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All day kindergarten, page 23

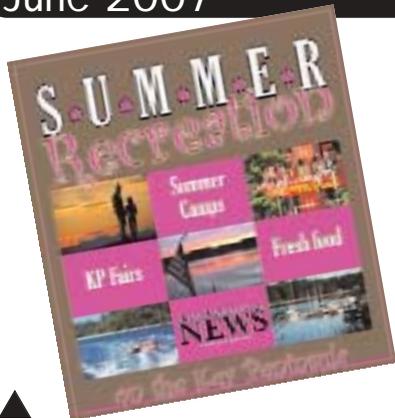
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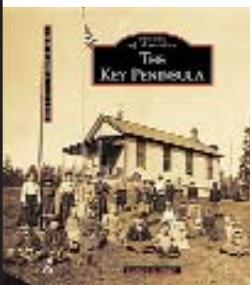
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June 2007



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The birth of a hospital



Photo by Danna Webster

In order to not interrupt the work, dirt from the construction site was brought indoors for the groundbreaking, and later returned outside. See more groundbreaking photos on our Website at www.keypennews.com.

St. Anthony project breaks ground

Danna Webster, KP News

Music from the Peninsula High School Jazz band entertained hundreds of guests arriving for the official groundbreaking ceremony for St. Anthony's Hospital on April 26. Heavy equipment continued to roll across the site, as well-wishers and officials gathered to celebrate the occasion. Mistress of Ceremonies Laure Nichols, a Lakebay resident, explained the reason the event was held indoors.

"We don't want to delay a moment of work," she quipped. Nichols was credited as the "get it done" person, and a key leader responsible for the hospital being built in Gig Harbor. She is a senior vice president for strategic planning and business development for the

Franciscan Health System and it was her role, as emcee, to recognize the significant contributions of the many supporters from the community, government, and the hospital administration.

Gig Harbor Mayor Chuck Hunter was the first speaker Nichols introduced. "Chuck Hunter worked very hard to assure that this hospital be built, from the first hour of his first day in office," she said. At the microphone, Hunter spread his arms wide and welcomed the crowd to a "great day."

The hospital will open with 80 patient beds in private rooms and can expand that number within its 217,000 square feet of space. The facility will create 450

(See HOSPITAL, Page 36)

Fire commissioners recall efforts grow

By Irene Torres, KP News

Fire District No. 16 Commissioners James Bosch and Allan Yanity are the subjects of much public scrutiny these days.

At least four KP organizations (KPBA, LIC, KPCCA, and the KP Community Council) and several individuals have formally and publicly invited the two to mutually resign "for the good of the community." Failing that pressure, a citizen group met at the home of self-described "irate citizen" Mike Salatino in early May to review their options under state law, RCW 29A.56.110.

(See FIRE, Page 34)

A life changed forever

Accident victim shares impact of near-deadly accident at the KP's most dangerous intersection

By Jeanette Brown,
Special to KP News

In the April issue of the Key Peninsula News, a tragic car vs. ambulance collision at the intersection of State Route 302 and 118th Avenue NW was brought to the attention of not only area residents but also to those residing in the entire

(See ACCIDENT, Page 37)

New Narrows Bridge is 'Good To Go!'

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

On or about July 18, the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge will change roles from a scenic curiosity to a major transportation conduit. As soon as it opens, tolls will be collected from all eastbound vehicles (traveling toward Tacoma).

According to Janet Matkin, communications consultant for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge Project, "A Citizen Advisory Committee made recommendations to the State Transportation Commission, which has accepted their proposal. The proposed toll rates are not yet set in concrete, because state law requires public hearings before they are finalized."

A public hearing was held on May 22, and another is planned for June 5 in Gig Harbor. Unless changes come about as a result of the public hearings, the toll rates will be as follows:

- No toll for pedestrians, bikes, or any vehicle not required to be licensed;
- \$3 for any two-axle vehicle using the "manual" toll lanes (stopping at the toll booth to pay);

- \$1.75 for automatic payment by "transponder" available thru the Good To Go program;

- Each additional axle for a vehicle or trailer adds \$1.50 for a "manual" toll or 90 cents for a transponder toll.

The toll for a two-axle micro miniature smart car and a fully loaded two-axle dump truck are the same amount. The number of axles is the determining factor. More axles equals higher toll.

The only exceptions for toll collection are for emergency vehicles either responding or returning from a Code 3 emergency call (using lights and siren). Even the armored car that hauls the day's toll booty to the bank will pay the bridge toll.

Matkin said, "The sole issue at the public hearings will be the toll rate, nothing else will be discussed. Some legislators would like to see the Good To Go! rate lowered to \$1.50. The manual rate does not appear to be a concern. We'll have to wait until the public hearings to see if any other issues are raised.

"The toll rates will be finalized by the Transportation Commission on June 5,

after the last public hearing," she said. "These rates will be locked in until June 2008, when they will be reviewed by the Citizen Advisory Committee, which intends to meet quarterly from then on."

Matkin said the WSDOT's expectation is that 40,000 vehicles will travel eastbound (toward Tacoma) everyday, and that the bridge will be paid off with tolls going away in 2030. "Naturally, the toll amount collected and the actual number of vehicles using the bridge will determine if the date is earlier or later than 2030," she said. "Manual" toll lanes will accept cash or credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover).

A Good To Go! transponder may be obtained from the DOT Customer Service Center located behind the Pt. Fosdick QFC. A minimum payment of \$30 by check or credit card will get a user up to six transponders. Each vehicle must have its own transponder; the device cannot be moved from vehicle to vehicle. An account can be set up either for a commuter to monitor the balance and be responsible to maintain a sufficient balance, or for an "automatic replenishment" from a credit

card or bank account whenever the balance drops to \$6.

If a violator crosses the bridge without paying, the Washington State Patrol will mail the driver a \$49 ticket, using a computer program that "reads" license plates numbers.

Those who fail to keep sufficient balance in the Good To Go account will receive a phone call from the WSDOT customer service, and if an account balance isn't replenished within three days, then they can also expect to receive one of those \$49 tickets. Replenishing can be accomplished in person at the Customer Service Center seven days a week, over the phone, or online.

WSDOT has a goal of signing up 25,000 drivers for Good To Go! before the bridge opening date. Matkin reports, "Over 12,000 have already signed up (and) we expect to exceed our goal."

As an extra incentive, a drawing will be held on the 15th of each month from May through September. Each drawing will have one person winning free bridge tolls for one year, and 30 people will win \$50 gas cards.



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2. The objective of Key Peninsula News is to support and create community by reporting news and features and providing a forum for local information. News and editorial coverage focuses on the Key Peninsula and immediately adjacent areas within Fire District 16.

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS!

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Former Sen. Oke remembered

By KP News staff

Former Sen. Oke lost his battle with cancer on Monday, May 14. A celebration of life on May 20 was attended by family, friends and dignitaries such as Gov. Chris Gregoire and state Transportation Secretary Doug MacDonald. A military graveside burial was held at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent on May 21. Oke served as the 26th Legislative District senator for four terms, from 1991 until 2006.

He has been recognized for his tireless work to build the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge — a goal he set when he first took office in 1991, believing it was the only way to solve the high accident rate on the bridge. He will also be remembered for his long effort to outlaw the giving away of tobacco products at public events where youths are present, such as rodeos, fairs and concerts. His bill to prohibit tobacco sampling was signed into law on March 9, 2006. A federal court judge



OKE

later struck down the ban on giving away free cigarettes as a violation of federal law. The ruling did not affect the ban on chewing tobacco samples.

Oke retired from a 26-year career with the Navy, where he achieved the rank of senior chief petty officer, a rank achieved based entirely on proven leadership performance.

In June 2004, Oke was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a rare form of blood cancer accounting for approximately 1 percent of all cancers. He received two stem cell transplants. Despite his illness, he continued to serve in the Senate and received a standing ovation from his colleagues at the end of his term (he did not run in 2006). He said it was his strong faith that saw him through his illness and kept him dedicated to his public service through many difficult days.

Oke was an avid pheasant hunter and fisherman. He made gains in four key fish and wildlife efforts as a senator; in 2006, the Centralia pheasant-raising facility, for which Sen. Oke is credited with securing funding to make significant improvements, was renamed the Bob Oke Game Farm.

BRIEFS

news

Legislative wrap-up

Legislative District 26th lawmakers sponsored or co-sponsored several bills relevant to the Key Peninsula in the last session. Rep. Patricia Lantz's SSHB 2220 calls for scientific studies for intensive geoduck farming practices along Puget Sound shorelines. HB 1793 removes the limit on cities eligible for indigent defense grants through the Office of Public Defense. HB 2056 mandates recycling containers at public events where beverages are sold. HB 4657 acknowledges the 2007 Gig Harbor High School AP Government students in winning the statewide "We the People" competition, and was co-sponsored by Representative Larry Seaquist. Also co-sponsored by Seaquist was HB 2049 establishing the right of counties to create Marine Resources committees. HB 2115 creates the Washington State Heritage Barn Preservation Program through the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preser-

vation, co-sponsored by Seaquist and Lantz.

Sen. Derek Kilmer succeeded in passing SB 5391, which directs a portion of fines for "toll violators" (non-payers) to fund Tacoma Narrows Bridge debt. Through amendment to HB 1052, SB 5969 was passed, providing travel grants to Washington students for civic education competitions at any level. Kilmer co-sponsored and passed SB 5155, "The Passport to College Promise Program," providing educational funding assistance to foster kids.

Doc Roes is Physician of the Year

Key Pen's Dr. William Roes was selected as the Physician of the Year in May by the Washington Academy of Family Physicians. The purpose of the award is "to honor a physician who exemplifies, in the tradition of family medicine, a compassionate commitment to improving the health and well-being of people and communities throughout Washington," according to the WAFP. Dr. Roes has been practicing on the Key Peninsula for more than 25 years.

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EDITORIAL

Doc Roes makes KP proud

Recently, the Key Peninsula was in the positive spotlight for a change — thanks to Dr. William Roes. The Washington Academy of Family Physicians named him the 2007 Family Physician of the Year for his efforts in a medically underserved community.

According to the WAFP, the purpose of the award is “to honor a physician who exemplifies, in the tradition of family medicine, a compassionate commitment to improving the health and well-being of people and communities throughout Washington.” For nearly three decades, Dr. Roes has been doing just that. Originally coming to the Key Pen as a medical student, he eventually became the owner of his own clinic and has remained a mainstay. Practicing solo for about two decades, three years ago he brought on board Dr. Paul Schmidt, a young doctor who has already won many praises from his local patients, and has since become Dr. Roes’ partner.

Dr. Roes has served his community at many levels, supporting various efforts. And who hasn’t heard the lovely sounds of the Down Home Band at local events? The doc founded the band, which has been playing since 1990, and has been directing it ever since. The annual tree lighting at the KC Corral or the Old Timers’ Day just wouldn’t be the same without it! And neither would the Key Peninsula without Dr. Roes.

Dr. Roes, we salute you for your many years of service to this community and to your many patients, young and old!

Community already approved levy

By Greg Anglemeyer,
KPMPD commissioner

Three times should be enough. The KP news article, “KP metro park district eyes levy,” overlooked a few key points.

It originally states that KPMPD has the “capability to levy” and says that we could have an “advisory vote.” Only later does it state that a vote was already taken: In 2004 citizens approved the levy at the same time we approved the formation of a park district.

The ballot was plainly worded — and even if some of the politicians at the time were less than clear about it, most folks I know actually read a measure before voting on it. It was clear that passing the bill to establish a district also empowered funding.

You neglected to mention that there have already been three separate occasions for the will of the people to be voiced: the original passing of Proposition 1; the subsequent survey done by the Key Peninsula Community Plan in September of 2004 that showed almost 70 percent of the respondents advocating community parks and trails, public acquisition of open space, senior and community centers and recreational programs; and the 2007 KPMPD survey that again shows tremendous support for parks and recreation along with a willingness to be taxed.

Contrary to your suggestion that we do not want to give the public a say — I would suggest that getting three times to respond is much more than we citizens normally get.

As a mentor at KPMS I talk to young

people frequently. They all talk about needing more to do and the challenge of finding jobs out here. A vital parks program can help keep kids out of trouble, fund jobs, inspire young adults and even help reduce the crime rate. Actually, I have yet to meet a KP resident who has said they are pleased with the current state of our parks. They have universally told me they want the parks district to get something done — and say they are willing to pay if that is what it takes.

Land will probably never cost less than it does today. Open space is disappearing. Our citizens want to protect and enhance the community as they remember it. In years past, the community banded together and did the work themselves, ala Volunteer Park. In today’s more complex society all kinds of factors make it necessary to develop and maintain our parks using a professional staff. (Last month on Parks Appreciation Day, there were only two of us from the Key Peninsula who showed up to work at Home Park. If some good neighbors from Gig Harbor hadn’t come, we would have been in trouble. Even with the work done that day, it will take a professional crew to keep the park in shape on a continuing basis.) Most parks’ grants from the state require matching funds in order to qualify. Last year we probably lost out on tens of thousands of dollars in grant money, as we had no funds and no comprehensive plan.

The average homeowner will be paying not much more than the price of a tank of gas per year. Absentee landowners will be shouldering a large

share of the taxes.

For the record — parks commissioners are volunteers. None of us is salaried. Not one penny of the levy will be going to a payroll check for a politician.

We are in the middle of developing our KPMPD Comprehensive Plan. Part of that plan was to allow all citizens a chance to express their wishes — that survey has been completed. We will continue to seek public input on the projects suggested by our citizens in that survey. We certainly don’t envision a professional basketball arena or a NASCAR track. We are looking at what our residents have asked for: parks, trails, sports fields and playgrounds. There are special interest groups who want horse facilities, kayak trails, a swimming pool and lots of other things. Having the relatively small budget we would engender through this levy will allow us to begin to work on the basics, and to match funds where we have an opportunity to snag a government grant that will allow us to stretch our dollars even further. We are looking at some fee driven programs as well — all to keep our taxes low and our services high.

My personal thanks go to each and every person who voted for the formation of the district, told the KP Community Plan Survey that we need to protect our natural resources and then indicated on our Parks Survey they still are waiting for parks and recreation to come to the Key Peninsula. Your will, announced three times, should be what guides us. The only bad thing is that the earliest we will start receiving the new funding is still a year away.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Local leaders request commissioner resignations

At the regular breakfast meeting of the Key Peninsula Business Association (on May 4), the association voted in favor of a motion asking that, for the good of the Key Peninsula community, Commissioners Jim Bosch and Allen Yanity resign from the Board of Fire Commissioners. Discussion indicated all members present

felt that the chronic personal dispute between Commissioners Bosch and Yanity has begun to affect the business of the fire district as well as the general business atmosphere of the whole Key Peninsula. This dispute is an embarrassment to the Key Peninsula community at large. We recognize that in the fall there may well be a proposition to expand the Board of Fire Commissioners from three to five. Also, we recognize that there is an active effort in the community to propose recall. However, neither of those options offers prompt relief. Therefore, for the good of the community, we call upon Commissioners Bosch and Yanity to do the

right thing and resign immediately.

We do not wish this action to be interpreted as a criticism of the District 16 firefighters. We are appreciative of the professionalism and expertise of our firefighters and recognize that they continue to do an excellent job under very difficult circumstances.

*Jud Morris, President
Key Peninsula Business Association*

On May 10, at the regular meeting of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, the board spent a considerable amount of time discussing the status of Fire District 16 as it has been reported in the local news

publications. Following a spirited discussion of the matter, the board passed the following two motions: that the Civic Center Association supports the position that the community would be better served if Commissioners Bosch and Yanity would resign and allow the courts to appoint interim replacements; and that the Civic Center Association unanimously supports the District 16 firefighters, and gratefully acknowledges their professional conduct in the face of very trying circumstances.

*Ben Thompson, President
Key Peninsula Civic Center Association*

(See **LETTERS**, Page 5)

(From **LETTERS**, Page 4)

On May 16, at the regular monthly meeting of the Longbranch Improvement Club, the membership voted unanimously to ask that Commissioners Jim Bosch and Allen Yanity resign from the Board of Fire Commissioners.

It has become clear to the membership of the LIC that Mr. Bosch and Yanity have lost their ability to objectively govern the affairs of the fire district, and worse, they have lost the public's trust and faith that they can or will do so. Their present refusal to resign is clear and compelling evidence of their unwillingness to put the good of the Key Peninsula community ahead of their own personal agendas.

*Linda LeBlanc, President
Longbranch Improvement Club*

After considering recent events, the Board of Directors of the Key Peninsula

Community Council feels it would be in everyone's best interests if Commissioners Bosch and Yanity resigned their positions.

Although these two gentlemen may have provided useful guidance and informed oversight to our fire department in the past, their ongoing personal feud has distracted them from the diligent performance of their important duties. Their uncontested departure would avoid further adverse publicity for Fire District 16, and would allow our firefighters to resume their focus on providing continued outstanding emergency service to our community.

Accordingly, we ask Mr. Allen Yanity and Mr. Jim Bosch to both resign immediately.

*Barb Trotter, President
Key Peninsula Community Council*

Readers look forward to each issue

We enjoy reading your most excellent

newspaper very much; in fact, it is the only one we read! Your articles are well written; the pictures are always varied and interesting and give a real flavor of the happenings of our unique community.

We look forward to what's "new" in the Pen every month! Thanks for all the hard work you do every day; it's much appreciated.

*Jim and Dotty Davis
Longbranch*

Park district appreciates donation, volunteers

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District would like to thank Key Peninsula Fire District 16, Key Center Auto Repair, and the Zach & Adi West Memorial Foundation for their assistance in the park district receiving the surplus 1991 GMC Truck. The district thanks the fire district for the donation of the truck, Key Center Auto for their

donated labor and parts to ensure the vehicle in great working order, and Zech & Adi West Memorial Foundation for contributing funds for new tires, oil change and other items.

The district would also like to thank the 119 volunteers who contributed more than 290 hours of volunteer time for Parks Appreciation Day; at a rate of \$18.04, the net benefit to the district was almost \$5,300. Some of the tasks volunteers completed included mowing and removing tree limbs at Home Park; trail maintenance and removal of a refrigerator, a washer/dryer and a box spring and mattress at Rocky Creek Park; cleanup of the Purdy Sand Spit beach including hauling 42 trash bags and six tires; refurbishing seven picnic tables at Volunteer Park; and various yard and grounds work at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

*Scott Gallacher, Executive Director
Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District*

Surplus truck goes to good use



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Fire District 16 Division Chief Chuck West presents the keys to a 1991 GMC truck to KP Metro Parks District Board President Caril Ridley, as Commissioners Ross Bischoff, Kip Clinton and Greg Anglemeyer look on. The fire district donated the surplus vehicle to the parks district, which until now was using staff vehicles to transport equipment.

BRIEFS

news

FD-16 levy to be placed on August ballot

The Fire District 16 commissioners voted 2-1 in May to place a levy lid lift measure on the August ballot. The public is asked to authorize the district to collect the full \$1.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value that the district is entitled to by law. Because of I-747, which only allows a 1 percent increase in levies every year, the district's current collection is 98 cents per \$1,000, and that amount will decrease at the end of the year due to the expiration of a previous voter-approved levy. Part of the ballot measure will also ask the voters to authorize a 6 percent increase of the levy during the second through the sixth years. A bill passed by this year's Legislature now allows jurisdictions to seek voter approval for multi-year lid lifts.

KVPI lifts toll concern

The Community House in Home regularly sends two trucks to Tacoma to pick up food and other supplies for the benefit of the food bank. Already short of cash, the organization faced yet another expense with the upcoming bridge tolls. Thanks to the Key Peninsula Veteran's Institute, the food bank will soon be the recipient of two transponders in the "Good To Go"

program, with a credit balance of \$200. KPVI hopes to continue the funding as needed.

Key Center library goes hi-tech

Self-checkout stations at library branches in Key Center and Gig Harbor were the first to be installed on an experimental basis in the 17-branch Pierce County Library System. PCLS Communications Director Mary Getchell reports the experiment is "successful beyond our expectations, and gets librarians out from behind the desk and into the (book) stacks where they can provide better personalized customer service."

A new service, "My Library DVD," was added at the Key Center branch in May. This service streams downloaded movies (mostly classics and documentaries) and recorded TV programs on topics such as nature, cooking and history, right to a home computer. The download "self-destructs" and disappears from the patron's computer after three weeks — standard book checkout expiration time.

Good news for laptop users: The KC library is now WiFi-friendly. Branch supervisor Rosina Vertz said the system is operational for about 100 feet from roughly the center of the library. That means if a patron's laptop is set up with WiFi and the battery is charged, the laptop can connect to the Internet wirelessly. The wireless connection should even work in the parking lot.

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KPCCA Upcoming Events

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- June 15 Last night Friday Night State
- June 29 Skating Fundraiser for Sam Shake \$5.00 per person 6-9pm
- June 28 July 4 - Fireworks Sale
- July 13-15 Key Peninsula Community Fair

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SR-302 – play it again ... and again

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

In its March 2004 issue, the KP News commented on a 1993 State Route 302 corridor study commissioned by the Legislature. One of the report's recommendations included constructing an alternative route. The report said that "as this formerly rural region becomes more suburbanized, pressure on existing transportation facilities will continue to erode the level of service along SR-302." The Legislature charged that WSDOT "must explore all possible alternatives" prior to making a final recommendation on the new corridor for this beleaguered and deadly stretch of road. At that time, the Washington State Highway System Plan for 2003-2022 outlined improvements to SR-302, including widening and several cross-section improvements. But, the KP News reported, the plan was "unconstrained," unprioritized, according to Vicki Steigner, assistant planning manager for WSDOT Olympic Region.

Steigner said at the time that later in 2004 a multiple-agency summit would

meet to identify projects likely to be funded in the next 20 years. "Having a study done is a major step," she said. "To rank it higher, the strategy is to work with legislators and the PSRC (Puget Sound Regional Council which prioritizes road projects for the region that includes Pierce County, then makes recommendations to the Department of Transportation) to make sure it's a priority."

Three years later, Steigner isn't amused when she says the joke around her office is that WSDOT "used to build highways with a little environmental work thrown-in — now we do environmental work with a little highway-building thrown-in." She is the current contact person for yet another SR-302 environmental study, slated to begin sometime in late July. The 2005 Legislature allocated \$5 million from the newest gas tax (referred to as the Transportation Partnership Project) for the new study. The package also included an additional \$5 million toward widening 302 from Purdy to Creviston, a WSDOT interim safety project. This project will establish turn lanes and shoulders; funding is provided and the project is set

to begin in January 2012. No further studies are needed; however, WSDOT must still get project-specific permits.)

Turns out the 1993 study got thrown out with the bathwater — the three-year lifespan on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has expired, and so much time has transpired that "the recommendations for traffic may no longer be viable." The 2007 legislative session charged that WSDOT must explore all possible alternatives for the SR-302 corridor. The 1993 study named several alternatives, which got narrowed down to five — thereby precluding "all possible alternatives," according to Steigner, who says the Legislature effectively "threw out" all previous data gained.

"The department (WSDOT) builds what the Legislature tells us to build," she said. "I would have preferred to start with the 1993 study and work forward rather than start at square one again." She is still working with WSDOT headquarters in Olympia to find out if any of the previous study can be salvaged so it need not be repeated.

Steigner has yet to establish her

"team" and appoint a lead person. She says she will need a wetlands biologist, a salmon recovery specialist, noise and traffic experts, among others. Likening the complexity of the process to something less technical, she agrees it's like laying out puzzle pieces. Every agency stakeholder in the state transportation system is one piece of the puzzle, each charged with protecting, investigating or overseeing one specific piece of a large project. And when it comes time to put all the pieces together, they don't mesh because they haven't been machined to form one seamlessly finished product.

When the fiscal year begins in July, and funds are released so WSDOT can begin duplicating their former efforts, it will be just about the time the Key Peninsula Community Fair will be happening. Steigner hopes to have a booth at the fair to become acquainted with the community. She is clear about her goals even if her employer can't seem to get past "start"; she says she wants to "build the best road we can, and use the (people's) money wisely."

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IMPact House-raising

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

When the IMPact Key Peninsula organization held its annual fundraising luncheon on May 10, the keynote speaker was Nancy Solomon. She began her presentation by saying, "I wish I didn't have to be here today — I'm angry about it." The packed room only needed a moment to understand the meaning behind her statement, and applauded in support of the sentiment. On that beautiful sunny afternoon, despite a finely-prepared and plentiful lunch, despite dining in the company of local business owners, professionals, and political leaders, that room was the last place anyone there wanted to be, because the topic and the reason for gathering was domestic violence.

Solomon is intimately familiar with the silence, denial and pattern of this terrible family trouble. She knows domestic violence is boundless; she learned it as a Jewish child in New York. Jewish families did not suffer this gentile affliction — the women in her family were adamant about that, and so it was true: "It must have been her fault." When she was 32, however, her

grandmother said she was afraid "he would kill you" if she spoke. Solomon's Aunt Shirley "didn't want to get involved"; her Aunt Joyce "didn't know what to do," and so did nothing.

One in four women, and fewer men (approximately 15 percent), will experience domestic or sexual violence in their lifetimes, according to Solomon's research. Now a counselor who helps victims find their voices, she says, "We were taught to be quiet. We can't be quiet anymore."

Once she stood on the George Washington Bridge, and was too depressed to jump; she felt she wasn't even worth that. Speaking to the quiet group assembled on May 10, Solomon said, "Today is an invitation to help other women get off their bridges." She looked audience members straight-on and said, "It's what domestic violence victims don't get that is the problem. It's the lack of safety, the warm hug — it's what we don't do today (at the luncheon) that is the problem."

As she spoke, purses rustled, men reached for the inside pockets of their jackets, checkbooks appeared on tables with pens poised over them.

Penny Gazabat, IMPact House executive director, told the audience the organization's goal was to raise \$100,000 over three years. IMPact receives \$12,000 annually from Target stores, a group of local women donate on a monthly basis, and the effort recently received a \$500 grant from Pierce County. Gazabat said that grant would be doled out as needed for tolls to get women across the new Narrows Bridge to safety, as there is currently no safe house either in Gig Harbor or on the Key Peninsula.

Solomon strode back to the podium and upped the ante. "This is a fundraiser!" she said. "When we have strong services in an area, not only are we serving them (victims), we are also saying we have zero tolerance for domestic violence." Looking at Gazabat, she said, "Let's make the goal \$1 million in three years — starting now!"

Gazabat grinned, nodded, and around the room, pens started writing.

The IMPact House operated on the Key Peninsula for several years but was closed Jan. 31 due to operating funds shortage. The May 10 was the board of directors' second annual fundraising luncheon and marked the kick-off for a capital campaign to raise funds for another safe house. The new shelter would likely be located in Gig Harbor.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

IMPact fundraiser's keynote speaker Nancy D. Solomon, a resident of Gig Harbor who has been featured on KOMO-TV's Northwest Afternoon, KIRO-TV's Hour Northwest and on news programs on KOMO, KIRO, and KING-TV. Solomon spoke to the audience about her own experience growing up in an abusive home.



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23 rd	9:30 - 11:30	Rick Gonzalez
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Comprehensive plan wraps up

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

During the month of May, the Pierce County Planning Commission met four times at McColley Hall at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church to both hear staff presentations and take public testimony. The work of the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board, made up of local peninsula residents, is drawing to a close, over two years after it was begun. Each meeting focused on specific elements of the plan recommended by the board, based on extensive citizen input, county moderator/mentor advice, and much discussion among board members about how best to serve the greater community.

The first meeting on May 9 spoke to the land use element, and its most controversial topic, rezoning of land, with three sites in particular. The room was packed as the meeting began; testimony was limited to five minutes per person, and many took advantage of this time to have a final say, or make a final plea. When Rick Sorrels took his turn at the podium, he told the commissioners, "A percentage of people on the KP think this is a whitewash. The 15

(local) people on the board represent their own interests; they have no legal expertise. Members have good intentions (but) the planning department is shoving in their own recommendations..."

After most of the 20 or so speakers from the audience aired the topic of their specific interest, many of them left the meeting. At the conclusion of the evening, only about 25 people remained in the audience.

The May 16 meeting focused on facilities, services, and community character elements. These included not only how citizens envisioned the physical appearance of the future peninsula, but also new developments, roads and transportation — all topics on the minds of many residents on a daily basis. Audience testimony reflected citizen frustration with the lack of action to correct deadly roadway conditions.

David Franta spoke for many when he stated that the proposed plan does not provide for residents who need to commute off the KP. He told the commissioners, "Maybe people haven't gotten involved because they just want the government to go away and leave them

alone... This whole process is something the Soviet Union in the 1930s would have been proud of — an exercise in group think — getting people to think the way you want them to."

On May 23, the natural environment and economic elements were reviewed. Bay Lake restrictions brought citizens to the podium; salt water intrusion into wells was again discussed, as well as controversial "aquifer-recharge" issues, which remain unresolved. Economically, tax breaks for certain environmentally-friendly practices, the often repeated complaint about county overregulation, permitting fees and their duplication through the multiple-agency process, were all addressed by both county planner Mike Krueger and audience speakers. A request was again made for the county to establish a satellite permitting office this side of the Tacoma Narrows. Fire Chief Chuck West summed up the frustration of many regarding stagnant county practices when he said that in the fire service, the inability to alter course for greater benefit was called "tradition unimpeded by progress."

The Planning Commission, an advisory board to the Pierce County



Photo by Danna Webster

Senior Planner Mike Krueger presents the plan to the county Planning Commission.

Council, will make its recommendations on the KPCPB's findings and recommendations to the full council for its consideration and final action.

At press time, the Planning Commission was expected to finalize its work at the May 30 meeting. According to Councilman Terry Lee's office, tentative hearing dates before the Community Development Committee of the council are scheduled for Aug. 6 and 20, and Sept. 10. Final action is anticipated at the full council in early October.



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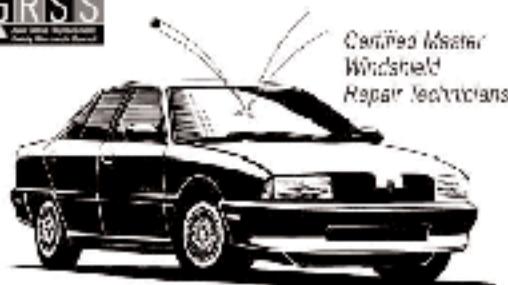
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Showcasing the Key Peninsula at the Livable Community Fair

The KP Civic Center had a steady crowd of people, some from beyond the KP, for the Livable Community Fair on May 12. It was a chance for community members to mingle with local civic leaders as well as learn about various local organizations and services. The annual event is organized by the Civic Center in collaboration with Safe Streets. For more photos, visit our online gallery at www.keypennews.com.



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



Left, Shelly Rajkovich and her daughter, Justine, a PHS student, cheer for the Key Peninsula Baptist Church.

Below left, Gig Harbor twins Breeze and Ariel, 21 months, came to the fair with mom Gail Eddy.

Below right, Drew Hook, 4, of the Vaughn Coop Pre-School has a ball on a Kazuma Mini-Falcon 90 at the Mad Dog Racing display.

Photos by Mindi LaRose, Hugh McMillan, Rodika Tollefson and Danna Webster



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Above, Ashleigh Hicks, 10, and her siblings take turns tossing a life ring at the outdoor display under the guidance of the Pierce County Sheriff's Marine Services Unit, where Sgt. Brian Ward taught kids and adults basic water safety.

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Left, Sam Shake, a KPMS student, draws the winner for his raffle, which raised funds for his trip to Holland as part of the nationwide "People to People" program.

Geoduck aquaculture: Where are we headed?

State, county regulations on the way

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

With the bi-partisan passage of SSHB 2220 at the recently ended legislative session (only one “nay” vote in combined House/Senate votes), the methods, locations, and potential environmental concerns surrounding geoduck aquaculture in the Puget Sound region have finally come under public scrutiny. SSHB 2220 requires identification of location/size of all existing sites, something previously unknown in some areas, notably Mason County, home of Taylor Shellfish Farms. It also sets forth specific guidelines for equipment identification, marine data collection for pollution studies (done in conjunction with the University of Washington Sea Grant Program), and has been included in the state budget for allocation of funds to carry out the full text of its mandate.

House of Representatives sponsor Rep. Pat Lantz, D-26th District, acknowl-

edged this bill is “a first step in a long and complicated process” involving an industry that has enjoyed state-sanctioned privilege since before statehood.

“(This new law) supersedes DNR’s decision to lease 25 state acres per year for 10 years,” she says, referring to the new law’s downgrade in leasing potential to 15 state acres per year through 2014.

Lantz remains concerned about the potential industrialization of private tidelands. “We can regulate private landowners,” she says. “But we can’t tell them what to do.”

With the recent classification of the entire west side of the Key Peninsula, from Rocky Bay to Devil’s Head, by the state Department of Health as suitable for commercial geoduck aquaculture, private tideland owners may find themselves with both new opportunity and environmental dilemmas. At a recent geoduck forum at the Civic Center in Vaughn, an audience question was directed to Councilman Terry Lee. “Is there a way to protect the environment and also property rights?” Lee’s response drew the only rumble of disagreement from the audience that evening. His

reply was, “I believe you can (protect the environment) if you allow the activity to occur but mitigate the negative impacts.” This contentious issue continues to be debated between forces both pro and con, even while the new state regulations are being instituted.

At the county level, the Pierce County Council Community Development Committee met twice in May, heard yet more testimony both for and against aquaculture, and continued to progress toward passage of a new county ordinance (2007-34) regarding geoduck aquaculture regulation, and docks/piers. Proposed county regulations place even greater restrictions on currently-used geoduck farming methods than those imposed by the new state statute. The difference between the two regulations (state and county) is that any stakeholder — environmental group, shellfish industry, or Pierce County agency — can seek to delay implementation of the county ordinance through a variety of legal maneuvers, progressing up to the state shorelines regulatory body, thereby preventing the implementation of regu-

lation at the county level. The likelihood of this occurring is great, as evidenced by legal complaints filed by both the county and the shellfish industry after receipt of Pierce County Deputy Hearing Examiner Terrance McCarthy’s formal recommendations regarding two Key Peninsula shellfish applications last year — which, as a result, remain pending.

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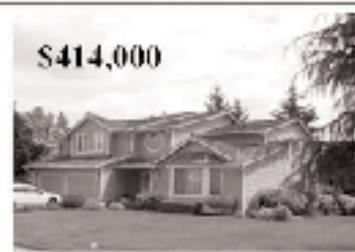
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Church recognized for disaster relief efforts



Photo courtesy of Associated Ministries

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church received the 2007 Ecumenical Award from Associated Ministries on April 28 in Tacoma. The church was nominated by the United Methodist Church in Gig Harbor in recognition of the KP church's response to the windstorm last December. Other congregations provided food and shelter, but the numbers at KPLC, which served three hot meals a day and provided bedding, were called overwhelming. Barely certified and trained by the Red Cross before the severe windstorm knocked power out across the peninsula, the church, with volunteers from other congregations, showed the "true example of the spirit of community," noted Methodist pastor Al Aosved in his recommendation. The annual award is given "to individuals or groups engaged in promotion of peace in the broadest sense, the desire for fullness of life for all people and a vision of health, wholeness and justice."

In the photo: Council President Marianne McColley accepts the award, as Pastor Heinz Malon looks on.

BRIEFS

news

Community Council to act on geoduck policies

The Key Peninsula Community Council invites community feedback on commercial geoduck farming policies. On April 8, the well-attended geoduck forum provided Key Peninsula citizens an opportunity to inform themselves about the facts concerning the aquaculture industry's proposed activities in our area. After the meeting, Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee indicated the county will update its official policy concerning aquaculture and requested that the Key Peninsula Community Council (KPC) provide a recommendation to facilitate this process. To help ensure that all local concerns are adequately heard, the council directors are inviting interested residents and property owners on the Key Peninsula to attend its regular June meeting. The KPC will prepare its recommendation to the Pierce County Council based in part on the comments and opinions it receives from the public during this meeting. The meeting will be held on June 13 at 7 p.m. at the Key Center public library.

Park district has new volunteer coordinator

The Key Peninsula Metro Parks has a new volunteer coordinator whose role is to coordinate volunteer jobs, make assignments, plan events and monitor progress. George Robison, former president of the KP Lions Club, proposed the new position to the commissioners, who approved the idea. The coordinator's position, which is also volunteer, was filled by Laura Armstrong, a member of the Lions and a previous parks volunteer.

Angel Guild accepts grant applications

Applicant-organizations requesting Angel Guild grants are sometimes unaware of the thrift shop's guidelines for consideration of funding. (No grants are made to individuals.) Requests must be in writing, giving the reason for the request, the amount, contact information and the date when funds are needed. All requests go before the membership meeting only once a month, and should be received by the finance committee well before the grant is needed. Please address requests to Angel Guild, Finance Chair, PO Box 172, Lakebay, WA 98349.

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August is last Renaissance Faire event on the Key Pen Faire moving to new site in 2008

By SD Galindo, KP News

Rumors have been flying for a while that the Washington State Renaissance Faire is moving to Belfair from the Wauna site off State Route 302, where it has been held for many years. Ron Cleveland, founder and president of the faire, confirmed the move to the KP News in May. He said the faire organizers were surprised by a rent increase this year but by then they had already spent close to \$140,000 on this year's event because planning starts well in advance.

The move has been in the works for some time. Cleveland said initially the organization tried to acquire the acreage owned by the Department of Natural Resources behind the present site, but when this did not happen, they teamed up with the KP Metro Parks District with an offer to lease 80 acres of the 360 acres the DNR offered to transfer to KPMPD (through its Trust Land Transfer program). The deal fell through, however, and Cleveland looked for other properties. The present site, at just 29 acres, is too small; parking and traffic issues in the area have no relief in sight, and the faire is growing yearly.

The new site is a 150-acre fairground with 45 acres of parking that includes a two-lane drive, allowing all traffic to be off the main roads. It has a creek and a logging road, and it is right off State Route 3, a couple miles from the State

Route 302 junction in Allyn. When the site is finished, "...we will build the faire to six weekends and start a Shakespearean festival similar to the one in Oregon," Cleveland said. "We will host Highland games, Society for Creative Anachronism events, black powder and Civil War reenactment, as well as other community and tourism related cultural and educational events."

Asked if the move to Belfair would impact attendance, Cleveland said they could lose up to 25 percent the first year, but he hopes to offset that by good advertising in 2008; and he feels the move is essential for the long run.

The fairgrounds will create many new jobs in the area as it grows, since a property with ongoing events requires both land and facilities management.

Meanwhile, planning is in full swing for this year's event. There is nothing else that brings so much creativity, education, and fun to the Key Peninsula. Last year, kids could learn sword fighting safely in the melee area of the First Knights Academy; young warriors (girls and boys) were knighted, and Her Majesty gave formal certificates of princess-ship and lordship to young people on a central stage. There was a daylong scavenger hunt where children could seek out all the story book characters they know, get their autographs and a prize; there were several crafts areas and games to play as well as rental

costumes; some pirates brought colorful parrots and let the kids hold them. There was a variety of entertainment and shows, and even cannons were fired at closing time.

With tens of thousands of visitors to our area over the three weekends of the Renaissance Faire in August, and most (80 percent) coming from more than 50 miles away, local travelers know they need to plan around the daytime event. Only Mount Rainier draws more attention in Pierce County. Although the flow is monitored, cars back up on SR-302 during the day. A controversy with the Kathryn Village shopping center could make things worse for Key Pen patrons and locals alike this year. The center's management may revoke permission for faire participants to park on three acres nearby — putting 600 to 1,000 cars on the road to wait for parking at the main site (200 cars can park on an acre, but the turnover may be twice daily); 600 cars would back up traffic at least three miles.

This many people coming to the area does — like conventions hosted in big cities — bring lots of dollars. Faire vendors earn around \$1 million, Cleveland said, so Key Pen businesses are seeing profits, too. He said increased revenue to the local area, reported to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, was \$4 million to \$5 million, and close to 1,000 room nights are purchased by visitors and vendors,

who stay 18 days to set up and tear down their booths.

The faire spends close to \$150,000 on the production, and the vendors spend money, too. Even those who have RVs like to get out, have dinner, grocery shop and refill their propane locally.

Pierce County recognizes the tax benefit of the event: It supported joint advertising with Renaissance Faire partners, such as The Little Nickel, with a grant of \$10,000, according to Cleveland. Ads were run in the Key Peninsula News, The Kitsap Sun, the Peninsula Gateway, the Kitsap Tourism Guide, Pacific Publishing, NW Navigator, the Little Nickel and the News Tribune of Tacoma. The organization spent more than \$26,000 on print advertising, plus about the same on radio ads.

Cleveland said the faire gives away more than 6,000 family weekend passes to nonprofits and media outlets to use as fundraisers, which can bring 20,000 to 25,000 visitors to the Key Pen, in addition to another 50,000-plus paying customers who purchase tickets at the gate or online. The 2006 event brought in about 18 percent more faire-goers than 2005, so an increase this year might be anticipated as well.

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TCC's GED program needs volunteers, students

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Volunteer Literacy Program at Tacoma Community College's Gig Harbor campus has provided literacy and basic skills education to local residents since 1989. The program offers one-on-one tutoring to students in basic skills and English as a second language (ESL). All instruction is provided by trained volunteer tutors. The tutor and student work together toward the student's goals two to four hours per week. Among the program's activities, each Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon, GED classes are conducted at the Key Peninsula Fire Department's station in Home. The students are serious. They work hard. They want to succeed and to attend the group's graduation ceremony, complete with caps and gowns, on June 14, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at Evergreen Elementary.

Doris Harshman, TCC teacher who instructs at the Washington Corrections Center for Women in Purdy, also handles the program at the Home fire station.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

TCC GED students Kim Barrett, Nick Gerou and Sam Smith study toward the group's graduation ceremony scheduled for June 14 at Evergreen Elementary.

She said, "All of my present students at the fire station are from the Key Peninsula."

Linda Creswell, TCC's adult basic education coordinator, advised that the school is seeking volunteers. "We are looking for a tutor who is comfortable with basic math skills to go once a week,

Tuesday or Thursday, from 10 a.m. to noon to the GED class at the Home fire station to help students with their math. This allows the teacher to focus on other students for that amount of time. There are only a few weeks left in the quarter and, perhaps, if someone comes forward to give this a try, they will like it enough to give back in the fall. We are always looking for tutors and students."

Many students needing basic skills or ESL education cannot afford to pay for private tutoring. This program is the link they need to advance toward their personal, family and work-related goals. Student achievements include learning to read, helping with a child's schoolwork, placing phone calls to doctors, reading prescriptions, getting a job, reading to a child, obtaining a library card and passing the GED test. Once students receive the help they need, they can also gain admission into regular classes at TCC by passing the college entrance test.

"I would recommend this class to anyone," said Lorrie Moulton, who

recently earned her GED certificate. She enrolled in the GED class in October 2006. In January, she successfully passed the five GED tests and enrolled at TCC to study automated accounting. A mother of three, Moulton is described by Harshman as "hard working and goal oriented. Moulton explained, "Receiving my GED certificate was a boost to my self-esteem and gave me a feeling of accomplishment. I am proud that I can put on a job application that I have completed my GED."

Her next goal is to receive a college degree. She will be the first college graduate in her family. Because of her positive experience and the help she received in her GED class, she would like to be a volunteer tutor when she finishes her schooling. "This is my way of expressing my gratitude and giving back," Moulton said.

Zach Seeley, another GED student, said, "I got into this class so I can get my GED and then get into an apprentice program and get a two-year diploma. It's a great course and it's fun. You actually learn things. So do it!"

More than 100 students per year are served by this program. Trained tutors volunteer their time and talents. The Gig Harbor Campus provides office space and administration. The TCC Foundation provides fundraising assistance. The cost of the five GED tests is free to anyone who attends the current class. To register, contact Linda Creswell at 851-2424.

"If we can successfully stimulate interest in the program, we will promote the fall class, get students appraised, pre-tested, and registered before the class actually begins, which will be on Sept. 25, Creswell said. "There is no charge for the class or the testing and students can get a scholarship to pay the \$75 GED testing fee when they are ready to take it."

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June 2	Blues Attitude	9pm	Rockin' Blues
June 3	Nichal Miller Band	9pm	Blues
June 9	Ed Taylor & Taylormade	9pm	Jazz
June 15	Ammy Free & Friends	9pm	Reggae
June 16	Kim Archer Band	8:30pm	Heavy Soul & Funk
June 22	Junkyard Jane	9pm	(They're Back)
June 23	The Look Band	9pm	Rock
June 29	8 Second Ride	9pm	Country
June 30	Haywire	9pm	Country

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MultiCare opens state-of-the-art Gig Harbor facility

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

On June 11, peninsula residents will have a variety of new medical services available closer to home. The MultiCare Gig Harbor Medical Park will open doors, offering comprehensive services. The building is the first to be finished in what is being called Uptown Gig Harbor, an upscale retail center that will include a Borders Books and Galaxy Theater as the anchor businesses expected to open this fall.

The three-level MultiCare building has a Northwest lodge-type look with upscale décor and finishes and will feature original artwork by local artists, a lobby fireplace, a bistro, and a desk with a concierge. The services will include a children's urgent care clinic, an oncology center, an imaging lab, an ambulatory surgery center, a sleep center, a women's medi-spa, a YMCA gymnasium and a YMCA daycare for customers who have appointments in the building. The center will provide both primary and specialty care, as well as screenings such as bone density scans and ultrasounds.

Gig Harbor Medical Park Administrator



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Construction was still in full swing inside in mid-April and the exterior of the building was getting finishing touches.

Charlene Godec, a Gig Harbor resident, said the upscale feel is a new concept for MultiCare, with the idea of making both the patients and the staff feel comfortable. About 80 employees will staff the medical park initially, and over time that number could expand to 140.

The Healthy Reflections Medical Spa at the medical park has a classy atmosphere with details such as cherry hardwood cabi-

nets, cherry veneer lockers, another fireplace, and antique bronze-style fixtures. In addition to the usual day spa services like manicures and facials, it will offer noninvasive procedures such as BOTOX treatments. The medical park has various services and amenities geared specifically to women.

"Advances in health care technology have lead to fewer hospitalizations,

Grand opening celebration

The MultiCare Gig Harbor Medical Park is located at 4545 Point Fosdick Drive in Gig Harbor. An Open House and Celebration will be held Sunday, June 10, from noon to 4 p.m. and include tours, live music, refreshments, children's activities and giveaways, such as spa packages from Healthy Reflections Medical Spa, family memberships to the Gig Harbor YMCA and more.

Entertainment will include steel drum band Caribbean Vision, sand sculpting, stilt dancer Janet Rayor, Gig Harbor Symphony Orchestra Quartet, magician Kirk Charles, and kids activities like airbrush face painting and inflatable play equipment.

opening the door for more of these types of larger, community-based outpatient centers," Godec, RN, said. "The new MultiCare Gig Harbor Medical Park will merge high-tech, innovative healthcare with high-touch complimentary therapies in a single outpatient setting."

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The Earth is our life-support system: Plant a tree

By SD Galindo, KP News

The Arbor Day Foundation says: "The Earth doesn't receive new shipments of air, water, diverse species or other vital resources from outer space. This is it! Let's protect our only life-support system!"

It seems odd to suggest planting trees in the "Evergreen State," and particularly on the Key Peninsula, but clearly, the area is growing in leaps and bounds. A new bridge, a hospital, Costco, the YMCA, stop lights and a Burger King all are major signs that more development is in store for our neck of the woods. Irresponsible clearing of land for construction can cause erosion and contribute to global warming by removing the canopy that processes CO₂ and shades the Earth, preventing excess water evaporation. On a large scale, this impacts climate, rainfall, aquifers, insect control, and other issues becoming more visible as local populations expand. It takes 100 years to replace a 100-year-old tree, and wetlands, where insect eating species also thrive, are irreplaceable.

In 1854, J. Sterling Morton was a journalist, and soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. Nebraska was, at that time, a treeless plain. Morton was

Tips for greener living

Commerce moves very quickly as compared to nature. The damage created by our generation will be inherited by our children. Some tips from the Arbor Day Foundation:

- Problem: Burning wood in chimneys and burning yard waste release harmful airborne particles known to cause cancer, immune system and neurological problems, and birth defects. Smoke inhalation can endanger neighborhood kids and seniors with upper-respiratory ailments. Children's respiratory systems are not fully developed and they spend more time at higher activity levels, so they breathe

more deeply and take in more pollution.

- Suggestion: Share the sunshine with your neighbors! Small amounts of yard waste can be disposed of at the recycling center in minutes, free of charge. Curbside pickup service is available in most neighborhoods. Choose cleaner, more efficient household heating methods.
- Problem: Pesticides, cleaners, paints, solvents, and fertilizers run off into waterways. These can remain toxic for decades. Insects thrive while birth rates decline for bird and fish living in the wetlands, fresh and saltwater bays and streams, not to mention the contaminant seepage into the aquifers (drinking water).
- Suggestion: Use nonchemical

cleaners, like baking soda or vinegar. Use pesticides that are nontoxic to kids or pets, and comparatively easy on the environment when used as directed, such as Victor Poison-Free insect control aerosols, Lilly Miller Worry Free Slug and Snail Bait and Preen for weeds.

- Problem: Gasoline-powered engines like lawn mowers, powerboats, and chainsaws, do not have pollution controls.
- Suggestion: Use groundcover gardens instead of planting a lawn. Use clippers instead of power tools when you can. Use people-powered boats and purchase recreational equipment that is designed to meet the toughest anti-pollution regulations.

able to advocate his family's love of nature through the newspaper. One January day, at a meeting of the state Board of Agriculture, he proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day." The date was set for April 10, 1872; prizes were offered, all the local schools were involved, and it was estimated that more than a million trees, now 135 years old, were planted on that first holiday in Nebraska.

In 1885, April 22, Morton's birthday, was

selected as the permanent date for the holiday. Soon, schools in other states joined the tradition. Now, Arbor Day is celebrated in many countries around the world.

The Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Foundation hosted the annual Arbor Day celebration on April 28 at the Gig Harbor Civic Center. Interactive events made the celebration fun, including face-paint artists and a table for making bird-feeders from pine cones. There were also free cedar and

fir trees for everyone who attended.

Key Pen students placed highly in the poster, poetry, and photo contests, and won in all three categories. Mercedes McFarlane, a fifth grader at Minter Creek, won \$100 in the poster contest; Faith Johnson, of Key Pen Middle School, won the top prize of \$50 in the poetry contest; and Ashley Lessing of Peninsula High School took first place (\$100) in the photo contest.



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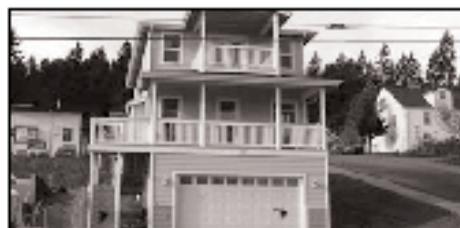
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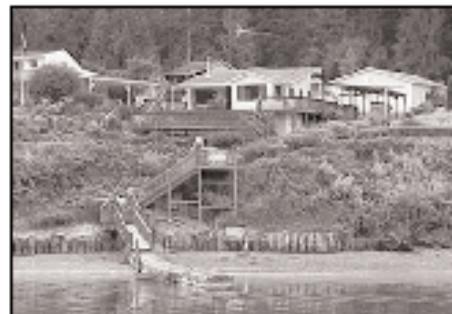
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Nimrick's Furnishings celebrates fourth anniversary

Nimrick's Furnishings, Old and New, will celebrate its fourth year in its Key Center location from Thursday, May 31 to Saturday, June 2, with an open house and a large lawn sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p. m. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited.

Get in shape with aerobics

Two new exercise classes are being offered at the KP Civic Center starting in June: low-impact aerobics and a combined low-impact aerobics with beginning Pilates mat class. The weekly classes are taught by Kea Louviere, a certified Pilates instructor who holds a master's degree in dance from the University of California Irvine, has danced professionally and has taught exercise and dance for years. For information, call the center at 884-3456.

Barber joins The Cutter Bug shop

Nita Paulette Ganier, a barber for over 27 years, recently joined Mindy Hand's business in the KC Corral. Garnier trained at the Ohio State Barber College in 1979 and says, at that time, there was a distinct difference between the training of barbers and that of cosmetologists. "It can be a bit awkward when I tell women that I only cut men's hair. Most of them are not aware that there is a difference between barbers and beauticians. But I tell them I'd be happy to cut their hair if they want a butch, fade, flat top, or other men's style," she says with a laugh.

Ganier and her husband have moved to the Key Peninsula.

Sunnycrest celebrates 25

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Would you like to know what the weather was like on a certain date within the last 30 years? Consult Dale or Claudia Loy of Sunnycrest Nursery. Twenty-five years ago, the Loys bought a small Key Center nursery from Sam Momii, who kept a daily record of the weather. The Loys continue that tradition. Interesting or important events are also noted in this journal.

The couple arrived from Sun Valley, Idaho, to be managers of the KP Civic Center in 1981. They wanted to find jobs they could advance in, and wanted their girls to grow up nearer the local relatives.

Soon after their arrival, Claudia met Momii, and one day asked if he'd ever consider selling his nursery. He said it was for sale. He wanted cash out, and the Loys couldn't afford that. Several months later, Momii asked if Claudia was still interested, and they arranged a sale.

Dale and Claudia gradually added new products, and before long, leased property from her father, Don Olson,

who built them the current nursery building. A florist shop and gift area were added, bit by bit.

They now serve second and third generations of customers, as well as the fourth generation of Claudia's cousins. As one friend said, in the floral business, you "hatch, match, and dispatch," providing flowers for newborns, weddings and funerals.

The best part of the business, Claudia says, is the people. She especially loves to be there when returning summer residents happen to meet and have "old home week" at the nursery.

Although the official 25th anniversary of the business was May 3, they will celebrate it on June 9 and 10. Ed Hume will answer questions and sign copies of his book at 2 p.m. on Saturday, and Piet Karsselboom of Monrovia Nurseries will talk about summer color on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Hot dogs and lemonade will be served both days from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with door prizes and in-store specials. It's the Loys' way of thanking the community that's supported them for 25 years.

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FD-16 STATS

Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

March 30

Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor firefighters and medics responded to a two-car head-on collision that had two people entrapped. One of the vehicles went over the embankment onto the beach, requiring a lengthy extrication effort. At least one patient suffered life-threatening injuries. SR-302 was shut down for more than three hours while WSP investigated. Three people were transported to hospitals.

April 6

Firefighters and paramedics responded to a two-car collision in front of Volunteer Park. There were no injuries reported and law enforcement was investigating if 20-year-old male who had reportedly been drinking at a friend's house caused the collision.

April 17

Paramedics responded to Vaughn

April total calls: 158

Medical aid: 105
Fires: 17
Burn complaints: 9
Vehicle crashes: 19
Weather related: 1
Other: 7
Mutual aid from GHFD: 10

Elementary School after a student fell from a playground toy. The child fell from an approximate height of 5 feet and struck his head, causing temporary loss of consciousness. He was transported to a hospital.

April 18

Fire crews responded to a report of a possible house fire on 134th St Ct NW. When units arrived, they found smoke visible from the rear of the home. A small fire on the rear deck was extinguished after it extended from a plastic garbage can. The probable cause of the fire was a discarded cigarette in the plastic can that contained other combustibles.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Fire Chief Tom Lique and Division Chief Guy Allen with the fire district's recently received newest ambulance.

April 20

Paramedics transported an assault victim to a trauma center due to facial injuries and a possible head injury. The patient reported he was assaulted while he was sleeping and hit in the face and head repeatedly.

April 25

Paramedics responded to an uncon-

scious female with dispatchers giving CPR instruction over the phone. When fire units arrived, they found the patient in cardiac arrest and began life saving care. The woman was transported to a Tacoma hospital for further care.

April 28

Firefighters and paramedics from Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor fire departments responded to a two-vehicle head-on collision on SR-302 at the Purdy Sand Spit. Three people were transported to hospitals following extrication efforts with "Jaws of Life" tools. Firefighters used an extension ladder to assist moving one of the patients up the embankment from the beach.

May 6

Two bicyclists participating in a race in Longbranch collided and suffered minor to moderate injuries. The two were treated, and one patient was transported to a hospital.

May 9

Firefighters were called to a report of a contractor burning construction debris in the Vaughn area. Crews arrived to find a permitted burn containing natural vegetation and burning within the requirements of current burn regulations. No action was taken.

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COMMUNITY WORKS

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

June 1 – Mustard Seed training begins

The Senior Information and Referral Group meets Friday, June 1, 10 a.m. Key Center Library, Brones Room. This is the first session of volunteer training to provide senior information and referral services at our Key Center site.

Transportation and Mobility for Elders Group: Friday, June 8, 10 a.m.

Elder Health and Wellness-related Services: Thursday, June 21, 10 a.m.

Housing Options for Aging in Place: Friday, June 22, 10 a.m.

The Community Task Group meetings typically feature a speaker followed by information sharing and group work. They are gathering information, reviewing possibilities and creating options for “aging in place” in this community.

Email ediemorgan@themustardseed-project.org or call 884-3920 for more information.

June 2 – Kids’ films

“Toy Story” and “Toy Story 2,” both rated G, will be shown at the Key Center Library at 2 p.m.

June 2 – Palmer Lake yard sale

Follow the signs on Key Peninsula Highway to Palmer Lake for individual yard sales and a community yard sale at the South Beach. All proceeds at the South Beach area go to projects for the community.

Saturday, June 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 884-4464.

June 2 – Interpretive bird walk

Join Park Ranger Daniel Christian on a free, one-hour guided bird walk through the Penrose Point State Park. and see all the returning summer birds. Bring your binoculars and meet at the day-use parking lot.

9 a.m.; 884-2514.

June 9 – SAVE celebrates

The SAVE Thrift Store in Purdy is celebrating its annual Customer

Appreciation Day with a huge parking lot sale and extended store hours.

Proceeds from the operation of SAVE Thrift Store benefit the Peninsula High School Scholarship Fund and activity groups. If you have never visited the store, you will be pleased at the quantity and quality of items offered in clothing, housewares, collectibles, toys, and many other categories. Donations are accepted most hours of store operations, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 9, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., (Purdy Drive just below Peninsula High School)

June 14 – Environmental Health Coalition

A coalition of citizens will meet at the Key Center Library to identify and discuss environmental health issues on the Key and Gig Harbor Peninsulas. Interested citizens will receive gift certificates to compensate for their time and contributions.

Thursday, June 14, 6 p.m.; Marianne Seifert at Health Dept, 798-3823

June 16 – Victor Flea Market

The annual Victor Flea Market will have lots of good stuff such as housewares, antiques, collectibles, tool, furniture, linens, clothes, plants, a bake sale, free coffee plus great hamburgers and hot dogs will be available. This is a community fundraiser.

Saturday, June 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. behind the fire station on SR-302 in Victor

June 16 – Work party at tennis courts

The Civic Center work party continues to renovate tennis courts. Please come and help. 10 a.m. Questions, call 884-3456.

June 22 – ‘Gone with the Wind’ blows into library

The American classic “Gone with the Wind” will be shown at the Key Center Library at 7:30 p.m. This movie is not rated.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

- More than 250 low-income seniors and people with disabilities have applied to have their homes painted this summer by **Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful**. Volunteer crews will be matched with homeowners by mid-June; the program also serves local seniors. Call 253-383-3056, ext. 106.

- Community volunteer training will begin June 1 for people interested in learning how to staff the new Key Senior Information and Assistance Center, which will open later this summer. The second and third

sessions of the volunteer training are scheduled for June 29 and July 6. Sessions begin at 10 a.m., at the Key Peninsula Library. Call 884-3920, or email ediemorgan@themustardseed-project.org to register, or for information.

- The **Key Peninsula News** has an ongoing need for clerical help and volunteer writers. Work as little as 2-3 hours a month or as much as you want. Call executive editor Rodika Tollefson at 884-4699 or email news@keypennews.com for details.

June 29 – Skate Night fundraiser

All kids 8th grade and under are invited to a skate night fundraiser that benefits KPMS 7th grader Sam Shake and his participation in the People to People Sports Ambassador program. Sam will be traveling to Holland in July to wrestle in the Youth Friendship Games.

Friday, June 29, 6:30 – 9 p.m., Civic Center; 884-9779

June 30 – Community BBQ

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church will hold a barbecue beginning at 1 p.m., with fun, food, music, games and prizes. Tickets at the door or call the church.

Saturday, June 30, 1-4 p.m., KPLC McColley Hall; 884-3312

July 1 – 4 Veterans sell fireworks at Lake Kathryn

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute members will run their annual Fourth of July fireworks stand at Lake Kathryn Village.

A feature of the KPVI sale will be a drawing for a \$200 package of fireworks for the lucky winner. All proceeds from the stand will stay on the Key Peninsula, supporting such activities as the local Boy Scout Troop, the Memorial Day “Aisle of Honor,” the Food Bank at Community House in Home, and the needs of local veterans and their families and hospitalized veterans in local facilities.

Opens Monday, June 28, at noon; hours June 29-July 4 are 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. (unless sold out sooner)

~OFF THE KEY~

June 6 – Handbells ring

Chapel Hill’s annual Berries & Bells Concert will be presented by the Chapel Ringers, the Allegro Ringers, and the Genesis Ringers, the newest youth group. Strawberry shortcake will top off the evening of music, food, and fellowship.

Wednesday, June 6, 7 p.m., Chapel Hill Church sanctuary, 7700 Skansie Ave., Gig Harbor; 851-7779x329 (admission is free-will offering)

June 30 – Guided beach walk at Kopachuck

Shellfish Partners invites you to participate in the 2007 guided beach walk along Kopachuck State Park beach from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. WDFW’s Alan Rammer will be pointing out marine life found during the low tides. A picnic lunch will be provided to those who register early. For details, or to reserve your space, contact Erin Ewald at 851-4313.



Milestones

Celebrating 60 years of marriage

Don and Shirley Olson, born and raised on the Key Peninsula, married May 24, 1947 at the Longbranch gymnasium. The present Longbranch Church was under construction, so the gym was the wedding site. At that time, the building, now Longbranch Improvement Club, still had a clay floor. The Olsons eventually moved into their own home on original Olson homestead land, where they continue to live in Key Center. They have four daughters, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. They plan to officially celebrate their 60th anniversary in August with a picnic gathering.

Photos courtesy of Don and Shirley Olson

OBITUARY

Carol J. Noble

Carol J. Noble died April 25, 2007. She was born in Kearney, Neb., to Glen and Blanche Hodge on Aug. 31, 1927. Her parents operated a service station and lunch counter before the family moved to Tacoma in 1942, and later to the Lakewood area. In 1950, she married Jack T. Noble, a seaman in the U.S. Merchant Marines, the same night his ship sailed for Korea. They had a strong marriage and endured long separations while Jack served as chief engineer on various ships.

The couple made their first home in Parkland, then moved to the Peninsula to raise their two sons, Rex and Eric. Carole and the boys often traveled to meet Jack when his ship arrived from foreign ports. Special memories for her were trips to South America with Jack.

Noble found great satisfaction in collecting and compiling stories of her mother's family history and

attending yearly family reunions. With a love for sewing since childhood, she completed a wide variety of garment and upholstery projects for family and friends, including elaborate costumes for several barbershop quartets. In recent years she enjoyed meeting with a community quilting club. Noble's kitchen was always open; she was a hostess who made everyone feel comfortable. She valued her family and friends, enjoyed lunch dates with friends, and watching her grandkids grow.

A caring and giving person, she always put others' needs ahead of her own. She was preceded in death by her brother Richard. Surviving are her husband Jack, sons Rex (Annie) and Eric (Susie), sister Joanne Anderson, brother Robert (Cam), and numerous grandchildren, nephews, nieces and cousins as well as many longtime friends in the Peninsula area.

To submit an obituary

Please email it to news@keypen-news.com. Please keep at 250 words, only Key Peninsula residents' obituaries are published.

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4	37,000	3,084	712
5	43,290	3,608	833
6	49,580	4,132	954
7	55,870	4,656	1,075
8	62,160	5,180	1,196
For each additional Family member:	15,290	1,525	312

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Children's author visits Evergreen Elementary



Story and photo by Hugh McMillan

Recently, children's author Keith Baker visited Evergreen Elementary School. Baker is not just an accomplished author of kids' books, he is a spell-binding speaker and cartoonist. The kids, a class at a time, joined him in the school's library, where they moved from being wholly mesmerized to being explosively respondent to his very penetrating — and there were many — questions. When the kids responded to some obscure query, it was as if they'd rehearsed for months as they chorused their responses in what seemed to be choreographed unison. Some responses were deadly serious, others were downright gleeful.

Baker's visit was funded by the Angel Guild. "Students were treated to a

demonstration by Keith on how to draw facial expressions in characters. He then showed a slide presentation, sharing his stories and revealing the creative process and steps in developing a story, sketches, dummy, illustrations and finished book," said second-grade teacher Therese Souers. "His enthusiasm for writing and illustrating has inspired and encouraged the students at Evergreen in their own bookmaking."

Evergreen's PTA and St. Hugh's Episcopal Church provided funding to purchase a book by Baker for each student at Evergreen. Baker autographed the books, personalizing them to each student."

In the photo: Keith Baker autographs books for Kayla Nunsaker, Taelor Sheats, and Jeremy Spain.

Retiring teachers served for 68 years combined

Travel, gardening, rest and relaxation are on the minds of four Evergreen Elementary teachers. Sabra Stratford, Rick Gudmunson, Dallas Presley, and Gail Mitchell will be retiring from the Peninsula School District.

Stratford, at Evergreen for 18 years, has taught kindergarten, first grade and a first/second multiage. In 1995 she left her own classroom and became Evergreen's Title 1 reading teacher.

Gudmunson has worn many hats over

the years, from reading specialist and classroom teacher to P.E. teacher. He began his time at Evergreen in 1985 as a part-time Title 1 teacher while caring for his own young children. Presley has taught at Evergreen for 14 years, 13 of those first grade.

Mitchell has been the school's premier kindergarten teacher since 1993.

The school will hold a celebration in their honor on Friday, June 15, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Families whose lives have been touched by these wonderful teachers are invited to stop by to say goodbye and good luck.

KEY PENINSULA NEWS The Key Peninsula News thanks our generous readers for their continued support!

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School district moves to all-day kindergarten

By Danna Webster, KP News

This fall, Key Peninsula kindergarten students will stay at school all day. They will ride the same buses as the other elementary students. There will be no midday bus transportation.

"Next year, there will be all-day kindergarten at all schools with no cost to families," said Student Services Executive Director Sarah Drinkwater. Research shows that all-day kindergarten "benefits all types of learning: math, reading, social skills and independent care habits," she said.

According to PHS Superintendent Terry Bouck, the idea to move forward with all-day kindergarten was initiated by then-Superintendent Jim Coolican. The new state mandate is that all 1,267 schools will have full-day kindergarten classes by the year 2013, and the state will gradually fund all-day K programs statewide starting next year, based on poverty levels. It would be a few years before PSD would receive any of that new funding.

Many school districts in the state have started considering the move before it became a legislative mandate, and Peninsula School District has been a pioneer in this new thinking, which educators say is supported by extensive research.

PSD has been preparing for the all-day K program for the past two years. This year, about half of all elementary schools offered all-day kindergarten; however, the second portion of the day was optional for parents and was tuition-based.

With reports of a district deficit of \$4 million, how can it afford to put a new program in place? "The \$4 million deficit is a spend-down reserve," Bouck



Minter Creek kindergartners during reading time in Anita Huysman's all-day class.

Photo by
Mindi LaRose

said, pointing to the declining enrollment as the principal factor that led to the district using reserve monies to cover some costs.

According to Bouck, the money for the kindergarten program is not from basic education funds; it is all new money from Initiative 728 funding. About 60 percent of those funds are used for reduction in class size, and about 40 percent will go toward funding all-day kindergarten.

"The number one is not to impact class size in the district," Bouck said. "Anything else, but we must not impact that."

The current class size is 18-22 students. But a few years ago, there was an experiment with a class size of 18 or less, according to Andrea Jewell, a recently retired kindergarten teacher from Vaughn Elementary School. It is her opinion that lowering class size benefits kindergarten students more than a full-day program. She has written her opinion in newspaper editorials.

"A few years ago we had a one year experiment with smaller class sizes of 18 or less. This gave a more relaxed feeling

to the day and allowed the teachers to individualize the instruction. They didn't have to deal with behaviors caused by exhaustion and stress. It was found that the children progressed much farther than in more crowded classrooms," she wrote. "I am a retired kindergarten teacher who shares the concerns of parents about the all-day kindergarten being too much for many children. Seven to eight hours a day, including transportation, has been too stressful for many in the all-day kindergarten at Vaughn."

Bouck said the schools can be flexible and accommodate their schedules for parents who are concerned that a full day is too long. Children can attend kindergarten as a half-day student, if the parents can provide the midday transportation.

"Our concern is about the student," Bouck said. "(The program) has got to be what is in the best interest of each child."

Evergreen Elementary Principal Jacque Crisman has had all-day kindergarten at her building for three years. When Evergreen started the full-day program, she was worried that "it was

pushing too much. It's not," she said. "Kids are so much more capable than we give them credit for. They are like sponges. At the beginning of the school year, fatigue is hard for everybody. The first year, we thought we would provide naps. But the kids just go, go, go all day long: paint, play house, work on computers, read, sing songs, play blocks and have full lessons in math, reading, writing and science. Three days a week they have PE and two days they have music." There is a half-day option at Evergreen but no families have taken it. "Look at what they might miss," Crisman said.

Earlier in her career, Crisman taught kindergarten. She had two classes per day and in the two and a half hours of each class she tried to do all that a full-day program would provide. Those were stressful years and she was eager to leave kindergarten. She said the stress of not having the time to do all things she wanted to do for each class made that teaching assignment the worst in her career, which has ranged from primary grades to university level.

Full-day kindergarten makes an important difference, according to Crisman. It is all about time. "The time the children are given is so powerful," she said. "Time to process, time to finish projects, time to get things done. Fewer kids are struggling to get done."

Evergreen's first all-day kindergartners are second graders this year. They will take the WASL next year. Crisman hopes their all-day K education will show a positive influence on test scores. She believes the all-day kindergarten is good addition to the Evergreen school and credits her staff for making a great learning environment for all the students.

August 4, 2007

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Status check on school safety at KPMS

By Danna Webster, KP News

School violence and school safety are opposite ends of a dynamic continuum. It is a dynamic that principals, administrators, teachers, staff, students and parents live with every day. Remember when school was about the the R's: reading, 'ritin' and 'rithmetic — not earthquake, fire drill and lockdown?

Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck says school safety education is always changing. The development of safety plans, threat assessment and management programs is never done. "It's a target that is always moving. We're always tweaking it and doing a better job. We can never rest on our laurels," he says.

This summer, principals, vice principals and administrators from all 15 PSD schools will spend two days in safety training workshops with a focus on lockdowns. They are working together with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Gig Harbor Police Department, and the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula fire departments on preparedness tactics.

Last year, Key Peninsula Middle School went through the experience of threatened violence. With so many kinds of threats possible, how can a school prepare for them all?

"Practice procedures," says Thom Worlund, KPMS assistant principal and a member of the school's safety committee. Worlund says they teach KPMS students what to do in an emergency situation. For every situation, "calm and quiet" is the essential element. There are regimens for specific situations. When an earthquake is felt, the procedure is: Stop, drop and hold until the all clear is given or instructed to evacuate. When a school goes into lockdown, instructions are



Rich Selfors, here with Logan Hensley, spends every planning period in the lunchroom to stay connected with students.

Photo by Danna Webster

given that determine specific procedures until stand down or evacuation. When the fire alarm sounds, evacuation procedure is followed.

Emergency preparedness is part of the KPMS curriculum. "Safety training is required," Worlund says. "We are here to educate kids, but we've got to keep them safe first."

With basic safety regimens in place for earthquake, fire and lockdown, KPMS turns its focus in another direction. The school gives full attention to the prevention of violence, according to school administration. Principal Sharon Shaffer says it is all about "being connected." Students, faculty and staff share the connection of school business. Events that have nothing to do with school business stay outside of the school's attention. "We try not to make things an issue that are not an issue," she says. "Our job is to keep them safe. We should try not to worry them about things they don't have to worry about."

What are some key components to connecting with middle school students?

One is a daily television show. School announcements are presented on classroom television monitors from a student TV studio. Each morning student anchors present the school news. The local show is followed by a brief CNN program of national and international news known as Channel One. It is specially programmed for middle schools.

Another key element to connecting with students happens over lunch hour. During the two lunch periods, some teachers, "Mr. Joe, the custodian," and Worlund are in the lunchroom visiting with kids. At every Friday lunch hour, Worlund brings out a treasure chest, stuffed with red slips of paper containing student names. When students are "caught doing something good," the faculty or staff member who caught them writes them up a ticket. Students with red tickets get excused for lunch early. The tickets go into the treasure chest and on Friday, about 10 names are drawn at each period. Pictures are taken of the winning students for an honor board, and each of

“
We are here to educate kids, but we've got to keep them safe first.
— Thom Worlund, KPMS assistant principal, safety committee member
”

them gets a 50-cent discount at the student store. The drawings resemble a pep rally. Teachers and staff who are present are the enthusiastic fans. Winning tickets are applauded by other students.

One teacher who spends a lot of time in the lunchroom is Rich Selfors. He dedicates his planning period to the lunchroom. He says he is there to keep communication open. "Kids come and tell you things you need to know. The key to safety is having that relationship with all staff. They feel comfortable telling us things that are uncomfortable to them," he says. Selfors has been the shop teacher for 25 years and proudly reports that parents of former students stay connected with the school — especially in a situation like the past winter's storms.

Selfors, Worlund and "Mr. Joe" all serve on the safety committee, which meets each month. Once members join up, Selfors says, they usually stay as long as they are in the building. Members of the safety committee have different skills, such as CPR or first aid, but they share a common view about school safety.

"It's important that kids know, if things go wrong, the safest place to be is here. Kids know that. And parents know that," Selfors says.



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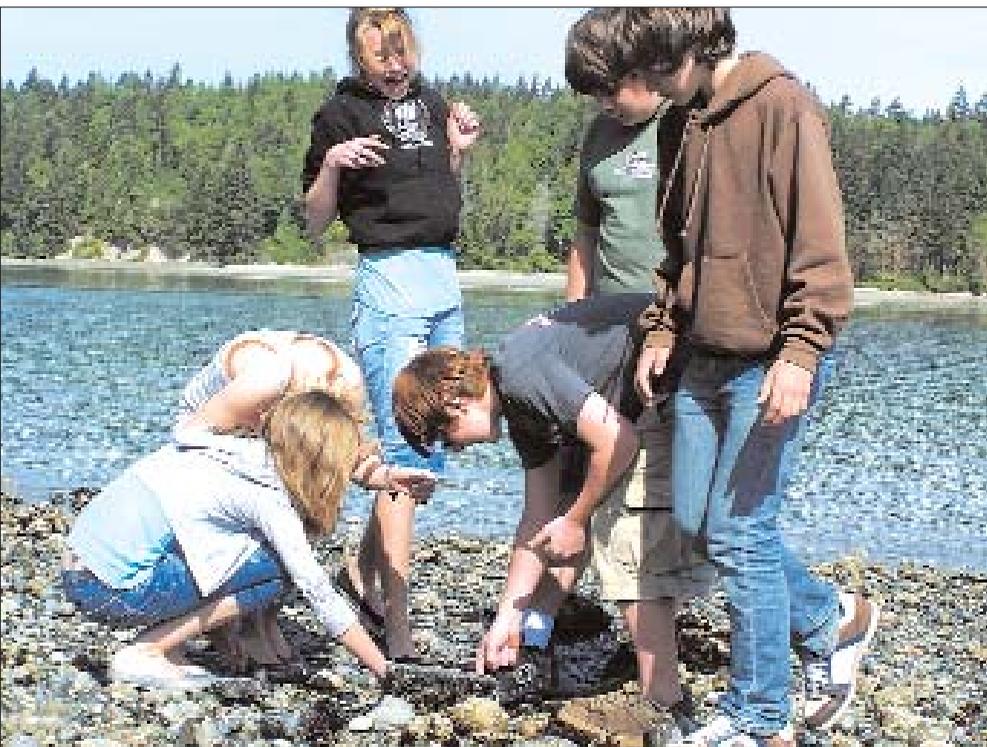
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Show & Tell



Above, KPMS seventh graders beachcomb at Penrose State Park. The tide was extremely low at a minus- 4 feet. The kids were able to see and touch crabs (dungeness, spider and hermit), sea anenomes, moon snails and sand dollars, among other things.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

Below left, Peninsula High School cheerleaders and wannabe cheerleaders were hard at work in May washing cars to raise funds to cover the costs of uniforms, travel, and other expenses associated with keeping the crowd roaring its encouragement to PHS sports teams. Here, 10th graders Ashley Hinz and Danielle Adams strut their stuff to entice drivers to get their dirty cars washed. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Above right, Peninsula High School social studies teachers Brian Tovey (left) and Tim Knudson compare the design of their glass paperweights they received in recognition of their successful completion of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification. Superintendent Terry Bouck hosted a celebration at his Wauna home at the end of April for the teachers who were recently certified. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



Following the mid-May Fifth Annual Students of Distinction Community Banquet at Chapel Hill Church, a group of the Peninsula High School honored students, l to r: Casandra Kapp, J. D. Neumeister, Gibson Starkweather, Kevin Cannaday, Missy Floyd, Jamie Koehl, Katy Marshall, and Olivia Konicek gathered for a memory photograph of the occasion. Of these, Neumeister, Starkweather, Koehl, and Konicek proudly proclaimed themselves graduates of the Key Peninsula Middle School, as were Sheena Gulliver and John DeLeo (not in the photo). *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Vaughn Elementary Principal Mike Benoit thanks the co-chairs of "Swing on a Star" auction Tina Self and Marci Cummings-Cohoe with floral presentations for the hugely successful evening. The auction raised about \$44,000 for the new playground at the school as well as two other programs. The KP Civic Center, transformed into a wonderland of zillions of tiny sparkling lights everywhere, simply pulsated with pride, camaraderie, and familial joy. Self and Cummings-Cohoe acknowledged the work of the auction committee, Jim Borgan, Vic Orlando, Ric Hansen, Susanne's Bakery and Deli, Sunnycrest Nursery, Ravensara, Framer's Workshop, Key Peninsula Youth Council, Boy Scout Troop 222, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, and everyone who donated, attended, and/or participated in the auction. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



A couple within an excited group of Peninsula High School seniors at the 22nd annual Peninsula Hawks Scholarship presentations ham it up for the camera. Marsha Williams, chair for the event, said that 157 kids received scholarships, some multiple scholarships, for a total of \$190,000, at the event. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

One groundskeeper's 'simple' ways of teaching

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Most of the time when boys become men, they leave behind their summer-vacation careers as lawn mowers and caretakers of other people's yards. Most of the time. But once in a while, the love of outdoors, that heady aroma of fresh cut grass, sighting of an occasional birdlet just leaving a nest, or watching a doe scamper in a distant meadow with her fawn makes a man stick to this natural work and make a career of it. Such is the satisfying choice of Matt Mattila, caretaker of the Peninsula School District's 15 school grounds for the past 20 years.

Mattila is a quiet man, as at home on his commercial riding mower as a cowboy is on his horse, and he maneuvers the mechanical beast with every bit as much finesse. Being outdoors and by himself much of the day keeps him grounded in



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

Matt Mattila mows the grounds at Key Peninsula Middle School.

the things that matter — caring for the earth, observing the children at play during recess, ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it, scooting kids a bit too adventurous out from behind this building or that bin, back to where they belong on the school grounds.

Mattila says the best part of his job is talking with the students — and he meets them all, from kindergarten up through high school, as he makes his rounds.

"I build respect with them, and they give it back," he says. Simple.

Another big part of his job, something that provides him with the satisfaction that school staff, parents and students get the benefit of, is making a school's lawns and plantings look well-groomed, and keeping them that way. Mattila is a native of Tacoma, and he believes the shabby grounds of many of the schools in that city contribute to the troubles inside the buildings. If people have no respect for their surroundings, how can they be expected to have respect for themselves or others, he asks. Simple.

Other groundskeepers tend the school district's ball and playfields, but the lawns, trees, shrubs, and planting island all "belong" to Matilla. "We don't throw anything away," he says, with a recycler's satisfaction. When he has clippings and leaves to spare, he carts them off to a school where volunteers are creating vegetable or flower gardens for the chil-

dren to learn from. Even trees that become unwanted in their present locations on school grounds get moved to places where their beauty can still be enjoyed. A place for everything, and everything in its place. Simple.

At the end of the workday, after he's finished making school grounds look like parks, Matilla heads home to the woods. He and his wife live on five forested acres he has owned since 1978, in a log house he built from trees harvested from his woodlot. The Matilla's have two sons; one due to come home soon from his second deployment to Iraq, and another who took up his father's profession as a groundskeeper for private homes.

A kind-hearted man in tune with the cycles of nature, when spring comes to his land, Matilla takes care. He knows in shrubby stands, small ground birds are just beginning to leave their nests, in thickets fawns are stretching their wobbly legs for the first time. He listens for the birdsong, watches for the wildlife, happy to have them for neighbors. Uncomplicated. Respectful. Doing work he enjoys. Living where he's content. Simple as that.

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PHS 'botball' team competes at Santa Clara University

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

After some two months of preparation, Peninsula High School's nine-member Robotic Team flew to California at the end of April to participate in the Northern California Regional Botball Educational Robotics Program competition. The team represented the Pacific Northwest. Among contestants were 17 high schools, three middle schools, one junior high and six independent community or club teams.

Because the PHS team is barely two months old and had never participated in anything of this sort, its members viewed involvement as a learning experience. Many, if not all, of the other teams have been involved for as long as six years.

The whole thing began when PHS math teacher Sheri Ahlheim had a chance conversation with astronaut Mark Leon during a NASA family night at Key Peninsula Middle School. Leon encouraged Ahlheim, who'd led two robotics teams when teaching in Virginia a few years ago and hoped to bring the discipline to the Peninsula School District. Leon's offer of funds to cover the endeavor sealed the deal with Ahlheim, who sought and gained Peninsula School District and PHS blessings to proceed at the high school level.

"Botball" is a contraction of the words "robot" and "ball." It is an educational outreach program designed to engage students in learning practical applications of science, technology, engineering, and math through robot building and programming. Earlier this year, following a workshop, which PHS team members had no chance to attend, students had about seven weeks to design, build and program robots that function as two-robot teams to score points. The program culminates in regional tournaments



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The PHS botball team and two members of the California team are sharing each other's robots after the end of official competitions at the Northern California Regional Botball Educational Robotics Program.

(such as this one at Santa Clara University) across the country.

The PHS team is made up of 11th graders Kelley Waliser, Ben Harris, Bryan Humlie, and Joel Overly; 10th graders Chris Miller, Austin Cluff, and George Lamphere; ninth grader Jeff Skaggs; and KPMS seventh grader Cameron McMillan.

Despite their lack of previous experience, PHS walked off with a Judges' Choice Award for Complex Engineering to go with their Certificate of Participation, plus the acknowledged distinction of being the only representatives from the Pacific Northwest at the prestigious event. A very good start for a team the kids are all committed to make an ongoing endeavor.

Bryan Humlie felt it was a "lot of fun" and was impressed with the number of possible solutions to the problem of

making the robot successful. He said he "learned that testing (the robot prior to competing) takes a lot of time." To prepare for next year's competition, he intends to work on sensors and programming, and has even asked for permission to take the robot home for further explorations.

Stu Cluff, one of the parents who accompanied the team, said, "(I) would love to see what the kids will do next year after seeing what can be done. I was really impressed by the imagination of the teams plus the intellectual use of motors and sensors. I learned programming tips from our kids and other teams."

Ahlheim is proud that the team was self-sustaining and didn't use a penny of tax-payer money. "We raised \$1,100, enough to subsidize the trip, thanks to NASA's Department of Robotics Education, Key Peninsula's Angel Guild,

Botball, anyone?

If you feel the need to take up the challenge and establish your own Botball team, as well as help the PHS team to start a regional tournament, visit www.botball.org or contact Sheri Ahlheim at ahlheims@psd401.net.

the PHS Boosters and the Rotary Club."

The travelers, save one who was on a scholarship, paid their own expenses. Competition fees including two robot kits came to \$2,300, provided by astronaut Leon.

"What I would like to see next year is to see us successful, meeting our goals, organizing ourselves," George Lamphere said.

Ahlheim said the entire team worked very hard. "Now that they've seen Botball in action, they understand just how big this competition is and are so energized to do better next year. It combines so many elements: teamwork, programming, mechanical know-how, technical writing, documentation and project management. A lot of real world skills. Awesome!"

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Aerospace class presents unique opportunities

By Erica Ma, Special to KP News

Aerospace is one of many electives offered at Key Peninsula Middle School. The class is much like any other science class at KPMS; it includes lab experiments, data gathering, and of course, the dreaded homework. However, everything done in that class is related to NASA, aeronautics, and space.

"We do a lot in the aerospace class. Sometimes we're really busy and things get confusing, but it's a lot of fun," said student Kyle Cofer. The students say the class doesn't have a single dull moment. Recently, they were instructed to create a Mars Lander that would keep an "Eggonaut" alive after being thrown off the roof of the KPMS gym. In the end, seven "died" and nine "survived."

The class is exciting and educational at the same time, and the students get to experience first-hand the advantages of being a NASA Explorer school. From video conferences to constructing models of rovers, to the abundance of field trips, the aerospace class is a dream come true for fans of hands-on learning,



Photo courtesy KPMS

Aerospace student Rebecca Wolf, at right, during a recent NASA Family Night at KPMS.

When asked about his favorite part of the class, Bronson Ward said, "I would say the best part is that we get to speak with pilots and important people (in person) who have to do with aeronautics and the

exploration of space." Other students agree, adding that it was a pleasure to be in the same class with good friends and have fun with science.

Students don't mind the homework in this class as they might do for another science class. Sean Bertsch said, "There is no down part in aerospace. Even the homework is fun and interesting." The more complex science labs may become increasingly confusing or difficult, but the class always finds a way to work through it under the careful guidance of their teacher, Kareen Borders.

The KPMS three-year contract for the NASA grant will end this year; however, the aerospace class will continue for as long as students are interested. Students currently in aerospace heartily encourage seventh graders to consider choosing the class as an elective. Drake Henderson proudly state, "You get a lot of opportunities that most people in middle school don't get." For instance, the class talked to esteemed astronauts and engineers from NASA via video conference. In addition, the students went on many field trips during the year, including the

Museum of Flight.

One of the most remarkable opportunities the class received was a chance to send some students to Moffett Field, Calif., to represent their school in presenting a scientific experiment. Six students, Michael Sly, Rebecca Wolf, Drake Henderson, Marcus Henderson, Leia Meany, and Cody Brower, were chosen to introduce their experiment to NASA and schools across the country via video conference. The one they chose was the microgravity experiment that four of the KPMS staff conducted in February. Some KPMS students were able to ask questions regarding the experiment during the video conference. After coming back from the trip, Rebecca Wolf said, "California was really fun. We went on tours and saw the world's largest wind tunnel. The weather was nice, as well."

As Borders said, "The aerospace class has been fantastic this year... I am so proud of these students. They will be our future aerospace professionals!"

Erica Ma is a Key Peninsula Middle School eighth-grade student.

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Local writer publishes first book

By Jeanette Brown
Special to KP News

Local writer Colleen Slater is well known to many residents of the Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas for her contributions as a journalist for both the Key Peninsula News and the Peninsula Gateway. Now she is about to become even more "famous on the KP" as the author of a new book titled "The Key Peninsula." The book, primarily a pictorial history of the Key Peninsula, will be published by the Arcadia Publishing Co. as part of its "Images of America" series. Slater's book is scheduled to be released for sale in June at local bookstores, museums and gift shops.

Slater grew up in Vaughn, where her maternal grandparents and great-grandparents settled in the early 1900s. She has been writing since she was 6 years old. On the cover of her book is a picture of the Longbranch School, built in 1885 at the head of Filucy Bay on land donated by Joe Schettlerow. She reminds readers that it is still a part of the community's past.

In the introduction to her book, Slater gives a condensed account of the early history of the area, beginning with the "people of the waters and the grass country." It is interesting to note there are still no cities that exist on the peninsula, but rather a collection of communities of varying size, each with particular historic sites, events and traditions.

After a 35-year absence, Slater returned to the Key Peninsula with her husband, Frank, to build their retirement home; she later began writing for the two local newspapers. She has enjoyed writing "From Pioneer Stock" articles for the Key Peninsula News since 2003, and as a member of the Key Peninsula Historical Society, her hobby and mission in life as a



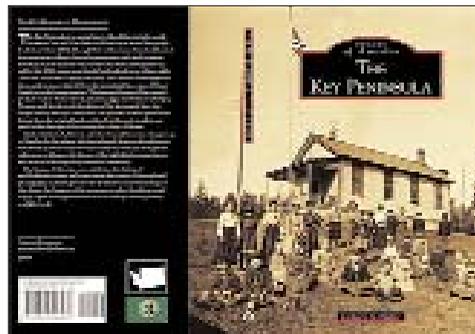
Photo by Mindi LaRose

Above, Colleen Slater with a display about her book at the Livable Community Fair in May. Right, "The Key Peninsula" book.

community volunteer has been collecting stories and photographs to add to the local collection for future generations.

Slater is also a member of the Gig Harbor Writers Circle, Key Peninsula Writer's Guild, Peninsula Writers Association, Key Singers, and the Vaughn Bay Garden Club. This multitasking mother of four adult children and 15 grandchildren started submitting her articles in earnest in 1989, with the first "sale" to Housewife Writers Forum. She was first paid in copies, then stamps, and finally, in minimal cash. Slater has also had poetry, essays, and short fiction published in various publications over the years.

Slater attended Peninsula High School and then Washington State College, now known as Washington State University. She graduated with a master's degree "in the art of teaching." Over the years, she has traveled through Europe with her family and published those experiences in journalistic accounts. She also does her own genealogical research. In the near future, Slater hopes to publish more



“

Keep your eyes and ears open, and take notes. Everyone has a story to tell, and often, they know others with stories, too.

— Colleen Slater

”

volumes of work on the Key Peninsula pioneer history.

When asked what her inspiration for writing the book was, Slater responded, "I had been interviewing descendants of early pioneers for my regular column in the Key Peninsula News for about three years, and decided to compile those stories into a pictorial account of the area's history using photographs that had not been previously published."

Slater believes that "picture images tend to last longer than printed words." She also feels her book "is a good way to share with future generations how the people of the past made this special place what it is today."

To aspiring authors and historians who want to know what Slater thinks would be

Book signing

Colleen Slater will sign her book, "The Key Peninsula," on June 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Museum in Vaughn; proceeds benefit the museum. Another signing will be held at "The Dream Center" in Gig Harbor on June 20 at 7 p.m., at 3208 50th St. Ct., suite 102C. Books will be available for sale at the museum, Mostly Books in Gig Harbor, several Key Pen locations, and online at arcadiapublishing.com and amazon.com by June 20.

the most helpful to them in their studies and careers as writers, Slater's advice is simple: "Keep your eyes and ears open, and take notes. Everyone has a story to tell, and often, they know others with stories, too."

As an educator and historian, Slater has a lot more stories to tell, and believes her book will bring new insights to the area's local history; she also encourages interested visitors and residents to visit the Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn, where they will find various historical artifacts and collections, including some first-person stories of early pioneers.



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From Pioneer Stock Dulcie Schillinger — Vaughn a great place to be a kid

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Dulcie Schillinger was born Dulcie Van Slyke in her parents' home at the corner of Van Slyke and Hall roads in Vaughn. Those roads were named for two great-grandfathers, Alfred Van Slyke and John Alexander Hall, who settled in Vaughn in the late 1880s. Two Van Slyke brothers married two Hall sisters.

Her maternal great-grandparents, the Edward Buckells and Thomas Bills, moved to Vaughn by 1911. The only great-grandparent she remembers is Grandpa Buckell, who had a tiger skin hung on a clothesline upstairs.

Schillinger grew up in a community where everyone knew her, and most nearby neighbors were relatives. She learned to play baseball, football, and fish for perch off the bridge with mostly male playmates. They allowed her to play with them with certain rules: She wasn't to cry, and if she got hurt, she wasn't to tell her parents.

Her father built her a rowboat when she was 8, and every day after school, she'd

row on the bay. At a later age, she tipped the boat over, dove under, and stayed in the air pocket below long enough to frighten her watching mother.

With such a large extended family in the area, there were always lots of gatherings of relatives to celebrate holidays and special occasions. The older men gathered in one room to play cards, a bedroom was set aside to lay coats and small babies, and another area for younger children to play. In good weather, tables went up outside, with plenty of playspace for the children.

Schillinger remembers a Christmas at their home when cousin Terry O'Hara was an infant laid on the bed. She and cousin Joyce Olson put one of her dolls in his place, and carried him off to another bedroom to play with him. The women of the family did not think it fun to find the baby gone.

She learned to read and count from Grandma Minnie Van Slyke, a local teacher, before she started school. She also began piano lessons early because she paid attention when brother Chester had his lesson, then hopped onto the stool and played the piece by ear. Her mother gave

her different lessons to keep peace between the siblings. Schillinger later took formal training from Akka Van Tuyl in Home.

Schillinger saved berry-picking money to buy a bicycle from Sears. She remembers watching the Model A come down the road with the mail. She also recalls running down to see the boat come into the dock when she heard the whistle.

Schillinger's father tore down one end of a chicken house, extended the concrete pad with asphalt for a tennis court, and painted a white line net-height across the end of the remaining building for a practice wall. Schillinger began playing when she was barely taller than an actual net. Friends and whole families congregated at the tennis court.

The Van Slykes moved to Tacoma the summer before Schillinger was 13. She feared she'd never see her friends and relatives at Vaughn again, but soon, she came out often to stay with her Olson cousins.

Winter sports included sledding down Elliott's hill (92nd Street), ski trips to Mount Rainier, and ice skating on Doyle's



Photos courtesy Dulcie Schillinger.

Watermelon eating at the Olsons about 1938: Dulcie, Don Olson, Chester Van Slyke, Clint Buckell.

Pond (Lake of the Woods).

"We'd build a big bonfire," she says, "then we'd have Clint Buckell and Chuck Niemann go out and test the ice." They were the biggest guys.

She met her future husband when cousin Clint Buckell took her to the hospital to see his injured friend, Ron Schillinger of Victor. Ron and Dulcie built their home in Vaughn on original Van Slyke land in 1953.

She hopes the family values she learned and passed on to her own children will be handed down through future generations.

"Vaughn was a great place to be a kid," Schillinger says. "I was lucky to have grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins to grow up with. Family is important to me."



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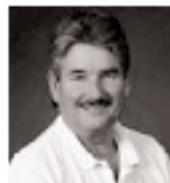
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Pierce County Sheriff's Deputies Launch School Outreach Campaign

Pierce County Sheriff's deputies from the Peninsula Detachment have launched a new outreach program in an effort to build positive connections with local youth. The deputies have been riding Peninsula School District buses while the buses transport students to and from school.

"Usually when people see us, it's a bad experience. Riding the buses allows us to get to know the children

in an informal setting. On the bus, everyone is relaxed and excited to go home or to school," says Neighborhood Patrol Deputy Rich Folden with the Peninsula Detachment.

Folden and Deputy Michael Blair are riding the buses with different grade levels about once a week. On a recent ride to Artondale Elementary School, Blair was greeted with dozens of questions. Some youngsters wanted to know why he was there; others told

him their family members were police officers or fire fighters. One student said, "When I grow up, I'm going to be in the Army!"

The Peninsula Detachment started the bus ride-along while looking for a creative way to make connections with the community's young people. Blair said the idea behind the outreach

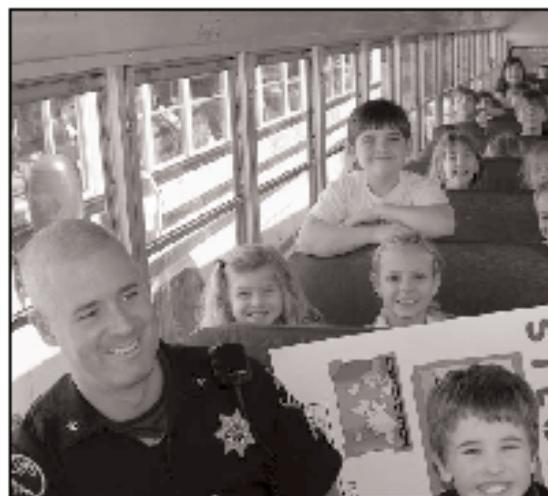


Neighborhood Patrol Deputy Rich Folden greets Goodman Middle School students as they board the bus from school.

program is to show youth that officers are approachable and not as intimidating as they appear.

"This is a chance to connect with them, talk and laugh together," he says.

The deputies will continue to ride the buses until the end of the school year, and hope to continue the program in the future.



Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Blair with a bus filled with Artondale Elementary School children on their way home.

JUNE EVENTS

- 2 PHS Senior Prom, 8:00 p.m., Tacoma Art Museum
- 5 Key Peninsula Middle School Jazz Band Concert 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Peninsula High School Senior Solo Concert -- Come hear the sweet sounds of some of the best soloists at PHS. 7-10 p.m.
- 13 Key Peninsula Middle School Choir Concert 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- 14 School Board regular session 6:30 p.m. Goodman Middle School
- 22 Last Day of School
- 26 School Board study session 5:30 p.m. district office

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Peninsula High School junior Lyndsi LaRose with Gov. Christine Gregoire at the Tacoma Community College Summit on math and science.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Peninsula School District Board of Directors holds an annual public hearing for the purpose of taking community input on the budget. The hearing and budget adoption is conducted during the regular Board of Directors meeting during the month of August, at the Educational Service Center located at 14015 62nd Avenue NW in Gig Harbor.

AT A GLANCE...

A Power Point presentation titled "Highlights from the Healthy Youth Survey Fall 2006" is available online at our PSD website under Helpful Links at www.psd401.net.

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PHS 12:00 p.m.
GHHS 3:30 p.m.

HBHS Graduation Ceremony
Chapel Hill
Thursday, June 15, 2007 at
7:00 p.m.

(From FIRE, Page 1)

"A recall is not an easy thing to do," but he is prepared to lead that action, if necessary, Salatino said. "Conditional letters of resignation" were prepared by the citizen group, offering each commissioner the opportunity to resign — under the condition the other also resigns. The two commissioners have stated at board meetings they did not intend to do so, however.

The law allows the recall and discharge of any elected official deemed to have committed an act or acts of malfeasance or misfeasance, or who has violated the oath of office. Ten citizens, interested in the legal conduct of the business of the fire district and in maintaining open records as well as in the safety of the community's first-responders and the safety of the community in general, will pursue recall efforts. Their interest also includes repairing the community's reputation, after an arrest following a physical altercation between these two elected public officials.

An online Google search netted 647 "hits" for Yanity and Bosch, according to Ed Taylor, one of the recall organizers who said recent media coverage of the fisticuffs had been published as far away as Pennsylvania and Georgia.

Two letters were entered into the public record at the May 8 meeting of the FD-16 Board of Commissioners, and two more letters, in addition to oral public comments at the May 21 board meeting, continued to press for their resignations. Pending the outcome of felony assault charges filed against Yanity, and if public pressure fails to produce both resignations, a recall petition is being prepared under provisions of the state Constitution, sections 33 and 34 or Article 1.

A subcommittee was formed to prepare a charge, reciting that such officer, naming him or her and giving the title of the office, has committed an act of malfeasance or misfeasance while in office, or has violated the oath of office, or has been guilty of any two or more of the acts specified in the Constitution as grounds for recall. The charge shall state the act or acts complained of in concise language, give a detailed description including the approximate date, location, and nature of each act, be signed by the persons making the charge, give their respective post office addresses, and be verified under oath that the persons believe the charges to be true and have knowledge of the alleged facts upon which the stated grounds for recall are based.

"Misfeasance" or "malfeasance" in

office means any wrongful conduct that affects, interrupts, or interferes with the performance of official duty, the performance of a duty in an improper manner. "Malfeasance" in office means the commission of an unlawful act. "Violation of the oath of office" means the neglect or knowing failure by an elective public officer to perform faithfully a duty imposed by law.

Retired attorney Mike Abernathy, an attendee at the citizen's committee meeting, said, "Violation or loss of the public trust is the definition of malfeasance of office of a public official. And these two have lost the public's trust."

Short of their voluntary resignations, a charge of misfeasance will be filed with the election officer and passed on to the county's prosecuting attorney, Salatino said. The charge must be accurate, and supported by specific documentation. The charge can then be filed on a ballot title, and presented to the Superior Court for a decision on its merit. On approval by the Superior Court, signatures can be collected on a recall petition, during a specified timeframe. Those signatures are compared with the voting registration record, and when certified by the county auditor, the petition can be placed on "the ballot" special election set. The subjects of the recall petition have the right to a response, to be printed in the voter's pamphlet.

A recall petition requires a 51 percent Yes votes to be approved.

Should that happen, the Pierce County Council will appoint another person to join the single remaining commissioner, Rick Stout, on the FD-16 Board of Commissioners. Those two would pick a third commissioner. Stout's term of office ends in 2007, and it is unknown if he will seek reelection at this time. Separately, there are plans for a ballot measure to increase the commission from three to five members. Should this measure pass, the existing board members would appoint commissioners to the two new seats.

At the citizens meeting, Taylor read from Washington state law, "The people of this state do not yield our sovereignty to the agencies that serve us. In delegating authority to the government, we did not give our public servants the right to decide what is good for us to know... He encouraged public attendance at all future fire commissioner meetings, to hold the board accountable.

Meanwhile, a second, informal group on the south end of the KP has emerged. Known as TOBAY (Tired of Bosch and Yanity), their goal is to mobilize the citizens force the two commissioners' resignations.

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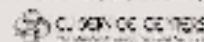
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Tennis courts under renovation

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Work has begun to renovate the two rundown tennis courts at the Civic Center in Vaughn. In May, "foreman" Phil Bauer (that's what his crew called him) put KPCC President Ben Thompson and volunteer Rufus Clark to work tearing down the old wire netting, bracing post corners with new wood, and creating a new center entrance to the courts. The plan is to level all the support posts to 10 feet in height, paint them, and top them all with wood post caps prior to hanging new wire fencing.

Tennis instructor Rick Johnson will resurface the courts green with red striping, according to Bauer. People who remember the sun in their eyes when they played there before will be in for a surprise, as Johnson is rotating the striping and nets so the courts will be facing north/south rather than east/west. "It will be a real nice facility for folks who play tennis or want to learn to play," Bauer said. All the work is being done by volunteers referring to



Photos courtesy Ben Thompson

KPCC Past President Phil Bauer and tennis instructor Rick Johnson are evaluating the problems associated with rotating the tennis courts 90 degrees to get away from the afternoon sun.

themselves as the "KP Civic Center Tennis Court Renovation Committee."

Eager to get the project underway,

Clark fronted funding for materials, including fencing, which has already been purchased. The workforce behind this gift to the community is asking for the support and assistance of KP residents. They could use help in continuing and completing the project, and have a goal of raising \$10,000 to both repay their generous benefactors, and finish the courts according to their vision.

All donations will be used for materials directly related to court-refurbishing. Tax-deductible contribution letters will be provided for donors at all levels. Volunteers have established three levels of donation: supporting members at \$50, contributing members at \$100 (receive a named brick on the walkway), and sponsor level at \$500 (name engraved on an entrance plaque). Donations should be made payable to: Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA); organizers say any amount above or below the suggested rate will be gratefully accepted for this worthwhile community project. The courts are open to the public at no charge.



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(From **HOSPITAL**, Page 1)

new family-wage jobs and offer a full range of medical care, including 24-hour emergency services. The hospital will connect to medical offices by a sky bridge. The entire campus is part of the Franciscan Health System, which includes hospitals and centers in Tacoma, Lakewood, Federal Way, and 35 medical clinics.

The blessing ceremony was conducted by Archbishop Alexander Brunett, from the Archdiocese of Seattle, dressed in full regalia (FHS is affiliated with Catholic Health Initiatives). He told the audience that the hospital is not a business but a ministry about the dignity of every human being.

"The health care ministry of St. Anthony's is our faith expressed by reaching out to others and being part of a community," he said. In this way, the ministry is acting as "a good steward of the blessings given to us." Brunett led a processional through the assembly, including the jazz band, anointing all within reach with sprinkles of holy water. He concluded near the stage, where he anointed a long mound of dirt, from the building site, spread on a canvas carpet.

Once the blessing was received, Nichols declared St. Anthony's officially open. First on her long list of gratitude was the salute to the Russell Family Foundation for pledging \$1.5 million to help create a state-of-the-art outpatient cancer center on the campus of the new hospital. "This is one of the largest gifts St. Frances has ever received," Nichols said.

The cancer center is named for Jane Russell, philanthropist, community activist, the late wife of business leader George Russell, and the aunt of Laure Nichols. Mrs. Russell, a Key Peninsula resident, chaired the St. Joseph Medical Center board of trustees.

"The center will feature radiation oncology, medical oncology and a host of integrative therapy and complimentary support services so people with cancer in our community can stay close to home and receive the finest care available," Nichols said in a press release.

Also recognized for championing the hospital program were local political officials: late Sen. Bob Oke (who attended with his wife, Judy), Reps. Pat Lantz and Larry Seaquist, and Sen. Derek Kilmer.

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee said, "In my 34 years (of political service), I have never seen a community get behind an effort like I've seen behind St. Anthony's Hospital... It may take a village to raise a child. It certainly takes a community to raise a hospital." While visiting, after the ceremony, Lee said, "In years from



Photos by Danna Webster

Above, the late Sen. Bob Oke and wife, Judy, were among officials who attended the ceremony. Sen. Oke shared that the hospital had very little support from the Legislature originally. He described going from desk to desk in the assembly lobbying the idea. "I spent a lot of time on my knees," he said. "They came around; and just about 100 percent."

Top Right, the Peninsula High School Jazz Band, conducted by Paula DeMoss, entertains the VIP crowd. Bottom right, Archbishop Alex Brunett from the Archdiocese of Seattle gives the hospital the official blessing.

now, people won't know about all the hard work to get it out here. It's nice to see a facility that has such regional effects."

Buses took guests to the building site for tours. They were met by Assistant Supervisor Tony Silva, site Superintendent Tim Larson, and giant scraper equipment moving dirt at the rate of nearly 20 yards at a time. "There are about 60 vehicles on the site, trucks coming and going," Larson said. The project managers said plans are for the hospital and cancer center to open at the same time in early 2009.

Larson later admitted to having the idea that stole the show at the opening ceremony. A white construction hard hat was handed to the archbishop before he was given a shovel that would lift heaps of blessed dirt for photo ops. Printed clearly across the front of the hardhat was "Archbishop Brunett." The archbishop's regal miter headdress was removed. He stuck the hard hat firmly over his red beanie, took the shovel, and started digging. He didn't stop until the last flash of the news' cameras. He led the exit procession with a grin on his face.

St. Anthony's Hospital is a first-class project from the ground up. Before the big equipment arrived for construction, local residents were invited to harvest vine maple, ferns and trillium. Lantz mentioned the event in her speech and thanked the administrators for their consideration toward preservation. "They know how to share a vision. They know we care about our beautiful and unique envi-



“
It may take a village to raise a child. It certainly takes a community to raise a hospital.

— Terry Lee,
Pierce County Councilman

”



ronment," she said.

The Franciscan Health System, the builder of the hospital, has recently been honored at the state and national level. The organization received the 2007 Washington State Quality Award as a model of business quality and performance. This is an award that requires a rigorous application, examination and analysis process. In addition, the Franciscan organization is ranked No. 8 on Verispan's Top 100 list of the most efficient and best-performing health care networks in the United States. (Verispan is an independent health care research and information company.)

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(From ACCIDENT, Page 1)

Western Washington region. Major news stations and daily newspapers covered the accident, in addition to the local publications.

In that collision, a local resident as well as Fire District 16 personnel were fortunate to escape with their lives. The accident was yet another in a series of near-fatal crashes involving alcohol at the infamous corner of SR-302 known widely as "the Corner of Death."

Not too far south from this site, there are two signs that have served to remind drivers of the SR-302 corridor about the death of one of the Key Peninsula's favorite sons, David Doolittle. The message is simple: "Please Don't Drink and Drive. Sponsored by the David Doolittle family."

One of the two signs was erected in May of 2004 almost at the spot where David Doolittle lost his life on May 4, 2000, in a horrific accident where he died instantly at the scene after being involved in an accident caused by a drunken driver. Paramedics who responded to the crash were friends of his, and David and his wife, Cindy, were well known and liked around the Key Peninsula area.

"Don't drink and drive" is a popular phrase that has been taken for granted by so many drivers, young and old alike. After learning about this most recent and preventable tragedy from her mother, who is a resident of the Peninsula area, Tammy L. Richmond, of Fircrest, contacted the KP News with a message for drivers on SR-302 and anywhere else: "Please, slow down!"

Richmond was almost killed at the



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Tammy Richmond, who must now walk with a cane, looks at the area where her accident occurred, nearly taking her life.

same intersection; but alcohol was not involved, just an inexperienced 16-year-old driver coming from Key Center and driving his vehicle too fast. He hit Richmond's car when he tried to avoid hitting the car in front of him as it was stopped at the intersection. Richmond was coming from Purdy in the opposite direction when her car was hit head on, and she does not recall the impact at all.

Inspired by the dedication of the Fire District 16 emergency personnel in this most recent accident, who were also hurt and still willing to help others despite their own injuries, Richmond said, "I wanted to share my experience with the public and wanted to take the opportunity to thank the paramedics who had helped save my life that evening. I never had the opportunity to do so afterward."

Richmond was also told there was a woman at the scene of the accident who held her hand and comforted her until

the paramedics arrived. She was never able to find out this woman's identity and would like to meet and thank her someday for her kindness.

Richmond spent one month at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, and was told she died twice on the way there, and that Fire District 16 paramedics had revived her. She was in a drug-induced coma for two weeks; her hip, pelvis and both legs were broken, in addition to her right wrist. She has had 17 surgeries to date, 13 of them to her legs. She walks with a cane and is permanently disabled.

It will be six years ago this July since the accident occurred. Richmond was only 31 years old at the time and the single mother of a son. Life has been a challenge at times since then.

She said, "It was a live-changing event, but one that I have tried to turn into a positive experience. I was thankful to have lived through it, despite all the pain."

Richmond said that she "tries not to take anything for granted," and she is thankful to be alive. Still a single parent, she said, "I enjoy working part-time at my son's school and spending time with him." The accident helped turn her life into a more spiritual existence, and she has found solace in her belief in Christianity. "I have a great respect for life, and I have learned how to turn the negative into the positive," she said.

Richmond's story may be one of many stories of changed lives due to collisions at that same intersection. According to statistics provided to the Key Peninsula News by the Washington State Department of Transportation, between July 1, 1993, and Dec. 31, 2006, the

The Key Peninsula has a high number of alcohol related auto collisions: WSDOT figures show 24 reported alcohol related collisions between Jan. 1, 2001-December 31, 2006 on the following Pierce County Roads. Creviston Dr/Cramer Road, 92nd Street, Olson Road, Wright Bliss Road N/O SR 302, Wright Bliss Road S/O SR 302, South Vaughn/Lackey Road, 118th Ave NW, Key Peninsula Hwy S/O Olson/Cramer Road and Whiteman Road/76th Street. Between Jan. 1, 1993 and Dec. 31, 2006, on the SR-302 spur there were 183 accidents related to alcohol, including four fatality accidents, 63 accidents involving injuries, and another 48 with possible injuries.

intersection of SR-302 and 118th Avenue NW had 75 total accidents, including 39 involving injuries (these numbers are for the intersection only, from mile post 11.56 to 11.60).

Richmond believes some action should be taken to make driving conditions better in that area, such as having the speed reduced to 35 mph and perhaps putting in a stop light at the intersection. In a recent report, the Pierce County - Key Peninsula Community Planning Board has also identified the intersection as one requiring improvements.

FD-16 Chief Tom Lique said, "After the traffic signal went up at the 'T' intersection at Elgin Clifton Road and SR-302, the intersection of 118th Avenue NW and SR-302 then became the intersection with the highest number of Fire Department 16 responses on the Key Peninsula."

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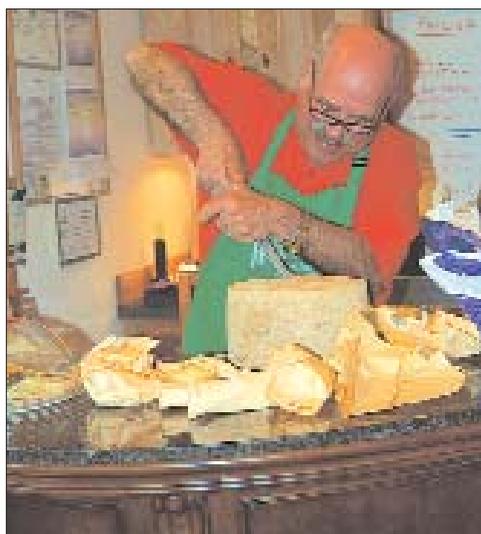
Above, Twenty-five women, men, and children gather near the flag pole at the Key Peninsula Civic Center just before 1 p.m.

on Mother's Day to form a circle of silence for five minutes, with bell-ringing preceding and ending the quiet time, as part of the Standing Women national event. As of May 17, 3,634 such events in 17 nations were listed, including involvement of 773 organizations.

Photo courtesy Jarvis Krumbein

Claude Gahard of the Trillium Creek Winery serves Estrella cheese, a brand new addition to the winery's offerings.

Photo by Danna Webster



The Voorhees, Ava, 5, Bella, 9, and Ethan, 6, who came from Tacoma to Longbranch on grandpa's 56-foot-power boat, "Lyndsi's Tuition," try their hand at fishing after enjoying the annual breakfast during the Longbranch Improvement Club's Opening Day of Yachting Season. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Volunteers remove a discarded appliance from Rocky Creek Conservation Area during Park Appreciation Day. For more Park Appreciation Day photos, visit our gallery at www.keypennews.com. *Photo courtesy KPMPD*



Steven, Rosemary and Roger Barron enjoy their chocolate sundaes at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church annual Chocolate Sunday event held in May. Both silent and live auctions were held, including offerings from the youth group. *Photo by Colleen Slater*



Left, At Mac, Donna, and Joe Stewart's home celebrating Sam Stewart's wonderful but all too brief life are his friends, 15-year-old Peninsula High School students Collin Smith, Sean Warren, Max Shake, Haley Ann Sullivan, Chelsea Archeleta, and Gabby Bosch and Melissa Blackburn. The Stewarts hosted in May the first of what they intend to make the "Annual Sam Stewart Memorial Run/Walk." We offer an opportunity to support any of three organizations that remind us of Sam's compassion and enthusiasm. Proceeds will be awarded The Humane Society, Camp Good Times, and Mercy Corp," Donna Stewart said. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*