Key Peninsula and is part of a mentoring program that utilizes teens. "One thing that I have learned about teens in our area is that they care," she said. "Not only do they care enough to spend their time with younger kids in the mentoring programs, Little Buddies & Amigos, but they are willing to put their money where their mouth is."

"I really wanted to recognize our school for its outstanding success," said Konicek. "This year for my senior project, I wanted to organize something that would get students at PHS involved in our commu-

Details

For information on Children's Home Society/KP Family Resources Center programs, call 884-5433. Families needing assistance should visit the CHS office at the KP Civic Center between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

nity. When I was in elementary school, my parents, brother and I sponsored a family for the holiday season through the Children's Home Society. I remember shopping for clothes, Barbies, remote control cars and lots of wrapping paper. Based on my experience with the program, I knew right from the start that the Holiday Helper program at CHS would be the perfect program for our school."

Konicek said she wants students to be enthusiastic "about giving and providing a service to others without expectation of receiving something back."

"I want them to take a step back and recognize how fortunate we all are and that we have the power to change a single child's holiday by providing them three gifts each, a wish/toy and two clothing pieces. I will know I'm successful when students follow through and come up to me excited about what they bought for the child they sponsored, when students feel a sense of accomplishment and are eager to do more for our community." She said several students were very excited to be a part of the project because



Tami Miller, Kim Bauer, Ariella George, and Olivia Konicek organize gifts collected through Konicek's senior project for the Holiday Helper program sponsored by the Children's Home Society at the KP Family Resource Center in Vaughn.

Photo by
Hugh McMillan

they had been Holiday Helper recipients in the past and they wanted to give back.

For her project, Konicek visited 13 PHS classes and explained what kind of commitment was needed to make it happen, and each class decided how many children they would sponsor. Each child received a toy and clothing, as well as wrapping paper so parents could wrap the presents themselves. A total of 325 students participated, and the estimated value of donations was approximately \$2,000.

The Holiday Helper program starts in October. "We send out letters to sponsors from previous years to see if they would like to partner with us again. They let us know how many children they would like to help. In November, families begin signing up and filling out a 'wish list' that includes clothing sizes," Bauer said. "Each sponsor is asked to provide one

wish or toy for a maximum value of \$30 and two clothing items. Our sponsors have always been very generous!"

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KPMS implements improvement plan

By Kimberly Koczara Hayes
Special to KP News

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, states are working to close the achievement gap and make sure all students, including those who are disadvantaged, achieve academic proficiency. Annual state and school district report cards inform parents and communities

about state and school progress. Schools that do not make progress must take corrective actions and, if still not making adequate yearly progress after five years, must make dramatic changes to the way the school is run. All Washington state schools must demonstrate Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) toward reaching these goals, and failing schools must create a School Improvement Plan (SIP) to help reach them.

Since the passage of the federal law in 2001, Key Peninsula Middle School students have consistently scored above the state's AYP, according to school officials. As state target goals increase each year, so have KPMS scores. These scores continue to rise above the state goals every year.

Since KPMS is not a failing school, it is not required to create the state mandated School Improvement Plan. Yet, when Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck offered a voluntary opportunity for schools to implement a School Improvement "process" of their own, with additional state support, KPMS Principal Sharon

Shaffer and her staff jumped at the chance.

Shaffer says she sees this as an exciting opportunity to further support all students in reaching their full potential.

"This is an ongoing and circular process that continually evaluates and improves upon the school environment and focuses on the whole student," she said, adding that it is an evolving and reflective process that continually evaluates student progress in a number of areas using a variety of data. Thus the term School Improvement "Plan" has been replaced by School Improvement "Process."

The process is a data-driven achievement plan meant to continually evaluate and improve upon the educational experience for all students, with special emphasis on those who are not currently meeting standards, according to Shaffer. There are many aspects to the process, including designing and evaluating academic programs, developing school culture, and meeting the needs of the whole student. The SIP uses data to drive decisions and to demonstrate

accountability for all learners on a continual basis.

In order to identify and meet these goals, the plan starts with some core value statements in each area. For example, in the academic design portion of the plan a goal is that "instruction must be meaningful, purposeful, and intentional with teaching strategies based on effective research." Data compiled each year will provide the baseline for assessment analysis. Trend data over time will be included for reading, writing, and math results, including WASL scores, demographic information, the Safe and Civil Survey, and The 9 Characteristics of Successful Schools Survey. All of this is included in the data-collection template used to evaluate and improve school performance on a continual basis. Shaffer says the administration, teachers, students, and state education specialists work together to continually set high standards, identify strengths and weakness, and to improve upon the educational experience for all students at KPMS.

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COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Jan. 2 – Narrows Bridge Committee meeting

The Narrows Bridge Citizens' Advisory Committee will meet to discuss their toll recommendation. There will be a long period set aside for public comment and input. All peninsula residents are invited to attend.

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 6 – 8 p.m., Gig Harbor City Hall (3510 Grandview Street)

Jan. 3 – Grief support group

The grief support group will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, Jan. 3 and Jan. 17, 7 p.m., Key Center Fire Station 2; 884-2054

Jan. 4 – 'Ashes' offers free membership

The Ladies of the Ashes Auxiliary for the Key Peninsula Fire Department meets at the Key Center fire station the first Thursday of each month (except summer months). A short business meeting is followed by a potluck luncheon. Ashes supports the fire department, its members, the Family Resource Center, food bank, Angel Tree holiday project, and an annual scholarship for a Peninsula student. Ashes is looking for new members; there is no membership fee. The primary fundraising is an annual rummage sale at the Key Center fire station.

Thursday, Jan. 4, 10 a.m., Key Center Fire Station 2; 884-3771

Jan. 4 – Grief support group

The grief support group will meet every Thursday morning at 10 a.m. in January Fire Station 5 (SR 302 & Wright-Bliss Rd); 884-2054

Jan. 5 – Friday night skating at the Civic Center

Pre-school and elementary kids are invited to roller skate at the Civic Center on Fridays from 6-7 p.m. The cost is \$2 per person for an hour of skating. The kids are welcome to stay for the 7-9 p.m. session (cost is \$4 for 6-9 p.m.)

Friday skating for middle school kids is from 7-9 p.m. at a cost of \$4 per person. Middle school children arriving at 6 will hang out in the Whitmore Room until 6:45 when they will be allowed into the gym area. 884-3456

Jan. 6 – Movies at Key Center Library

The Friends of the Key Center Library will be hosting three monthly movies, which will be shown on the newly purchased large screen television at the Key Center Library.

A children's matinee will be featured at 2 p.m. beginning with the first Saturday of each month. On the second Friday a foreign film will be featured. A blockbuster will be shown on the fourth Friday.

For the month of January the children's matinee will feature "Ice Age One" and "Ice Age Two" (both rated G) on Saturday, Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. A foreign film will be shown on Friday, Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m., title TBA. On Friday, Jan. 26, "The Da Vinci Code" (rated PG-13) will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Postings for future months will be available in January.

Brones Room, Key Center Library; 884-2242

Jan. 9 – Blood Drive, PenLight

Cascade Regional Blood Services will have a blood drive at Peninsula Light Co. and various other locations around Gig Harbor in January.

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., PenLight, 13315 Goodnough Drive NW; 1-877-24-BLOOD for other dates/locations

Jan. 10 – Watoto Children's Choir at LIC

The Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda, hosted by Lakebay Community Church, will perform at the Longbranch Improvement Club. This is a fabulous group of children and adults who will give a high-energy, first-rate, quality performance. CDs, DVDs, African knickknacks and opportunities to sponsor children will be offered after the performance.

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6:30-8 p.m.,

Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-2102

Jan. 12 – Reflections show at Evergreen Elementary

Evergreen PTA invites the community to the Reflections Art Show. Reflections is a National PTA art program that encourages students to create art supporting a specific theme for fun and recognition. This year's theme was "My Favorite Place." Finalists will be chosen to continue on to state competition.

Friday, Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m., Evergreen Elementary, 1820 KP Hwy S; 530-1300.

Jan. 15 – Fundraiser at Round Table Pizza

Katrina English, an eight-grade student at Key Peninsula Middle School, will hold a "takeover" at Round Table Pizza in Tacoma to help earn her tuition cost for her People to People Student Ambassador trip to Europe this summer. Katrina needs to earn a total of \$6,000. Katrina will receive 50 percent of all profit proceeds for the entire day. She is also seeking business and individual sponsors. She has agreed to wear a logo jacket around town and oversee advertisement of local sponsors.

Monday, Jan. 15, 5 – 8 p.m., Round Table Pizza, 2601 N. Pearl St., Tacoma, 253-225-5519, englishm@comcast.net.

Jan. 17 – KP Community Planning Board meeting

The next meetings for the Pierce County — Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are scheduled for Jan. 17 and Jan. 31. The Community Planning Board is working on policy development for the Community Character Element of the Key Peninsula Community Plan regarding commercial design standards. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m., Key Center Library, www.piercecountywa.org/landuse.

Jan. 20 – K-2 basketball begins

Key Peninsula Metro Park District is offering a five-week co-ed skills clinic for

young players on Saturday mornings from Jan. 20 through Feb. 17. There will be a minimum of 10 and maximum of 30 participants per grade level. Program focus is on dribbling, passing and shooting. Scaled-down equipment and specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all participants. Adult/parent involvement is required during the clinics. The cost is \$39/participant and includes a basketball and shirt.

2nd grade 9-9:50 a.m.

1st grade 10-10:50 a.m.

Kindergarten 11-11:50 a.m.

Call Scott Gallacher, 884-9240 to sign up.

Jan. 27 – Iraq Peace Rally

The Key Peacemakers is hosting an "Out of Iraq Now" peace rally in concert with a national march on Washington, D.C. sponsored by United for Peace and Justice and Code Pink. This is a call to Congress to immediately withdraw a military presence and to stop funding for the war.

Saturday, Jan. 27, 12 noon, north end of the Purdy Bridge; Dory, 884-9299

Jan. 27 – Family art classes

The Friends of the Key Center Library will sponsor a series of free Family Art Classes, taught by local artists from Key Peninsula's Two Waters Arts Alliance.

Elementary school age children and parents are invited to a workshop titled "Animal Stories in Pictures" with collage artist Becky Frehse. She taught in the Art Department at Pacific Lutheran University and at Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma. She is currently a teaching artist and mentor to public school teachers and is working with Tacoma Art Museum's Art after school program.

Saturday, Jan. 27, 1-3 p.m., Key Center Library; free

Jan. 28 – Youth present 'Point of No Return'

Young Gig Harbor actors, who are a part of Uturn Youth Ministries from several area churches including Turning Point Community Church,

Wellspring Fellowship, and Vaughn Community Church, have prepared a play. The play considers the question: "What happens when my life is over?" It is a sometimes humorous, sometimes serious, look at what happens when each of us reaches that point of no return.

"Point Of No Return," a modern fantasy in two acts, is an imaginary look at a group of people after they die. Among the cast of characters are a variety of personalities representing people's actual approaches to life and preparation for life after death.

Free admission.

Sunday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m., Vaughn Civic Center

January- KP Metro Parks adult 3-on-3 basketball

KPMPD is now accepting team registrations for the Adult 3-on-3 Basketball League. Teams will play a 10-game season (plus the season-concluding tournament) at the Civic Center beginning the end of January. All games will be played on Sunday late afternoons and evenings. Cost is \$275/team with a

minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 teams. Players without a team may contact KPMPD to be put on a player availability list. League and tournament champions receive individual awards.

To sign up call Scott Gallacher, 884-9240, or visit www.keypeninsualparks.com

KPVI donates toys

This year, members of the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute decided to spend the funds slated for the annual Christmas dinner to buy presents for children instead. New toys were

purchased and donated to the Children's Home Society in Civic Center, and will be distributed by CHS. Roxy Wooldridge, KPVI president, said the group felt there were a number of children on the Key Peninsula who would benefit more from having a Christmas present than the members needed a party.

KPVI meets the first and third Monday of the month at Key Peninsula Community Services and welcomes applications from honorably discharged veterans and their families. Call 884-4551 for information.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Miller

Jennifer Miller is a mom's mom. For the last three or four years, she has been spending every Friday night during the school year at the Vaughn Civic Center behind the snack bar counter. She is the person hungry skaters, from the little guys up to eighth graders, converge upon with requests for pizza wedges,

nachos, drinks and other snacks between songs and skating sessions. From 6 to 9 p.m., she and other local adults, both volunteer and paid, provide a safe place for children to have fun away from home – and their parents a couple of "kid-free" hours; apparently a welcome shift, as Miller says most parents drop their offspring off and then leave during the skating sessions.

Friday Night Skate Night has been a consistent event at the Civic Center for at least nine years, says Miller; that's when her girlfriend, Leslie Eldridge, began to babysit for her middle child. Then, several years ago, when the Eldridges began to orchestrate the events, Miller gradually became a regular behind the snack bar. She also likes to skate, but, "I love selling food to the kids — and they love to eat!" The closest she gets to participating on Friday nights is to be the "line caller" (in tennis shoes) when the skaters line up to line-dance.

The Millers (Jennifer's husband, Kip, is the skate night "D.J.") take summers off from the Friday night event and the family often goes camping; she also enjoys wake-boarding behind their boat.

Miller is a lifelong resident of the peninsula area, and a Peninsula High School graduate. She's a busy parent, and enjoys volunteering. Her youngest child is 5, and all three siblings attend skate night. "I'll be behind this counter forever," she says with a laugh. Miller



MILLER

works part-time, and counts her family as her number one priority, with her most important title being "Mom."]

—Chris Fitzgerald



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Correction

In last month's story on the falconer, two names were misspelled, and some misinformation was printed.

Colleen Slater offers sincere apologies to Dean and Joanne Johnston for the errors. Johnston is a general falconer rather than an apprentice, and has an apprentice under him.

(From DEMOSS, Page 1)

jobs; they're inspirational."

DeMoss, a Peninsula High School graduate who grew up on the Key Peninsula, has been teaching music at Minter Creek Elementary School, and this school year took on the job as director for the newly created Peninsula High School band. She said between the jobs that entail 16-hour work schedules, and her three sons — two of whom are in college — she cannot have a family life and dedicate herself to her park district job.

"I'm still going to be a supporter of the park district," she said.

In her resignation letter, she wrote, in part: "I would like to recognize the wonderful people I have had the benefit to work with. The community has outstanding opportunities ahead but is burdened by many 'old' ways. My wish is that the community work together in support of the park system so it may continue to grow. I give my full support to the park district as a citizen."

DeMoss came under scrutiny last year following concerns by some local residents that she moved out of the jurisdiction and should not remain as president. However, at a hearing challenging her voter registration, she provided proof of a Key Peninsula address and the challenge was dismissed. The challenge came on the heels of highly publicized criticism of a resolution allowing commissioners to accept a stipend, although DeMoss herself did not take any payment.

DeMoss said even with the setback and her personal life being exposed, she has received support from many community members. Despite comments that she felt were "unnecessary," she said, "You don't do things like that to be appreciated but because you believe in it."

DeMoss addressed the park district's biggest struggles: limited funding and lack of public involvement. She said the public doesn't realize that a lot of the budget goes toward improving Volunteer Park after years of shoestring operations, and toward upkeep. She gave kudos to the volunteers who have kept the park going with hardly any money for years, but said "to run that park effectively, it costs the amount we get from the zoo/trek tax." There is not enough money, however, to acquire new parks, she said.

DeMoss is concerned with lack of public participation. She said she has seen about 30 people supporting the proposed 360-acre park, but "25-30 people don't represent 17,000."

"It's hard to get people encouraged to get out and give time," she said.

Kip Clinton, who becomes de facto

"I wish we had more citizen involvement... to take some pressure off commissioners. We've lost two commissioners this year (2006) due to burnout."

— Kip Clinton,
KPMMPD

president until new officer elections are held, said, "I want to thank Paula for all the effort she has put into the formation of the new park district. She has been extremely important and influential but I can understand... and I know the rest of the board understands that family comes first... She has been a rock. She has been attacked and I applaud her for sticking it out."

DeMoss' letter was submitted to the county in December, and her resignation was set to be accepted at the Jan. 8 park board meeting. DeMoss was the second commissioner to resign last year. Jerry Schick, who was also commissioner with the old park district, resigned in August, while criticizing park operations and expressing frustration over the direction of the district.

"I wish we had more citizen involvement... to take some pressure off commissioners. We've lost two commissioners this year (2006) due to burnout," Clinton said.

The board will need to appoint a new commissioner to fill DeMoss' turn until the November election, at which time two other seats (Caril Ridley's and Elmer Anderson's) will also be up for reelection.

Clinton said she hopes the other three candidates from the last appointment (to Schick's spot) reapply, along with new candidates. "The more candidates, the better selection we can make," she said.

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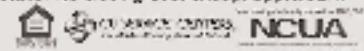
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(From STORM, Page 1)

do in the months to come," White said.

As temperatures dipped, residents looking for a warm place gathered at the local restaurants, which were overwhelmed with customers. Those looking for a warm room at the Westwynd Motel in Purdy, however, were out of luck: According to co-manager Alan Arnold, they had to turn down 100 to 200 people a day.

"This time of year, it's usually slow right before Christmas," he said. Instead, people came from as far as Tacoma to rent one of the 24 rooms. The hotel, too, ended up without power early Friday morning, and had to check everyone out until power came back on Saturday.

Mindi Hand, owner of Cutter Bug in Key Center, was at Westwynd when the power went out. The staff at the Bridgeway Market allowed her to charge up her mobile phone, and after running into a customer and thinking about her messy hair, Hand had an idea. She made flyers inviting anyone to stop in at Cutter Bug, warm up, and get a free shampoo. She had hot chocolate and coffee on hand and movies for kids to watch.

"It was just amazing, the response we got," she said. Once word spread about her offer, people started bringing in cookies and tea, a local student from a beauty school came in to help, and a Red Cross volunteer took all her towels home at the end of the day to wash them.

Stories of acts of kindness were all around the Peninsula in the week after the storm. K.P. Community Services offered hot meals to anyone in need. Strangers offered up beds, showers, and warm respite to those who didn't have power yet. Others got out to help friends and neighbors.

"I am physically and mentally

exhausted," said Wes Wilson, who had hardly gotten any sleep in the four or five days after the storm, helping family members and friends keep their generators running while tending to his sick daughter.

Dale Sandredzky, a seasoned commercial fisherman, didn't even wait for the storm to be over before getting out of his house, looking for downed trees. As soon as he realized a major gust was hitting Thursday night, he knew "what a bad storm it was."

"I had no intention of laying in my bed and having a tree fall on my trailer," he said. Feeling "in his element" outside, he started going around, cutting trees and looking out for fires until 5 a.m. "There were power lines in the middle of the road," he said. "I knew we had major problems."

The storm aftermath disrupted several businesses. Moreland and Sons' automotive repair shop did not reopen until Wednesday; Cost Less pharmacy had to fill prescriptions without its computer system for a few days. Peninsula School District's headquarters in Purdy, which sustained roof damage from fallen trees, had no power in parts of the building, and a week after the storm reportedly had to shut down its network to conserve electricity. Schools were closed on the Friday following the storm, giving the students one extra day off before the winter break was to officially begin.

In Key Center, businesses were only disrupted for one day. Peninsula Market stayed open the entire time, running on a generator for a day, and was able to save perishables with the help of a freezer truck. The store, however, ran out of batteries, water, ice and wood.

"I think Key Center was pretty lucky," said Claudia Loy of Sunnycrest Nursery. "We sustained a bit of damage — plastic roofing came off. We kind of prepared

and got things down that we thought may be blown down by the wind. We feel very fortunate."

One of the most fortunate aspects for the entire community was the shelter and hot meals provided by the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. By coincidence, the church was designated a Red Cross shelter just the week prior, following an application process — so the storm was the first test of the shelter operations.

The McColley Hall, which has a generator and propane-heated water system, was kept warm, and the kitchen was busy with volunteers preparing three meals a day and keeping the coffee and cookies continuously supplied.

People started arriving at the shelter Thursday night, and by Tuesday more than 100 spent the night, from babies to the elderly. Some people came simply to get hot water or a meal. More than 300 meals a day were served. On Saturday, the Red Cross came in, bringing additional volunteers, blankets and supplies, followed by the Salvation Army.

"We wanted to provide refuge for the community," said Hank, a church volunteer who declined to give his last name. "We're going to be open until the relief need stops... It's our contribution to the community."

Storm debris disposal

Pierce County Solid Waste Division will accept tree branches and other compostable yard waste for free at five solid waste transfer stations, including the Purdy and Key Center locations:

Purdy Transfer Station, 14515 54th Ave. NW, open 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. every day

Key Center Transfer Station, 5900 Key Peninsula Highway N., open 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

For details, call 798-4115 or visit www.piercecountywa.org/solidwaste.

Not all the aftermath stories were as positive. Lt. Larry Bauer of the Pierce County Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment said deputies arrested two people on Dec. 16 on Herron Road for allegedly stealing more than 300 feet of electrical wire. One of the suspects admitted to methamphetamine use.

According to the county's Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Anthony K. Farnam and Stephen R. Crabtree were charged with theft in the first degree. The two men were arraigned on Dec. 18, with a trial date set for Feb. 8.



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FOCUS ON HEALTH



Key Fitness: Helping the Peninsula stay fit

By Linda L. Anderson, KP News

A little over a year ago, Kristen Bottiger brought modern fitness equipment to the Key Peninsula when she opened her facility, Key Fitness. The building sits on the hill in Key Center and affords the women of the Peninsula access to the latest in workout equipment. In a relaxed environment, they can work with the machines of their choosing to improve their health and their self-image while widening their scope of friends.



BOTTIGER

Beginners, and those who wish a gradual progression into their fitness routine, may start in the "30-minute circuit room," where they do routines of varying lengths on one machine and then move on to the next around the room. Those who begin on the elliptical machine and treadmills often use the "circuit room" as a cool-down process after intense exercise.

Another option available to working women are early start hours and the opportunity to work out, shower, change and eat breakfast in the kitchen facility before heading to work. A community bulletin board is available to keep the customers updated on events and opportunities in the community.

Bottiger says that many of her customers have been coming regularly for over a year now and have shown positive results from their efforts. "I knew there was a need for more healthy options on the Peninsula," she said. "When one drives down the highway, there are three smoke shops and only one fitness center. There is now a health food store here in Key Center as well."

Earlier this year Bottiger added a yoga room to her facility. Yoga classes are open to anyone and are offered four days per week. She hopes to add self-defense classes in the near future. While she expects that mostly women will attend these classes, they will be co-ed. Meanwhile, she is eager to support her

customers by offering contests and encouraging individual goal-setting.

When asked what she sees as the biggest hindrances to good health on the Peninsula, Bottiger replied, "Overweight and smoking." She sees the greatest need in promoting healthy habits and lifestyles on the Key Peninsula as educating the people how to take good care of themselves through eating, exercising and avoiding harmful habits.

"It's important to give yourself permission to take care of yourself," she said. "Allow yourself the time to do what you need to do or to spend the money it takes to improve your health. Not everyone has to work out. Walk, eat better, nix fast food and read labels."

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Key Peninsula's medical history

KP was home to many doctors

By Colleen Slater, KP News

In the early days of the Key Peninsula, doctors and hospitals were some distance away, and only reachable by boat.

The Native Americans who camped and later lived in the area offered various plants for medications, and the early settlers brought their own homemade remedies with them. Families doctored themselves, or neighbors helped neighbors, and certain women in the communities became midwives.

Marge Radonich says her dad and brothers formed their own logging company in part because of how injuries in the woods were treated. An injured man was propped up by a stump until the workday was over, then transported back to camp on a wagon. Some didn't survive.

Many local "old-timers" have stories of traveling to doctors and hospitals or bringing in medical help on the early boats.

Two early doctors on the peninsula both arrived in Vaughn. Dr. Joseph Coblenz, a physician in Illinois in 1888, was nearly 69 when he came to Vaughn with his son and family from Kansas. He never practiced in the community, as far as local historians can determine.

John Alexander Hall, from Missouri by way of Texas and California, in late 1889. His dream was to farm. At age 52, he did some minor practicing in Vaughn, but his wife thought the community too small for major practice; people knew each other too well. Great-granddaughter Dulcie

Call for information

Anyone with additional information on early medical history on the Key Peninsula is encouraged to contact Colleen Slater at the Key Peninsula News office at 884-4699 or email cas4936@centurytel.net.

Schillinger says, "Cornelia would not allow him to deliver babies." Local midwife "Grandma" Wright continued with that service.

Hall maintained good physical health, chopped wood every morning, after a quick swim in the bay, regardless of weather or time of year.

He was killed by a falling tree while in the process of clearing his land in 1895. J. A. Hall Road in Vaughn was named for him.

Dr. J. J. Leisir had an office near the dock in Home, with a pharmacy in back, from 1919 to 1928. He delivered Evelyn Dadisman Evans, among other local babies. He backed his Model T off the bay road below his house once, and needed rescuing. Evans says he was an elderly man. He died in 1928.

Dr. G. A. T. De l'Espinasse worked with Dr. Leisir in Home for awhile. His assessed property value in the 1915 Pierce County directory was \$120.

"Doc" Lawrence's office was near the Cooper Hotel in Lakebay, about 1930. He apparently operated "outside the realm," according to local scuttlebutt, with a questionable reputation or credentials. However, many local residents were his patients. He may have been the doctor who was known to never bill patients, accepting groceries, and even a suit of clothes as payment.



Photo courtesy KP Historical Society Museum
John Alexander Hall, first practicing doctor in Vaughn, 1889-1895.

Dr. Arthur Seeley Monzingo operated a small hospital in Gig Harbor from 1925 to 1943. Marguerite Bussard said he came to her Longbranch home to deliver her.

Dr. Merrill E. Thomas, an osteopath, lived in Glencove, but had an office in Home in the early 1930s. He treated animals and once removed the scent glands from a skunk, which he delighted in releasing at the Sportsmen's Club. Thomas was active in several local organizations, and helped establish the Sportsmen's Club, Evergreen School, and Penrose Park. Dale Ramsdell was one of his deliveries. Thomas Road in Glencove was named for him. Key Pen's Dr. William Roes has a bookcase, some medical equipment and artifacts that belonged to Thomas, who died in 1962

“

Cornelia would not allow him to deliver babies.

— Dulcie Schillinger,
great-granddaughter

”

in an Allyn nursing home.

Dwayne Johnson's office was in a large white building next to the Lakebay marina. Some old-timers called it a clinic, and several local residents were born there, including Nick Boquist. Johnson practiced from 1930 to 1935. He doctored Chet Dadisman, quarantined with scarlet fever for six weeks, and also made home visits to Dadisman's grandfather Lehman in his last years. Lottie Dadisman had a fingertip amputated by Johnson, and it grew back, says daughter Evelyn Evans.

Johnson's son, playmate of Henry Ramsdell, received a red wagon for Christmas, and the boys enjoyed using it. Ramsdell tells about falling on an axe when he was 5 or 6, and Dr. Johnson stitched it up. While Ramsdell was "out" with the ether, the doctor also performed an additional delayed surgery.

Other doctors lived or visited the peninsula in later years, including David Glenn of Rocky Bay, R. G. Gilbert of Burley, and Kyle Chapman, who saw a few local patients at his home after retiring on the Key Pen.

In 1972, Jeanne Broadsack, public health nurse practitioner, brought supplies from Tacoma for a clinic in a building on the grounds of Longbranch Church. Judy Wilson and Nat Knox, retired Navy nurses, helped. Donated clothes grew into the Angel Guild, which donated money to the health clinic.

In 1981, Roes put in half-day each week at the clinic, under a three-year obligation with the National Health Service Corps. He became full time in 1984, and the rest of the story is doctors, nurse practitioners, and an up-to-date facility on the Key Peninsula.

This article is based on local interviews, museum histories, and research by Dr. William Roes.

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Therapeutic co-op formed in Key Center

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Four professional therapists sharing three offices in the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center in Key Center offer a variety of modalities and physician-referred bodywork to local residents. Although they run their businesses individually, Timothy Oakes, one of the massage practitioners, saw a benefit to both community and the therapists in forming the cooperative venture.

He says, "We are independent massage therapists coming together to offer a broad range of treatment services. We are working together to support each other and our clients, letting people know they can receive medical massage here rather than having to travel to Gig Harbor or elsewhere." Oakes says his idea of sharing space, advertising, and networking was met with "immediate agreement" among the therapists already working from the building independently.

Oakes has been a practicing massage therapist for five years, and has experience in craniosacral therapy, which addresses mobility and pain issues using subtle techniques adapted from osteopathic medi-

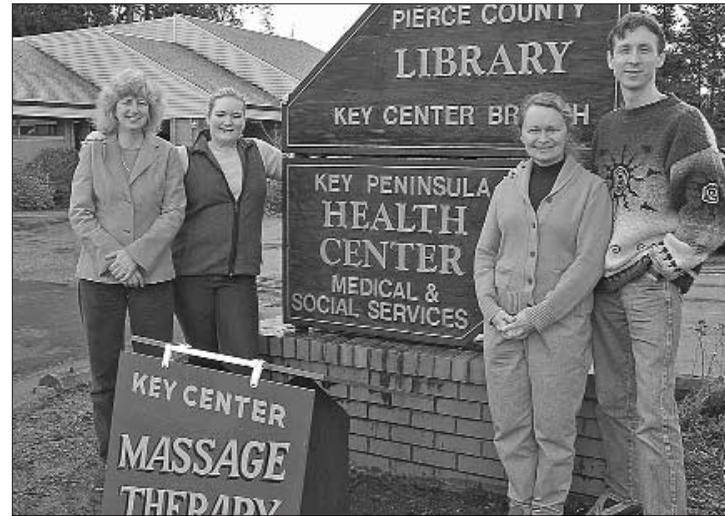
cine. Sessions with him are "goal-oriented, with the aim to change something (physiologically)." "I would very much like clients to get better; (that sometimes means) changing their goals for health," he says.

Christy Campbell has seven years of massage experience, a background in midwifery, and has been a clinical volunteer in Honduras. She specializes in deep tissue, Swedish relaxation, and hot stone massage (a modality using warmed smooth stones to warm and relax muscles). She also offers pregnancy and treatment massage.

In addition to being a massage practitioner, Laura Huddleston is a registered counselor with 30 years of experience as a wilderness guide.

She started "Nature's Renewal" in Key Center nearly 10 years ago and is now bringing the deep spiritual connection she finds in the natural world into her therapeutic practice. She employs a "walk and talk" counseling approach (Nature's Renewal Soul Adventure) that may include art, ceremony and shamanic healing methods inspired by indigenous traditions.

Susan Borys has been in practice 23



Left to right: Massage Therapists Laura Huddleston, Christy Campbell, Susan Borys and Timothy Oakes.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

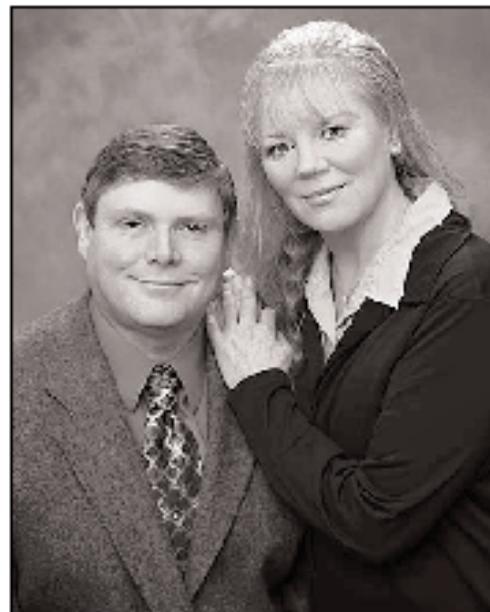
years, including eight years at Huddleston's "Nature's Renewal" office. Borys' practice includes craniosacral therapy, reflexology, deep tissue, and injury treatment. She also teaches meditation and offers life coaching.

In a written statement, Borys says, "We have been amazed how many doctors are happily referring their patients to us. The soft tissue worker tends to deal not only with the central pain site, but also with referral points and muscles that need

attention, and postural imbalances which add stress to parts of the body. The approach is both specific and holistic, creating maximum opportunity for healing and pain relief."

As spokesperson for the therapy cooperative, Oakes says the group is "client-focused."

"We refer clients for other treatments if they seem more likely to benefit from them, or if working in tandem will be more powerful," he says.



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New health care options in Gig Harbor

By Irene Torres, KP News

The St. Anthony hospital being developed by Franciscan Health Systems in Gig Harbor is moving forward.

"We believe that we will have a building permit by June 2007, at which time we will begin construction," said Gale Robinette, media relations manager for the Franciscan Health System. "Additionally, we are planning a ceremonial ground-breaking event for late April or early May 2007. There will be a number of exciting events for the public to commemorate the start of construction of the long-awaited hospital."

The 80-bed hospital is on track to open in 2009, and it will provide medical and surgical services, including 24-hour emergency care. "The project will include St. Anthony Hospital (about 200,000 square feet) and an adjacent medical office building (about 80,000 square feet)," he said.

In addition to the new hospital, Franciscan has added new services in Gig Harbor, including the St. Anthony

Prompt Care, offering urgent medical care seven-days-a-week, in the St. Anthony Medical Building (formerly called the 4700 Point Fosdick Building). Other Franciscan services located in the building include St. Anthony Sleep Disorders Treatment Center, St. Joseph Kidney Dialysis-Gig Harbor and St. Anthony Specialty Care specializing in dermatology and neurology.

The Franciscan prompt care clinic was open in the location that was formerly occupied by MultiCare Urgent Care, which moved out of the building to a temporary location nearby.

"St. Anthony Prompt Care provides residents with a new choice for urgent care services. Gig Harbor is a growing community, and we believe the city already needs — and will continue to need as its population grows — the convenient urgent care services we are now providing," Robinette said. "With the opening of our new urgent care clinic, the entire building was also renamed the St. Anthony Medical Building on Point Fosdick."

MultiCare, in the meantime, is building a new facility across the street, which will house its Urgent Care clinic and other services such as a women's health center, a day surgery center, and a sleep center.

According to the company's Website, "MultiCare has been a vital part of the Gig Harbor community for 15 years, always looking for ways to better serve the health care needs of residents. Since we opened the MultiCare Urgent Center in 1990 in Gig Harbor, the area's population has more than doubled — and the need for improved local medical services has grown right along with it. Gig Harbor residents shouldn't have to drive over the bridge to get the care they need. With that in mind, MultiCare has announced a major expansion and improvement of services for the Gig Harbor-Peninsula area."

The new facility, MultiCare Gig Harbor Medical Park, will open later this year.

A medical clinic was also opened in August in Port Orchard providing family medicine services.

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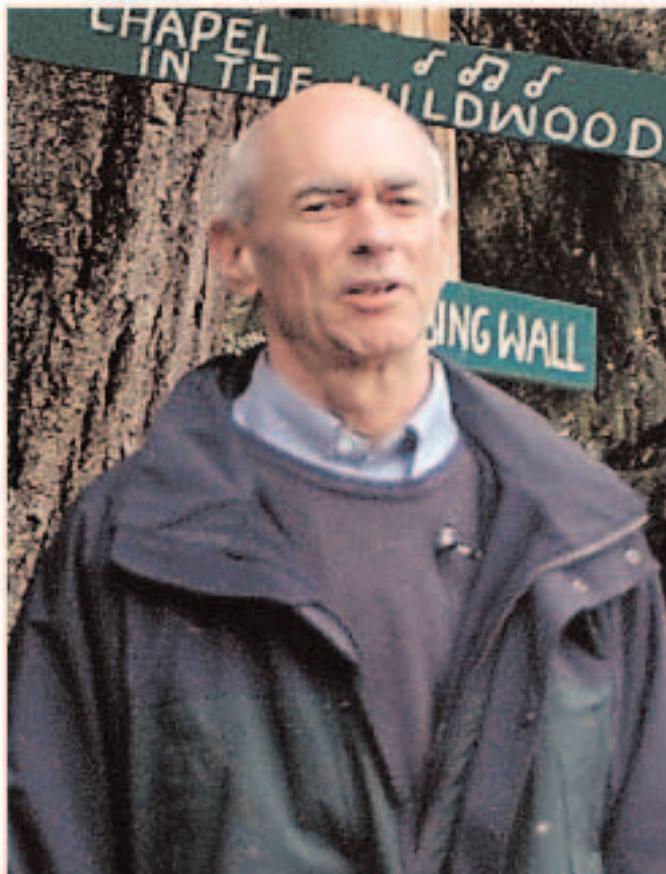
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(From NURSE, Page 1)

her leadership, one of several categories. The award was in recognition of "a nurse who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in nursing or patient care services in any setting." About 200 nominations were received.



TRANDUM

Trandum was nominated by several members of her staff, who wrote in the nomination letter, "From pediatrics to end-of-life care, Georganne Trandum, RN, has pioneered advocacy, innovation and leadership in promoting excellence in nursing and within her community."

Trandum helped found the End of Life program, part of Franciscan Health Systems, about 10 years ago with the goal of providing support to patients with life-threatening illnesses and their families. The program is based in Gig Harbor, and has nearly 800 patients in 10 clinics.

Trandum said she was "shocked" to receive the award. "It's a recognition of the work I've done. It holds nurses up as an example in all those categories," she said.

Trandum's healthcare background includes oncology and bone marrow transplant nursing. She has received various other awards, including the Circle of Life Award from the American Hospital Association in 2000 and the FHS Strategy Pillar Award for the Best Place to Work.

She has served on the Franciscan Regional Ethics Committee for 14 years, and co-founded the End of Life program as part of her ethics work, realizing a new standard of care was needed for those facing terminal illnesses.

"The tasks before her were daunting: creating the EOL mission statement, writing policies/procedures and operating manuals, developing data collection software, recruiting and training staff as well as extensive education for healthcare providers and the community at large," the nomination letter said. "The results? Significant improvement in patient satisfaction for medical care, reduced emergency room and hospitalization utilization, increased hospice utilization (81 percent) and patient-centered/directed end-of-life care."

Trandum travels around the country to speak at conferences and educate healthcare professionals and students. She authored a training manual and helped hospital systems in three other states to replicate the FHS End of Life program. Recently, she added on additional duties, managing Franciscan's hospital-based palliative care consultation services.



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Preliminary statistics for 2006 (thru Dec. 15) are:

Area 2	Homes Sold	Avg. Sq. Ft.	Avg. Sale Price	Avg. DOM
Wauna Area	80 (128)	1900	\$328,090 (\$276,997)	75 (66)

Area 9	Homes Sold	Avg. Sq. Ft.	Avg. Sale Price	Avg. DOM
118th to Larkley Rd	149 (211)	1700	\$266,443 (\$233,360)	79 (72)

Area 4	Homes Sold	Avg. Sq. Ft.	Avg. Sale Price	Avg. DOM
Larkley Rd to Longbranch	146 (153)	1550	\$239,209 (\$222,850)	79 (122)

The least expensive home sold in 2006:
\$36,500 - Wauna area.

The most expensive home sold in 2006:
\$1,425,000 - Rocky Bay.

Parentheses () indicate 2005 statistics
Statistics courtesy of Northwest Multiple Listing Service.

We expect that activity will continue to be strong throughout 2007 with 223 homes now available with prices ranging from \$89,000 to \$2,860,000. Interest rates continue to be attractive at 6.5% M/L.



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FROM PIONEER STOCK

ELMER SKAHAN

A MAN WITH PRIDE IN HIS ROOTS

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Elmer Skahan, a friendly man who likes to talk, has roots back a long way on the Key Peninsula. His maternal grandfather, Varner, was born in a cabin on the Minter sandspit, after Varner's German parents came West in a covered wagon in the 1870s.

Skahan was born in Toppenish, his father a Yakima Indian and his mother half Puyallup.

His father had a good education, and managed the Piggly-Wiggly store in Toppenish. He could speak the language of the local Indians, so they all traded with him, and some other stores closed. Skahan worked in the store for 25 cents an hour. If someone asked how much he was paid, he'd learned to say, "I eat well."

In grade school, he was often called Siwash because of his mixed blood. That was a dirty word, and Skahan fought whoever called him that. He was punished by the school, his mother, and

then his father.

Skahan remembers Saturdays at Fort Simcoe, when the boys worked until noon, then went off into the Ponderosa pines, took off their shoes, and "talked Indian." He realized the only escape from the reservation was an education.

Skahan attended Chemowah Indian School near Salem, Ore., graduated from Lincoln High School in Tacoma, and learned carpentry at Cushman trade school.

"I was a terrific athlete, especially in football, but due to rickets as a small child, I couldn't run well. Even my sisters could outrun me," he says.

He tested positive for tuberculosis as a freshman, and spent three months in a sanitarium. Bored, he made a ball of yarn, found a sturdy stick, and convinced the other boys to play baseball.

He and his siblings were government wards, and the parents had to ask permission of the local Indian agent for various activities. The agent told Skahan's father



Elmer Skahan fished every year at Celilo Falls, on the Columbia, with his brother, father, uncles, and cousins. Skahan's brother is in this photo, ca. 1940.

Photo courtesy
Elmer Skahan

his twin daughters, tow-heads, were "too white" to stay on the reservation, and they would be removed. The father went to the store, said he was leaving, and the family packed up and moved to Olalla, where he started picking brush.

Skahan worked at the Bremerton Navy Yard, then joined the Navy as a torpedoman. "I helped sink a sub," he says with a grin. He'd been drafted twice for the Army, but was turned down each time he reported because of the tuberculosis.

He loved to be at sea, although on a trip to Alaska, his 3-stacker ship went

under waves over the mast. The sailors had to strap themselves into their bunks. He learned to pray on that trip. Shipmates called him Wampum, an OK name because it means money, he says.

He was in the Mediterranean at the invasion of Anzio. The planes had signals crossed, and fired on their own men. That was scary, he recalls.

After four years in the Navy, Skahan joined his dad in Olalla picking brush. "I picked brush for 60 years," he says. He loved to be in the woods.

"My biggest joy was hunting elk. When I hear one bugle, the hackles on the back of my neck stand up," he says. He bagged 19 elk in his years of hunting on the Yakima Reservation.

He met wife Helen at a dance. When he arrived, most of the girls were dancing, but Helen, there to help her friend with food, stood by the kitchen door. Skahan asked her to dance, and she said she didn't know how.

"You're not going to learn standing there," he told her, and their romance was underway.

He remodeled and added onto her small home, and built a large brush shed across the road. Helen, her son and stepdad also picked brush.

An annual event Skahan and his male relatives always attended was salmon fishing at Celilo Falls on the Columbia River. "Chinook, kings, silvers... Indians came from all over, all the tribes, and they had a big powwow with no drinking... We did it for thousands of years," he says with pride.

Skahan became a volunteer fireman with the Wauna fire station. When the chief retired, he told those at the station, "Skahan's a chief in the Yakima Tribe, we might as well make him a fire chief."

Skahan learned that a fire chief needs to be "real friendly, and learn to talk to all the people" who come in. He fits that description well.

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Keith Stiles:

Key Pen mover and shaker

By Irene Torres, KP News

It may be a good thing Keith Stiles is no longer the volunteer editor for the Key Peninsula News, for if he were, this feature would never make print. During an interview over lunch, he always gave credit for his many successful projects to others — whether it was for the three years he headed the newspaper, or during the time he petitioned the Legislature to retain the original name of Joemma Beach, or any number of other differences he's made but doesn't easily acknowledge.

Anticipating his fourth retirement in 1975, Stiles bought a summer place on the beach south of Herron Island. He worked as Northwest district engineer for General Instrument Corp. in Bellevue. He had traveled to Hawaii; Alaska; and Los Alamos, N.M.

"I was on the road a lot," he said. He had bought a newspaper business in Keizer, Ore., but lost it in a flood. He had an offer of radio station ownership in Seaside, Ore., "but it was too cold and wet" there, he said. He went to Ellensburg to try to buy a radio station there, but the wind blew for four straight days. "I found out the wind always blows there," he said. "We bought radio property in Cottage Grove, Ore., and operated that for a few years until my wife was killed (in a train accident)," he said.

"I asked what he hoped to accomplish were he to have been elected and he told me he remembered once in a town in California they held an election and no one ran for office. 'I thought no one had filed for KP commissioner election and didn't want to visit that sort of humiliation on my new hometown,' (Keith said)... Instant friendship."

With his radio experience, in 1986 "Keith Stiles, Stan Rippon, Max Bice, and Milt Boyd poured their souls into the creation of radio station KGHP-FM on the campus of Peninsula High School," McMillan said. Stiles explained, "I chose the call letters: K for Key, GH for Gig Harbor, and P for Peninsulas."

KGHP is one of only 40 school-sponsored radio stations in the United States. McMillan said, "He involved me in an effort to scrounge used radio station

"Keith is, and has long been, an active, energetic supporter of all good things for the Key Peninsula community."

— Hugh McMillan

equipment from a radio station owner friend of mine in Portland, and to assist with the fund-raising effort for the station. During the ice storm of 1996, which knocked out just about everybody's power, Keith all but lived at the station, providing entertainment and emergency information as, for the first time, KGHP went 24/7. He still gives regularly of his time and talent to maintain the station as the vibrant asset it is to our Peninsula communities.

"Keith is the surviving member of the quartet who founded the station and is still active in guarding its interests against a commercial enterprise's efforts to take over one of KGHP's frequencies for commercial purposes. He again honored me by asking me to do whatever possible in securing the assistance and intervention of Sen. Maria Cantwell and Congressman Norm Dicks, which evolved into a successful two-plus year campaign to ensure the viability of not just KGHP but two other public school radio stations elsewhere in the state," McMillan said.

Stiles participated in a project with Don and Sherry Masco to petition the state Legislature to widen and improve State Route 302. "It was very much improved when it was first done," he said, "but it isn't very long, with average speeds increasing and more traffic, that those improvements were subverted again." He remains concerned about the safety of that stretch of road, saying, "There is no more state-owned land available to widen 302 any further."

In 1988, Stiles was appointed and served on the board of the Peninsula School District for seven years, during which time it undertook "major bond issues to build and rebuild most of the schools in the system.

"Vaughn Elementary was mainly portables, and both Evergreen and KPMS needed enlarging. Minter needed more

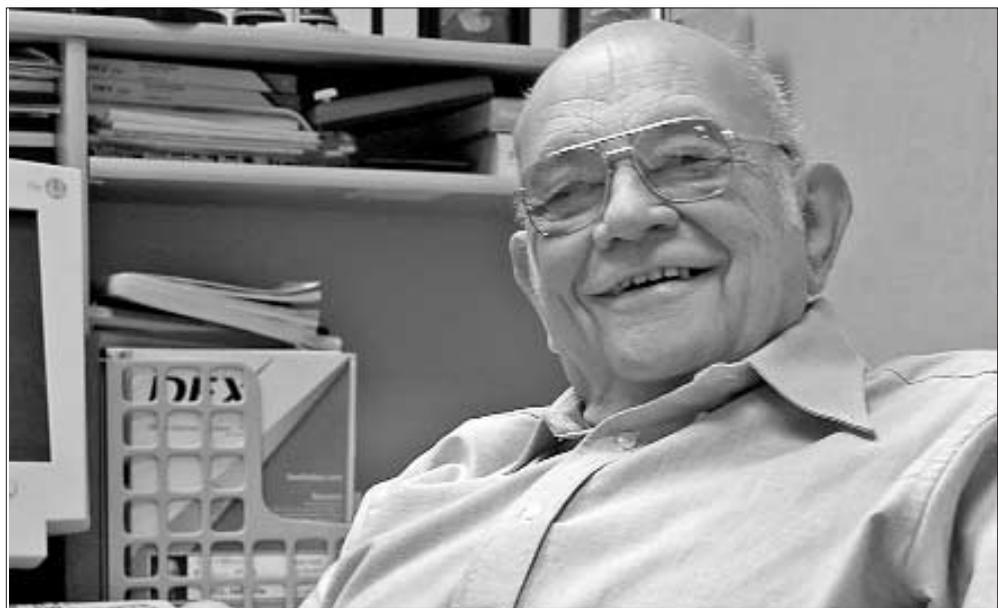


Photo by Mindi LaRose

Keith Stiles has been part of many initiatives and projects that have improved the quality of life on the Key Peninsula and beyond.

room. Those bond issues contained something for everybody," he said. Also in 1988, he was named the Gig Harbor Citizen of the Year. "I was pretty pleased about the honor," he said.

Stiles and the KGHP-FM radio station sponsors have been looking for a volunteer to take over as engineer, but no one has come forward. Of the future, he shared a sadness, saying, "Young people are headed off into the idea of pushing a button and something magically happens. They have become a group of users rather than builders." He is a believer in the educational process. "The country can't survive without it," he said.

At age 81, Stiles isn't slowing down. He is actively pursuing a project to document the history of how telephones came to the Key Peninsula. "There was a historic split. Everything south of 118th Street used to be long-distance," he said. He is also researching a secret Navy lab that existed in Port Townsend during World War II. And he is still volunteering for the school district, as part of a committee studying school facility needs in a 20-year strategic plan.

These, among other projects, bear witness to Stiles as a driving force on the Key Peninsula. He served as president of the KP Historical Society, the Home Social Club, and of the Friends of the Library Association when the new library was built in Key Center. Though in his typical humble style, Stiles said, "All I did was turn over a shovel full of dirt.

"I was head of a committee that sponsored and investigated, and won the election for the four KP fire stations in the

places they are now," Stiles said, "but the committee did the work."

"Keith is, and has long been, an active, energetic supporter of all good things for the Key Peninsula community. That's just one of the reasons we like him very much," McMillan added.

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School district forecasts strategic plan update

Peninsula School District's Strategic Plan functions as a guide for the organization's operations, and is focused on student achievement, especially for struggling students.

'A strategic plan is a document that guides what you do and gives you a roadmap, but at the same time it needs to have flexibility built-in, and therefore a periodic review is very appropriate,' says PSD Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching Bob Connelly. 'We have a very good school system, with many good things happening, but we can always get better.'

The district will update the Strategic Plan, upon reviewing all of the pertinent areas of academic support.

'We are doing a program review, looking at what we've accomplished and what are still valid action plans,'



The Strategic Plan outlines a road map for the school district with the focus on student achievement at all grade levels.

Connelly says. 'We are trying to identify celebrations and continuing challenges.'

The original five-year plan was created with input from the community, following extensive discussions and studies involving more than 70 focus groups. The plan had six goals, and in 2004, the Board of Directors added two more. The plan includes all aspects of district operations, from teaching and maintenance, to facilities and human resources.

Connelly is working with other administrators, directors, principals and representatives from teacher and parent

groups, as well as with several focus groups in the review process.

In addition, the school district plans to launch a complete review of the Strategic Plan next year.

'Our review will allow us to develop strategies that will support student learning, professional development and communication throughout the district,' says Superintendent Terry Bouck. 'The purpose for reviewing the current plan is to assess our progress on each of the eight goals. This assessment will allow us to tweak, adjust and move forward in meeting our goals.'



Photo of the Month



Vaughn Elementary 5th grader Lularas Lingenfelder is pictured reading with her All-Day Kindergarten weekly reading buddies Holly Keene and Courtney Flatma.

Snapshot — Levy Spending Plan 2006-2007

Goal: Safe Learning Environment

Facilities & Grounds-Safety Repairs & Replacement.....	\$222,750
Health Support Staffing.....	\$381,837
Safety & Emergency Preparedness	\$135,231

Goal: Academic Success

Intervention Programs Strug Students	\$678,983
Instructional Technical Support	\$254,875
After Hours Programs	\$99,000

Goal: Articulated, Student-Centered Curriculum

K-12 Certificated Staffing	\$1,537,310
Curriculum Development/Assessment	\$1,005,900
Co-Curric & Extended Day Activities	\$871,377
Professional Development & Training	\$704,820
Classroom Supplies/Instruct Equip	\$271,593
Teacher Leadership and Support	\$216,269
Midday Transportation.....	\$140,826

To view the Plan in total visit www.psd401.net Human and Financial Resources or request a copy of the District's Budget Brochure by contacting 530-1000.

January Events

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | No School - New Year's Day |
| 3 | KPMS NASA Family Night
5:30-8:30 p.m. dinner will be served |
| 9 | Key Peninsula MS
Beginning Band Concert at
7:30 p.m. |
| 11 | Board Meeting Regular
Session 6:30
Voyager Elementary |
| 12 | Vaughn Elementary Martin
Luther King, Jr. Assembly
2:30 p.m. |
| 15 | No School - Martin
Luther King, Jr. Day |
| 16 | Harbor Ridge MS Band
Concert at 7:30 in the
multi-purpose room |
| 18 | Middle School Girls'
Basketball Jamboree
6:00-8:00 p.m. |
| 25 | Board Meeting Study
Session 6:30 pm District
Office |

First Annual Chess Tournament
January 20th is the First Annual
Purdy Elementary Chess
Tournament. It is open to ANY
student (grades K-6) who plays
chess. Please contact Jane Hansen
at Purdy Elementary for information
at hansonj@peninsula.wednet.edu.

Vaughn Auction tickets go on sale in
January! May 19 Key Center Civic
Center @ 5:30 p.m. \$25/person table
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more information contact Tina Self
857-8552 or 530-4700.

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Elementary, but of all of our schools in
the Peninsula School District

OBITUARY

Mildred Waugh

Mildred "Skilly" Waugh, 90, longtime resident of Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula, died Dec. 12, 2006, following injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Born in Chicago, Ill., and raised in the village of Winnetka, Waugh graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio with a bachelor's degree in literature and fine arts. In November 1943, she

married bombardier pilot Roy McKenna, who died four months later after takeoff during World War II.

Waugh worked as a journeyman machinist (riveter) for Brown and Sharp, but primarily worked as an advertising ad copy writer. She sold everything from "guns to butter," writing for Butler Bros. (now Sears), Forest Lawn Memorial Park of Glendale, Calif., Airway Cessna, Fredericks of Hollywood, to name a few. She also wrote and edited a number of publications including Tractor for International Harvester Co. (now Navistar), and the Screen Actors Guild official publication under the direction of Walter Pigeon, Gene Kelly, Ronnie

Reagan, etc. Locally, she wrote a promo for the Tacoma Zoo, and free-lanced for the Seattle Post Intelligencer.

A licensed pilot, Waugh maintained residence in Belize from 1981 to 1985, and in Mexico from 1986 to 1997. She volunteered at Hull House, founded by Jane Addams in Chicago, NW University Settlement House, South LA Street Center, and was a guardian Ad Litem in King County Superior Court. At the time of her death, Waugh taught English to Spanish-speaking individuals.

She is survived by her beloved dog, Rosie.

To submit an obituary, call 884-4699 or email news@keypennews.com.



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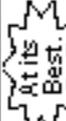
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Out & About



Above, Santa got visits from many local kids at the annual Key Center Tree Lighting ceremony at the KC Corral in December. For more tree lighting photos visit www.keypennews.com.
Photo by Mindi LaRose



Right, Baritone sax player Marshall Heinemann playing Andy Clark's "Bari Bari Good" at the Key Peninsula Middle School Jazz Band concert in December. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Two-year-old Emma Stafki doesn't miss a beat in her impromptu dancing to the cool jazz of Tracy D. Hooker and his quartet, Hook Me Up, which provided a performance of classic jazz at the Key Center Library in December. Emma is the daughter of Lauran and Jeff Stafki, teachers in the Peninsula School District. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Above, Krista Kooker hangs her photos for the Key Peninsula Middle School digital photography exhibit displayed at the Gig Harbor City Hall at 3510 Grandview Street through Jan. 26. For more exhibit photos and a Web-exclusive story, visit www.keypennews.com
Photo by Mindi LaRose



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



Two-year-old Emma Stafki doesn't miss a beat in her impromptu dancing to the cool jazz of Tracy D. Hooker and his quartet, Hook Me Up, which provided a performance of classic jazz at the Key Center Library in December. Emma is the daughter of Lauran and Jeff Stafki, teachers in the Peninsula School District. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

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