

# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



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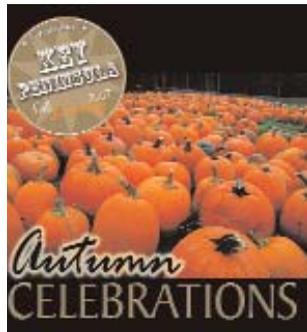
New business  
embraces art,  
page 25

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## INSIDE

September 2007



AUTUMN CELEBRATIONS,  
SPECIAL INSERT INSIDE



Summer  
fun  
photo  
wrap-up,  
page 12

## KPMPD sets dreams on waterfront park

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District hopes to acquire a shoreline property that would be used for a passive recreation park. The 39-acre property, located at the head of Taylor Bay, is one of the last large undeveloped pockets of land on Puget Sound water.

In collaboration with The Trust for Public Land, a national conservancy group, KPMPD is seeking \$1.6 million worth of grants to acquire the land in three phases (one-phase acquisition, if funds can be raised in time, would cost less).

The Trust for Public Lands has been  
(See **KPMPD**, Page 27)



Photo courtesy Scott Gallacher

KPMPD commissioners Kip Clinton and Elmer Anderson watch Haylie Gallacher and Kealin Shrewsberry play during a recent visit to the Taylor Bay Park Property.

## Aquaculture's future still unsettled



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

Taylor Shellfish manager Brian Phipps answers questions during an August tour of a geoduck farm at Totten Inlet.

### Pierce County interim regulations halted

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The Pierce County Council voted nearly unanimously to reject interim aquaculture and dock/pier regulations (Ordinance No. 2007-34s) on Aug. 7, prompting cautious jubilation from aquaculture farming proponents, shellfish

industry representatives and small parcel owners awaiting permit approvals. Opponents who urged the council to pass the regulations shook their heads in disbelief. After months of meetings, public hearings, and citizen-submissions of documents, materials, opinions and pleas both pro- and con- aquaculture, creating a file over six inches thick (according to council research analyst Ward Taylor), and a "do pass" recommen-

(See **GEODUCKS**, Page 24)

## A flurry of activity at Key Pen businesses

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Key Peninsula world of business is on the move. Alphabetically, change has roamed from the "A" of Absolute Auto Care to the "Z" of Zimmerman's CostLess Pharmacy. There have been changes in

owners and location, interiors and exteriors.

Starting with the ABC of things, Absolute Auto Care has experienced all types of changes to some degree. Jim Guinn bought this car care business in November 2006 from Eric Moreland. A

contest was held to find a new name and was won by Gig Harbor resident Michelle Mandapat. But it was the permit process for remodeling the customer waiting room that produced a surprise change for the business. The county and fire

(See **BUSINESS**, Page 28)

### News

Fire levy fails.....	2
Guest columnists.....	4
Fire district criticized.....	8
Future parks for KPMPD.....	9
KPCC elections.....	11
Fire stats.....	14
Volunteer spotlight.....	19
Genuine ARTicle.....	29
Out & About.....	36

### Sections

Peninsula Views.....	4
Off the Key.....	10
Schools.....	15
Community Works.....	18
People & Lifestyles.....	21
Business.....	25
Arts & Recreation.....	29
History.....	32

# KP fire levy request alone in failure

By Chris Fitzgerald

Across Pierce County, 13 fire districts asked voters to go to the polls in the August election; in all but Pierce County Fire District 16, voters said "yes" to their firefighters. Pierce County Fire District 16 voters rejected levy proposition with a "no" vote of 53.39 percent (county certification of the "official" vote count will be posted Sept. 5).

Without the levy revenue, the district will not have the resources to hire nine new firefighters/paramedics, or fund a reserve

account to replace aging equipment. Fire Commissioner Allen Yanity was opposed to the levy. In an email to the KP News, he wrote, "We have added 4 Firefighter/Paramedics... we have agreements with other districts to provide mutual aid when they need it and when we need it... We will serve the district to the best of the ability of our budget." Yanity remains steadfast in his call for drug-testing as a condition of future funding efforts. "I am ready to try another levy as soon as there is a real drug policy," he wrote. "One with annual and random substance abuse

testing... I believe the people demand it."

At the Key Center fire station, administrative manager Christina Bosch reported that spirits were "pretty low" following final election results. An email reply from Commissioner Jim Bosch to the KP News read, "Obviously, as costs escalate and revenue declines, the district budget will be negatively impacted. As programs are reduced, or cut, service will be affected." Asked if there were other options for funding, Bosch replied, "There is no 'contingent plan.' Without additional revenue, the citizens have decided that

with the increased population, reduced emergency services are acceptable."

Fire Chief Tom Lique told the KP News, "Future hires and the equipment account will both be put on hold." He acknowledged that staff is "pretty disappointed," and said fire department programs would be impacted. "Academy training and in-house training may have to take a hit," after the district evaluates which programs are safety concerns, he said. "Our largest priority is keeping the guys safe," Lique said, "and meeting the mission of the department (in serving the community)."

## BRIEFS

news

### KP Community Plan update

The Key Peninsula Community Plan is now under review at the Community Development Committee of the Pierce County Council. The final CDC hearing is scheduled Sept. 10 at 1:30 p.m. A full county council final hearing will be held in September or October. Call Councilmember Terry Lee with questions at 798-6654.

### Call for advisory commission members

Pierce County is looking for a few citizens to make recommendations on land use and other matters as outlined in Chapter 2.45 of the Pierce County Code for the Key Peninsula and Herron Island. An advisory commission of nine members, broadly representing the community and its interests and serving without compensation, will be appointed by the county executive and confirmed by the council.

"Although there is no deadline for establishing the Key Peninsula Advisory Commission, we are busy recruiting," Pierce County Planning and Land Use Senior Planner Mike Kruger said.

For information, call Mike Kruger at 798-2700.

### Community centers get facelifts

The three major community centers of Key Pen have received special attention this summer.

Work day at the Longbranch Improvement Club saw dozens of volunteers cleaning and repairing the building as well as beautifying plantings and entrances around the structure. The main addition is a new patio on the south side of the building with benches and potted plants provided for outdoor relaxation.

The front entrance of the Civic Center received a major face-lift. Vaughn Community Church, Lakebay Fuchsia Society and Vaughn Bay Garden Club worked to make the gardens and plantings around the buildings beautiful. And the new tennis courts are actively busy with drop-in players and students signed up for tennis lessons.

The Food Bank building at Key Peninsula Community Services closed for a whole week for a floor-to-ceiling remodeling project. New colors and new carpet greet visitors to the senior social and dining areas. Volunteers and staff raised money for this project with successful fundraising events such as the Old Timers' Day celebrations and the annual Horseshoe Lake Golf Tournament.

## Former chief Nelsen settles

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

After a short executive meeting on Aug. 22, Fire District 16 commissioners ended a two-year legal dispute with former fire chief Eric Livingood-Nelsen by voting to approve a settlement with him. Commissioners Rick Stout and Allen Yanity voted in favor and Commissioner Jim Bosch voted against. FD-16 attorney Joe Quinn said in a KP News article in 2006 that Nelsen was fired in 2005 after an internal investigation that followed his medical leave to receive treatment for alcohol abuse.

According to Nelsen's attorney, Daniel Johnson of Breskin, Townsend and Johnson, the terms of settlement included payment of a little over \$200,000, and contributions to Nelsen's state retirement account that he did not receive over the last two years as a result of his termination. Speaking for Nelsen, Johnson said, "We felt the district's actions were unlawful, and they were certainly hard on Eric and his family. Now it is resolved, he plans to move forward and not look back." Johnson indicated the settlement resolves the entire

dispute between his client and the fire district involving his termination.

Quinn said of the settlement agreement, "That is all there is... It's over... When you settle a case like this, you get a release of all claims from the settling party." Quinn said there is no admission of liability in such a case: "It's a disputed matter that is resolved but you don't admit fault."

In a phone interview with the KP News, Christina Bosch, administrative manager for the fire district, said although the actual settlement document was a public record and would be available through a written public records request, it would not have been released until after the KP News press deadline. According to Bosch, the district's liability for the cash settlement is \$100,671.71, including the retirement fund payments. Two vouchers approved at the Aug. 22 meeting totaled that amount. The remainder of settlement funds will come from district insurance. The district had been anticipating a settlement, she said, and has been putting funds in reserve. "The operating budget will not be affected," she said.

## KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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# WSDOT high-fives new SR 302 study

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) began the first phase of its \$5 million environmental study of State Route 302 in July, just in time for Vicki Steigner, assistant planning manager for WSDOT Olympic Region, to host a booth at the Key Peninsula Community Fair. Her staff gathered replies to short surveys, asked fair-goers to circle their primary focus of concern on SR-302 maps, write comments in the margins, and talk about their frustrations with the existing highway. The results of that interaction (which can be found at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr302/newcorridor](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr302/newcorridor)) supply no surprises, or anything astonishing that wasn't already obvious when WSDOT spent millions on a previous study in 1993.

Citizens complaints range from the opposite poles of "traffic too slow" to "traffic too fast" and include commentary about the inadequacy of the bridge at Purdy Spit; calls for the use of Pine and/or Powerline roads as new arterials; and requests for lighting along dark alternate

routes, signage, passing lanes, and more enforcement of speed limits. Why the state could not use the \$5 million to begin correcting some of these deficiencies can be explained away with the statement that the 1993 Environmental Impact Study (EIS) expired (current state guidelines provide for a maximum three-year EIS lifespan) and recommendations made then may no longer be viable now.

This new study, which includes no action of any kind during its implementation, is expected to take three to five years to complete. The current growth rate on the KP is not expected to wane, and the project's end-result EIS will still expire in three years unless state guidelines change, potentially resulting in yet another fruitless expenditure of gas-tax revenues. During the two-year comprehensive planning sessions recently concluded, citizens consistently pleaded for small and economically practical immediate fixes such as safety "turtles" on centerline dividers, signage, and reflectors, none of which appear to be on the near horizon.

WSDOT's Website says, "State Route 302 has a six-mile long high accident corridor.

The main reason for this project is to improve safety on the route... The study will evaluate the environmental impacts of creating a new corridor or widening the existing State Route 302 to improve mobility and enhance motorist safety." No mention is made of tangible action. What the department will do is "spend eight months collecting data, evaluating existing conditions and determining motorist travel patterns." The second phase of the study is expected to begin next January.

Steigner plans to host a public event in mid-September at Peninsula High School, and asks the public's help in "identifying the problems and what they see as concerns." She envisions a drive-time meeting that will capture commuters on their way home and plans to display maps and have break-out tables arranged by topic or concern, along with a short presentation. Her primary concern, she says, is to begin designing a tiered set of alternatives, with safety being the first, to make SR-302 less dangerous.

Steigner said her crew will be out counting cars at intersections: how many turn left, how many turn right, and

## WSDOT information session

WSDOT will hold a public information-gathering meeting about SR-302 tentatively scheduled for Sept. 25, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Peninsula High School. KP residents should expect to receive notice in the mail.

For more information, contact Vicki Steigner, project manager, at 360-357-2651 or email [steignv@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:steignv@wsdot.wa.gov).

when. They will chart the traffic before and after school, during drive-time and at midday, and will look at the most treacherous intersections where drivers "take risks they shouldn't take" to discover specific ways the intersections work — or don't. She welcomes citizen calls. When WSDOT crews are out near the road with a clipboard, waiting in a truck behind an electronic counting signboard, or walking the roads looking for clues, she encourages those who know the road to stop and take a minute to give them some answers.

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# EDITORIAL

## SR-302: the little highway that could... or not

Washington State Department of Transportation is starting work on its \$5 million Environmental Impact Study for a new State Route 302 corridor, which is great news for local residents — the study is the first step in getting a new corridor eventually built. But we should be cautiously optimistic (some may say skeptical is a better word choice). The problem is, the state already studied the corridor once, and by the time the Legislature threw some more funding at 302, that study had expired. So now, more taxpayer money is being spent at Square 1. Even WSDOT staff acknowledged frustrations with having to start over.

Key Pen residents need to keep up pressure on local legislators to fund improvements on the highway and to turn the study into action.

Will the little highway that could move beyond a study specimen this time around? Let's hope so. Already, a new highway is years and years away, and none of us are getting any younger.

## The bridge: Key Peninsula's symbol of independence

**Y**ou thought I was going to talk with you about the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge and its impact on the Key Peninsula? No, I am not. I am going to talk about "our" bridge — the Purdy Bridge and what it means to us. The current Purdy Spit Bridge was built in 1938 and its "box girder constructed" design is unique (I am sure that's one of the words you have used about the bridge, especially when there are long traffic jams on hot days) and cannot be replaced. The Purdy Bridge is much more than a connection between the Key Peninsula and the "mainland." It is more than a place for kids to jump from or paint their graduation year. It is a symbol of many things that makes the Key Peninsula community what it is.

The Purdy Bridge represents the frustrations of Key Peninsula residents and the limited options to leave the Key Peninsula easily. How many times have you left early and got there late "thanks to the bridge?" The Purdy Bridge represents our independence from the "other side." The Key Peninsula has become more independent because it had to. The only major resources that

**JUD MORRIS**  
FROM THE WATER'S EDGE



are not on this side of the bridge are our Peninsula High School and a hospital (soon to be built). Yes, the bridge is also symbolic of the Key Peninsula's isolation, but aren't all peninsulas isolated by being surrounded by water on three sides? How developed were the Kitsap Peninsula and Gig Harbor Peninsula before "Galloping Gertie"?

The Purdy Bridge has actually made us more dependent upon each other and interdependent to make things really happen. The bridge has defined the Key Peninsula community, and forces us to acknowledge each other and work together — hopefully. We can't ignore "old timers"; we must take into account "newcomers." We are all part of the Key Peninsula — it's our home. It's where we relax when we get back to "our" side of the bridge. What we do together does matter for our community

“  
The Purdy Bridge represents the frustrations of Key Peninsula residents, and the limited options to leave the Key Peninsula easily.  
”

and families. Isn't that why we fight so hard for what we think is right?

For me, the best part of Purdy Bridge is that there are no tolls. Our bridge is free!

Next time you cross over "our" bridge, let it be a reminder of one good thing that happened to you today. Yes, this column might be a little bit "rosey" but, maybe there ought to be a moment for us to reflect on what we have accomplished (knowing we need to do more), and to know we have a solid foundation for success — like our bridge.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Councilman Lee applauded

The Mayo Cove Shoreline Association would like to thank Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee for his continued commitment to protecting the shorelines and beaches of Pierce County. His vote in support of placing interim regulations on the shellfish industry tells us he listened to concerns presented by the scientific community and grassroots community organizations such as MCSA that oppose continued unregulated expansion of this high intensity industry on our pristine shorelines. Mr. Lee clearly demonstrated he is an elected official who represents the needs of his constituents, and that he will not give in to intense pressure from the wealthy and powerful shellfish industry. The stand he has taken speaks volumes as to his integrity and sincerity as a leader in our community. It is unfortunate the same cannot be said for the Pierce County

Council members who appear to have abandoned their original concerns, and given in to extreme pressure from the shellfish industry at the last moment. If this decision stands, our shorelines and the creatures that live there will pay the price for their political maneuvering. MCSA and other Shoreline groups will continue to work relentlessly to insure that is not the case.

*Mayo Cove Shoreline Association  
Board of Directors  
Cynthia Johnson-Kuntz, Beverly Smith, Bob Smothers, Lori Hagen, Charlotte Smothers, Richard Kuntz*

### Canadians decry Pierce County Council action

We here in Canada have been closely watching the situation regarding the takeover of your beaches with geoduck farms by the Taylor Shellfish Co., and view the actions of your politicians with dismay. The lack of scientific studies on the impacts of these farms should have presented sufficient evidence to, at the very least, hold back on a decision. That industry will now control your beaches is

a sad commentary on who is being represented by your political system. Certainly it is not the people of your beachfront communities! And for a state that claims to be concerned about the environment, this action is a disgrace!

*Arlene Carsten, Director  
Association for Responsible Shellfish Farming  
British Columbia, Canada*

### Aquaculture fairness questioned

I recently received Rep. Pat Lantz's legislative update. In it she writes about her work on geoduck farming regulation. In describing how a farm works, she states, "Common geoduck farming techniques include the insertion of thousands of plastic tubes on the beach, into which juvenile geoducks are inserted. The tubes are then covered with nets until the large clams are ready for harvest." This statement leads the public to believe that farm sites are covered with tubes and nets continually, when in fact they are not. Tubes and nets are removed when the juveniles mature. A geoduck farm is indis-

tinguishable from its neighboring barren tidelands for five years in every seven year growing cycle. Esthetics are a key issue in the ongoing geoduck farm debate. When I questioned her over the phone, Rep. Lantz admitted it was an error, but declined to make an effort to publicly correct this misstatement. I am left to wonder if she is more interested in truth or in fostering her anti-geoduck farm agenda. It seems her constituents need only know what she wants them to know.

*Orrin Souers  
Lakebay*

### Generosity appreciated

We would like to thank Jeannie and Allan Yanity for being such wonderful hosts at the 2007 Yanity Campout. Our hats go off to you. Your campout showed that there was a lot of work put forth. We also thank you so very much for your very generous donation toward M&M Ministry. It's people like you who help us help people in our community.

May the Lord bless you both.  
*Howard & Diane Johnson and volunteers at  
M&M Ministry, Lakebay Community Church*

# The power of sustainable landscaping

**M**ost of us saw or read about David Mikelsen protesting the clearcutting of a large lot for a construction project earlier this year. I zoomed past the lone protestor, shouting, "Yeah, buddy!" in my mind. Naturally, I was too busy to stop and help him. Worse, I kept picturing a protester against a lot that had already been transformed from native forest to a flat square of bare dirt, punctuated by simmering piles of debris. It looked more shell-shocked than developed. Today, it's being skillfully crafted into a church with ample parking.

I agreed with Mikelsen's "No More Clear Cuts," sign, but I wasn't sure specifically why I supported it. So I did some research, and the answers I found have huge implications. With growth here looming to the tune of more than 7,000 new homes and businesses, the impacts on the health of the Peninsula are enormous. I should clarify — I'm just talking about land use for new construction here, not mill logging or other applications. Basically there are two general ways to develop a piece of land for business or

## KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



residential structures and use: conventional or sustainable.

For conventional development, builders bulldoze forest to flat dirt. Sometimes they put each house on a turfed rise for "improved" drainage, usually consisting of low-grade soil that covers the existing rich forest soil. A lawn goes in with landscaping consisting of non-native species of a few saplings, shrubs, some flowers or other plants selected by what's flowering at the time or cheap at chain garden stores and distributors. To maintain the property, a grunting, sweating homeowner fertilizes, applies herbicides, mows, sprays, prunes and waters in an unending battle against nature. A low-rain summer wreaks havoc, and plants are often not geared for native pests, weeds, soils, and wet winters.

Conventionally landscaped property is

“

**The plants love the dry summers and wet winters, and our local critters are at home among them.**

”

susceptible to erosion and damage from weather. A yard with no trees or a few saplings exposes the house to the elements, increasing heating and cooling costs. Lawns with one type of lawn grass and a foundation planting of a few shrub species create a giant dead zone for native birds, insects and other animals. Fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and other runoffs flow to the Puget Sound, increasing pollution levels.

Conversely, sustainable landscaping matches the local biodiversity to your landscaping vision. The goal is to minimize the necessary resources to build, establish, and maintain landscaping that include labor, water, pesticides, fertilizer, and money, while not compromising the aesthetics of a great-looking yard. Native plants, once established, live without synthetic chemicals and fertilizer while requiring nominal water and labor to maintain.

But it can go far beyond that. A good-sized tree drinks hundreds of gallons of water with each heavy rain. Keeping trees on the relatively flat properties of the Peninsula means decreasing standing water problems, house flooding, and topsoil erosion. Keeping or adding evergreens on the north side of your house shields winter winds and

lowers your heating bill. Doing the same on the south side with deciduous trees makes the most of winter sun while providing shade in summer.

The plants and animals living in a patch of Peninsula land are designed to live here, in perfect tune with the soil, weather, and each other. The plants love the dry summers and wet winters, and our local critters are at home among them. Conventional landscaping drives away local species, and sustainable landscaping invites them. This practice is so powerful that in Curitiba, Brazil, sustainable landscaping throughout the city has actually reversed species migration, so that more animals move into the city than are driven out.

If that's not enough incentive, consider the fact that, nationally, homebuyers are demanding sustainable housing. Implementing sustainable practices on your property increases the market value of your home. As we know, the real estate market is basically in the tank right now, unless of course you're in the \$50 million market (he said while laughing over a martini). But when the market rebounds for normal houses, you'll be in better shape when you go to sell. Landscapers make just as much money either way and don't lose business; competitive ones just alter what they put in and how they do it. Their specific knowledge of a geographical area makes them even more valuable as local specialists in their field, and they can always revert to conventional if the job calls for it.

Each one of us has the power to significantly impact the health of the entire Peninsula while we simultaneously save money, time, and effort maintaining our properties, all while increasing the value of your home. Who can beat that?

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# Key Pen community fair a success

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Key Peninsula Community Fair volunteers outdid themselves, according to results reported by fair board Vice President Mike Hays. Attendance increased 20 percent over last year, and Thursday's Teen Night was a success — about 350 young people took advantage of teen-only "first look" at events. The carnival was well-received, with receipts up by 50 percent. A portion of gate receipts stays with fair-owners Longbranch Improvement Club, KP Civic Center, and KP Business Association for return to the community.

Hays says the kids' daily tractor pull events posed stiff competition to the midway — it was a popular interactive alternative to traditional carnival rides.

Vendors were either "thrilled or not happy — clearly the difference was product-related," with success according to how well the vendor matched what people wanted to buy, Hays said. The fair board did almost no marketing to vendors this year, with enough returns from last year, or self-initiated newcomers

**Editor's note:** This article was scheduled to be published in the August edition of the Key Peninsula News. Due to an error at the printing plant, page 13 was left out of the edition. We apologize to our readers for the confusion.

to fill 75 booths easily. Next year, Hays anticipates the board may focus more on local arts and crafts, and may be more proactive in vendor selection. He also expects about two-thirds of the existing board to remain, with elections to seat a new executive committee occurring in the next few months.

The advertised mechanical bull ride was shut down early on opening day by the fair board due to improper vendor permits. "We have zero tolerance for (safety) discrepancies," Hays said. "The state did not shut them down, we did."

Agrivision was a favorite among children, with many animals available for pampering at the petting zoo, courtesy of the Sherman family farm. Parelli Natural Horsemanship horse handler Chuck Kraft hosted two hands-on



Gig Harbor High School seniors Blaine Glasgow and Brea Mattingly fearlessly whip around on the "Tornado" ride during teen night at the fair.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

educational sessions daily for six lucky local horse owners and an attentive audience. The first-ever wine competition and display was enthusiastically received with over 32 entries. Best of Show went to Kent Adams of Graham for his raspberry wine. Judges from the Puget Sound Amateur Beer and Wine Club reportedly were surprised at how well the first-year competition went. "They are encouraging us to continue," Hays said.

The Farm owner, Mike Salatino, co-

sponsor with Trillium Creek Winery and the PSABWC, agreed, saying, "For a first year, it was an extremely successful event. (We had) impartial judging; the contestants were not competing against each other but against standards."

"We extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers," Hays said. "This was the biggest fair (yet) and it was put on 100 percent by volunteers, with not one paid employee. And thank you to the community for supporting your community."

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# Swift action lands assailant in jail

By Irene Torres, KP News

A 36-year-old man is being held in lieu of \$1 million bail after he allegedly attacked a Key Peninsula woman identified as his ex-girlfriend. The attack occurred early on the morning of Aug. 13 at a residence on 118th Avenue NW.



HILL

According to reports, Scott M. Hill brutally assaulted the woman while she slept, violently punching, kicking and choking her. The family dog, whose barking woke the family, was also attacked. The suspect allegedly

assaulted the woman's parents and sister as they tried to defend the woman. Her father was able to confront Hill with a knife and chase him from the home. The victim was hospitalized; her family received medical treatment for injuries sustained in the attack. Pierce County Sheriff spokesman Ed Troyer told a KOMO television news reporter, "The family did a good job of fighting him off, but he's going to pay for it."

Pierce County Crimestoppers distributed "Wanted" posters while Hill was being sought, believing him to be desperate and dangerous. Hill was identified in Gig Harbor and arrested the afternoon of Aug. 14. He was taken to

the Pierce County jail and charged with attempted murder, two counts of second-degree assault, fourth-degree assault, first-degree burglary felony harassment, and violation of a no-contact order.

The day following his arrest, Hill attempted suicide by jumping from a second-level railing in a common area of the jail, according to reports. His bedsheet noose failed, and he was treated in a hospital with minor injuries prior to his arraignment.

Hill's trial is scheduled for October. At press time, Pierce County Sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer did not respond to KP News' requests for additional information.

## BRIEFS

### news

### Pierce County assessor says, 'Say — Cheese'

According to staff at the office of Ken Madsen, assessor-treasurer for Pierce County, the Key Peninsula is at the top of the assessor's list in a six-year cycle of photo-taking to document structures and assess the view qualities of parcels. Two female staff clerks armed with digital cameras and a list of parcel numbers/addresses are roaming the peninsula and Herron Island in search of buildings and vacant parcels for which the assessor has no visual record.

One local landowner requesting anonymity refused them access to his farm and called the KP News seeking information. An assessor's office spokeswoman said only those addresses and parcels with no

pictures on file are being targeted. She said Pierce County only began taking photos in the early 1990s, and routinely updates a different part of the county every six years. "My house is 65 years old," said the landowner. "If they haven't photographed it yet, that's not my problem."

The official county appraiser will conduct appraisals on the peninsula from September through next March. The county will also take aerial photos during this seven-month period, and is requiring access to both new and existing houses and all outbuildings on the targeted properties.

### Rash of burglaries hits Key Peninsula businesses

Several Key Peninsula businesses experienced burglaries one summer night in late July. According to Lisa Larson, owner of On The Way Deli, her business and CostLess Pharmacy experienced break-ins and reports were filed of attempted break-in for Morelands, Harvest Time,

and Local Boys produce stand in Purdy. An open-end automotive wrench was thrown through the drive-up window of the deli to allow the thieves' entrance. The wrench not only broke the window but also smashed the glass door of the food cooler case. Glass was shattered on food, bottled drinks and potato chips in the case. Thieves helped themselves to food and drinks and took money. "Only time I left money here after closing," says Larson. "I took a friend to the hospital for stitches." Her return to the Peninsula after midnight was so late that she didn't return to the store until opening time the next morning.

A police report was filed and finger prints were lifted from the wrench. Damage to the drive-up and the cooler were repaired at Larson's own cost so she would not have increased insurance premiums.

Calls to Pierce County Sheriff's Department regarding the crimes were not returned.

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# Citizens criticize fire district minutes protocol

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Citizen participants at Pierce County Fire District 16 Board of Commissioners meetings have been consistently requesting minutes to be an all-inclusive record of proceedings. At the most recent meeting on Aug. 14, that request again fell on deaf ears, as did a repeated call to dismiss Pierce County sheriff's deputies (on duty and on payroll) still in attendance at commission meetings.

Audience member Mike Abernathy asked the board, "How long is the district going to be held hostage by Commissioner (Jim) Bosch's paranoia?" Bosch replied he needed the officers for his safety, and that other fire district personnel had also asked that law enforcement remain.

Also speaking from the audience, Mike Salatino, who stated he read five years' worth of commission meeting minutes, referred to documents available online at [www.keypeninsulafire.org/minutes.html](http://www.keypeninsulafire.org/minutes.html). "I was shocked to not find one word of any of the mishaps, discussions, disagreements... (or events surrounding the altercation between Bosch and Commissioner Allan Yanity) ...or comments as to how the public relates to the department," he said. "(This is) a disservice — the public doesn't trust you."

Yanity has also long disputed the accuracy of the minutes, frequently voting against their approval. He has been recording the meetings from his seat at the commission table for some time. In a recent email to the KP News, he wrote, "The minutes of the fire commissioner meetings have been twisted and falsified to benefit others so much, I believe it is criminal and I have proof they are false... There is so much going on behind the scenes when it is all made public... the

citizens will be amazed!"

Most recently at question are the whereabouts of his recording of the July 10 meeting, a recording he allegedly agreed to produce and which, according to Bosch, may or may not clarify items discussed at that meeting. (The minutes of the July meeting are not posted on the district Website, and the importance of the tape, or a subsequent request to produce it, have not been verified.) Yanity contends the minutes are his personal property and has not produced the tape, apparently acting on the advice of his attorney.

Bosch says he is concerned the recording has been tampered with while in Yanity's possession.

"People have a right to accurate minutes, not the Yanitized version," Bosch said.

The audience has frequently chastised the commissioners as well. Abernathy told the board, "I can't believe this commission had the audacity to vote itself a raise. This is ridiculous — and this includes you also, Mr. Bosch. You, Jim Bosch, start the fights."

Consistent with his response to audience comment when directed specifically toward him, Bosch suggested that Abernathy's statement was prompted by his friendship with Yanity. Minutes later, Bosch asked Christina Bosch, administrative manager and meeting secretary, to read his subsequent comments back to him. Her reply, "I was hoping to get it from you later (after the meeting)," prompted this retort from Abernathy, "Apparently, Bosch controls the minutes."

In a comparison by the KP News of meeting minutes protocol of the Key Peninsula Metro Parks District, the Key

Peninsula Community Council, several local fire districts, and the Pierce County Council, it appears the accuracy of meeting minutes is of utmost importance. KPMPD Secretary Kip Clinton identifies all audience members present, and enters their comments into the minutes, which are posted on the district Website. Occasionally, KPMPD records or videotapes its meetings. KPCC audience participants sign a guest list; their comments are written in the organization's minutes, which are then distributed to directors and audience members at the next meeting. County council meetings require audience participants to sign-in, as well as identify themselves before a microphone. Every meeting is videotaped and archived for viewing on the council's Website.

In response to a request for meeting minutes protocol made by the KP News, four area fire district administrations separately confirmed that during their commission meetings, audience members must identify themselves prior to speaking; their comments are reported in the minutes. In one district,

recordings are made of the minutes, and a written synopsis is distributed, with the entire proceedings available for listening. Administrative personnel surveyed seemed puzzled by the request to describe how audience comments were received during commission meetings; every respondent's answer was clear — comments must be recorded for benefit of both the commissioners and the public.

Minutes of the Fire District 16 merely acknowledge the speaker: "Don Tjossem addressed the Board. Mike Abernathy addressed the Board. Mike Hays addressed the Board..." No indication of comment content is given.

Citizen complaints at nearly every meeting since the commissioners changed minutes protocol several months ago, and requests to make the minutes all-inclusive, appear to be "off the agenda" for the commission. This is particularly puzzling to the citizens, as the vision statement of Key Peninsula Fire District 16 reads in part, "We are committed to timely and effective communication..."

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8 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 - 2:00	Kel Schmitz
15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 - 11:30	Jerin Fakner
15 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 - 2:00	Martin Nyberg
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30 - 11:30	Rick Gonzalez
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11:00 - 12:30	Martin Nyberg

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# Park district plans for new parks, playgrounds and more

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

With the recent resolution by Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District commissioners to impose a levy starting in 2008, the park district is looking at what some people would consider a wind-fall. The levy would bring \$600,000 to the district in 2008, in addition to more than the projected \$200,000 it will receive from the zoo/trek portion of sales tax.

Scott Gallacher, executive director who took the job a couple of years ago with the intent to grow the district, has all sorts of ideas on how the money could be spent, with emphasis on developing Home Park, playgrounds and programs. The commissioners will start working on a budget for 2008, and have been developing a comprehensive plan. The draft plan lists objectives such as developing "a high quality, diversified park and open space system that preserves and enhances significant environmental resources and features," developing a trail system, protecting and preserving habitat, and creating a "diversified recreation system that provides for all age and interest groups."

The district is taking the approach that it needs to respond to population growth by adding more parks, services and facilities — all of which will require more funding. Currently, KPMPD owns about 23 acres of park property, much of it largely undeveloped. Home Park, at 1.75 acres, has no amenities. And about half of Volunteer Park's 21 acres are undeveloped. By the end of next year, the district may own as many as 100 more acres of parks and lease another 400, with another 500 acres possible in the near future — and that's just properties that have already been identified.

The list of planned acquisitions includes:

- Taylor Bay Park (39 acres), currently under option for a three-phase purchase totaling \$1.65 million (see related story, cover). The park would be used for passive recreation and environmental education.

Editor's note: This is the last article in our parks series.

- Key Center "transfer" property, 72 acres adjacent to Volunteer Park that was formerly a landfill. Pierce County is considering transferring a portion of it to the park district. The park could be used for camping, trails, etc.

- The "360," a 350-acre Department of Natural Resources timberland that KPMPD plans to lease for 50 years under a Trust Land Transfer program. A plan for this property created when DNR initially was slated to transfer the property outright included a full range of possibilities, from a skate park and ball fields to festivals and fairs. Transfer is expected at the end of 2008 or early 2009.

- Maple Hollow, a 60-acre parcel the district will lease from DNR possibly by the end of next year, through the same Trust Land Transfer Program. This would be another passive recreation park with trails and similar amenities.

- DNR has one more property on the Key Peninsula 480 acres in Key Center. DNR officials have already mentioned the possibility of transferring the property to KPMPD, a discussion that is likely to come to the table in the next few years.

- Purdy Sand Spit Park, while not officially on the table, is likely to become the property of KPMPD in the near future. Pierce County, which owns the 7.5-acre park, has expressed an interest in transferring the property to KPMPD, and has already removed the biggest hurdle that was in the way of a potential transfer—the old Wauna post office building. KPMPD has previously said it would not consider taking over the park until the dilapidated structure was demolished.

These new park properties will require more manpower, infrastructure and funding. Despite the lack of public input at meetings and planning sessions, the park district seems to have the blessings of many local residents. A survey conducted earlier this year showed that nearly 70 percent of respondents felt the district should expand and acquire new properties. Yet the growing pains are going to remain. As Pierce County senior planner Mark Krueger once put it at a local planning meeting, "People always want more parks, but don't always want to pay for them." The district seems to have its work cut out.



# Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project plans to build new clinic

By SD Galindo, KP News

The Peninsula Spay and Neuter Project is raising funds for a spay/neuter clinic in Pierce County. The goal of the clinic will be to provide high-volume, low-cost services to residents of all surrounding areas. This huge effort is the biggest change for PSNP since its inception, according to Nancy Wolf, a Burley resident and one of the organization's founders.

The PSNP is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to helping cats and dogs through prevention of euthanasia, and they are fighting some mind-numbing statistics: Each year, a pair of dogs can reproduce twice, cats three times. In six generations (three to five years), they can birth 67,000 puppies and 420,000 kittens. Of all the animals brought to shelter, 55 percent of the dogs and 70 percent of the cats are killed. PSNP advocates prevention via birth control, a nonlethal way of decreasing the population of abandoned pets and those in shelters, where more than 75,000 pets per year are euthanized in Washington state.

In early 2001, Wolf together with Chris and Tracy Kim of Olalla and Lakebay's Michelle Akers, started talking about the formation of "Coalition HUMAnE," Humans United to Minimize Animal Euthanasia, although they soon became known as PSNP. The first fundraisers for PSNP were a series of barn sales in collaboration with Cheryl's Ferals in Olalla.



Matt Rusnak promotes the PSNP efforts at the June Maritime Gig parade in Gig Harbor wearing a dog costume that says, "Neutered and Proud."

Photo by  
Rodika Tollefson

After that, several organizations contributed their mailing lists so that PSNP could seek further financial support. The original volunteers used their own funds to buy humane traps and supplies and for transportation. They used Wolf's homemade traps, too. PSNP began spaying and neutering cats in September 2001, and trained more people to assist with humane trapping. They didn't have the resources to assist with dogs in the beginning.

Early clients became friends and supporters who contributed manpower and monetary assistance. The workload grew quickly and PSNP soon actively sought board members and volunteers. Holly Bukes, current president, helped move things along faster once she joined.

She chairs the annual Whiskers Wine and Dine events in March (a fun and fast-paced dinner-auction), and has written a number of grant application.

"We knew that if we wanted to help large numbers of companion animals, spay/neuter was the only way," Wolf says. "We stuck to that (as an organization) and I think we gained some respect from larger organizations, who later gave us grants. Being an all-volunteer effort helps get the grants, too."

PSNP has received grants from PetSmart, Spay is the Way, Hansel, Petco, along with money to build the new clinic in Tacoma — so they won't limit services to only what local vets can provide. At first, the groups' founders were paying out-of-pocket for medical

## How to reach PSNP

For assistance, to volunteer, or for information about the Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project, call 884-1543 or visit [www.psn.org](http://www.psn.org). Watch for PSNP at the Harbor Hounds event in Gig Harbor on Sept. 22 (see related story).

services, but several veterinarians soon offered to help. The biggest contributor is still the Custer Road Veterinary Clinic in Tacoma; Bremerton Animal Hospital and Bayview have helped as well.

In the five years through the end of 2006, PSNP has helped over 8,000 animals: more than 4,500 feral cats and 3,800 other companion animals, including pit bulls. PSNP initially targeted Kitsap, Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor. A large amount of ongoing work has been in Palmer Lake, Lake of the Woods, Purdy, and "all points in-between."

A big effort is still required to meet PSNP objectives. Wolf says, "Right now we need help with fundraising, events, trapping and transport of cats from folks who are willing to go into Tacoma to do that. We have a wonderful lady who is a dedicated trapper on this side of the (Tacoma) Narrows Bridge, Linda Dennis, but we could use more assistance to get this free-standing, high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic running in Pierce County."

# Walk your dog for a good cause

By SD Galindo, KP News

Love your dog? Does he or she want to go for a walk? But, of course! Saturday, Sept. 22, brings a very special dog day in the sun to downtown Gig Harbor, all for a good cause.

Participants in the annual Harbor Hounds dog-walkathon can treat their pups (over 4 months) to a leisurely 2-mile stroll; enjoy a variety of demonstrations like the Jet City Jumpers fly-ball course; find expert advice, microchip services, pet information; and even get their dog a massage. A book signing, vendors, entertainment and good food will also be part of the tail-wagging fun.

The Rotary Club International's 33,000 clubs in 160 countries collaborate with local civic and humanitarian

organizations to further their mission of "Service above self" in the community. The Gig Harbor Chapter sponsors Harbor Hounds to raise funds for the chapter and two charitable organizations: the Peninsula Spay and Neuter Project, which provides free and low-cost services for cats and dogs (see related story, above), and the Prison Pet Partnership Program, which teaches inmates at the Washington (WCCW) Correctional Center for Women to train dogs to assist handicapped persons.

There is a \$10 donation for online advance tickets. Every dog gets a doggie bandana and a goodie-bag filled with coupons, information, and more. For \$22, a commemorative T-shirt is included.

The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. between Donkey Creek Park at

the north end of Harborview and Skansie Brothers Park (next to Jerisich Park). Participants will walk between the two parks along the waterfront. For

more information about the event, including discounted tickets, contests and sponsorships, visit [www.HarborHounds.com](http://www.HarborHounds.com).



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Sept. 7	Renegades	8pm
Sept. 8	Renegades	8pm
Sept. 14	Blues Attitude	8pm
Sept. 21	Spinyde	8pm
Sept. 22	Blues Orbiters	8pm
Sept. 28	Billy Farmer & The Romblers	9pm
Sept. 29	Dunn Allard & The Renegade Train	8pm

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Thursday - Steak Night \$8.95	
Friday - Prime Rib \$10.99	

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# KP Community Council holds elections

The Key Peninsula Community Council will hold elections for its Board of Directors on Sept. 29. A number of positions are open due to term expirations and previous vacancies. Ballots will be mailed out to all registered voting members of the council on Sept. 10, and there will be manned voting stations at several locations on the Key Peninsula on election day where interested citizens can register as voting members and vote in the election. Biographies of currently nominated candidates who applied by the KP News press deadline are provided below.

## Area 1

**Russ Humberd** (incumbent) has been a resident of the Key Peninsula since 1995, and a member of the Community Council since 2002; he is currently vice president. Humberd has been active in the local community, including being a parent adviser to the Peninsula School District Safety Committee, chairman of the Pierce County Youth Violence Prevention Allocations Committee, vice president of the Peninsula Athletic Association, and a member of the Pierce County/Key Peninsula Community Planning Board.

## Area 2

**Danna Webster** (incumbent) says working as a member of the Comprehensive Planning Committee for Key Peninsula introduced her to the major issues confronting our community. She supports growth and economic development that maintains the rural character and environmental beauty of the Key Peninsula. She says she will continue to work with the community council to identify issues and to establish fair, balanced, nonpartisan definitions of those issues to help us reach decisions and take positions.

## Area 3

**Frank Shirley** (incumbent) has lived on Vaughn Bay for more than 30 years. He feels his background and training give a conservation and management perspective to land use on the Key Peninsula. As a forester with a degree in economics, he believes he can give the committee a point of view that is currently lacking and is needed for future growth of the Key Peninsula. Shirley has participated in various volunteer organizations in the past, including Boy Scouts, the Peninsula School Board Special Committee, the Camp Seymour Board of Directors, and the Church Council of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. He's a member of Toastmasters, the Lakebay Fuchsia Society, a certified forester with the Society of American Foresters, a member of the Pierce County Chapter of the Washington State Farm Forestry Association, the Washington State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, and the President of Shirley Forests, Inc.

## Area 4

**Chris Fitzgerald** (incumbent) is asking voters to retain her as District 4 director, after having served one term. She says she has been an ardent advocate for citizen-directed action. She spearheaded the recent community aquaculture forum, and writes on local news and environmental issues for the KP News. She is also president of the KP Friends of the Library.



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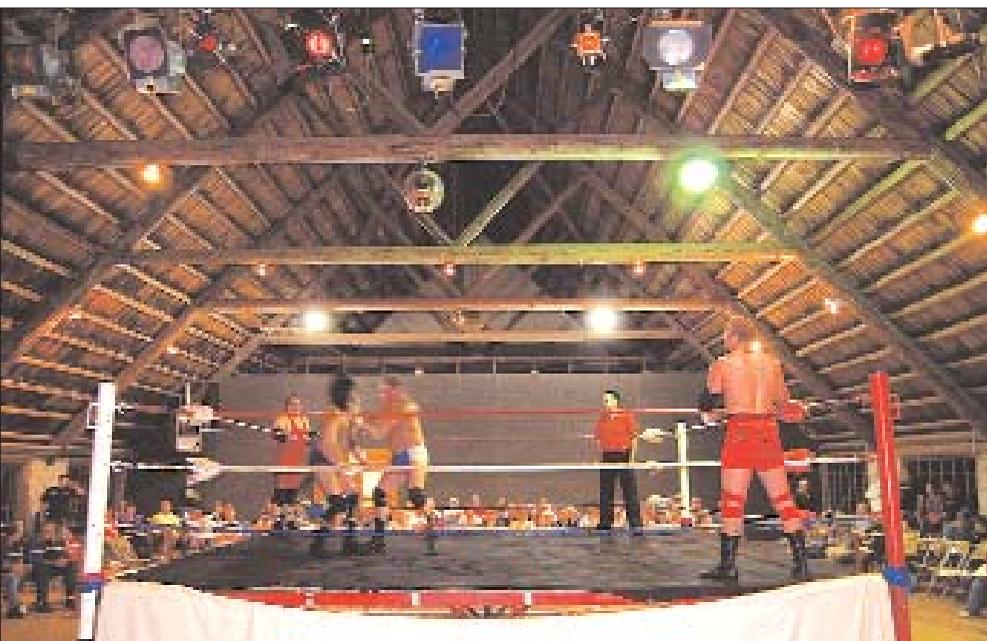
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Old Timer's Day and the  
KPCS Golf Tournament so  
successful!



**Key Peninsula Community Services**

# Summer fun on the Key

Festivals, fairs and other fun events were all around the Key Peninsula in August. Below is a snapshot of three wonderful events, Beyond Borders international festival, Old Timers Day and Renaissance Faire. Visit our online gallery at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com) for more photos.



*Photo by Mindi LaRose*

A pro wrestling rink makes for an unusual sight at the Longbranch Improvement Club, where a wrestling show was staged as a kickoff event the night before Old Timers Day.



Above, Third-generation logger Dale Boquist (left) holds the microphone as poet Gene Batell reads his tribute to Rhys Wood at Old Timers' Day. The poem recognizes Wood as the man who established the logging show and served as master of ceremonies for many years at Old Timers'. Boquist has taken over the duties of organizing the show. The loggers presented the event organizer, KP Community Services and Food Bank, with a \$1,100 donation. *Photo by Danna Webster*



Right, Key Pen's JD Mason (in blue) tackles an opponent at the first-ever pro wrestling event that was part of Old Timers Day. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Friends Andy Zuniga, Artem Trachuk and Matt "Hatz" Banks strike a pose as they enjoy the Beyond Borders Arts and Music Festival at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Zuniga and Banks are members of the band Brizee, which performed on the main stage. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Dominique Reichl and mom Shannon dance and enjoy the warm weather at Beyond the Borders fest.

*Photo by Mindi LaRose*



There was a peaceful and easy feeling in the air at Beyond the Borders. Here, the crowd listens to the music on the main stage (both from inside the Longbranch facility and out).

*Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Left, the Squire of the Wire performs a hilarious show high above the ground for large crowds below at the Washington Fantasy Renaissance Faire. Olissio Zoppe, above, and his two brothers of Cavallo Equestrian Arts are descended from generations of circus acrobatic performers. Their team entertained with full armored jousting, medieval games, and a gypsy themed trick riding exhibition. *Photos by SD Galindo*

## Painting the Key Pen beautiful

Story and photo by Mindi LaRose

Key Pen resident Jane Louise Stiner (pictured on the right in the photo) was one of many homeowners whose homes were painted in late July by volunteers. The program, called "Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful," is sponsored every year by Associated Ministries. Volunteers are recruited, paint donations are solicited, and homeowners are screened based on their need (they must be low income and either seniors or disabled).

Stiner was thrilled when her utility company mailed her information about the program. Her home was in dire need of a new paint job: It has not been repainted in the 22 years she has lived there. "No way I would have been able to get it painted," she said.

Two homes on the Key Peninsula were chosen by Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful this year. Matt Edwards of Believer's Fellowship Church in Gig Harbor headed up the team of volunteers working on her home. He said dozens of volunteers have come out for three days of power-washing,



scraping, prepping and painting the home. "The volunteers are fantastic," the homeowner said, with a smile on her face.

In the 23 years of the program's existence, volunteers have painted 1,750 homes, many of them on the Key Peninsula as well as Gig Harbor. This year alone, approximately 2,000 volunteers across Pierce County painted more than 90 homes. If you would like to get involved, contact [paint@associatedministries.org](mailto:paint@associatedministries.org) or visit [www.paintbeautiful.org](http://www.paintbeautiful.org).

## Rocky Bay Equine hosts seventh annual BBQ

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Horse enthusiasts and clients of Rocky Bay Equine can expect a welcoming and informative venue at the seventh annual open house barbecue on Sept. 15 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Dr. G. Marvin Beeman of Littleton, Colo., recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Colorado Horse Council, is the guest speaker. Beeman's leadership, commitment and dedication to the equine industry are reflected in numerous "hall of fame" awards bestowed both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Bo Weeks, owner of the facility, describes Beeman's presentation on "Form to Function" as a discussion of the physical characteristics of the horse, and how that relates to the tasks people give their horses to do. "Every breed has its own characteristics and that affects the horse's ability," Weeks says. "Dr. Beeman will share interesting points about how we've chosen to (accentuate some characteristics), and

### More equine events:

Parelli Natural Horsemanship educator Chuck Kraft is holding two clinics the weekends before and after Rocky Bay's event. Inquiries and RSVP to 884-4408 or [horsehandling@juno.com](mailto:horsehandling@juno.com).

some problems that result from that."

Weeks said the clinic looks forward to this annual open house all year long. Participants are welcome to tour the facility and ask questions. Rocky Bay hosts the event free of charge, and asks attendees to bring a potluck contribution according to the first letter of their last name. A to L are asked to provide a dessert; M to Z, a side-dish. Rocky Bay furnishes beans, refreshments, and barbecue pork sandwiches artfully crafted by the reigning "Canadian barbecue champions" Bob and Zorina Bleau.

Historically, about 200 guests have attended the event.

The RSVP deadline is Sept. 8. To RSVP, call 858-4529.

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# FD-16 STATS

## Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

### July 7

Paramedics responded to a motorcycle accident on SR-302 after a branch fell from a tree overhanging the roadway and struck the motorcyclists. Two people were transported to a hospital for injuries.

### July 16

In a bizarre mystery, two trees caught on fire in the Lake Holiday development. About two feet up the tree, bark seemed to spontaneously combust into a smoldering fire. No ignition source was found but several juveniles were seen smoking in that area in the past. Firefighters extinguished the blaze.

### July 20

A Gig Harbor man suffered minor injuries after rolling his truck down an embankment in the area of the Wauna curves. When paramedics arrived on scene, the man refused medical care. He was left to discuss the mishap with a Washington State Patrol officer.

### July 21

Firefighters responded to a vehicle driven into Vaughn Bay at the end of Hall Road. Witnesses described a man and a woman, soaking wet, leaving the area in what appeared to be an intoxicated state. Firefighters remained at the scene until sheriff's deputies arrived.

### July 26

A spill of approximately 10 gallons of diesel was found on Key Peninsula Highway in front of the Longbranch marina. Crews applied absorbent material to soak up the diesel and reduce the slip hazard. Pierce County Road Dept. picked up the material for proper disposal.

### July 29

Firefighters responded to a Longbranch residence for an automatic fire alarm. Firefighters arrived to find light smoke visible in the home. Once inside, they found that the owner had set off bug bombs and left. No fire was found.

### Aug. 2

Water rescue personnel were dispatched to a swimmer who jumped off the Purdy bridge, got caught in current and was struggling to make it to shore. Other swimmers were able to pull the victim to the beach before firefighters arrived.

## July total calls: 174

Medical aid: 98  
Fires: 22  
Burn complaints: 28  
Vehicle crashes: 16  
Weather related: 0  
Other: 10  
Mutual aid: 7

### Aug. 3

Paramedics rushed a male patient to a trauma center from his Longbranch home after a failed attempt at an 85-foot jump on a motorcycle.

### Aug. 8

A young man found his mom unresponsive and called 911. Paramedics responded to find the woman having a diabetic emergency. She was taken by ambulance to a Bremerton hospital.

### Aug. 11

A 10-year-old boy fell while riding his



Firefighters extinguish a fire at a Lake Holiday home on Aug. 7. When firefighters arrived the fire had broken out windows and was well-involved, but firefighters quickly knocked it down before it spread. No one was injured.  
*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

bicycle at the Key Peninsula skate park, sustaining minor injuries. He was not wearing a helmet, which would have prevented his most serious injury. He was transported to a hospital.

### Aug. 12

A burning pile of pallets was noticed by a citizen driving by the Peninsula Iron Works shop on SR-302. The fire was unattended and spread to the grassy hillside by the time the firefighters arrived. The fire was quickly extinguished. A report will be sent to the Puget Sound Clear Air Authority for unauthorized burning and burning prohibited materials.

### Aug. 15

Firefighters responded to a Longbranch home for a small grass fire caused by illegal fireworks. Firefighters extinguished the fire and obtained suspect information to pass on to Pierce County sheriff's deputies.

### Aug. 18

A man playing softball at Volunteer Park made an impressive stop with his chin after a batted ball was hit in his direction. He was transported by ambulance for treatment of his injuries.

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Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula			
	Sold July 2006	Sold July 2007	For Sale as of 08/17/2007
	94 Homes	86 Homes	914 for Sale
<b>Highest</b>	\$3,100,000	\$1,090,000	\$4,500,000
<b>Lowest</b>	\$125,000	\$87,000	\$89,900
<b>Median</b>	\$160,000	\$367,475	\$550,000

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# CIS-P dinner auction a successful fundraiser

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

This year's Communities In Schools of Peninsula's "Denim to Diamonds" dinner auction fundraiser at Canterwood Country Club was judged by all present to have been the best ever, "a smashing success."

Under the capable direction of the organization's financial adviser, Key Peninsula resident Connie Rose,

members of the committee for what was affectionately dubbed "D2D," for "Denims to Diamonds," spent months smoothing out details, acquiring contributions for the auction event, and inviting those interested in helping Peninsula school kids to succeed. It was all in keeping with CIS national's motto: "Helping kids stay in school and prepare for life."

Many in attendance were CISP volunteer mentors who spend at least an hour each week at one or more of the 10 participating schools in the Peninsula School District in one-on-one meetings with kids having difficulties with reading, writing and math. The effort has proven effective; almost all the kids involved have progressed to much higher levels of achievement in these subjects. They have gained a sense of self-worth and a determination to succeed.

PSD Superintendent Terry Bouck and wife Kristy, a CISP board member, were joined by a delegation of several of the district's school principals, including Key Peninsula Middle School Principal



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Connie Rose, Communities In Schools of Peninsula's financial adviser and chair of CISP's "Denim to Diamonds" fundraiser, raises her paddle to bid for an auction item.

described by CISP's President Dick Vanberg as "tremendous." As the evening wound down, Borgen challenged those present to "bid on our kids, they're the best prize of the evening." Response was overwhelming; one guest bid \$1,000, several bid \$500, and the room was filled with the waving bid cards of those bidding \$100.

CISP Resource Development Chair Gerry Baldwin, a United Airlines' 747 pilot, and, with his wife Joan, a mentor at two schools in math and reading, was unable to attend, but said via email, "We owe a great debt of gratitude to the many good citizens who donated to this event in so many ways ... with items for auction, through volunteerism, and through their generous donations at Denim to Diamonds."

It was a colorful, exciting, fun-filled, successful fundraiser to support the kids in the school district and CISP's important mentoring program.

For information, or to volunteer for CISP's mentoring program, call 884-5733 or email CISP@peninsula.centurytel.net.

Sharon Shafer and Evergreen Elementary's Jacque Crisman.

Volunteer auctioneer Jim Borgen was

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## Vaughn resident recognized by international organization

Vaughn resident Joe Dervaes was recognized with the 2007 Award for Achievement in Outreach and Community Service from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE). He received the award at the organization's 18th Annual Fraud Conference and Exhibition at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., on July 17.

The ACFE believes strongly its members should be active in their community and committed to helping improve the quality of life where they live and work. The nominee must demonstrate having been an active volunteer in community projects that have resulted in a recognized improvement of a community. Dervaes' package for the international award cited his volunteer and community service in many areas, including his service on various ACFE boards and other ACFE related work, his involvement with the advisory committee of the Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) Institute Board of Directors, his educational outreach on fraud, and his volunteer involvement with the Vaughn Bay Cemetery Association and Historic Vaughn Bay Community Church.



Photo courtesy Joe Dervaes

Joe Dervaes (left) receives his prestigious award from Don Mullinax, chairman of the ACFE Board of Regents.

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For more information, visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR302/NewCorridor/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR302/NewCorridor/)

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:** The meeting site is accessible to persons with disabilities. Accommodations for people with disabilities can be arranged with advance notice by calling Debbie Clemen, WSDOT (360) 764-3264.

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## Saying no to hunger

# Local organizations ensure no one in the community goes hungry

By Linda L. Anderson, KP News

There are many opportunities for food assistance and free meals on the Key Peninsula. Several local organizations and numerous volunteers open their hearts to residents in need of help. Among them are the Key Peninsula Community Services and Food Bank (known to many as Community House), which offers food, meals and social services.

## M&M Ministry

With a desire to meet the needs of people on the Key Peninsula, Howard and Diane Johnson met with the board of Lakebay Community Church four years ago and began the M&M Ministry. The acronym stands for "mingle and minister," and that is exactly what goes on every Thursday at 3 p.m.

People from the community gather in the Fellowship Hall of LCC for snacks and socializing. Howard Johnson speaks before the group, which often numbers 35 to 45, and prays before they glean from the



Photo courtesy Diane Johnson

A typical M&M Ministry gathering has an abundance of people — and of food given away.

bounty set out for them.

In order to provide for the needs of those who come, Johnson makes four "runs" per week, gathering canned goods, produce and toiletry items donated by individuals and business on and off the Key Peninsula. Among those who contribute are Larry and Sharon Wingard of Shiloh Farms in Lakebay, F.I.S.H., Chad Roy and Scott Teodoro from Harbor Greens in Gig

Harbor and anonymous donors.

"God supplies bountifully every week," Diane Johnson says. "Often we have leftovers, which we are able to share with the Community House in Home, as well as the food programs of other Peninsula churches."

M&M offers free haircuts once a month, supplies food baskets at the holidays and sponsors several families at Christmas with gifts and food. From time to time they provide school supplies and other ancillary needs to local families. Once or twice a year, usually in the fall, M&M is able to offer fresh salmon from the local hatchery. "Last year, we were able to bless people with nearly 200 salmon. It was exciting," Howard says.

Those who come for help on Thursdays often times help with setup and cleanup. The Johnsons say they feel "blessed with a hard-working team of people who take great pleasure in blessing others week after week: Robert and Anna Lee, Anne Carter, Denise Roswell, Peggy Cook, Marguerite Bussard and Anne Chadwick."

## A shelter in time of storm

The mission statement of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church reads: "Through God's love and grace we commit ourselves to spiritual growth and offer our resources to those in need." That is also how church members offer themselves in service to the community.

On the first, third and fourth Saturdays of each month, the doors of McColley Hall swing wide to welcome the community to partake in a delicious meal and experience friendly conversation with friends and neighbors. Two of the Saturdays offer a warm and filling breakfast and endless coffee from 9 to 10:30 a.m., and the other

The Community Meals Program at KP Lutheran Church plans to host a Thanksgiving dinner. For details about the meals, special events or to volunteer call Julie Johnson, church secretary, at 884-3312.

If you're interested in helping the M&M Ministry or would like information, contact Diane Johnson at 884-3659.

Harvest Share is another food ministry, overseen by Tink Williams and a group of helpers. People gather every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Lakebay Community Church on Cornwall Road to glean food and fellowship. All members of the community are welcome. For information, call Williams at 884-5940 or Bonnie Graddon at 884-4824.

Saturday brings dinner beginning at 3 p.m. The meals are a gift from KPLC to the community.

Approximately 40 people from the church comprise three cooking teams, which take turns preparing the meals. "We have a good time," says Kay Pinter. "This whole ministry has been an amazing process. Two years ago, after McColley Hall was built, someone donated a large sum of money to have the commercial kitchen finished."

The first breakfast had about 15 people in attendance. The second drew about 20, and it has skyrocketed from there. The church now maintains a large budget for this ministry, which grew with funds from donations of other churches and grants from The Geneva Foundation, Sheeney Foundation, Evangelical Lutheran Church and individuals and businesses in the community.

As the ministry grew, McColley Hall became a Red Cross-approved emergency shelter. During the storm and power outage last year, KPLC was able to feed and house many storm victims. "People came from Gig Harbor churches to help," say the Reverend Heinz Malon, who came to serve the church just one month before. "People who came for help in turn helped out in the kitchen and in caring for their neighbors. It was a blessing."

Church member Barbara Bramhall says, "Hugs are as important as food. We have people who come just to be where there are other people. They are lonely and need to visit. Fellowship is a large part of our ministry here. No cost. No pressure. Just love and food and conversation."



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# COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) • Deadline 17th of the month

## Sept. 3, 4, 10, 17, 24 – Blood drive at Albertson's

The blood mobile will be at Albertson's, 11330 51st Ave NW, from 12:30-7 p.m. on the above dates. It will also be at the Peninsula Light Company, 13315 Goodnough Dr NW, on Tuesday, Sept. 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and at the Gig Harbor Farmers' Market on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Sept. 6 – Grief support group resumes

The grief support group will resume Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. in the meeting room at fire station 5 at Wright Bliss Road and SR 302.

## Sept. 6 – Fuchsia Club meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 6, at the Key Center Library. Speaker Gwen Jensen will talk about worm bin composting and recycling. Call Ginnie at 884-9744.

## Sept. 8 – Outdoor jazz concert

An outdoor jazz concert by popular musician Tracy Hooker and the band "Hook Me UP" delights patrons Sept. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. Free to the public at the Key Center Library.

## Sept. 8 – Community garage sale

Come and peruse a great selection of good, clean, previously owned items at the community garage sale sponsored by Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Key Peninsula Highway and Lackey Road, on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds support community meals and emergency shelter activities for Outreach Ministries. Call Karen, 884-4449 or Ruth, 884-9606.

## Sept 8 & 9 – Softball championship

Eleven teams from the Key Peninsula Metro Parks Summer Coed Softball League battle in the end-of-season tour-

nament. Teams in the league are Gig Harbor Eagles, Bayside Animal Lodge/Steph's Espresso, Laddy & the Ringers, Lakebay Roofing, Minter Vet Players, Pyramid Concrete, Rocky Bay Watch, Team Aro, Team KP, The Floaties, and The Float. 884-9240

## Sept. 12 – Food handlers' training held

The Pierce County Health Department will conduct a food handlers' training class at the Key Center fire station, Wednesday, at 9 a.m. The class is limited to 30 people. Sign up at the front desk in the office of the Key Center station.

## Sept. 13 – Friends of the Library meet

The general membership of the Friends of the Library meet to approve amended bylaws, hear the annual treasurer's report, and find out about new programs and events. Thursday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m. Become a member; cost is minimal.

## Sept. 14, 20, 28 – Mustard Seed Project meetings

The Mustard Seed Project resumes its monthly task group meeting schedule in September and invites public attendance. These task groups are gathering information, reviewing possibilities and creating options for "aging in place" on the Key Peninsula. Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held at the Key Center Library.

The Transportation and Mobility for Elders Group: Friday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m.

The Elder Health and Wellness-related Services Group: will meet Thursday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m.

The Housing Options for Aging in Place Group: Friday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m.

If you have questions or an interest in this project, call 884-9814, or email [ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org](mailto:ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org)

## Sept. 15 – Library hosts artist's reception

Artist's receptions begin in September with Tweed Meyer, whose work in ink,

pastels, and oil is currently hanging in the library. She says, "I paint to share the adventure I find life to be; colorful in the moment and a joyous pursuit of happiness." Patrons will have an opportunity to chat with Meyer, purchase art, and perhaps experience "art in the making." Saturday, Sept. 15, Key Center Library at 2 p.m.

## Sept. 19 – KP Veterans Institute presentation

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute presents a Table of Remembrance for the Missing Man Ceremony at the Key Peninsula Community Center on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 11:30 a.m. All veterans and seniors are invited to attend this Missing Man Ceremony, followed by a KPCC Senior lunch. President Mike Coffin conducts this event with members of KPVI present to assist in this remembrance.

## Sept. 20 – 'Yesterday's Teenagers' meet

The Senior Society, aka Yesterday's Teenagers, who are still going strong, is celebrating its 28th anniversary on Sept. 20 with a potluck lunch at the Civic Center. Newcomers are always welcome. Call 884-5052 or 884-4981.

## Sept. 21 – School Board Forum

The Key Peacemakers will host a forum for the Peninsula School District school board candidates. There are seven candidates contending for four district positions: Geoff Baillie, Matthew Wilkerson, Jean Gazabat, Wendy Wojtanowitz, Jill Guernsey, Ken Roberts, and Jill Uddenberg. Voters will be making selections for all four district positions on the November ballot.

Friday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; 884-9299.

## Sept. 25 – Key Pen Firefighters' Association meets

Be a member of Key Peninsula Firefighters' Association. A membership drive to support our fire department is in progress. Politics are not

included in the meetings held at Key Center Fire Station 2 at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

## Sept. 25 – Fall Adult Coed Softball deadline

This recreational league for men and women will play on Sundays starting Sept. 30 through Nov. 11. Teams will play 8 games — all double headers — for a cost of \$225 without umpires and \$350 with umpires. Teams will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. A minimum of four teams and a maximum of 12 teams will be accepted with a registration deadline of Sept. 25. For more information or to sign up a team, call 884-9420.

## Sept. 28 – Key Senior Information Center opens

The Mustard Seed Project announces the grand opening of the Key Senior Information Center at the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center in the Key Center Library building. The community is invited to an Open House on Friday, Sept. 28 from 4-7 p.m. Call 884-9814, or email [ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org](mailto:ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org)

## Oct. 6 – Pee Wee Youth Indoor Soccer starts

Pee Wee Sports is a program designed just for the little guys and gals. This class gives youth ages 4-6 (age by Sept. 1) the opportunity to learn skills and fundamentals of soccer. Scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all kids. Parent or adult involvement is strongly encouraged.

Indoor soccer will run six weeks on Saturdays starting Oct. 6. Cost is \$35. 884-9420 for details.

## Oct. 9 – Adult basketball registration deadline

KPMPD is now accepting team registrations for adult basketball. All games will be on Sunday evening at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, starting Oct. 14 and concluding Dec. 9. Cost is \$375/team. Registration deadline is Oct. 9. 884-9240 for details.

## Camp Seymour's chapel is reborn



Gathered at Camp Seymour in late July, supporters celebrate a rededication ceremony for the camp's "Church in the Wildwood." This rustic amphitheater-style open-air space provides a place to meditate — quite literally, in the wild woods. A previously existing structure was demolished during last winter's wind storm. Camp Seymour's Executive Director Geoff Ball pronounced that incident a "divine notification" to get on with the replacement of the facility. Paul and Peggy Anderson donated a substantial sum of money toward restoration. Paul Anderson said, "We thought it was important that there be a place for Christianity at Camp Seymour. We wanted to make that accessible to all campers."

The Andersons are the first adults seated in the first row on the right.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Barbara Heard

Barbara Heard lives in the Herron neighborhood of Lakebay. She moved here in 1989 from Steilacoom, where she waved to everyone she knew.

"I grew up in Steilacoom and was used to a small town and knowing everybody. I lost that when I first moved here," Heard says. "Once I started (working) at Sound Credit Union, that feeling came back."



HEARD

Heard volunteers with the Key Peninsula Business Association and the fair board. She has been the secretary for KPBA for three years and shares that job this year with Todd Rosenbach.

"She takes the best minutes of any secretary of any organization I've ever belonged to," says Claudia Loy, vice president of KPBA.

In addition to secretarial duties, Heard organizes the KPBA litter patrol,

which picks up trash on both sides of the streets north of Home for a mile or two. Her volunteer time doubles when she serves as the KPBA representative to the fair board, where she also is the secretary. Her heaviest volunteer duties are during the days of the fair when she works full-time to assist the treasurer of the board with deposit duties.

Asked why does a person with a family and a full-time job become a volunteer, she says, "Part of the challenge of volunteering is working 40-plus hours, and caring for the family, and finding time to give back to the community. I volunteer for the fun. You see people you know and get to know new people. It's fun, with a lot of hard work behind the scenes. I believe in taking ownership of where you live by helping out with things. Start with your own neighborhood and branch out from there."

As a result of her efforts, Heard happily reports she is once again waving to a lot of people she knows.

— Danna Webster



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## Dear Parents and Families,

As I begin my second year as superintendent of Peninsula Schools, I continue to be amazed by the commitment of the community to the success and academic achievement of every student.

We have a great reputation in the state, and we are an incredible school district, with the best students, staff members, parents and community members. But even champions have to practice, and we intend to continue to strive to improve until we have every child in the PSD achieving at his or her best. We will continue Peninsula's long tradition of excellence.

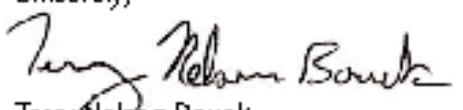
Every child has unique talents and abilities. Our job is to meet them where they are when they come to us and do everything in our power to bring them to the highest of their abilities. We cannot rest until every child succeeds, and cannot afford to have even one fall through the cracks.

When investing in real estate, people say to remember

location, location, location. When investing in the education of children, we say people, people, people! The foundational links that cannot be broken in the chain of educational success are parents, staff and community members working together.

We have dynamic programs and materials designed to foster success, and professional, caring, hard-working teachers and staff members working with our students.

Our schools belong to our community members, and I want every single person to feel informed about and welcomed at our schools and district office. I encourage you to contact staff, ask about programs and visit schools. Everything we do is for kids, and we want you to know exactly what is going on every day in every way. Together we will take every student over the top!

Sincerely,  
  
Terry Nelson Bouck  
Superintendent

## September Events

- 5 First day of school.  
Register today 5:00 p.m. GHHS Open Registration for Fall Swim Lessons: Sept. 10-26
- 6 Kapachuck Open House 6:30 p.m.  
Register today 5:00 p.m. PHS Open Registration for Fall Swim Lessons: Sept. 11-27.
- 7 Fish Bowl GHHS v. PHS Fall Football Opener PHS Roy Anderson Field 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Harbor Heights Open House 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Gig Harbor High Open House 6:00 p.m.
- 12 Harbor Ridge Middle Open House 6:30 p.m.  
Key Peninsula Middle Open House 7:00 p.m.
- 13 School Board Regular Meeting 5:30 p.m. District Office
- 17 Discovery Elementary Open House 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Peninsula High Open House 6:30 p.m.  
Arlondale Elementary Open House Grades K-2 6:30 p.m.  
Goodman Middle Open House 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Minier Elementary Open House 6:00 p.m.  
Arlondale Elementary Open House Grades 3-5 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Purdy Elementary Open House 6:00 p.m.  
Evergreen Elementary Open House 6:30 p.m.
- 24 School Board Study Session 6:30 p.m. District Office
- 25 Voyager Elementary Open House Grades 1-2 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Voyager Elementary Open House Grades 3-5 6:30 p.m.

## Peninsula School District Transportation Welcome Back!

We look forward to seeing your children on our buses this fall. Our goal is to make your child's trip to and from school as safe and pleasant as possible. The driver is in charge of the bus and passengers at all times and may have a seating arrangement. The following are a few of our bus rules that we would like you to read and be aware of when riding on district school buses.

### Bus Rules

- Follow driver directions.
- Stop, look, listen and cross only in front of the bus.
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- No bullying or harassing, talk quietly and be courteous to all.
- Keep bus clean, no eating, drinking or littering on the bus.
- Keep body parts inside windows and do not throw anything out of the window.
- Glass and flammable items are not allowed on the bus.
- Large bulky items are not allowed. All items must fit on a student's lap.
- All articles must be contained safely. Animals/insects prohibited.

### Reminder to parents:

- Have students to bus stop 5 to 7 minutes prior to bus time.
- It is unlawful to pass a school bus when red lights are flashing.
- If your child misses the bus, take them to the next stop. Do not let students out of the car and allow them to run up the side of the bus.
- All bus routes, regular and emergency, are posted on the district web page [www.psd401.net](http://www.psd401.net).
- If you have a concern about a stop please contact Craig Sherman, at: [shermanc@psd401.net](mailto:shermanc@psd401.net). Include whatever current information you have about the stop and what changes you would like made. We will then notify you in writing of our decision.
- Any other concerns please contact

Annie Bell, at [bella@psd401.net](mailto:bella@psd401.net).

• If you need to contact someone in Transportation, please call 530-3900 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
Address: 14015 62nd Ave. N.W., Gig Harbor, WA 98332

### Bus Rider-ship Coming Soon

Transportation Bus Rider-ship Week October 1-5. All of the students riding the bus to school in the morning will be counted. For those of you who are not familiar with count week, this is the one week the district can count the ride to school and receive reimbursement dollars from the state for transportation. If you currently ride the bus to school in the morning, please make sure you ride to school during this week.

## October Events

- 1-5 Transportation Bus Rider-ship Week! If you currently ride the bus to school in the morning, please make sure you ride to school during this week.
- 11 Key Peninsula Middle NASA School Kick-Off 8:30 a.m.
- 12 No School
- 16 Henderson Bay High Open House 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Evergreen Elementary Reading Night 6:00 p.m.
- 25 School Board Study Session 6:30 p.m. District Office

## Fish Bowl 2007

Friday, September 7  
PHS Roy Anderson Field

5:30 p.m. Salmon Bake  
7:00 p.m. Football Game

Sponsored by: Gig Harbor/Peninsula Fishermen's Club

(All proceeds from this important community event support scholarship programs at all three high schools.)

# KP mom spearheads humanitarian efforts for kids living abroad

By September Hyde, KP News

The daily rituals of life like sleeping, eating and bathing may come easy to most people, but in the world's second most-populous country, India, many children are struggling to live above poverty.

One Key Peninsula mom's latest adventure fills her heart with joy: Her mission helps change the way children, on the opposite side of the globe, live each day.

Wendy Halvorsen offers more than just a helping hand. She, her husband, Mike, and their four children have started raising money for a Washington-based organization called Oil of Joy Ministries, based in Graham. Halvorsen's mother, Ginny Meier, a former Gig Harbor resident, is the founder of the organization.

"I didn't know anything," Halvorsen said about the way children are abandoned in the streets of India. "To hear how bad the conditions were there, it shocked me — especially hearing it firsthand from my mom."

Halvorsen said she was compelled to do something when her mother told her about her experience working with an established Washington ministry in conjunction with India's government. The team of ministers decided to find a way to house 50-plus children who were homeless and struggling to survive.

"Wendy was so surprised. She told me how wonderful the plan was and she wanted to get involved in any way she could," Meier said. "She wanted to be the first to sponsor some of the kids. Her heart has been to do anything she could to help these destitute children."

Two years ago, Halvorsen and her family became sponsors to two 6-year-old girls, Shanti and Arati, in the first orphanage established by the ministry. She said she has enjoyed gathering up necessities for these children because they are so appreciative.

"The kids feel like they're special. They just love having something new," she said.

The first orphanage in Orissa originally was home to an Indian minister whom Meier befriended while visiting India. The minister, Pastor Tandi, donated his home and the Oil of Joy Ministries assisted financially in building a second story on the home and converting it into a functional orphanage. Halvorsen was in awe of the project and the efforts it took to get the things finished, but she wanted to do more.

"I had to do something," she said. "So much money is needed to run an



Photo by September Hyde

Wendy Halvorsen (far left) and her children, (left to right) Michael, Michele, Nicole and (front) Kristen, meet grandma Ginny Meier to give her the donated items she received from her bulletin on Craigslist.com.

orphanage."

So, Halvorsen started fundraising locally. She posted a bulletin on the online board Craigslist.com in search of items for the current orphanage and future ones. Donations have been coming in and Halvorsen feels grateful.

"Thank you to all of you that have helped... I am so overwhelmed by how many people have helped and offered to help, so far," she posted on Craigslist.com. "We are a relatively small nonprofit organization in comparison to most. So, this has been a huge blessing for our ministry and for the many kids and pastors we are taking care of."

## The orphanages

Oil of Joy Ministries is in the early stages of erecting a second orphanage in Orissa and two orphanages in Karnataka. All three orphanages have reserved spots for children in need but are still searching for resources and financial backing.

"The need is very great," Meier said. "These children have been taken off the streets of India, where nobody wants them. Through no fault of their own, they have been abandoned and left to die on the streets of India. I've seen many children abandoned, crying along the sides of the street with no one to help. These little children have done nothing to deserve this harsh treatment and we at

Oil of Joy have come to show compassion to them and rescue them from a life of misery and despair."

Halvorsen and her family look forward to the correspondence and updates they get from her mom about the girls and the other children.

"It makes me feel happy. I'm glad that all these kids have a place to stay now and not living on the streets with nothing to do," Michael Halvorsen, 10, said.

Wendy said it's exciting to know her sponsored daughters are truly happy by being involved in this family outreach. Her four children have started to donate their personal items to the growing pile of contributions that Meier will be delivering in mid-September.

"My kids have been so sentimental and have opened up their hearts. They've given away about 75 percent of their stuffed animals," she said.

"It makes me feel really glad inside that I'm giving (toys) away to people who don't have anything," said 8-year-old Kristen Halvorsen.

It costs \$25 a month to sponsor a child in an Indian orphanage. School uniforms, books and supplies for one child also cost \$25 for the year. Currently, the orphanage in Orissa is at capacity with 55 children and all children have sponsors. But the ministry is always looking for ways to supplement additional needs of the established orphanage and future ones. Two new

## If you'd like to help

To find out more about donating to Oil of Joy Ministries, call Wendy Halvorsen at (253) 858-8994.

Items most needed are vitamins, Band-aids, lotion, flip flops, small stuffed animals like Beanie Babies, tooth brushes, tooth paste, new girls' and boys' (ages 5-12) underwear, men's baseball caps, men's ties for the pastors (for preaching attire), and sample packs of conditioner/shampoo. Financial donations are also welcome to the group and sometimes are better than items.

If you would like to donate, call Halvorsen or email halvy6@centurytel.net. Details are also online at [www.oilofjoyministries.com](http://www.oilofjoyministries.com).

orphanages are the dream for the state of Karnataka in 2008. Oil of Joy Ministries is looking to buy land and buildings to set up the latest homes for displaced children. Children have already been gathered and now the ministry is trying to shelter and feed them on a regular basis. Halvorsen said it costs approximately \$10,000 to get one orphanage up and running.

Halvorsen hasn't met her two daughters, Arati and Shanti, but has hopes of seeing them in the future. Her mother has met and delivered packages to the girls.

"Having my daughter have the same heart that I have is a great blessing to me," Meier said. "I've always wanted to be a blessing to everyone I meet but to see that same heart of love, compassion and mercy in Wendy has so thrilled my heart that it has brought a joy unspeakable to me."

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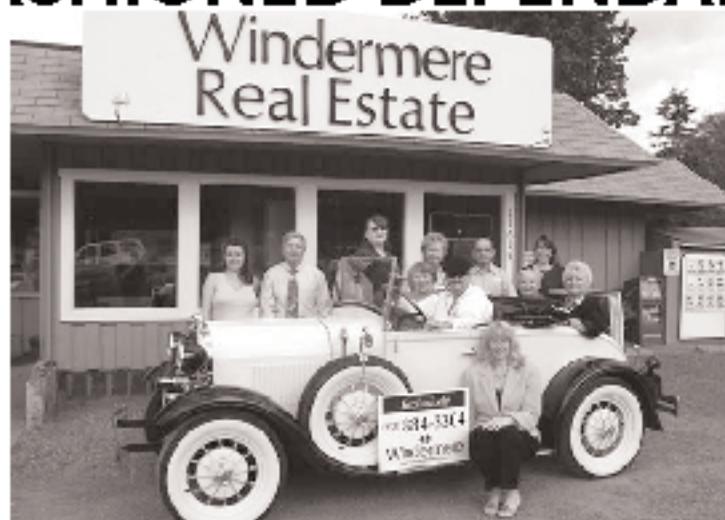
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## EBay sellers do well on the Key

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Several eBay sellers live on the Key Peninsula, and may be identified by the multiple packages they carry to local post offices at times other than holiday season.

Sherrie calls her eBay selling her second job, and has been doing it for nearly four years. Her interest began when she realized she needed to hold a garage sale, and opted to try eBay. Videos, clothes, kids' stuff — all went online, and she was successful. She began patronizing thrift shops for good buys to resell. She travels to Seattle, Eastern Washington, Portland, and even Reno and Las Vegas for her special finds. Her current focus is women's clothing.

"There's a lot of work to it," she says. "You have to get it down to a niche."

Julie Johnson has been an eBay seller for almost three years, specializing in children's resale — clothing, games, and books. She had her own shop for eight years, selling the same items. As a stay-at-home mom eBay selling works well for her.

Johnson finds good, inexpensive items while shopping at thrift stores, as well as recycling her own children's clothes and

games. She spends eight to 10 hours a week on the computer, uploading photos and descriptions, processing orders, and another two to six hours a week packing and mailing.

Nancy, who has done personal eBay sales since 1998, handles Angel Guild sales. "We try to sell everything in the store first," she says, but when items don't sell, she tries the eBay route. Antiques and collectibles do well on eBay.

"Know your market," Johnson says. "When the market is saturated, prices are lower." Tips from these sellers: Research the same or similar items sold in the past to set appropriate prices. It is essential to have good, clear photos to post, with the item clean and well-described.

Nancy notes it has become more costly than when she began. Fees must be paid to eBay, and Paypal (another Website that handles online payments), and the postage has increased. She used to do well with less expensive items, but now says high-end items with a better price tag are the best way to go.

"It's addictive," Sherrie says, "but it makes good money." Then she adds with a grin, "Try it. You'll like it."

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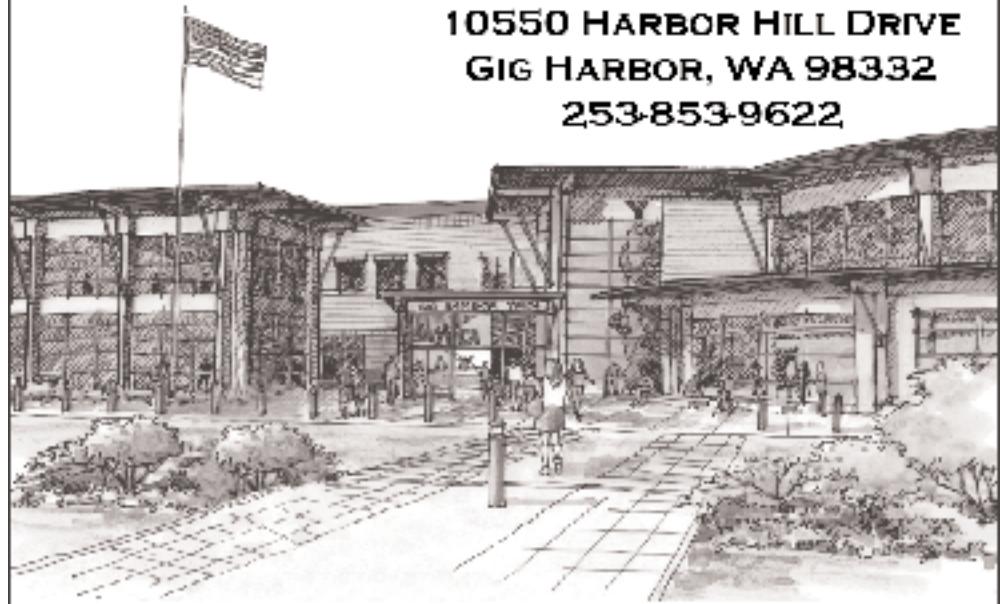
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(From **GEODUCKS**, Page 1)

dation from the council's community development committee, the council declined to act. Councilman Terry Lee was the lone "yes" vote.

A week after the vote, the council held a meeting at Riverside in central Pierce County. The first item of business after roll call was a motion from Councilman Shawn Bunny (District 1), who said, "Having voted on the prevailing side ("no" vote) and there being no intervening business, I move that we reconsider Ordinance No. 2007-34s ." The motion was passed unanimously. Councilman Tim Farrell's motion to refer the ordinance back to the community development committee for a Sept. 10 hearing was also unanimously passed.

In a phone interview, Councilman Terry Lee said, "I was very surprised in the action the council took... regarding denying the regulations around aquaculture/geoduck farming. I believe it was the result of having packaged amendments to docks/floats/piers in with the aquaculture piece. The reason that occurred is that they both come out of the same master planning document, the shoreline master program. Initially it made sense because we could move both out under the same document in the same ordinance, I think to have done a better job of it would have been to separate both of them although no comments were received on docks/piers until the very last day. I believe that's what unraveled it all. I believe the council is as committed to protecting the rights of shoreline owners as ever. I think the ordinance will be split and docks/floats/piers will be taken out and that discussion will take place as we do a comprehensive overview of the master shoreline plan, to be complete in December 2008."

Regarding the community development committee and subsequent council hearings, Lee said, "I believe the aquacul-

### **Ordinance to be reconsidered**

The Pierce County Council returned interim shorelines regulations ordinance 2007-34s to the council's community development committee, which will again hear public testimony on Sept. 10 in council chambers in Tacoma at 1:30 p.m.

ture piece will move forward out of committee as is; I'm not hearing any glaring concerns about (the ordinance) as drafted... I'll get it out as soon as possible, and implemented as soon as possible. I think I'll be able to get the train back on the tracks." After full council approval, the ordinance must be sent to the state Department of Ecology for review, approval, or rejection within 90 days.

Locally, a new nonprofit citizen group, the Case Inlet Shoreline Association, has been formed. A spokesperson said the organization is fighting an application filed by Andrew Sewell for cultivation of 26 acres of tidelands in Dutcher's Cove. In an email to the KP News a CISA spokesperson wrote, "Dutcher's Cove and Dutcher's Creek support a coho salmon run, a local bald eagle family, cutthroat trout, and massive sand dollar beds... To say we will fight this (application) is putting it mildly. We are, in a word, at war." The spokesperson spoke on condition of anonymity, stating safety concerns.

Sewell purchased lots 3 and 4 in a four-lot waterfront subdivision in 1991. The deed contained a permanent easement placed on it by former owner Florence Best, reading in part, "Any commercial use of the Oyster Land/Tidelands is prohibited." In 1999, Michael Elston purchased Lots 1 and 2 from Best, with the same restrictions. Together, Elston and Sewell were the only owners of the entire waterfront subdivision. Under Washington real estate law, they could, and did, apply for and receive an

"Extinguishment of Easement" in 2000, despite Best's efforts to provide a perpetual easement for "...recreational/beach activity..." On July 19, Sewell applied to Pierce County for cultivation of 26 acres of intertidal tidelands reading, "with the main product being Manila clams, oysters and geoducks, in cooperation with the state and other shellfish growers..." "These are environmental issues that go way beyond legal constraints," the CISA spokesperson said. "Our goal has to be that no one can lease land from Sewell (and circumvent the easement restrictions)."

In July at the first meeting of the newly formed Shellfish Aquaculture Regulatory Committee (created by statute as a condition of House Bill 2220, sponsored by Rep. Pat Lantz and passed during the last legislative session), ground rules were developed: Public comment will be taken at meetings, participants may record proceedings, minutes and materials will be posted at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shellfishcommittee](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shellfishcommittee). Lantz summarized the intent of House Bill 2220, reminding members, "What we have now is a 'perfect storm' of tremendous economic opportunity colliding with property rights, ecological concerns, economic factors, and the Shoreline Management Act."

Remaining meeting time was used by Taylor Shellfish spokeswoman Diane Cooper's industry slideshow. No time remained for Patrick Townsend's presentation representing environmental interests. He requested permission to also submit a slideshow to members of the committee, and received no objection from members other than Cooper.

Following a field trip in early August to a Totten Inlet Taylor Shellfish geoduck operation, committee members received a letter from Seattle Shellfish owner Jim Gibbons (not in attendance or on the committee). He objected to Townsend's slideshow

submission. (Subsequent protest letters from Taylor and Dan Cheney, Pacific Shellfish Institute, arrived within days.) Gibbons wrote, "Although representative Lantz is an effective legislator she hardly seems bi-partisan on the issue of geoduck farming....not only did (she) show up (at the beach tour)...(her) continued presence in the HB 2220 process also seems inappropriate." Gibbons also objected to alternate committee member Laura Hendricks (Henderson Bay Shoreline Association), and a news reporter attending the beach event.

Lantz's emailed response to the committee and other attendees addressing Gibbons' concerns read, "I am not a member of the committee and have not held myself out as one. I was asked to be a participant at the opening meeting because I am, after all, the author of the legislation creating the body, and uniquely able to give the Legislature's intent and perspective in adopting the bill, and I have a significant interest in seeing that the committee process assures fair, even handed discussion and decision making... I intend to monitor the committee's work as my time allows."

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# Mom's pursuit leads to unique home-based business

By Irene Torres, KP News

One of Key Peninsula's newest home-based businesses is Embrace Art Enterprises, LLC, the brainchild of its president, Lynelle Scheid-Kearney. She describes her premier product as "a series of sturdy, laminated art learning cards" in a magnet-closed box decorated with a ribbon. The 5-inch by 7-inch cards comprise an art kit that contains full color photographic representations that "span prehistoric to contemporary art."

"It is a broad brush stroke of everything from cave paintings at Lascaux, France, to pop art," she said. "It is a condensed, straight-forward set that parents, teachers, caregivers and kids can work with, to see where it leads them — through an art period, through a medium of creativity, or learning more about history through works of art."

After two years of working on the kits, Scheid-Kearney is ready to market them. Each set of cards contains a short biography of the artist, and the work is showcased with a highlighted summary. A student of art history, she wrote the explanations for each card from an academic viewpoint. Each card has a bonus: a simple art exercise or a discussion of an art technique for a suggested project. The logo, a vividly colored butterfly with a stylized paintbrush body, along with the entire product, has been submitted to the U.S. Copyright Office for protection.

"The beauty of the project is the partnership with a foundation championing children's human rights," Scheid-Kearney said. She plans to donate a portion of her net proceeds to the United Nations network organization called To Love Children, which is "devoted to creating sustainable educational oppor-

tunities for the girl-child in the developing world," she said. "To Love Children is a nonprofit that deals with sexually enslaved and trafficked girls who suffer the most horrific circumstances. It is a hard subject that touched me deeply."

Her business partner, David Kenneth Waldman, a doctoral candidate at Walden University, heads To Love Children. He provided advice, consultation, and enlisted volunteers who designed the graphics on the packaging and developed the Embrace Art Website ([www.embraceart.org](http://www.embraceart.org)). Her local advisory board includes her father, Edward Scheid, a retired international sales officer who resides on the Key Peninsula with her mother, Nancy; John Rodenberg with the Small Business Development Center in Tacoma; and Rebekah O'Hara, a Tacoma attorney specializing in intellectual property and policy. Scheid-Kearney's cousin, Gregg Sibert, the owner of a successful New York City advertising agency, assisted her with the corporate identity.

Each of the art pieces owned by a family estate, such as the Salvador Dali Foundation, Henri Matisse, Roy Lichtenstein and Pablo Picasso, requires a separate license and special permission, and "are not so easy to go about reproducing." For example, the photographs cannot be cropped in any way, so fitting them onto uniform-sized cards is a challenge. Other artworks are in the public domain, and are less restrictive about reproduction.

Her favorite in the set is the Sistine Madonna by Raphael, an Italian Renaissance artist. She traveled to Florence, Italy, as a young adult and developed a love for Renaissance art. She chose that piece "because faith would have to be a big determining factor in the launch." "I had a lot of help, and I said a lot of prayers," she said.

The beautiful cards are printed in Hong Kong, where "the customer service is outstanding," she said. "I wanted to print as 'green' as possible. But it is very expensive to print on recycled product." The quality of the printing is very good, and the colors are true, as a match print shows.

The "designed to last" box contains a list of sources consulted, licenses attained, and credits for ideas borrowed from art history authors. She said she spent a lot of time researching and fact-checking for historical accuracy.

Having grown up in the Midwest, Scheid-Kearney tracked spotted owls and worked as an urban planner after college.



Lynelle Scheid-Kearney shows off her new product, which includes 24 art learning cards. Her favorite art piece of the set, the painting titled "Sistine Madonna" by Raphael, is shown here as an enlarged card (used in her trade show display).

Photo by Mindi LaRose

With her experience in the workplace, her degree in social ecology, which she described as "how we interact with the environment as a society," and knowledge from her art history classes at the University of California-Irvine, Scheid-Kearney decided she wanted to have a home business. She could be with her two children, Jack, 5, and Juliette, 8, and "supplement their education at home, while creating a profitable company with a humanitarian spirit."

Initially, a Seattle company told her the idea wasn't feasible. "I just decided that I wasn't going to give up, and kept nibbling at writing cards, attaining licensure to reproduce the photographs, and consulting with my advisers," she said.

The product was launched in June 2007 at the Washington Home School Trade Show and Convention in Puyallup, where it was well-received.

"I had a lot of encouragement. People like the synergy between entrepreneurial and the humanitarian spirit of the company and the Foundation's work," she said. Her target markets are the home schools and museums, for now.

Her idea was "born of a love of art

history and a desire to help kids... a sense of what is right," she said. "I wanted to choose pieces that children would respond to. It was tricky."

The advantages of this art kit are described by Scheid-Kearney as "fundamental to a child's cultural education: teaching life skills, developing informed perception, articulating a vision, and developing the ability to imagine what might be."

And what might be is what she is living. "I have learned so much about being an entrepreneur. I wasn't afraid to ask questions and ask for help," she said.

Her goals include being more creative, writing future boxed sets, and perhaps enrolling in the University of Washington art history program. Meanwhile, her next event is SOVREN's (Society of Vintage Racing Enthusiasts) Columbia River Classic Car Race in September, where Embrace Art will sponsor the Formula Ford race. Proceeds from the sponsorship will go toward uncompensated care at Children's Hospital in Seattle.

Her advice to others who want to start their own business is simple: "It's good to be patient," she said.

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# 'Treasure hunting' on the KP: Thrift stores offer good bargains, benefit charities

By Rick Sorrels  
Special to KP News

Antique shops and thrift stores are both businesses that deal in used merchandise, but the exact same item would sell for five to 10 times as much in the antique shop. An antique shop's raison d'être is to make a profit, while a thrift store is often a "not for profit" venture driven by charitable intentions. Five thrift stores exist on the Key and Gig Harbor Peninsulas: Angel Guild, SAVE, Orthopedic Guild's store, St. John's thrift store and the Goodwill.

Proceeds from Angel Guild in Key Center help local community organizations such as the Civic Center, the Community House, public schools, Fire District 16, and provide school scholarships. All proceeds from SAVE in Purdy fund Peninsula High School student scholarships. The Orthopedic Guild, on Kimball Street in Gig Harbor, benefits Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma. Goodwill on Point Fosdick in Gig Harbor helps people with disabilities and barriers to employment. St. John's Thrift Store, located on Skansie Avenue in Gig Harbor, fuels St. John's

Episcopal Church's good works.

The nonprofit thrift stores' merchandise is acquired through tax-deductible donations from the public. None of the thrift stores accept "junk," only good-quality items. All five thrift stores acknowledge receiving a surprising number of designer-brand, unused clothing and shoes with labels still attached.

The PBS TV series, Antiques Roadshow, consistently illustrates that treasures worth many times their selling price can be purchased for nickels on the dollar at flea markets, yard sales, and rummage sales. The same is true at thrift stores.

Christa Leathers, president of the Orthopedic Guild, says, "A customer purchased a purse a while back and later found valuable jewelry hidden inside. She informed us. Not knowing who donated the purse, we posted a notice. Nobody made a claim, so the purchaser kept the jewelry."

Angel Guild manager Bonnie Stinson said her store once sold an old Mickey Mouse toy for a quarter. "The purchaser later informed us that it was a collectible worth \$1,000. Another old, ugly cookie jar

we advertised online turned out to be a collectible that sold for \$500. We currently have over 1,000 collectible plates that we are trying to sell."

A St. John's customer said she once purchased a box of buttons at a thrift store containing a "half-cent" coin issued by the U.S. Mint, though she has yet to research its value.

"We receive donations from lots of different sources," says Kris Hohensee, SAVE manager. "A truck load of items from an estate included a sock with \$1,850 stuffed inside. Fortunately, that same person came back with a second load, including the matching sock, so we gave the money back to him. Was he ever surprised! We frequently find paper money stuck in books and Levi watch pockets. I'm sure people have found fortunes here in what they've purchased. I'm glad they don't tell me."

Goodwill manager Dylan Lippert said they recently sold a marine cargo light (oil lamp) date-stamped 1923 for \$24.99. "We later found out that new reproductions of the same lamp sell for over \$200 retail," he said. "Another donation,

which at first we had no idea what it was, turned out to be a leather football helmet dating to 1910, that we sold online for over \$500. We also sold an 18-karat gold nugget weighing 6.4 grams online for over \$200. Our Portland store sold a painting for \$160,000 at auction."

The stores often have real bargain sales. SAVE, for example, has two bag sales every month where customers can buy as much clothing or shoes they can stuff into a paper grocery bag for \$3 or \$5.

"We sell things for pennies on the dollar," Stinson says. "With today's economy, people are foolish to not shop at thrift stores."

All the thrift stores are well established. Orthopedic Guild, for example, has served Gig Harbor for 53 years, while Angel Guild has served Key Peninsula for almost three decades. Clothes and housewares are predominant at the five local thrift stores, but anything imaginable will eventually show up.

In addition, two dozen antique shops and consignment stores are scattered across the Peninsulas — all full of treasures just waiting to be found.



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(From KPMPD, Page 1)

working for several years to protect key Puget Sound shoreline properties, and has been collaborating with The Nature Conservancy and People for Puget Sound. The three-member coalition, called The Puget Sound Alliance, has identified five properties for protection, and plans to identify five more. The alliance launched a three-year, \$80 million shoreline-protection campaign in June 2006 with a \$3 million donation from the Gig Harbor-based Russell Family Foundation.

Currently, the Taylor Bay land is the only property on the west side of the Tacoma Narrows in Pierce County (two others have been identified in Kitsap and Jefferson counties).

"We are seeking multiple funding sources (including) federal and state," said Peter Dykstra, The Trust for Public Land Washington state director. "We are working with as many funding sources as we can identify."

So far, grant requests have been submitted with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (\$500,000) and Pierce County Conservation Futures (\$1 million). At its regular August meeting, KPMPD

commissioners adopted a resolution dedicating \$50,000 to "Taylor Bay Park," and Executive Director Scott Gallacher said most likely a large portion of those funds would be used to pay for back taxes (which will result once the property changes its use).

The site has 1,000 feet of beachfront, a fish-bearing creek and wetlands that spill into the mouth of an estuary. The creek is home to several protected species of salmon, including Coho, Chinook, Chum and Steelhead. Other species observed at the site are herons and kingfishers as well as various sea life like clams and oysters. A preliminary evaluation showed that the property may also be home to significant fern species.

"When I first visited the site, I really wasn't prepared for how beautiful and unspoiled the land would be," said Rinee Merritt, project manager in charge of the assignment for TPL. "It's amazing how a small piece of land can be surrounded by housing and still maintain its natural character."

A presentation was made to the SRFB in July, and at press time commissioners were expected to make their presentation before the Pierce County Conservancy board at the end of August.

The board has received 19 applications for this funding cycle, with \$1.3 million in total funding available so far. The board has had delays due to low member attendance at meetings, but is expected to make its recommendation to the Pierce County Council by the initial timeline of October.

The TPL has secured an option to purchase the property, and the first piece, 32 acres, must be purchased by January 2008. The other two pieces have separate deadlines of late 2008.

"If we're successful in our grant applications, we can give the owner fair market value for the property, and pass the property over into the care of the property to Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District," Merritt said. "We think Taylor Bay is pretty much a perfect fit for both of these grants, so we're hoping to get the green light and be able to announce that we've protected this magnificent piece of land for everyone to treasure by the year end."

If the acquisition is successful, this would be the second park with waterfront access in care of the local park district. The other one is Maple Hollow, which is expected to be transferred to KPMPD next year under a 50-year lease agreement.

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(From **BUSINESS**, Page 1)

department informed Guinn his address was changed. "Our new address is 9707 Key Peninsula Highway KPN, which was changed from 15317 KPN by the county due to growth. I want to make sure everybody understands that we have not moved," says Guinn.

There is a new venture on the horizon for Blondie's in Key Center. So far, the new sports bar concept is scoring big, according to the owners.

Cool Beans Espresso at the 76 Station on SR-302 and Wright-Bliss Road (aka four-corners) got a new owner in February. Jennifer Sorenson is a Peninsula High School graduate and former Gig Harbor resident who commutes regularly between her California home and her Gig Harbor family. Her manager, Julia Janikowski, is in charge of the daily specials and four other employees. An October grand opening is in the planning.

In August, business owner Laurie Ellis moved Ellis Accounting and Taxes into a new building, next door to Seabeck's Pizza. Their new address is 9501 SR-302, Suite B, Gig Harbor, WA 98329. "The phone number stayed the same, just the address changed," says her mother and business partner Genevieve Ellis. "We have twice the space we had before and all brand new — all very nice. My 10-year-old grandson, Alex Barna, is really a fan of next door. Fun," she says.

The Huck built a smokers' lounge in the back of its historic Huckleberry Inn. Friends and customers of the bar did all the work as a team effort. Smokers have a comfortable place to sit and relax outside of the restaurant and bar area, which are smoke-free.

The ownership of JED'S Good Stuff health food store will soon change. Dawn and Eric Kerkes made a decision to sell when they thought the family would be moving out of the area. "The business is growing. There is a big need for it out here," says Dawn Kerkes. She is ready to sit back, relax and consider starting something new.

John L. Scott Key Peninsula moved in next door to Green Acres Realty in August. "We already are doing very well," says part-owner and broker Jeremiah Durham. "We've had a ton of walk-ins, people stopping by welcoming us." Five agents opened the new business as a new roof was being built overhead. Another six agents will be added to the staff when they occupy the entire building. Durham estimates 35 to 40 agents will be on board by the time they move into the large vacant house next door. They hope to

make that move by the first of next year.

The Landing in Key Center has full occupancy. Larry Berg has moved Titan Formwork into Suites A and G; Ruth Danielson and Mark Sullivan of Mulberry Street Marketing and PR are in Suites B and E; Joe Hendricks moved JoBehaviors into Suite C; Rich VanEngers with Sturdi Products is in Suite I; Erin Ewald moved Pierce Conservaton District into Suite D; and building owner and manager Ira Spector of NextStep Systems, Inc. is in Suite F. "We certainly want to say thank you to the Key Peninsula," says Spector. "It's very rewarding that we have been received so well. We appreciate the support."

LuLu's Homeport Restaurant remodeled after the smoking ban went into effect. This summer, the establishment added a large beer garden complete with a horseshoe pit. It became so popular that a second pit is required for tournaments and competition. The construction was done by Ken Trudgeon and has a marine motif.

The beer garden at O'Callahan's Pub went into full swing this summer with live music entertainment on the outdoor stage. The construction of the stage and storage units was done by Scott Heffernan and the bar satellite was built by Steve Wilson.

RE/MAX RED DOOR is the new name on the old Windermere building. "Since



The crew of the newly renamed Absolute Auto Care. Photo by Hugh McMillan

1996 the building served as a realty and as the information center for the Peninsula for phone calls and phone numbers," says the former owner, Joyce Tovey. Tovey has moved to the new Windermere location as a licensed realtor but has retired as a broker.

RE/MAX RED Door owner Janna Manson looks forward to continuing the warm, friendly welcome policy associated with the downtown Key Center building. "One of my main purposes in buying the building is I loved the location and that residents counted on having a place to stop by. I'd like to introduce and welcome my broker, Bob Peterson. We look forward to doing business with Key Center," says Manson. Both Manson and Peterson are Lakebay residents.

Windermere Key Realty is in full opera-

tion at the former Brookside location. Twelve of the agents formerly from Key Center have added two new agents to their team. "All the agents live on the Key Peninsula," says office manager and agent Cindy Wilson, who is an outsider from the Gig Harbor area. "I have received a very warm welcome," she says. The building is designed so that offices have partial walls with glass dividers to the ceiling. "An open concept," Wilson says. "You can stand anywhere and see outside." The agents have already enjoyed a barbecue on their patio that overlooks Minter Creek.

Last but not least, Don Zimmerman, owner and pharmacist of CostLess Pharmacy at the Lake Kathryn Shopping Center, has worked with his pharmacist partner, Ian Warren, to create an extreme makeover for the pharmacy. "Don and I visited five pharmacies, and met with people from Texas and back East about different designs. We put together a design ourselves, right down to the floor mats and the size of the cash registers, then gave it to a contractor," Warren says. The new pharmacy has doubled its work space, which helps efficiency of the pharmacists and service for the customers. The new counter will be topped with a lighted awning that reads "CostLess Rx."



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# Sculptor Jon Lonning follows his muse

By Jerry Libstaff

Local sculptor Jon Lonning has a long family history on the Key Peninsula. His great-grandfather owned over 300 acres along Little Minter Creek. In the 1940s, Lonning's grandfather built a gas station/garage and his home at what was known as Lonning's Corner, now the intersection of Key Peninsula Highway and 94th Avenue. Lonning grew up in the house that has since been remodeled into a tavern.

In high school, Lonning was introduced to his muse. He attended a sculpting class presented by Ron Allie, who owned an art gallery in Scottsdale, Ariz. Allie saw potential in Lonning's work and encouraged and nurtured his talent. He was so impressed with Lonning's abilities, he provided a key to the art room so Lonning could work evenings and weekends. As Lonning's work developed, Allie showed the sculptures at his gallery and sold everything Lonning produced. A customer was so thrilled with a piece, he commissioned Lonning to do similar work for his twin brother.

After graduation, he created sculptures on and off for friends but spent much of his time developing and building his drywall business. He was hired to do the interior of his former home when it was transformed to a tavern.

In 1979, Lonning took another sculpting class to acquaint himself with the art.

Lonning says, "We all need inspiration from somewhere." In 1994, that inspiration came through a drywall client in Bonney Lake. During a conversation, the client asked if Lonning knew Larry Anderson, a nationally acclaimed sculptor and artist who lived nearby. The client introduced the two. They became friends and Lonning was invited to study with Anderson.

Lonning worked in the artist's studio over the following two years, learning the art of "plasticine" oil-based clay sculpting. "Oil-based clay is much more forgiving, but it stays forever soft. You have to make a mold from your creation," he says.

With Anderson's direction, Lonning decided to enhance his work through further classes. He began studying figure sculpting. "Each class lasted three hours and we had to try and capture the human form in that time," he says. "When doing a three-dimensional piece, you have to move around the subject every 20 minutes to get the details of the person. Three hours isn't a long time when you're trying to portray human features. If you make a mistake, you have to start all over."

During the figure-sculpting classes, Lonning met a couple who were involved in competitive sand sculpting. They invited him to join their team. They had a connection with the University of Washington and were involved in competitions all over the Northwest. Lonning joined and spent the following two summers competing in Oregon, Washington and Canada. He says, "The keys to sculpting with sand are

hard work and limited time." They kept track of the sand they moved during one sculpt and found they shoveled nearly 33 yards of wet material. "Time is of essence because of the tides. In one competition at Cannon Beach we started at four in the morning, preparing, just after the tide went out. We worked by car headlights. When the sun came up, I looked around and saw nearly 40,000 people on the beach."

In Longbeach, the team sculpted a piece called Pandamonium, which involved sand pandas swimming on a jet ski and in a capsized boat. "Ten minutes before judging, part of the jet ski collapsed. We quickly sculpted a crack in the jet ski and a hole in the capsized boat. We won first prize," he says.

Lonning created his first bronze in 1996, a dragon about 12 inches tall. The Bronzeworks Studio in Shelton invited him to display it. As Lonning continued to work in bronze, the studio requested each piece he developed.

In 1998, he created his largest bronze, a Shoebill Stork over four feet high. He entered it in the Puyallup Fair Art Competition and took first place.

In 1999 another Key Peninsula sculptor, John Jewell, invited Lonning to join the Peninsula Art League. He was elected treasurer in a very short time and continues in that role to this day. Five years ago, Lonning became involved in organizing the Summer Art Festival in Gig Harbor. He participates in all aspects of the program and is one of the judges for the juried artists.

Lonning has continued his drywall business all along. He has been a "drywall artist" for 30 years with Lonning Drywall.

*Jerry Libstaff is a writer who lives in Vaughn.*



The Genuine ARTICLE



LONNING



Photo courtesy Daniel Vander Poel

## Youth orchestra seeks players

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra Association will begin auditions and registration for all of its four orchestras on Sept. 13. The PYO is a 10-year-old Gig Harbor-based nonprofit organization that offers string instruction and opportunities to perform throughout the school year for all four orchestras and is one of the only youth orchestras to offer instruction to total beginners as well as more advanced students. Key Peninsula resident Paula Vander Poel was recently named the new executive director, after many years of volunteering for the organization.

"I love the orchestra," Vander Poel said. "I want to see it progress and expand. It's easy to promote something I believe in so strongly."

All rehearsals take place at Harbor Covenant Church in Gig Harbor. All instructors are state certified, and this past year the group also started offering high school credit. The majority of the funding comes from student tuition, but there are a limited number of scholarships and some instruments available. Contact Paula Vander Poel at 534-5384 or e-mail her at info@harborpyo.org for information.

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# Acclaimed play focused on maternity

By Jeanette Brown  
Special to KP News

On Sunday, Sept. 23, Women In Action will host a special performance of the critically acclaimed play by Karen Brody, "BIRTH," in Gig Harbor. The play is based on more than 100 interviews Brody conducted with mothers across America who gave birth between the years 2000 and 2004. The one-day-only Gig Harbor premiere will be directed by Key Peninsula resident Kimberly Oakes, who is also a practicing labor doula with a background in theater and a yoga instructor at Key Center Fitness.

The story of eight women, BIRTH delivers a theatrical experience that melds the unbridled hilarity, the unexpected poignancy, and the tragic truth about power in maternity care today; the key roles are performed by eight Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area actresses.

"Proceeds from this local production will go to benefit ICAN - The International Cesarean Awareness Network," Oakes said. ICAN's mission is to improve maternal-child health by preventing unnecessary cesarean births through education, providing support

for cesarean recovery, and promoting Vaginal Birth After Cesarean (VBAC).

The audience is invited to participate in an open talkback session that will be staffed by local obstetricians, midwives and labor doulas directly following the performance. Members of the audience will be able to discuss current childbirth practices with these professionals, with a special emphasis on vaginal birth after cesarean. Oaks' goal is to get a dialogue going after the show.

Brody started the organization Birth On Labor Day (BOLD) after she wrote her play "BIRTH" in order to form a global movement to promote mother-friendly maternity care through grassroots events that use the arts to educate communities and take action on maternity care issues. More than 30 cities have hosted the play and in September it will be performed at venues around the world in cities including Seattle, San Diego, Ontario, Houston, Boston, Chicago, Maui, and Amsterdam.

In 2006, BOLD's first year, performances of "BIRTH" raised more than \$10,000 for local maternity care groups. This year, the organization expects that number to more than triple. Oaks said,

"Similar to the 'The Vagina Monologues' success around the world in its efforts to end violence against women, BOLD performances of 'BIRTH' uses the arts to give educational performances that will serve to improve birthing options and safety for mothers."

Oaks is the local organizer for BOLD 2007 for this area, in addition to directing and acting in the play. "It is a lot to take on, but I am excited at the opportunity to raise awareness and get a conversation going in our community about childbirth practices in the U.S.," she said.

Oaks, who grew up in Edmonds, graduated from New York University with a bachelor's of fine arts in theater. She is currently enrolled in the Tacoma Community College's nursing program. After graduation she will be able to apply to local midwife schools and is already talking about next year's play and adding more productions. She is also looking for more sponsors for the 2008 season.

The play is scheduled for 3 p.m. at the Gateway Point Business Park. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) (type in BOLD Gig Harbor in the search field for ticket info and directions).

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# KP roads honor early residents

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Ole Erickson, Ira Creviston, Charles Lackey, and Merrill Thomas are men who once lived on the peninsula and gave their names to the roads where they resided. Prior to numbering of many Key Peninsula roads, they bore the names of residents of days gone by. Some names still exist, at least in part, such as Erickson (without the Ole).

Look at an old map of the area and family names whose descendants of the same name still populate the peninsula are evident: Danforth, Olson, Rickert, Ulsh, Van Slyke. Rickert is now a numbered road. Other pioneers whose names still grace a road have descendants who no longer carry the family name.

One road in particular prompts newcomer questions, as it is spelled differently on various maps: Whiteman's Cove Road or Whitman's Road.

Laurie Peltier, a Lakebay resident, heard stories of the area around Whiteman's Cove from old-timer Chick Rembert, who owned a lot of property there. Rembert claimed a local Native American tribe built lodges on what is now Camp Coleman

If anyone knows stories of the people who occupied a home near a road that bears their name, drop by the Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum when they're open (Thursdays and Saturdays, 1-4 p.m.), leave a note at the KP Civic Center office, or send it to P.O. Box 577, Vaughn, WA 98394.

land. Their buildings were sited high enough on the hill to see to the shores of the fingers of land north of Olympia, and to view the spectacular Olympic mountains to the north. "The whole cove was visible," Rembert told Peltier, "before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged it and built a dike for a state fisheries project."

Rembert said Natives gathered each summer at the Joemma Beach area for trade, tribal games, contests, or to find a spouse. A wide trail led from the beach to a burial ground on the north side of the cove. He told of "ghost" canoes gliding silently on the full moons of August, bearing wrapped dead to bury there. At times, large fires were built on the beach as a marker for travelers.

According to Rembert, the govern-

ment feared large gatherings of tribes who might be plotting war on the white settlers; land was claimed and sold around the cove.

Whiteman's Cove and the road leading to it supposedly honors a Mr. Reed, the first white man to marry into the Native tribe that frequented the area. Why not Reed Road? According to Rembert, Reed was at least partly responsible for the U.S. government takeover of tribal land, and thus was later held in contempt by the tribe. Rembert referred to them as Indians, and Peltier is uncertain of the tribal affiliation. It's possible they were Squaxins, as they were known to frequent the west coast of the peninsula.

When local area road names were defined for government purposes, the Peltiers and neighbors were told Whitemans Cove Road was too long, so it was shortened to Whitman Road. Local residents complained, but to no avail, which is why the name is not consistent on various maps and signs.

The Peninsula has many roads bearing names instead of numbers. Much of the history of those people may have vanished from local memories.

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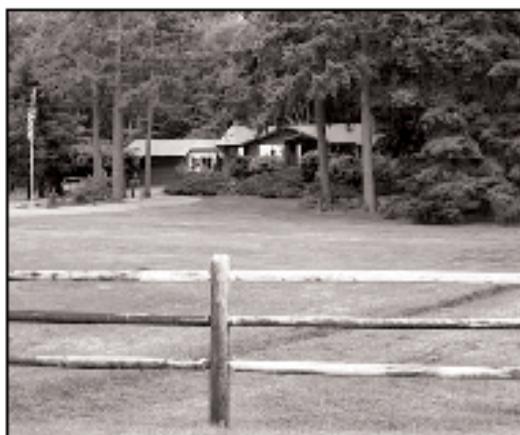
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# OBITUARIES

## Clifford M. Herman

Clifford M. Herman, MD, died Aug. 3 at age 76. He was a resident of Seattle, Tacoma and the Key Peninsula for the past 30 years.

Born in New London, Conn., Herman grew up in Portsmouth, N.H. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire, then from the University of Vermont College of



HERMAN

Medicine, where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. After joining the Navy, he trained in surgery, and served a year in Vietnam. He worked as the director of the experimental surgery division at the Naval Research Institute, and after retiring from the Navy in 1977 taught surgery at the University of Washington and directed the surgery residency training program. He retired in 1996. He was elected to leading medical societies, including American College of Surgeons, and the American Trauma Society.

In recent years, he was active in many organizations including Pierce County Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters Disability Pension Board, and Mary Bridge Foundation Board.

His first wife, Nancy, died in 1998 after a long illness. They are survived by their children Anne, her fiancée John DeLorie, Chris and Eileen Herman, Jeff Herman, Beth Herman and Terry Kinney, Andy Herman and Kristy Larch, their three grandchildren and step-granddaughter Rose DeLorie. He is also survived by his wife, Wendolyn Joy Herman, stepdaughter Sabrina Schroeder, sisters Patricia Howe and Barbara Marshall.

Memorial and interment services were held Aug. 18 at Haven of Rest. Remembrances may be made to The Nature Conservancy, www.nature.org. For information, visit legacy.com/moving tributes.

# Memorial celebration for Sharon Donehoo

Denise Cooper releases memorial balloons at the celebration of life for Sharon Donehoo, former owner of the Home Laundromat, on Aug. 11 at Penrose State Park. Cooper said, "Sharon was a great hard worker who had lots of friends. We will miss her terribly." Picnic participants were invited to write messages on the balloons.

Donehoo was born on July 16, 1945, and died July 14. Born in Texas and raised in the Olympia-Lacey area, she enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1963, attended boot camp on Paris Island and was stationed in Norfolk, Va. She moved to New York before returning to Washington in the 1980s. She worked for Weyerhaeuser for several years and purchased the Home Laundromat in the late 1990s.

After selling the Laundromat, she cleaned houses and did landscaping work. She was a community helper and special person to all those who knew her. She loved fishing, nature, and had a green thumb when it came to gardening.

Donehoo is survived by her brother, Rick Donehoo, and her partner, Jim Swanson. The family extends thanks to all the people in the community who loved her and attended the memorial, donated salmon, oysters, clams and salads, and the families and groups enjoying the park that day who stopped playing and stood at attention when Taps was played and the 40 signed balloons were released.

Photo by Chris Fitzgerald



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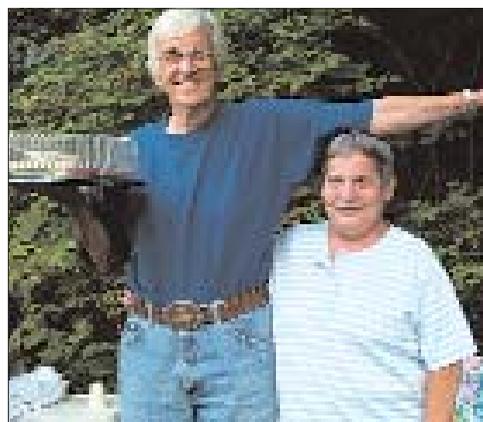
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Above, Donny, 3, Shayne, 2 and dad Don Vidovic get comfortable for the outdoor movie "Ghostbusters" at Volunteer Park in August. *Photo courtesy Scott Gallacher*

Right, Tall and short of fun! Jean Christoffersen and Alberta Ramsdell are caught clowning around at the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute picnic at Penrose State Park on Aug. 4 attended by more than 40 members and family.

*Photo courtesy Patsy Ties*



Cliff and Maureen Metcalf of Longbranch are having a good time at the KP Civic Center's fundraising dance in August that included music by The Dream Chaser Dance band.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Master Agility Champion dog, 7-year-old Penhurst Queen of Spain, Izabella, clears a hurdle at Volunteer Park at the Gig Harbor Kennel Club-sponsored all-breed American Kennel Club annual Agility Trials on Aug. 5. Izabella is owned by Helen King of Silver Creek. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



A group of young supporters are getting a free tennis lesson during an open house celebration at the newly remodeled tennis courts at the Civic Center. The \$14,046 renovation project was completed largely with volunteer labor, and the nonprofit group has nearly half of that amount left to fundraise in order to cover the costs. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Marilyn Robbins (r), family counselor from Federal Way, entertains violinist Sono Hasaki with her hobby of Tarot card reading at the Frog Creek Lodge Bed and Breakfast, which hosted a fundraiser in August. About 100 guests arrived for dinner, tours, and entertainment to support building a new yurt conference facility on the property. Lodge owner Suzanne Dircks intends to make the yurt available as a retreat for hospice volunteers and for local nonprofits. (See full story in the October Issue of KP News).

*Photo by Danna Webster*