



In this issue



◀ 'Boo-Bear' hunts for different kind of treasure, page 19

Blacksmith creates art, page 11 ▶



Preserving the KP charm

Miles of coastlines and pristine forests, tranquility amid flowing streams and open spaces, a friendly community reminiscent of the good old days of country living—the Key Peninsula is an idyllic place for those running away from the hubbub of city life and the swarming highways. But as more people discover what some call “the crown jewel of Puget Sound,” the challenge of balancing growth and preserving quality of life becomes a priority. A community planning board is trying to address both sides.

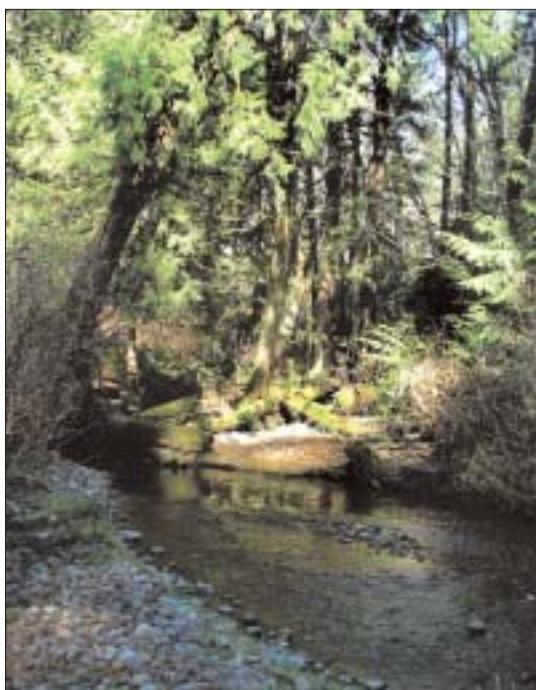


Photo by Danna Webster

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The March sun teases the trees at Rocky Creek.

About five years ago, a clearcutting of 76 acres in Vaughn stirred up emotions among residents. Their worries ranged from wetlands and runoff to preservation of rural character.

During one of the public meetings on the issue, Rep. Pat Lantz said a similar case involving massive clearcutting on State Route 16 eventually triggered the county's comprehensive plan. The plan stopped short of the Key Peninsula, she said.

Private citizens had no say with their county and state government, residents said at the time. The Growth Management Act had failed them, they said, and warned that this would happen on the Key Peninsula over and over again.

While no other local development or logging has caused big public outcry since then, the question of consequences has remained: What happens to the quality of life on the Key Pen as more people move in and more trees come down?

(See **PLANNING**, Page 12)

A view of the Key Pen from a different 'Vantage Point'

By Irene Torres
KP News

Carney Lake resident Mike Baum has been able to do what few people would dare. Finding himself between jobs a few years ago, he asked himself, “What do I like to do? I like to take pictures and I like to fly.” Putting those two passions together, he decided to start his business in custom aerial photography.

At first, Baum sold his aerial pictures door-to-door. Eventually, he was able to secure business from other customers, including recent work for Centex Homes, the sponsor of ABC's “Extreme Makeovers: Home Edition” series.

“We were invited to the KIRO-TV studios for a VIP showing with the Dore family,” he said. The family's Kingston

(See **AERIAL**, Page 15)



Photo by September Hyde

An emotional Cristi Watson walks to receive her award.

Cristi Watson becomes Citizen of the Year —amid looming good-byes

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Cristi Watson practically fell into her job as executive director of KP Community Services in the fall of 2001 after the attacks of Sept. 11 brought a hiring freeze on civilian military hiring—and an end to her budget analyst job with the Army a day before she was to start.

But months later, by February of the following year, she had already impressed many people: She was nominated as one of the Key Peninsula's citizens of the year. This March, two more nominations later, Watson was honored with the award, presented by the KP Lions Club.

The usually bubbly and outspoken redhead was at a loss for words when she walked to deliver her remarks. “I don't think I've ever been speechless before,” she told the audience of about 200. “There are so many wonderful people

(See **WATSON**, Page 27)

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A photo collage from the March 12 Lion's Club Citizen of the Year event on page 17.

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Park district's new director ready to play ball

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Scott Gallagher had plenty to do after arriving for his first day of work in March as the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District's new full-time director. Volunteer Park needed to be ready for softball season, less than a month away; the office and a computer had to be set up; a Website was urgently needed; and the search for a concessionaire was under way. And that's just to get started.

The park board moved quickly at the end of February to vote on hiring a director, then hire someone right away out of as many as 70 applicants.

"Some board members felt (the director) was needed from the beginning," said Chair Paula DeMoss. "As we got closer to the opening of the season, board members realized we weren't able to get things done quickly enough."

DeMoss said hiring a director, who will have some maintenance work as his job duties, required adjusting the budget, but the board saw the expense as a necessary first step toward becoming organized and moving ahead with new programs.

The job seems right up the alley for Gallagher, who has worked for recreation programs ranging from the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the cities of Marysville and Everett. "I really enjoy a challenge and starting things new, and building it up," he said.

Gallagher, who is moving to the Key Peninsula from Lake Stevens, used to visit the area while growing up in Everett—his grandmother lived in Wauna. The Key Pen's lifestyle is attractive for him and his family, a wife and two young children, and he sees preserving the quality of life as part of his job.

"Parks are more than 20 acres of grass and trees," he said. "They are gathering places and programs that make the community well-rounded...People say, 'Why do we need a park administrator?' The need is to improve the recreational aspect, and that's a quality of life issue."

Gallagher's priority is Volunteer Park, but he's also looking to make partnerships with other entities, build up the softball program, bring in summer programs, and implement new ideas. He says the district will continue to rely heavily on volunteers and community involvement.

"I consider myself a conductor almost, making sure everything's in tune," he said. One of his "productions" already proved successful. On a rainy Saturday in



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Scott Gallagher came into his new job with sleeves rolled up, greeted by a busy agenda from the start.

Parks briefs

KPMPD is still looking for men's and women's teams for its adult softball program. At least four teams are needed per division to create the league. The season begins in mid-April but can be adjusted.

The 2005 KPMPD adopted budget includes a projected income of \$134,150, and expenses of \$85,000 including \$18,000 in repairs.

KPMPD Director Scott Gallagher would like to solicit residents' ideas for summer programs or classes, and is also looking for volunteers for office work, field maintenance, services and other help.

The commissioners voted to approve a jousting exhibition and school at Volunteer Park in June, contingent on certain conditions. According to the proposal by the Ravenswood School of Jousting, American Jousting Alliance founder James Zoppe will perform with his entourage.

The Lions Club, on behalf of the park board, will solicit donations of cash and materials to build a picnic shelter at Home Park. The project, by the KP Lions, will also involve volunteer labor; anyone interested should call George Robison at 853-2721.

To reach the park district or director Scott Gallagher, call 884-9240.

March, more than 100 people—kids, up to clean Volunteer Park and get the parents, Little League players— showed fields ready for April 2 season opening.

Civic Center reduces costs, keeps looking

The Key Pen Civic Center Association will save about \$12,000 per year in insurance costs after deciding to join a California insurance pool for nonprofit organizations. The \$26,000 previous policy cost was a critical factor in the financial woes of the Civic Center.

The executive board called a special members' meeting the last night of February to choose one of the three cost-savings options discussed previously: joining the insurance pool or partnering up with one of the two park districts. The vote determined that the nonprofit insurance policy was preferred over a partnership contract with either Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District or the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District.

The board will continue the investigation into the feasibility of partnering with a park board. Phil Bauer, president of the KPCCA, attended a March meeting of the KPPRD to inquiry about the commissioners' interest in keeping the park district in business for the sole purpose of being a caretaker for the Civic Center. Although no formal motion was made, three out of the five commissioners raised their hands against it.

"KPPRD was promised to go away and I don't expect it to be in existence long enough" to consider the option, said Kip Clinton, who is a commissioner on board park boards.

The KPPRD partnership is favored by some Civic Center board members, who say the center would not have to compete with other issues and groups under the new metro parks board. A partnership with either district would exempt the Civic Center from paying property taxes and provide other savings.

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Dental van brings smiles to both sides of the chair

By Danna Webster
KP News

A single driver starts up a mobile dental van in predawn hours and steers it toward the Key Peninsula. By the time the van doors open for business, at the Key Peninsula Community Services, the driver has acquired a full cargo of state-licensed dental staff. All aboard this state-of-the-art mobile dental clinic are volunteers except the driver.

"I always expect some burly guy to drive that thing but out comes little Yvette," says Cristi Watson, executive director of KPCS, which is the destination of the van.

Yvette Townsend is not only the driver, she is the South Sound mobile dental unit coordinator for Northwest Medical Teams International, Inc. (NWMTI) serving the area from Seattle to Olympia. According to the dental staff, Townsend makes the program happen, from gassing up in Olympia to hooking up at the KP Community Center, and all that goes between.

There is seldom any down time for Townsend and the staff who may see as many as 15 patients per trip in the two chairs aboard the van. Townsend says they begin with patients needing urgent care and the first patient, this Saturday morning, requires a root canal. That procedure takes two and a half hours, throwing the entire schedule off for the day.

The patient exits saying repeatedly to the staff, "Thank you. God bless."

There is no rush, according to



Photo by Danna Webster

The dental van team work on a patient during the recent visit to the KP Community Center.

Townsend, which is one advantage of the dental van. They can take the time to concentrate on the quality of their work. Their practice is not dependent upon the number of patients they see. Her favorite story is of one former patient who, upon receiving an inheritance, declared she wanted to give it to the dental van.

Townsend's enthusiasm for the program is shared by the professional staff, which includes hygienist Linda Cox, dental assistant Luke Snyder and dentist Jill Hansen. This is the first assignment for Dr. Hansen but Cox and Snyder are regular volunteers. Snyder is a single parent who is completing dental assistant training. He likes to volunteer for the van because "it feels good to do things for people."

"It's one way to make a contribution... This is my calling," Snyder says, adding that he experienced living "on the other side of the tracks."

The dental van is part of a nine-van fleet belonging to NWMTI, an international disaster assistance program. The program's first assistance to the Pacific Northwest began in 1989 with a mobile

dental clinic to care for needy families. Having the dental clinic van on the Key Peninsula is thanks, in large part, to the efforts of Jennifer Dean, assistant director of missions at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor.

At first, it was Dean's plan to locate the dental van at Chapel Hill but she says it "was not a good fit," and she began to make calls looking for people with needs

The dental van program is looking for licensed dental volunteers and financial donations. "Just \$60 provides complete care for one child," says Dean, and recommends the Website at www.nwmti.org. The contact is Jennifer Dean, Chapel Hill Church, 853-0238, or jdean@chapelhillpc.org.

that were worthy of the church's time and money. Dean found the perfect fit when one of her calls connected to Watson. The church was looking to provide dental care for low-income families and the homeless and to partner with an agency dedicated to meeting local needs. Watson made it obvious to Dean that the Key Peninsula had a really big need, was excited by the offer, and told her, "Let's do it!"

Once Dean united the dynamo pair of Cristi Watson and Yvette Townsend, access to basic dental care for needy families on the Peninsula became available. The volunteers providing the care are dedicated to their motto "change a life for good." When Cox, the hygienist, was asked about coming to the Key Peninsula, she said, "It's very worthwhile, we see everything out here." She was quick to add, "We couldn't do this without Cristi and Yvette."

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Editorial

Don't complain after the fact

The current meetings of a community planning board that will write a growth plan for the Key Peninsula bring a good turnout of residents who have ideas and concerns. But considering how many people this plan will impact, once completed next year, there should be a much bigger crowd in the room.

The plan is essentially the county's way of saying, "You tell us what you want your Peninsula to look like, and we'll oblige." At least that's how it's presented, and worked for other communities. Let's not wait until this plan impacts us in a few years when we try to do something on our property. This is our chance to stay ahead.

If you're worried about restrictions on pesticide use, where commercial development will happen, how much open space should be considered, how your farm may be impacted — and other aspects of living on the sunny Key Peninsula — you should be showing up at the meetings. Check the KP News for the monthly schedule.

An opportunity to excel

By Larry Seaquist

Editor's Note: Larry Seaquist was the keynote speaker at the recent Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year dinner. The Key Peninsula News asked him to say more about his call for the community to take the lead in planning its future.

"Awesome" is the first word that comes to mind when I look back over the newspaper summary of the accomplishments of each of the standout citizens celebrated at the Key Peninsula citizen of the year dinner. These talented and energetic volunteers furnish much of the glue that makes KP a community, not just an address.

Awesome also are the challenges threatening that well-being. In nearly every American community one can see some variation of what we might think of as a triple car wreck. In this chain-reaction pile-up, several things are going wrong at once. Traditional jobs and local businesses are disap-

pearing, our education system is struggling to deliver people able to prosper in the new economy, and our systems for assuring our personal and environmental health are failing.

With government budgets in trouble, local communities can't count on government "air bags" to cushion the hard times. In any event, the problem is more serious than money. Our economy, our education systems, and our health care mechanisms are all interconnected. You can't fix one without fixing all three. But in Olympia and Washington, D.C., officials have them partitioned off — jobs in one department, education in another, health in a third. Only at the grass-roots level of the community do all three come together.

The implication? If our communities are to continue to thrive, they are going to have to unravel the triple car wreck for themselves. How to do that? Or better, who to do that? In Key Peninsula, just as in other communities

around the world, the answer is the Good Citizen, the volunteer who mobilizes people from all across the community, including the youth, to think through these problems together.

To be sure, these are complicated issues. Different people will have different opinions about what the problems are, to say nothing of different remedies. But I have found working with community leaders around the world — even in countries in the middle of a civil war — that all sides will agree on a handful of "must do" first steps. Acting on these urgent "opportunities to excel" can be an important step to assuring that a community thrives for the long term. I look forward to seeing this kind of strategic citizenry in action in the Key Peninsula community.

A former U.S. Navy warship captain and Pentagon strategist, Larry Seaquist works on and writes about conflict prevention and peacebuilding campaigns.

Letters to the Editor

One more piece of Sunnycrest information

I was deeply impressed with the story about the changes taken place about the Olsons' property. I noticed that one thing was not mentioned, the strawberry patch.

I recalled (being 12 years old) having to walk about 1 mile daily to pick strawberries for Elmer and Elsie Olson, earning about 15 cents a basket. I'd be happy to earn enough money for a new toy or candy from Vaughn store on my way home. I had done this for about two years during the harvest season.

Last summer, I and my wife drove up to Vaughn to visit with my aunt for a few days. I noticed the hill still there and no strawberries to taste from that place.

*Delmar Cheeseman
Chico, California*

Intersection problem solved

In the June 1998 issue of the Key Peninsula News there was a column I had written about a traffic hazard at the intersection of McEwan Road and KPHN. The sign indicated a reduced

speed to 35 mph, but the yellow line indicated that drivers could not pass vehicles that had slowed. Mixed messages. When I contacted the county roads department, their response was that federal regulations precluded any changes.

In 2004, county Councilman Terry Lee and state Rep. Lois McMahan spoke at a transportation meeting at the KP Civic Center. I told Terry Lee about the problem and he promised to look into it. The next day, Cindy Willis in his office phoned me for details. Two months later the yellow line was repainted to prohibit passing at that intersection.

We need to thank Terry Lee, Cindy Willis and Jim Ellison of the traffic division of Public Works and Utilities for their efforts to make driving safer on the Key Peninsula.

*Marty Marcus
Home*

Group thanks for tsunami drive response

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute wishes to thank a generous community for the help during the used clothing drive. To all who gave, to those who volunteered countless hours and those

who offered their places of business for pickup points. You, once again, showed what you could do when asked to help others less fortunate and we thank each and every one.

*Floyd Sanders
KPMI*

Humane Society charges late fees without notice

Lately, our local Humane Society seems to be "going to the dogs" (rather than going after them). They are in the midst of an apparent budget crisis, and have been making major cutbacks. They have eliminated all but two of their Animal Control Officers in Pierce County. There is no longer an Animal Control Officer here on the Key Peninsula.

Nevertheless, someone within the department seems to be taking some desperate measures to save his (or her) desk-job. Without warning, they have stopped notifying pet owners to remind them when it is time to renew a pet license. Instead, they wait until the renewal of the license is overdue, and add a "penalty" fee (\$10 for being 30 days late; and \$20 for being 60 days late). No one was ever warned in advance of

the pending late fee. It was added on after the fact. I am not sure if that is even legal, although it is definitely unethical!

They have targeted us, responsible pet owners who first purchased a pet license, while they ignore all of those who did not. They treat us as if we are the offenders.

Those people who never purchased a pet license will never be contacted by the Humane Society for two reasons: (1) They are not included in the Humane Society's "records."

(2) There is no longer an Animal Control Officer to knock on their door.

In many other counties, the Humane Society requires proof of a Rabies vaccination, before they will issue or renew a pet license. Pierce County used to do that; but they don't bother to anymore. All they seem to care about is collecting money.

In the near future, we can not only expect to see more loose dogs in our neighborhood. But the chances of a dog being rabid may also be greater, even though the dog may have current license tags.

Thank you, Pierce County Humane Society for a job not so well done!

*Michael W. Gephart
Lakebay*

Reps. Kilmer, Lantz, stop by Key Pen for public meeting

By Irene Torres
KP News

Their whirlwind series of public meetings led state Representatives from the 26th Legislative District to the Key Peninsula Civic Center on March 19. Derek Kilmer (D) and Patricia Lantz (D) spoke before about 25 Key Peninsula citizens on the mid-session status of bills before the House of Representatives.

Serving on the committees for economic development, agriculture and trade; transportation; and technology, energy and communications, Kilmer described his work for small business, infrastructure and consumer protection. His small business incubator bill is designed "to improve the chances of success."



KILMER



LANTZ

"Transportation is my top priority committee," especially the exemption from construction sales tax for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project and the formation of a citizens' commission for areas most impacted by the tolls, which "will give a voice to our community," he said.

Lantz's House committee appointments, the justice system, health care, and capital structures, have put her in a position to deal with prescription drug pricing, methamphetamine control, civil relief for returning National Guard personnel, and "Plan B: the balanced and better medical malpractice initiative."

"It is a patient-centered, comprehensive approach to assure safe practice in a supportive environment. It will address problems and solutions through insurance companies," Lantz said. "It is fair, equitable, and understandable...with proper compensation and a reduction in frivolous lawsuits."

Kilmer assured Vaughn resident Ed Taylor, "The North End property for the creation of a new park will be on the Department of Natural Resources list that we will fund — even though we still have a little ways to go."

New funding for education is a focus for Lantz. "The Early Learning Act passed with resounding enthusiasm. It will be the greatest investment in K-12 education that we've seen in years and years and years," she said.

The two listened to concerns of the community, from affordable housing for seniors, better funding for mental health and more dedicated resources for education, toll inequities, gasoline sales taxes, federal funding cuts, and election reform.

Kilmer explained the obligations of the state, "We have a constitutional obligation to fund education and a moral obligation to provide services for those most vulnerable."

His three priorities are "to ensure the money currently spent is efficient and effective, via a performance audit; a commitment to economic development;

and a process to spend money according to the priorities of the government, and draw up the budget accordingly."

"There are huge differences between revenues and needs. It will cost \$2 billion more to do exactly the same as two years ago," Lantz said. "The state's revenue forecast is extremely good news, with a net of \$150 million after recent court decisions."

As Kilmer drew the meeting to a close, he said, "We are interested in making this a conversation. We can only represent you if we hear from you. Our doors are open. We welcome your visits, phone calls, and emails."

They indicated plans for a round of town hall meetings near the end of the legislative year. Then they departed with their legislative assistants to attend another public hearing, one of four that day.

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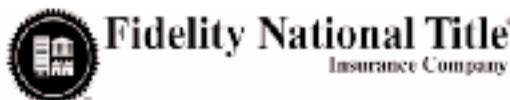
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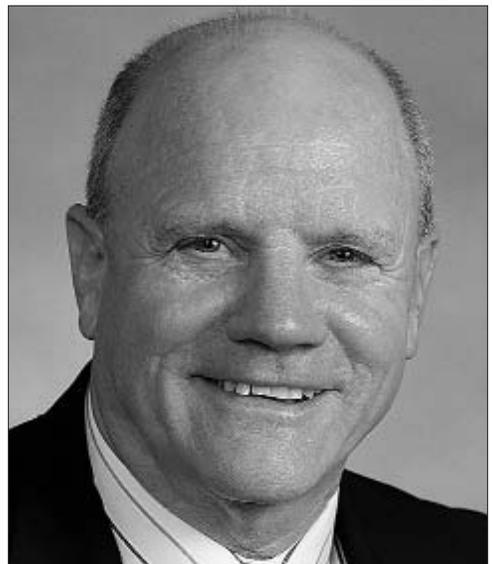


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**HARBOR FED
MORTGAGE**

Balancing the budget and other issues: An interview with Sen. Bob Oke

By William C. Dietz
KP News



OKE

Sen. Oke was elected to the state Senate in 1990, 1994, 1998, and 2002. He was the Republican whip in 1993 and 1994, and serves on three standing committees at the present time, including Natural Resources, Ocean and Recreation, and Transportation, where he is the ranking Republican.

In a January press release, he indicated that his top priorities included "outlawing tobacco samples, cleaning up toxic weeds in lakes and saving ferry riders from having to absorb high fuel costs..." On Jan. 26, the Senate approved Oke's Senate Bill 5048 to prohibit the distribution of tobacco samples at fairs, concerts, and rodeos, a practice that Oke and other supporters of the bill feel is intended to recruit young smokers. At press time, the measure was under consideration by the House of Representatives. Now, with the new legislative session in full swing, Key Pen News spoke with Oke about his views and priorities.

(Editor's note: This interview was conducted before the governor's proposed budget was unveiled and before the deadline for moving bills out of their chamber of origin).

KPN: I'm guessing that the budget shortfall qualifies as the most pressing issue that the state faces — how can that be dealt with?

Oke: Listening to Gov. Christine Gregoire... she acknowledges that we're in a big hole. All through the campaign period they (the Democrats) have made a lot of promises. But the promises outweigh their ability to get things done. It's difficult in my mind to give people

raises when you're taking money away from people who don't have jobs. The people I'm referring to are the ones who can't work or get out there and get jobs and pay taxes. The governor is going to have to make some tough cuts... I just hope it won't be the people who can't help themselves. That's what our caucus has been saying for the last couple of years: That when we get people back to work, we'll be able to give teachers and others raises.

KPN: What about new taxes?
Oke: What we (state Republicans) would do is tell the governor to look at priorities and take care of those who can't take care of themselves first before giving raises to those who already have jobs. A general tax increase is something our caucus is not supportive of at this time.

KPN: Given the fact that Democrats control both the Senate and the House during this session — how will that play

into budgetary decisions?

Oke: I experienced this back in 1993. But the very next year we had control of both the Senate and the House again.

KPN: What is your focus right now?

Oke: Bill 5319 deals with trapping... We continually see more evidence of coyotes, cougars and bears. Clearly parks and baseball fields have problems with moles. The bill allows people on this side to use scissor traps for moles. It would allow people to trap in a humane way those coyotes and so forth that have become a hindrance.

People that go to Seattle would be interested in passenger-only service from Southworth. We have hopes that they will be able to leave their cars at the Harper Evangelical Church (State Route 160), ride transit to the ferry dock, and make the trip directly to Seattle in about 20 minutes. What we need to make this happen is about \$5 million for the biennium. When they get into conference for the transportation budget, this will come up and they

know how I feel. People who use the ferry would not go onto I-5 and contribute to the problem we have now.

KPN: What about the Trust Fund Transfer program that allows the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to exchange, transfer, or sell certain parcels? Specifically a 360-acre property near 144th and State Route 302 that has been discussed as a potential park? Do you support that effort?

Oke: Yes! And there's a \$67 million request to support a number of different projects including this one. Rep. Pat Lantz is well positioned to support that effort — and I'll do everything I can to help.

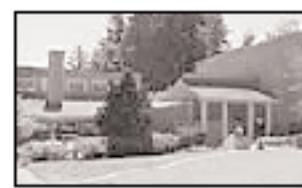
KPN: Do you think the transfer will take place?

Oke: I think the odds are reasonably good — and every year we have approved similar transfers, and hopefully this year will be no different.

Sen. Bob Oke can be reached at 360-786-7650. For more information about his legislative work, visit www1.leg.wa.gov/Senate/SRC/Senators/OkeBio.htm

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KPMS selected for two NASA experiments

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The Key Peninsula Middle School was among five schools selected to participate in NASA experiments as part of the agency's NASA Explorer Schools program. In a competitive process, KPMS was selected not once, but twice—first to launch an experiment in a high-altitude balloon, and the second to launch an experiment in a rocket.

Eighth graders Ashley Torres and Jessica Henderson were the first ones to visit the Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, spending five days there, along with a teacher, in March.

As part of the application, the school had to describe the experiment they'd like launched, what they expect to happen during the launch, and why the experiment was significant. "If you send vegetable seeds in a high altitude balloon, what will be the effect of the gamma radiation on the vegetables?" was the question.

The two young ladies confidently explain the idea, which was brainstormed and voted on by the entire class.

"We thought they may get mutated," said Torres. "Gamma radiation may affect it so it grows better or faster," offered Henderson. Which leads to the experiment's significance: It may improve growth production, which could aid countries, particularly poor ones, to feed their populations.

The experiment samples from the five selected schools will fly on a large scientific balloon, usually the size of a football field, to an altitude of up to 130,000 feet in a six- to 12-hour flight, NASA said.

"Our astronomy class helped so much. We wish the whole class could go," Torres said. "We dedicate this whole (experience) to them."

At Wallops, the students got to fly a high-altitude balloon, although the seeds themselves will be flown in a separate scientific balloon mission on a future date. They toured the facility, presented their experiment to the other five school teams and NASA staff, and saw a few tourist attractions on the side. This was their first East Coast visit.

Although the girls didn't get to prepare their presentations ahead of time, the experience they gained from talking at the KPMS assembly and other preparations helped their confidence, they said.

The other two KPMS students, Davin Osuna and Billy Cundiff, and a teacher will visit NASA in June to present the second experiment and participate in other activities.



TORRES



HENDERSON

NASA representative Brian Hawkins talks to KPMS students about the forces involved in rocketry, before leading them in safely firing off Alka Seltzer-propelled missiles during a class.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Opening Day of the Key Peninsula Little League Season at Volunteer Park!!

Come to Volunteer Park on Saturday, April 2nd for Little League Opening Day! Everything starts at 10:00 a.m. as teams are marched onto the field. At 10:15, the colors will be presented along with the playing of the national anthem and the President's address. The 2004 Allstars will be announced at 10:30. By 11:00, announcements will be made recognizing the sponsors and acknowledging CenturyTel for its support. The highlight of the opening ceremonies will then be at 11:15 with the throwing of the opening day pitch!

Don't miss this exciting event! Here is a schedule of the day's games, so have fun rooting your team to victory!

Field #1

12:15	Peninsula Market vs. Bayside Animal Lodge
1:00	CenturyTel vs. Peninsula Light
1:45	Al Door vs. CenturyTel
2:30	Peninsula Light vs. Al Door
3:15	GOSH Transportation vs. A&M Development
4:00	A&M Development vs. Office Aide
4:45	Office Aide vs. NW Shroud
5:30	NW Shroud vs. GOSH Transportation

Field #2

11:30	Glisson and Witt vs. Greg's Improvements
12:15	Pioneer Builder Supply vs. GOSH Transportation
1:00	GOSH Transportation vs. Pioneer Builder Supply
1:45	Shamrock Appraisals vs. KPBA
2:30	KPBA vs. Dana's Heating
3:15	Dana's Heating vs. Shamrock Appraisals
4:00	Angel Guild vs. Les Schwab
4:45	Les Schwab vs. Lakebay Roofing
5:30	Lakebay Roofing vs. Angel Guild

Field #3

11:30	Westwynd Motel vs. Rhonda Savage DDS
12:15	Agriinvestments vs. ARO Residential Properties
1:00	Moreland and Sons vs. Freight Taxi
1:45	Freight Taxi vs. Cascade Steel
2:30	Cascade Steel vs. Getty Computer
3:15	Getty Computer vs. Moreland and Sons
4:00	Costless Drug vs. Olympic Pharmacy
4:45	Olympic Pharmacy vs. Whittington Tile
5:30	Whittington Tile vs. Costless Drug

Each game lasts 40 minutes with no warm-up period between games.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help out Little League, please call Debra Burk at 253-884-6622.

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Minter Grandparents' Day



Photo by Hugh McMillan

A few weeks ago, Minter Creek Elementary School music teacher Paula DeMoss led first graders' "Cow Chorus" in a rousing musical offering to a crowded audience in the school's gymnasium in a celebration of Minter's annual Grandparents' Day. All grades had the chance to perform, singing such classics as "God Bless America," "Valentine," "My Favorite Things," "You Are My Sunshine" and many more. The grand performance warmed many a grandparent's heart.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Vaughn Elementary School fifth grade students are "aboard a space shuttle hurtling through space on a mission and coping with a problem of diminishing oxygen supplies."

Vaughn students 'fly' at the museum

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

A whole bunch of Vaughn Elementary School fifth grade would-be-astronauts recently went on a mind-boggling visit to the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field in Seattle. The place is constantly adding new, fascinating features.

Right off, the kids were settled into the program that started out in "Mission Control," where they received very serious briefings from museum educator Jim Moore. In another room "aboard a shuttle craft in outer space," others went on a "mission" fraught with almost all the tenseness of a real space adventure. The two groups were routinely and professionally in real time radio and video contact with one another as the "shuttle hurtled through space."

"It was fun in the space shuttle," said Selina Alexandre. "I was on the data team. Our navigation team discovered a comet and named it 'comet lightning.'"

"The comet rendezvous was very exciting," to Faith Johnson who "will definitely consider a job for NASA's probe team." "If you do not read directions correctly it can throw a task completely off course, and communicating clearly and effectively is very important," she said.

Then, without warning, mission control notified space ship personnel they were losing their oxygen supply at an alarming rate. All personnel, aloft and in mission control, experienced an

immediate, palpable increase in adrenalin flow. From the several stations at control and aboard the shuttle, the students went through the exercise with astonishing, yet wide-eyed and scared, professionalism.

"We had 45 seconds left when we sent our final message. It was pretty scary," said Mariah Roberts.

Thereafter, having averted disaster, all shuttle personnel survived what could have been a devastatingly tragic mission failure and made it back via "air locks and alternate transport" to join their "relieved" cheering chums in mission control. Following a no-nonsense critique of the mission, attended by several accompanying adults, the group had brown-bag lunch seated on the floor in the Old Red Barn, the original site of what ultimately became the world famous Boeing Aircraft Co.

They had a hands-on look at all sorts of aircraft, toured the museum area with historic aircraft suspended overhead, climbed into the cockpit of a vintage "bird" and brought an exhilarating day to an altogether too brief hands-on-the-joystick ride in flight simulators in which our kids learned that flying can be fun but very demanding and, sometimes, deadly.

Melissa Blackburn summed up the day's experiences perfectly: "The Flight Museum is amazing! I want to encourage everyone to go there. Learning was the best part."



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KPMS student will travel to Australia as ambassador for United States

By Karen Hale
KP News

Katrina English is a sixth grader at Key Peninsula Middle School. Last year, as a departing fifth grader at Vaughn Elementary, she was nominated by her teacher to be part of a program called People to People Student Ambassador Program.

The program was started in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower for the purpose of providing students of all ages with opportunities to learn about other cultures of the world, and to be ambassadors of the United States to other countries.

English was interviewed while still in the fifth grade, not an easy thing for this very shy, unassuming girl. She impressed her interviewers enough to be selected to be one of only 20 kids from Pierce County. In the group that she would be traveling with, there will be 40 kids from Pierce and Kitsap counties plus chaperones.

Given the choice of places to see, Katrina chose Australia over the Mediterranean area of Europe. She has passed all her requirements and is learning during her monthly meetings in

If you'd like to help

Rainier Pacific Bank has an account open for Katrina English that can receive donations up until April 30. Anyone who would like to donate can do so only until that day, as the last payment to People to People must be made on May 1.

preparation; yet one issue still separates her from staying home or going to Australia for two weeks this summer – paying for the travel.

When someone is chosen to be a representative for our country, that's an honor. However, the ambassador-to-be must come up with the amount of money required for the trip. In Katrina's case, she needs to make her final payment to People to People by May 1.

On March 13, a fund-raiser was held by Vince Rudolph, owner of Rudolph's Espresso and neighbor to the English family. There were very generous folks there selling their wares, all of the money being donated to Katrina. One woman was selling cookies (she wants to be the next Mrs. Fields), another was selling Sensaria products and giving skin treatments. Some



Photo by Karen Hale

Katrina English received a lot of community support during her March fund-raiser.

of Katrina's family members sold belt buckles and other hand-made items, and some dream catchers by yet another person willing to donate all their proceeds to the girl. Rudolph was selling coffee as donations, and had been selling Jane Dough's Pizza cards previously in the month to benefit Katrina as well. There were even raffles to win baskets of goodies.

Katrina's mom, Tanya, is very supportive and proud of her daughter. The 12-year-old is very shy around people she doesn't know, so mom did a lot of the talking that day, but Katrina does eventually warm up

to a person, becoming a very fun, exuberant middle schooler who enjoys all the things girls her age enjoy. She'll be a great ambassador to other countries for the United States, not just the Key Peninsula.

On the day of the fund-raiser, Katrina needed another \$1,600 to be able to go. By day's end, the generous folks who came to help had managed to raise over \$500.

She still has the rest to raise, but she is obviously a hard worker, and has the support of her family and the folks of the Key Peninsula. She'll make it.

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Allyn Center has new owner and new restaurant with an old name

By Danna Webster
KP News

The walls are freshly painted, the roof is power-washed, and a new menu is nearly ready; but there will be no new name for the restaurant in Allyn that hangs above North Bay. Jay and Marilyn Johnstons' new restaurant will regain its original name of 20 years.

"The Allyn Inn is returning to Allyn by popular request," they say, "and it is returning to the theme of family dining."

The Johnstons are not Allyn residents but they are not exactly strangers either. Marilyn Johnston has driven through Allyn to her parents' home on Pickering Passage for 40 years. She has watched the town change from a tavern, post office and two gas stations to its present status as one of three urban communities in Mason County. The Johnstons' home is on the other side of the Key Peninsula, near Purdy.

Marilyn works on the menu while sitting at a booth and soaking in the view. From the restaurant, she can see the church steeple to the north and south, down the bay to Reach Island (a.k.a. Treasure Island).

"The view is beautiful," she says while she studies the cover art on the menu. She has been photographing a favorite tree by the Allyn pier that she hopes to use on the cover.

According to the Johnstons, they will "try to open April 1, with or without a liquor license, and then have a grand opening when everything is up and running." They are still in the process of hiring cooks and wait staff, finishing up the menu, and waiting for the paint to dry before they put all the furniture in place.

They hope their patrons will enjoy the menu options including seafood choices and house specialties. Dinners will include a complimentary dessert, making family dining especially sweet at the Allyn Inn.

The restaurant is one of nine buildings purchased by Tom Hamilton, his wife and another couple. Their partnership is called Allynview.

Hamilton is a Northwesterner who has lived in the Seattle area and says his business experience was gained on Vashon Island, where he worked as the "marketing and sales guy" for the K-2 Ski



Photo by Danna Webster

Jay and Marilyn Johnston, new owners of the Allyn Inn restaurant.

Corp. The Hamilton family moved to the Allyn area in 1992. They built a new home on their Grapeview Loop property, and their two teen-age sons attend North Mason High School.

Allynview purchased the Allyn Center in mid-August 2004. The shopping center includes the 4-year-old post office building, the state liquor store and market building, and the Kitsap Bank and restaurant building. A few changes are planned to improve appearances but the "Allyn Center" sign will remain in place, and the property will stay much the same as when the original owner built it in the late '70s.

Hamilton considers buying property in Allyn a sound investment.

"Allyn has a tremendous amount of potential," he says and, most importantly, "Allyn has a sense of place."

Hamilton points out "our little church" and the Allyn Pier. The Allyn Historic Church was originally the Allyn Congregational Church, circa 1909, according to Mary Lindsey, president and wedding coordinator of the church.

The Port of Allyn was established in 1921, and the port district is the oldest in Mason County. The dock was a "Mosquito Fleet" destination.

Hamilton admires the major businesses up and down the highway and the waterfront park all framing the beautiful North Bay. He compliments the work of the Allyn Community Association and says, "I see Allyn growing a lot in the next few years."

Business briefs

Businesses swap places

Everything went topsy turvy the last Friday night in February, when KC Computer Repair and the Cutter Bug Hair Salon traded places. The entire move was achieved in a few short hours, thanks to lots of friends and customers who showed up to help both stores. Each store received an extreme makeover, complete with new floors, rearranged walls and totally new contents.

Before midnight, hair stylist Mindy Brocenas and computer whiz Bill Horwitz switched off the lights in what had been the other's store that morning.

Floral shop closes

Customers coming in to the Country Gardens floral and gift shop in March found the doors locked and a "for lease sign." Flowers To Go of Silverdale purchased the Posie Patch in Gig Harbor and Country Gardens, which were owned by the same company. A Flowers To Go representative said they did not find it feasible to operate both shops and closed the Key Peninsula one, which was located

next to the 76 gas station in Wauna. According to employees, they learned on a Friday that the doors would close the following Tuesday.

KPBA plans new events

The Key Peninsula Business Association has a full schedule planned for the year, in an effort to boost the organization and its membership. A marketing committee is creating a "Destination Key Peninsula" brochure, the Website (www.kpba.org) is being updated with more information and links, and a Small Business 101 workshop is planned for fall. The KPBA meets the second and fourth Friday of the month, with guest speakers invited every month. Upcoming speakers include Becky Morgan of Tacoma Community College (April 15) and Russ Holster of RS Enterprises (May 20). An after-hours barbecue networking event is in the works for summer, as well as a local business expo for fall. Individuals, nonprofits and businesses are welcome to join the association.

KPBA is also looking for Key Peninsula photos for the brochure and Website, anyone who'd like to contribute should contact Bek Ashby, president, at 851-9787 or Jeff Harris, vice president, at 884-4697.



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'Dean of blacksmithing' blends artistry with skill at Allyn forge

By Paula Moore
KP News

At the Old Cedar Forge, Longfellow's 1841 poem comes alive:

Under the spreading chestnut tree
The Village Smithy, a mighty man is he.
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are as strong as iron bands.

The forge, built in 1984, is in Allyn, and is owned by Jerry and Ina Culberson. Jerry Culberson has been an artistic blacksmith for 55 years, starting at the age of 11 in Bay City, Mich. He lived and worked on a dairy farm that used 166 draft horses for farming and pulling the wagons and sleighs delivering milk. His job was to always have a full set of four horseshoes for each horse, available at all times. He also shod draft horses, sharpened plow shares and bean knives, and repaired all types of farm equipment. A big job for young boy.

Later he went to work for Dale Montgomery, a blacksmith and welder who made playground equipment. Culberson was drafted to help him. He found that by using the old forge and tools, he could make more life-like noses, ears, etc. Plus they were more durable than the ones made welding them on the heads.

At 17, Culberson went into the Navy, where he had a career as an engineer. He served a six-year stint in Vietnam. After retiring from the Navy, he knew he wanted to go back to his first love, artistic blacksmithing.

In 1980, he built a forge in Port Orchard, before moving to Allyn. He has honed his artistry and design by using his

The gallery holds over 300 handmade items all designed by Jerry. They range from coat hooks, drawer pulls, to bigger pieces like bed heads, tables, and gates.

strong arms, a 2,400-degree forge, anvil, and hammers to forge steel into many small and large items. He uses hammers dating from 1898 to 1941, varying in weight from 100 to 500 pounds.

Culberson is known as the "dean of blacksmithing," passing on his legacy to 13 apprentices, most of whom are still active in the trade. He has taught over 1,400 students in his three-day workshops. However, due to liability he no longer has apprentices. He has reduced his classes to three pupils per workshop.

Culberson's wife, Ina, operates the on-site gallery, handles the wholesale end of the business, and manages the financial affairs, public relations, and workshop registrations. When classes are held, she makes certain everyone feels at home, has a place to stay and is well fed. Tours are also offered.

The gallery holds over 300 handmade items, all designed by Jerry. They range from coat hooks, drawer pulls, to bigger pieces like bed heads, tables, and gates. Many more items are available through custom orders. Since each piece is lovingly handmade, taking time and effort, they are priced accordingly.

Each year is highlighted by a pre-Christmas open house, when privately

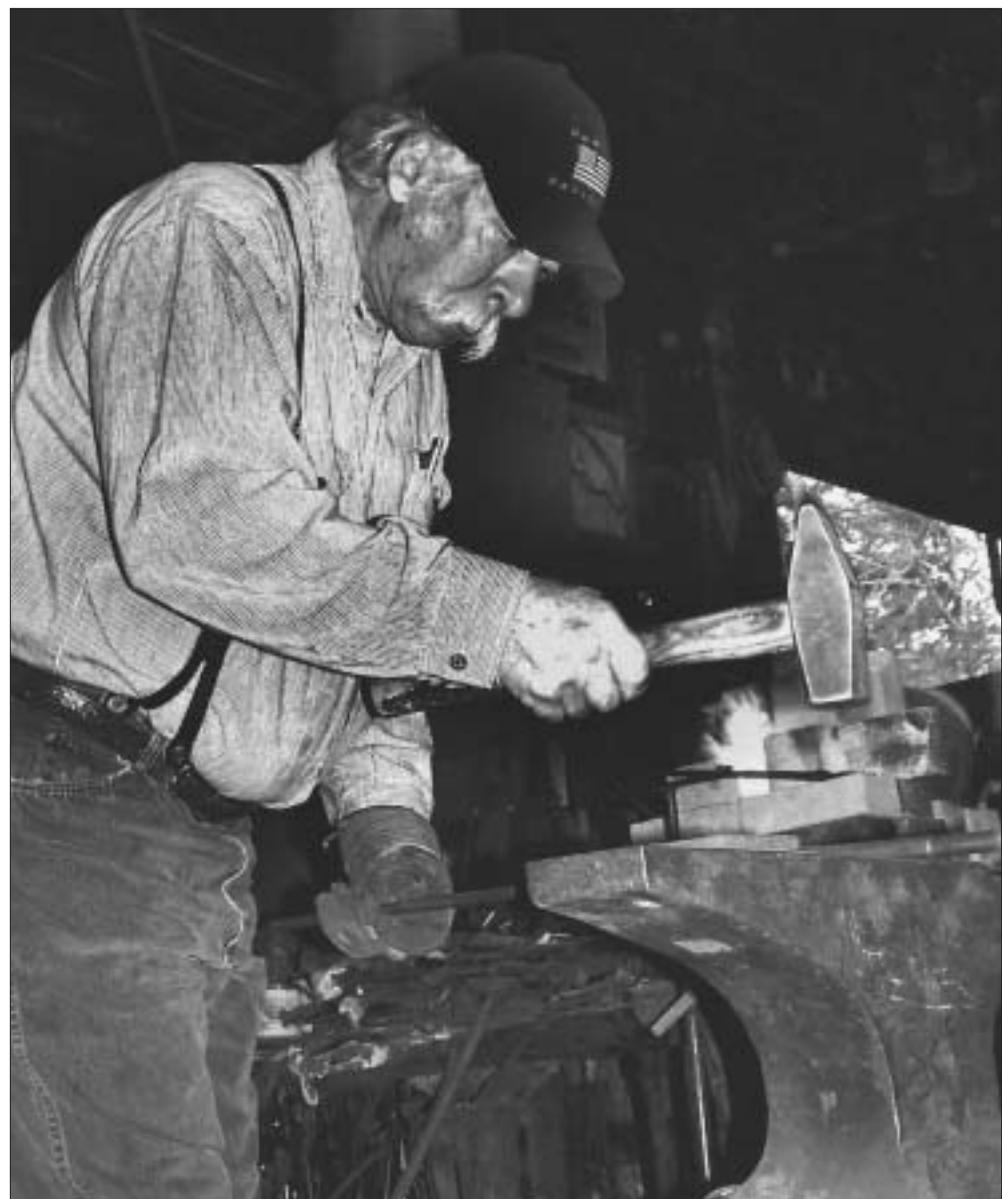


Photo by Mindi LaRose

Jerry Culberson forges a fire poker, shaping the handle into a fish, for a custom floor fireset.

invited customers and guests can visit the Culbersons' home, forge and gallery. This summer they hope to celebrate their 25th anniversary with a tour of the working forge and a gallery walk in the new 12- by 30-foot room they recently added to the gallery. They will feature local artists' works and demonstrations.

Jerry Culberson has added a new love to his life, besides Ina and blacksmithing. You can see him on his Harley Davidson motorcycle in the company's poster that is hanging in the gallery. He was also a model for the company's new 2004-2005 equipment catalog. A true Renaissance man.

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(From **PLANNING**, Page 1)

"I don't want to see a Burger King all the way down the Key Peninsula, that's not why I moved down here," said Suzanne Hickel, a John L. Scott real estate agent who's lived on the KP for more than a decade. "We will retire out here. We absolutely love it."

Hickel is one of countless residents who say they moved here to enjoy the rural setting, the quiet neighborhoods and the lifestyle, and they don't want to see that changed. As a realtor, she has seen a growing interest in the local housing market, and says the area will become even more attractive once the second Tacoma Narrows Bridge is built.

Hickel was encouraged by Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee to attend the meetings of the KP Community Planning Board, which is in the middle of tackling issues like hers through a community plan.

The plan will address the environment, land use, economic development, community character, facilities and services. It is seen as a tool for preserving the quality of life and bringing services to local residents.

To grow or not to grow— it's not a question

Lee, a longtime Gig Harbor resident and former county planning commissioner, says the new bridge will bring traffic to the Key Peninsula's front door, and the community needed to plan for growth before it becomes rapid. "You look at the Key Peninsula and all the miles of shoreline and view property — the bridge is the only thing that keeps people away," he said. "People who think they can stop growth are kidding themselves."

Pierce County, the second most populated in the state, has been bursting at the seams, adding an average of 12,000 people to its population every year. While only 23 percent of those people lived in unincorporated areas in the 1920s, that number grew to 57 percent by '90. The majority of population growth, more than 80 percent, occurred in rural areas in the 1980s.

"I drive up and down the Key Peninsula five or six times a week and I can see things changing significantly in terms of traffic and development," said Frank DiBiase, a planning board member. A resident of 18 years, he has watched many of his favorite jogging trails disappear to development. "I saw (the board) as an opportunity to have some input into what happens to the Key Peninsula in the future," he said.

A tale of two cities

Pierce County land development has two poster children. Gig Harbor and South Hill are frequently held up as an example



Photos by Mindi LaRose

South Hill (right) and Gig Harbor (left) are often held up as the poster children of planning—one for lack of it, and the other as a good example of preserving quality of life.

KP Community Planning Board

The CPB meetings are scheduled at 7 p.m. every first Wednesday and third Tuesday of the month at the KP Middle School library. Documents including a vision statement, goals, and maps are at www.piercecountywa.org/landuse, or call 798-2700. The environmental element discussion will continue in April, followed by the land-use element that will focus on zoning, types of uses, commercial areas, rural densities and more.

of planning: Gig Harbor as an illustration of how planning can enhance the quality of life, and South Hill as a case of poor growth management. Gig Harbor was the first unincorporated area in Pierce County to develop a community plan — long before the statewide Growth Management Act proclaimed a war on sprawl.

"What it has done was focus the intensive growth in the area it can handle it, yet retain the rural characteristic everybody likes about Gig Harbor," said James DePew, who moved to Gig Harbor in 1976, a year after the community plan was adopted. He was later part of the board that updated the plan in 2000 to comply with the Growth Management Act (GMA) of 1990.

For South Hill, exploding population brought a 50 percent loss of trees between 1972 and 1996, endless strips of malls/gas stations/fast food restaurants, and clogged roads. As commercial signs multiplied, so did South Hill's notoriety for streets that go nowhere and neighborhoods unfriendly to pedestrians. Not that nobody cared: Residents tried to get a community plan earlier, but did not succeed until 2003.

There is no threat for the Key Pen to become the next South Hill, thanks to existing regulations. But the way Fire District 16 commissioner and planning board member Jim Bosch sees it, the Peninsula already has its equivalent of South Hill. One only has to drive along State Route 302 and Key Peninsula Highway to notice the lonely commercial

structures lining up the road. "We may not have strip development...as on South Hill, but we have it — it's just restricted by the size of lots," he said.

The 'step-child' gets attention

Pierce County itself was once known as the "poster child of growth management" and one of the main reasons why the GMA was passed by the Legislature. Following the GMA's focus on citizen participation in planning, the county developed a community-driven process rather than a top-down one for its comprehensive plan, and has followed the same strategy for all the community plans, which are not mandatory. The plans take longer and more money than they would if done by planners, but the county believes residents are more likely to buy into grass-roots efforts.

"You have to keep the locals involved in the planning process. It's important that it not be done by bureaucrats," said county senior planner Mike Kruger, who is overseeing the KP plan and has worked with other communities including Gig Harbor.

The county allocates enough money to accommodate two plans per year. And they are not cheap: \$150,000 for each of the two years. "The money we spend on staff to create it is 'chump change' compared to what it will bring to the community," Lee said. "If we identify priorities in the plan, we are more likely to get funding not only from Pierce County but other agencies."

Lee said he received his "marching orders" from local residents during his campaign to not forget about them, and he's been bringing in funding for groups ranging from the Little League and KP Community Council to the Children's Home Society. The community plan, he said, is another part of his attempt to bring the Key Pen out of being called by residents the step-child of the county.

Some residents have cried foul, saying they are already overregulated and want the county to stay out of their business.

"People don't want to be regulated out of the enjoyment of their property, but over time there is certainty in regulations

as development is no longer arbitrary," Gig Harbor's DePew said.

Lee said, "They can either decide what's going to happen in their community, or the county will do it for them."

Months of work ahead

The plan looks at the area's unique features. The GMA and the county's comprehensive plan serve as the basis. The plan must be consistent with both, but puts the rules within the geographical context of the community and provides details. Each element is approached by a subcommittee, which will then submit recommended policy to the board. Each element takes about three months, and anybody who comes can be on the subcommittee. Ultimately, the entire plan will go before the board, then the county planning commission and county council, and every step will have public hearings.

"The GMA is giving us certain bookends; as long as we are within them, it's fair game," Kruger said.

So far, participation has been good, but board members wish for more. "The more people involved, the more their voices will be heard," said Claude Gahard, a winery owner representing agricultural interests on the board. "If you're concerned about elements of the Key Peninsula, come to the meetings. Do you want Key Peninsula to be a bedroom community? I don't."

Frustrated with the county for years, some residents have used the meetings to vent their dissatisfaction with everything from high taxes and overregulation to the notoriously difficult permit process. "I can understand that people feel that way...but I hope we don't miss out on a good opportunity because we can't get past our (negative) perceptions," DiBiase said. "The plan is for all of us and our children, our future...so we can enjoy the quality of life."

The 15 board members represent interests ranging from real estate, environmental, social services, fire, park and school districts to community council and businesses. Gahard said, "We don't know what the outcome will be but I can assure you the board is diversified enough to...address the diversity of issues."

The decisions will not be easy. The board must balance private property rights with the need to preserve the environment; residential growth that will increase demand for services with sufficient commercial growth to provide the tax base; economic development with preserving the rural character; and much more. It must come up with compromises between development and preservation yet create a meaningful document that will impact the Key Peninsula for the next 20 years.

"It's a tall order," DiBiase said.

PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Community sponsors PSD teachers through program grants

The Peninsula School District encourages and supports all its teachers who pursue National Board Professional Teaching Standards certification. PSD has 11 National Board Certified teachers out of 561 statewide, with eight more currently working toward that goal.

Earning the certificate is a yearlong process that requires financial and extensive time commitments. Thanks to several community sponsors, PSD teachers receive grants to pay for the program.

"We want to encourage our teachers to pursue it by providing funding, necessary time off, videotaping support and opportunities to work with other National Board Certified teachers," says PSD Superintendent Jim Coolican. "Teaching is everything. Our job is to help the students, and that's done through the classroom teachers."



PSD accepts a contribution for the national teacher certification program from the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce.

The NEPTS awards national board certificates to the top teachers in the country, after a grueling process involving tests and portfolios that are evaluated by peers based on rigorous standards. The certification process, which uses pass or fail scores, requires hundreds of hours outside the classroom for self-reflection and evaluation, support meetings, studying and research.

"I tend to stop and think more critically about content and how to present it," said Terry McClelland, a National Board Certified teacher at Harbor Heights Elementary. "It has

reminded me that learning and communicating understanding are not always easy; that it takes work to be clear and concise."

The teachers become leaders and mentors to other colleagues as well, sharing their new ideas and knowledge with other school district educators.

April events:

1-2 PHS Spring Musical: 'The Sound of Music' at The Milton S. Boyd Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets sold at the door \$7 adults \$6 students

6 - PHS Choir Concert 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium

7 - KPMS Band Concert 7:30 p.m.

7 - School Board Regular Meeting District Office 6:30 p.m.

7 - PHS Starry Night 5:00-8:00 p.m.

11-15 Spring Break - No School

28 - School Board Study Session District Office 6:30 p.m.



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GHHS Pod: 858-5665.

PHS Recreational Swim
Fri. 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. & Sat. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
PHS Lap Swim
Tue. & Thur. 5:15 a.m.-7:00 a.m. & Mon., Tue., Wed. & Thu. 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
PHS Pool: 851-3533.

Photos of the month



Bevergreen Elementary students are enjoying outdoor games during one of the school's field days. Photo by Hugh McMillan



Cristi Watson, executive director for Key Peninsula Community Services, recently presented a certificate of recognition to Purdy Elementary fourth-graders, after the students collected donations for the KPCS food bank. Photo by Hugh McMillan

Did you know

Students and families whose first language is not English are supported and provided services through the school district's English as a Second Language (ESL) program. All qualified students are served at their neighborhood school through a combination of instruction and consultation.

At a glance

Certified National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Peninsula School District Teachers: **Ron Spieker** - Kopachuck 6th & 8th Grade Humanities • **Elizabeth Duffey** - Peninsula HS Language Arts • **Doug Perry** - Gig Harbor HS Honors & A/P History, English, APB • **Kathryn Crabtree** - Kopachuck 7th Grade Humanities • **Billie Thorson** - Peninsula HS Science & Biology • **Jodi Kimizuka** - Vaughn 4th Grade • **Kristin Bergh** - Gig Harbor HS Science • **Kareen Borders** - Key Peninsula Science • **Ken Brown** - Gig Harbor HS Language Arts • **Rya Diede** - Key Peninsula Language Arts & Humanities • **Terry McClelland** - Harbor Heights 5th Grade

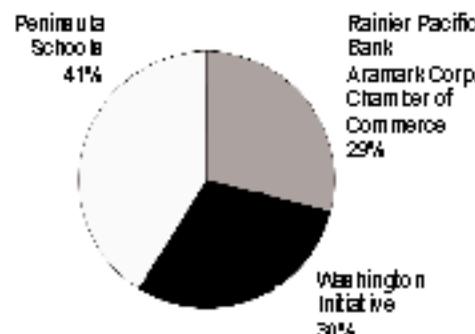
Business Week 2005

Henderson Bay High School will host Business Week 2005 during May 23-26. As a volunteer for the Washington Business Week program, you play an important role in offering students real world experience with life-changing results. Here are a couple ways to get involved:

- Become a Company Advisor: Company Advisors guide a "company" of 10-12 students through the week-long experience.
- Become a Judge: Judges participate for two hours on Thursday to evaluate each company's performance in their final presentations.

For more information contact Shannon Matson at (800) 686-6442 or email at shannon@wbw.

PSD National Board Funding Sources for 2004-05 (\$19,500)



*WA Initiative funding: Gates Foundation, Stuart Foundation & Washington Mutual Bank.

Archaeologists check out the Easter Seal Camp

By Danna Webster
KP News

The Easter Seal Camp is getting ready to remodel some cabins. It is no secret to KP residents that obtaining development permits is no easy matter. However, so far, the camp's process is going smoothly and has proven more educational than unbearable. Recently, the architect hired for the project arranged for archaeological consultants to study the camp site for artifacts of historical significance.

Jennifer Chambers was the archaeologist sent to investigate. She works for Western Shore Heritage Services, Inc. on Bainbridge Island. She came bearing a shovel, a bag filled with sample containers and tape measures, and maps. Chambers says that when she is sent to a property, she comes with a simple question, "Are there cultural resources on this site, yes or no." It is good news, for the camp, that the answer is "no."

The better news, about cultural resources on the Peninsula, is that there are three known sites on Vaughn Bay. All of those sites are on private property and remain in the domain of the property owner.

A "no" answer for the camp is good news because such findings can cause major restrictions and delays on a business property project. Business properties must meet more difficult standards than the less restrictive standards for private property. Chambers takes great

care in choosing the words to explain her job. She is conscious of the delicate balance for all concerned parties involved in archaeological findings. According to Chambers, cultural resource sites found on private property become the owners' responsibility to protect. She says that in both commercial and private cases usually nothing is done about a cultural resource site until it becomes threatened.

The type of sites found on Vaughn Bay are "shell-midden sites," which are areas where shells were discarded by early Native peoples. Shell-midden sites are piles of discarded shells from camps or some sort of habitation. When these sites are identified, they are recorded on archaeological maps.

The work at a site is a straightforward process, according to Chambers. "We take samples to find out what happened at this site and see if this evidence can contribute to our knowledge of the past," she says. That basic standard determines the significance of the evidence and the extent of the study.

The Key Peninsula was once the territory of the Squaxin Island and Skokomish nations. The archaeologists' term is "ethnographic traditional territory," and Chambers was quick to apologize for that term. She explained that, although archaeological exploration is a delicate balance for all concerned parties, most importantly, "it makes you attached to the land, when you know what was going on (historically)."



Archaeologist Jennifer Chambers goes over paperwork.

Photo by Danna Webster

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(From AERIAL, Page 1)

home was "speed built" by the show's crew after it was destroyed by fire. His company was featured on the credits. "That was exciting," Baum said, even though his photographs didn't make it to the final national airing on Jan. 9.

Living out his boyhood dream, he takes his Cessna 172 on three- to four-hour flights, weather permitting. He takes professional-quality digital oblique and vertical aerial photographs, and offers georeferencing. His major project was shooting the entire saltwater shoreline (2,500 miles) of the state and up the Columbia River for the state Department of Ecology twice, between 1992 and 1997.

"I took 60,000 pictures the first time and 90,000 photos the second time," he said. "Washington was the first state to conduct such an aerial shoreline survey, which is a collection of about 10,000 color oblique photographs, valuable as an educational monitoring tool for coastal managers and the public."

The Department of Ecology contracted with Vantage Point Photography for aerial photography of marine shorelines in 1992-1997 and 2000-2002. The projects were funded in part with Coastal Zone Management funding from the National

The 1990s state coastline photos commissioned by the Department of Ecology are available on the Web at <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/shorephotos>, and the 2000 series (as well as all other DOE series — '90s, '70s, and '40s) can be viewed online at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/atlans_home.html.

To see aerial photos of the Narrows Bridge, the Tacoma low tides and others, visit Vantage Point Photography at www.vp-photo.com.

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Mike Baum provided excellent service, high quality photos, and all at a reasonable price. He was flexible, professional, and friendly to boot," said Brian Lynn, coastal/shorelands section manager with the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program for the DOE.

These true-color photos are in a continuous series, panning left to right along the shoreline. Photographs are taken to optimize sun angle, shoreline orientation, and low tides. Oblique photos are useful for interpreting bluff geology and land-sliding, riparian vegetation, and shoreline modifications such as bulkheads and seawalls. Others are for planning purposes, for



Photo courtesy of Mike Baum

The bird's eye view of the Key Peninsula shows miles of trees and water.

monitoring building development, and wetland interpretation.

"Occasionally, I run across washouts. I flag those pictures and send them separately to the department, to call attention to problem areas," Baum said.

Lynn said, "Having these photos has helped us meet our goal of providing people information about their shorelines. I've heard from people around the state and across the country, thankful to be able to see places they've been to or places they'd like to go. The site is used by government agencies, tribes, boaters, picnickers, businesses, property owners, preservation groups, scientists, students, and dreamers — here and all over the world."

Baum has worked with real estate developers, builders, and realtors. His commercial customers include Sound Transit in Seattle and the Port of Tacoma. "Pictures are just tools... We provide a tool to help people do their job," Baum said.

"My wife, Pat, has a good job as a software developer for a company in Tukwila. This job gives me the freedom to support our 14-year-old daughter in her activities," he said.

For fun, Baum likes to climb mountains. He has scaled Mounts Adams, St. Helens, Little Sister, Eleanor, Stone, and Washington. He plans to climb Mount Rainier twice this coming summer—"once with my expert climbing buddy, and once with the kids in late July."

Baum worked for a title company and owned a lawn care business in California before coming to Washington. He lived in Gig Harbor before moving to the Peninsula about 15 years ago. He and his wife, a commercially licensed pilot with an instrument rating, ran Sunrise Aviation until 10 years ago at the Tacoma Narrows Airport, where his plane is now hangared.

"The pictures of the progress on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge on my home page get more traffic than my other Websites," he said. "I post them as a public service, to pay the neighborhood back."

Featured Home of the Month



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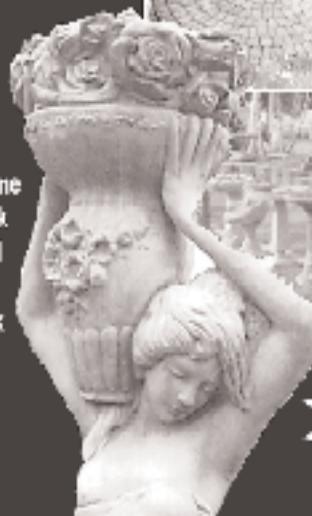
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Community Planning Board sets April meetings

The next meetings for the Pierce County Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are scheduled for the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of April. The dates are April 6 and April 19 at 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library.

The Community Planning Board is working on policy development for the Key Peninsula Community Plan regarding the Natural Environment. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the meeting. For more information, see www.piercecoun.tywa.org/landuse or call 798-2700.

News from TOPS #WA 1019, Vaughn

Hey friends, do you realize that summer is just around the corner? Can you believe it? Are you still carrying around those extra pounds you picked up over winter? Well, here's your chance to shed those unwanted pounds and have fun at the same time! Come join us at TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) and we can do it together!

Whether you have a little or a lot to lose, TOPS could be the place where you finally reach your weight loss goal. We know all about the battle you're fighting, because we're fighting it too. There are no magic pills, shots, or crazy diets, just a group where you can get the understanding, support, and encouragement you need to be a thinner, healthier, happier you.

We meet at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. (weigh in starts at 6). Membership is only \$20 per year and \$5 per month. Come check us out, we can't wait to meet you! For more information call Jena at 884-3456.

—By Jo Wickline

Donations are important to the Angel Guild

The Angel Guild Thrift Shop relies on donations for their merchandise. Sometimes we have lots of donations but not everything is of the quality that we insist upon selling in our shop. When this happens we don't have as much to put in the store. That means we don't have as much money to give to the organizations in the community.

Any donations that we cannot use are passed along to other charities in the area that can use them. Our sorters out back of the shop are most ingenious

Volunteer appreciation



Photo by Danna Webster

The KP Community Services board provided a grand dinner for their volunteers March 5. Golden Cornish game hen and divine carrot cake dessert were included on the menu. After dinner, an appreciation award ceremony was held for the generous hours and contributions of their many volunteers.

in finding uses for everything.

You would be amazed how many steps are involved between the time donations are dropped off until they land on the shelves and racks inside the store. This is all done by volunteers and they are a hardy group working in cold of winter and heat of summers. If you think this is something you would like to do and have the time to dedicate one or so days a week contact Bonnie at 884-5983 or angelguild9013@hotmail.com.

Wonder what is new this week at Angel Guild? Stop in and see the bargains on gently used merchandise that is on display. Our friendly clerks will be glad to assist you.

—By Betty Barkubein

AARP 55-Alive at KP Sportsmen's Club

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club will be hosting an AARP 55-Alive Driving Review Course on Wednesday and Thursday, April 20-21 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants age 55 and older may receive a discount on their car insurance for attending this course. The deadline for reservations is April 28 at 4 p.m. The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club is located at 3503 Jackson Lake Road KPN, in Lakebay. Contact A. E. Dolfen at 884-5767.

Bayshore Garden Club meeting

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at the Longbranch Fire Station at 1 p.m. on April 1. The hostess is Doris Boudreau, the presenters are Ann Waldo, theme program; Erma Dunn, horticulture and conservation; and Jean Humphreys, design. Members are starting potted plants for the Plant Sale on May 7 for the Livable Communities Fair at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn. For information contact Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

Key Singers present 'Songs From The Heart' for spring concert

"You gotta have heart" to come and enjoy the Key Singers' heartwarming spring performance, "Songs From The Heart." Sure, Valentine's Day is over, but music and love is year round.

We invite you to listen and join in on our celebration. The time is Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m. The place is the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN, and Key Peninsula Highway. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults; \$5 for seniors and teens, free for 12 and under. A raffle will be held and refreshments provided.

—By Barbara Bence

Blood donors wanted

Cascade Regional Blood Services will have its "Blood Mobile" on the Key Peninsula on April 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lakebay Community Church. Other Gig Harbor locations are scheduled during the month, call 383-2553 or see www.cascadebloodcenters.org.

The 2005 Fishermen's breakfast & yard sale

The annual Fishermen's Breakfast at the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club will be held Sunday, April 24 from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the KP Sportsmen's Club. The all-you-can-eat breakfast includes pancakes, ham and eggs with lots of fruit juice and great coffee for only \$5. Children under 6 are free.

The breakfast has been an annual event for many years, and also serves as an opportunity for the area's old-timers to meet and reminisce. Raffle tickets will be on sale during the breakfast, with a chance to win wonderful prizes.

Another event scheduled for the same weekend is the club's annual yard sale. The two-day event begins Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and continues on Sunday, April 24 from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Both events will be held at the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club located on Jackson Lake Road in Lakebay.

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club, a nonprofit organization, has been a member of the Pierce County Sportsmen's Council since 1947 and regularly supports the activities of our area's youth. Your participation in this annual event helps make it possible for local youth to attend summer camp, participate in Little League, and provide other services to our community.

If you would like to learn more about The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club and their involvement in our community, contact Harry Haynes at 884-2304.

—By Randy Viers

Lakebay Fuchsia Society Plant Sale

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets the first Thursday of the month at the Key Center library at 7 p.m. The speaker on April 7 will be Kathryn Bamford of Bamford & Bamford, a ceramic pottery business. Her topic is uncommon pots and uncommon plants. Guests are always welcome.

The group will also be hosting its annual plant sale at the Civic Center in Vaughn on May 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lush fuchsia baskets and starts in a large

assortment of hardies, uprights and trailers will be available as well as many annuals and perennials. For more information, call 884-2283.

PAR campaign to benefit KP food bank and others

The Gig Harbor Farmers Market Plant A Row for the Hungry campaign kicks off its third season on Saturday, April 16 at the Fred Stroh Memorial Field off State Route 16. All gardeners interested in supporting this great cause are invited to attend.

Plant A Row, or PAR, is a "people helping people" program designed to assist home gardeners in helping feed the hungry in their communities. It encour-

ages gardeners to grow a little extra produce and donate the surplus to local food banks.

The Farmers Market has designated 2,000 square feet of garden space, which will be planted with local produce and harvested each Saturday. Donations will be delivered to the Gig Harbor FISH food bank, the Key Peninsula food bank in Lakebay, and the S. Kitsap Helpline.

Starter kits will be given away to gardeners, which include a free packet of seeds donated by Ed Hume and/or Seeds Of Change. Children may get a small plant to take home.

The group encourages people to grow what they like, but any basic produce, which is clean, firm, and fresh, is welcome. Most requested items include beans,

beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, chard, cauliflower, corn, potatoes, radishes, spinach, squash, and tomatoes. Herbs are also welcome. This year's goal is 20,000 pounds by the final harvest day, Sept. 7.

The Gig Harbor Farmers Market will be open every Saturday from April through September, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. Kick-off for the PAR garden is April 16. Bring the kids, see the Mariner Moose and get a free veggie start. For more information, call 884-9672.

Celebrate Earth Day helping Civic Center

Although Earth Day is April 22 officially, there's no reason you can't carry on Earth Day related activities on other days.

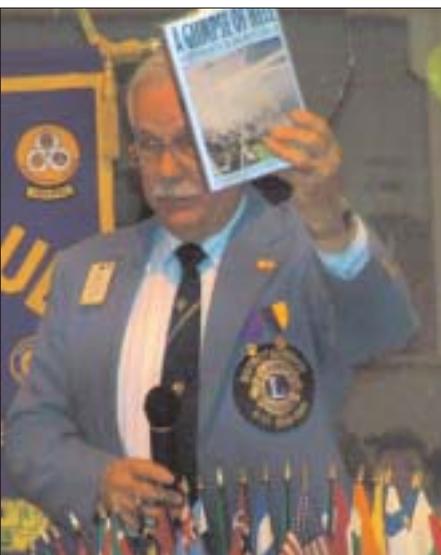
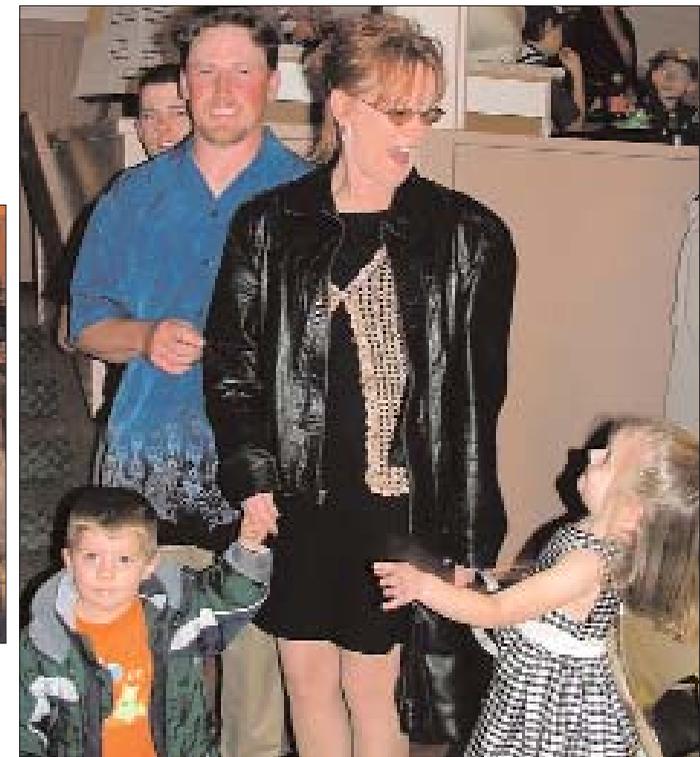
So the K P Civic Center board is inviting KP residents to participate on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in a cleanup and beautification of buildings and grounds at the Civic Center.

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer Spotlight will return next month.

Wanted: Information leading to the whereabouts of summer happenings on the Key Pen, from motorcycle treks, kayak tours, boating jaunts, cookouts and beer gardens to annual activities and "things to do." Contact Danna at KP News, 884-4699, news@keypennews.com, by April 20.

Moments from the Key Pen Citizen of the Year 2005



Top left, Vaughn Elementary students Emma Canavan and Hunter Courtney sing "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." Top right, The banquet had a great turnout, organizers said. Above left, KP Lions Vice President George Robison is auctioning off "A Glimpse of Hell," written by retired Navy Capt. Larry Sequist, who was the keynote speaker.

Photos by September Hyde

Above right, Larry Sequest shakes hands with high bidder Valerie Kline of Sacramento after autographing his book that was auctioned off as a fund-raiser for the club. Kline flew in for the banquet to support her daughter, Phyllis Whittington, one of the nominees. Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Top, Cristi Watson arrives with her family. She received the Citizen of the Year award later in the evening. Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Above, nominee Danna Webster with Nancy Lind, winner of the award in 2003. Photo by September Hyde



Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair

Saturday May 7, 2005

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

10:00 - 3:00pm • Free Admission
Key Peninsula Civic Center
17010 South Vaughn Rd

Entertainment

- 11:00am To Be Announced
12:00pm Evergreen Elementary Blues Kids
1:00pm Quartet Musette with Lorraine Hart
2:15pm Rhythm-n-Shoes Cloggers

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2005 Booth Participants

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Angel Guild Thrift Shop
Bayshore Garden Club
Children's Home Society-Key Peninsula Family
Resource Center
Citizens Against Crime
Communities In Schools of Peninsula
Dr. Penrose Guild
Friends of Faire/ Washington Renaissance Fantasy
Faire Gig Harbor
Friends of Pierce County
Great Peninsula Conservancy
IMPact Key Peninsula
KGHP FM Radio
Key Peninsula Baptist Church
Key Peninsula Business Association
Key Peninsula Community Council

Key Peninsula Community Services
Key Peninsula Fair Association
Key Peninsula Fire District #16
Key Peninsula Fire Fighters/Volunteer Association
Key Peninsula Historical Society
Key Peninsula Lions Club
Key Peninsula Lutheran Church
Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District
Key Peninsula News
Key Peninsula Trails
Key Singers
Longbranch Improvement Club
Management By Design
Pacific NW Herpetological Society
Peninsula Gateway
Peninsula Light
Peninsula School District & After School Programs
Peninsula Spay & Neuter Project
Pierce County Marine Services

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Pierce County Solid Waste
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Pierce Transit
Promise To Youth
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LIC auction 'raises spirits to help raise the roof'

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Historic buildings such as the Longbranch Improvement Club's clubhouse are indisputable treasures — but that often means their repair and upkeep are more expensive. As the LIC members discussed the needs to fix the roof, they were looking at a hefty price tag.

"Several groups use the building to raise money (through auctions), and I thought, why can't we do it?" said LIC member Connie Hildahl.

Hildahl is part of a small committee organizing the auction, set for April 9. Through the generosity of members, they have collected various items that range from tickets on the Washington Wine Train, a boat cruise to Blake Island, a river rafting adventure and a tour of Key Pen, to crystal stemware, water diagnostic service, silver jewelry and "delicious sticky buns once a month for a year."

"In calling members and asking for contributions in the past, I felt a 50

Auction details

The LIC fund-raiser auction is Saturday, April 9, starting at 6:30 p.m. The silent auction starts the evening, with raffle, games, and live auction to follow. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance and \$15 at the door and include the dinner. A no host bar will be available. To purchase advance tickets or get details, contact Connie Hildahl at 884-1400.

percent response is very good. We got a 90 percent response for the auction, and I am thrilled by that," Hildahl said.

Members jumped in to contribute items and cash, volunteer for the night, and of course, attend and help keep the atmosphere lively. Both a silent and live auction are planned, along with a pasta buffet dinner and dessert, game tables for poker, dominos, and more.

"We would like to make this an annual event for the LIC, especially in light of how warm the response has been," she said.

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A journey of the heart: Joanne Clark travels to Finland to explore her roots

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Joanne Clark, Vaughn postmaster, journeyed to Finland last summer to find the birthplace of her grandparents. Her grandfather died before she was born, her grandmother lived nearby until her death when Joanne was 12, and she lost her father by age 25. She had many questions and no answers about her Finnish roots.

When her mother died in 1996, Clark found a bundle of letters in her father's trunk. They were written in Swedish, a language her father and grandmother spoke, but never taught her.

She enlisted the help of dear friend Britta Brones to translate the letters, most from her grandfather's sister. They told of the lives of this aunt and her mother during harsh war times. They had lived with Clark's grandparents in Finland, remained in their home, and her grandfather sent money to them as long as he lived.

Clark's grandfather left Finland in 1915 to find a new life in America. He worked many places before settling in Olalla in 1919, where he was a logger, a longshoreman, and then a strawberry farmer. In 1920, he built a house and sent for his wife and daughter.

They were Swedish Finns who lived on the west coast of Finland, Clark says. However, in Finland, they call themselves Finnish Swedes!

Her trip was to find any family who might still live there and to locate the house owned by her grandmother until her death. The letters detailed the diffi-



Joanne Clark and Dian Herrick at the Seattle Tacoma International Airport upon their return from the trip.

culties her grandmother had to get her passport, permission to leave the country, permission to cross Sweden to Norway to sail to America. She arrived at Ellis Island and took a train to Seattle, then a boat to Olalla. Clark and her cousin, Dian Herrick, reversed the trip, except traveled by car and plane.

In a church in New York City, Herrick noted the music being used was Finlandia by Sibelius. Herrick had never heard it before, and they saw it as a special sign for their trip to "the old homeland."

They visited Ellis Island, were amazed at its history, and did some family research before flying out. They arrived



The home owned by Clark's grandparents, in a photo dated 1930.

Photos courtesy of
Joanne Clark

Clark and Herrick were the first guests to ask for a room, stayed there that night, and on the way back, requested and were given the room where the queen had slept.

in Helsinki on the same date as their grandmother had arrived at Ellis Island 84 years ago.

In Kristinastad, they saw people removing their shoes to go into a large building. The two women followed them in. It was the opening of a new hotel in a remodeled building over 200 years old. The queen and her entourage had slept there the night before. Clark and Herrick were the first guests to ask for a room, stayed there that night, and on the way back, requested and were given the room where the queen had slept.

The women tried to not stand out as Americans, but noticed people kept looking at them and somehow knew where they came from. Later, someone said it was because they smiled a lot, laughed, and showed their enjoyment, whereas Finns tended to be more stoic in demeanor.

They wondered if their relatives would be stoic, too, but they were welcomed like family with smiles and hugs.

Over 60 relatives from both grandpar-

ents' families gathered, and each side wondered why the other families were there. They knew each other, growing up in the village together, but didn't realize they were connected. Clark and Herrick were the common link.

They located the small home her grandparents owned; the present owner bought it from their great-aunt. Clark had an old faded photo of it and was excited to actually go in and see it.

Cousins own the farm where her grandmother grew up. They raise foxes and mink. The old home is a factory for handmade boats.

Clark filled a container with dirt from the original 17th century homestead. She found a cousin who looks like her dad, and another who resembles her grandmother. One regret was that she doesn't speak Swedish.

Clark filled in many blanks in her family history, and hopes to return many times to visit her new-found relatives in the old country where some of her roots were formed.



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From Pioneer Stock Sylvia Retherford, Home historian

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Sylvia Retherford, third generation Homeite, is walking, talking history of the area.

Her grandparents, George and Sylvia Allen, arrived at Joe's Bay in 1896 with two other families from Ontario, Canada. The other families didn't stay too long, but the Allens, with his elderly father and their four daughters, planted their roots by the bay.

Sylvia Allen, who had lived in many different places, was ready to be a permanent resident, and dubbed the new community Home.

The Allens were both teachers, and the day after their arrival held school for the 10 children in a tent on the property where Retherford now lives with her husband, Ken.

The family built a shack, then a house in 1907. That was destroyed by fire, but the Allens had insurance, and rebuilt.

When the elder Allen died, a small holly tree was planted above his grave.



Photo courtesy of Sylvia Retherford

Sylvia and George Allen with daughters, standing: Grace, Leila (Sylvia Retherford's mother); sitting in front: Georgia and Glennis.

The town site had been platted, but the property lines had not yet been laid out. Later, it was found that the burial site was on a neighbor's property, but the landowners let him rest in peace. The holly still marks the spot.

Sylvia Allen, according to her granddaughter, was as active as her husband in planning and carrying out details of the new community. She was the first woman to graduate with a four-year degree from the University of Toronto.

Retherford's father was a builder, and when Sylvia was born, he built the house that now stands next door to her home. She grew up there. The shack where she was born became a storage shed, a chicken house, and eventually a playhouse for her, brother Herb, and their friends.

Retherford was named Sylvia, after her grandmother, but when an older cousin, also named Sylvia, came to live in the area, the family decided that was one too many. They called the younger child by her middle name, Stella. She was 5 or 6 at the time, and it didn't matter to her.

However, when she went to high school in Edmonds, after her grandmother had died, she signed in as Sylvia. She liked the idea of going by her beloved grandmother's name, and kept it through college, work, and into marriage.

She answers to both names.

The Retherfords lived and taught in Indiana, his home state, but visited Home often. Upon retirement, they both knew they wanted to return to Home and live

on the family land she had inherited. She wanted a greenhouse attached to their new home; Ken wanted a golf course. She got her wish; he didn't get a golf course, but does golf as much as he can.

Over the years, the family had collected anything of historic interest about the community, and stored it in boxes in the old house. When the house was sold, the new owners told Retherford they'd keep the boxes for her. When they built their home, the neighbors were ready to have her retrieve them. She sorted and copied, and constructed five fat volumes of Home history.

"I didn't write all of it," she insists. "I just compiled it." She has the originals, but there are copies at the Key Peninsula Library, the Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum, the Gig Harbor Historical Museum and other places.

She enjoys showing visitors the pages, and says what she can't remember, she can always look up.

"It cost \$2.50 to log an acre" when the early settlers cleared the land, "the same price it cost to dynamite a stump," she said.

Retherford has made a tremendous contribution to the community in preserving the early history of the area, and deserves the title of Home historian.

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Deanna has studied, lectured and worked in the field of human nutrition for over 12 years. In addition to being a Certified Nutritionist in Washington State and a Certified Nutrition Specialist, she has been trained in intuitive assessment and emotional release work.

KP real estate market reflects trends

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

For years, Charlene Graham drove State Route 302 en route to Shelton from Kent and admired the “special feeling” of the Key Peninsula. “As soon as I got across the (Purdy) spit, I envied the people who lived there,” she said.

In the last few months, Graham’s green-eyed monster has been squelched: After taking a day to canvass the Key Peninsula, she found the perfect spot for a retirement home, on nine beautiful acres overlooking Glen Cove.

After endless paperwork and permits, she and her husband, Terry, were expecting to start construction any day and to move in this summer. Although Terry Graham, who works at Boeing, will change his commute from roughly 20 minutes to over an hour, Charlene said “he has absolutely no complaints about it.” After years of living in the bustle, noise and

crowdedness of Kent and King County, the couple is looking forward to a slower pace.

“People are discovering the rural setting for escaping the hustle and bustle is worth a little extra driving,” said Dale Harrison, Key Peninsula resident and custom home builder with Harrison Homes LLC. “We are finding that a lot of our customers who have looked at Gig Harbor go to the Key Peninsula.”

Real estate agents say the area is slowly being noticed, as Gig Harbor North brought shopping closer and the prices of homes are more affordable than other parts of Pierce County. Even so, the real estate market on the Key Pen last year reflected the rest of the region: The buyers and agents had to be ready to move fast on offers, and there was a shortage of homes on the market.

“The market has been fueled by interest rates, it’s been 30 or 40 years since they’ve been that low,” said Joyce Tovey of Windermere Real Estate/Key Realty. “We



Bob and Breezi Peterson with Windermere Real Estate/Key Realty affix the “sold” sign after a pending sale on a beautiful Victorian home overlooking Glen Cove.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

have lots of young people and lots of retired people (buying).”

For families, the Key Peninsula is the right place to raise children; for retirees, it’s the place to slow down. Anybody looking for a cheap mobile home on some acreage, for a million-dollar home on the waterfront, or any price range in between could be appeased by the Key Pen’s unique variety of real estate. Of the 22 \$1 million-plus homes sold in Pierce County last year, three were local — including the most expensive one in the county, a \$4.1 million, 8,100-square-foot estate with several hundred feet of beach in Lakebay.

“We are really enjoying it up here. I love the quiet and the peace,” said Don Eskew, who moved with his wife, Betty, to Taylor Bay from California. The country setting reminded them of their days in Alabama and Georgia, and being close to the water is a bonus for the former Navy sailor.

After their son moved to Federal Way last July, he helped them find a new home, and they have since fixed it up with new paint, carpets, and other touches. The grandkids love to visit and play, they said.

“We thought about Gig Harbor, but when we came out here, this is what we liked. We didn’t go look at Gig Harbor after that and we could have,” Betty Eskew said.

For those looking at affordability, Gig Harbor is not as attractive either. In 2004, it had the highest median price in the county, \$245,000. KP’s median price was \$168,050.

“I wanted to stay in Gig Harbor but what I could afford wouldn’t allow me to be there,” said longtime Gig Harbor resident Nancy Mazza, who settled on the Key Pen after looking to buy a new home. “I was able to find something in my price range in Palmer Lake. It was exactly what I wanted...When I saw it would add 15 minutes to my commute, it was something

I was still willing to do.” Besides, that brought the new grandmother closer to her two adult daughters’ KP homes.

The home Mazza purchased was on the market for less than a month when she saw it online. According to Windermere/Key Realty data, the average home on the Peninsula was on the market for 73 days.

“We have to keep right on top of the market,” Tovey said.

The construction of the second Tacoma Narrows Bridge has brought much speculation to what it will do to the real estate market. While some believe it will make Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula more attractive because of the improved traffic, others see it as a way to skew the area toward a more high-end lifestyle since some people will not be able to afford the toll.

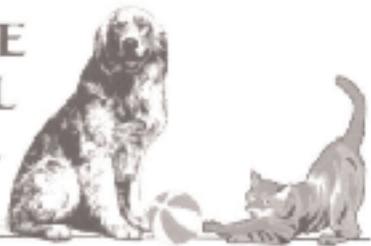
But there is much less speculation about the impact of the planned hospital, making the area even more attractive for retirees. “The hospital will have a huge impact,” Tovey said. Top that off with the booming development of Gig Harbor North, which brought shopping conveniences closer to home, and it’s easy to see why more and more people don’t mind the little extra driving.

“We feel this is where we wanted to be,” said Betty Eskew. “People around us are wonderful.”

Tovey says the Key Peninsula prices will pick up but are not likely to catch up to Gig Harbor. In the meantime, it will keep attracting people on both sides of the pricing spectrum. But not everyone.

“It’s perfect for me,” said Fred Angus, Key Peninsula resident and agent with Keller Williams in Gig Harbor who says the Key Pen is attractive not only for homeowners but also for investors. “It’s secluded, you can know your neighbors, it has a sense of community, and that’s very attractive to people. But it’s not for everybody.”

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PHS senior revisits history through exhibit

By Paula Moore
KP News

The Key Peninsula Historical Society is presenting an exhibit on Sallie Sloan. Who is Sallie Sloan? She was an 1800s Tacoma business woman with local ties to the community. Sallie was related to Jim Penfield, a colorful and well-known member of the peninsula. When Penfield passed away in September 2004, he left all his artifacts to the historical society. These included information, pictures, mementoes, and clothing of Sloan.

The exhibit, open from March through June, features a mannequin dressed in Sloan's hat, gown, and jewelry. You can also see her marriage certificate, pictures of her vacation home in Longbranch, the boat "The Messenger" and flyers about the theaters she owned.

Sloan and her husband, Matthew, moved their grocery business from Galesburg, Ill., to Tacoma. Matthew named the new business Tacoma Grocery Co.

When he died in 1897, Sallie, who wasn't interested in the grocery business, turned to the movies and vaudeville acts. She purchased a movie projector from a French merchant, and 52 moving pictures from William H. Reed.

Sloan opened the "Light House Theater" in the Donnelly Hotel at 744 Pacific in Tacoma. It was the first "show house" in Tacoma. Her daughter, Louise, can remember her mother standing outside the theater playing her gramophone to attract customers. Sloan's business did grow, and was so successful that she opened theaters in Seattle, Spokane, Victoria, and Vancouver, B.C. She was an amazing businesswoman well ahead of her time.

Before Matthew died, the Sloans met Edward Yeazell, who was selling land plots at Filucy Bay, in what he called "Long Branch." Yeazell envisioned Long Branch as a summer resort, and looked for select clientele to become part of the community. He offered free transportation to Long



Photo by Mindi LaRose

PHS senior Caitlin Kezele stands next to an exhibit display of Sallie Sloan's dress.

Branch for those interested. The boat used to carry the people there was called "The Messenger," captained by Henry Winchester, a local logger. The boat was very popular because of the ladies and gentlemen's rooms, dining room and spacious freight area.

In 1890, the Sloans did buy property called Cedar Grove. They had their home, Madrone Lodge, built by William Sipple, a Peninsula carpenter whose own boathouse is still standing today. The boathouse was once used as an area bowling alley. Madrone Lodge was passed down through the succeeding generations until it became Jim Penfield's home.

Caitlin Kezele, a senior at Peninsula High School, heard about Sallie Sloan from her father, Tim Kezele, who is the historical society's longtime president. She decided to do her senior project about Sloan.

Kezele chose to investigate Sloan's life and construct a museum display, because she has always been interested in local history. Kezele has been a member of the

historical society since grade school.

She said, "I hope to pursue a career in business or marketing, and the life of an early female business owner appealed to me."

Her future plans include going to Mesa State College at Grand Junction, Colo., for a degree in travel, tourism, and hospitality.

Kezele has lived all her life on the Peninsula. She likes to walk, garden with her father, and is active in her school's track program. She will not be participating in track this year, as on the first day she dislocated her shoulder throwing the javelin.

Her favorite piece in the exhibit is a flyer depicting "Three Flying Kitties" who performed tricks. She learned a lot about museum displays, from construction to archiving old material. She feels that history of a place will be lost unless people are willing to preserve photographs, letters, and other old material. She encourages everyone to come and see this exhibit, and learn about Sallie Sloan and other pioneers who settled on the Key Peninsula.

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Engagements



Rory Adams and Jennifer Hartshorne

Rory Adams and Jennifer Hartshorne have announced their engagement. They will wed June 18 at First Christian Church in Port Orchard.

The bride-to-be is a daughter of Noel and Beth Hartshorne of Port Orchard. She is a 1999 graduate of South Kitsap High School. In 2003 she graduated from Western Washington University with a bachelor's of art in English and creative writing. She currently works at Prudential Northwest Real Estate of Port Orchard as the customer service director.

The groom-to-be is the son of Lillian Vandehey of Gig Harbor and Ryan Adams of Raeford, N.C. He is a 1999 graduate of Peninsula High School. He earned his bachelor's of science in math from Western Washington University in 2003. He currently works for Vaughn Community Church as the youth pastor.

The couple will make their home in Vaughn.

Debora Lynn Hanna and William James Langham

Richard and Barbara Hanna, from Omaha, Neb., and now retired in Longbranch, would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Debora Lynn Hanna, to William James Langham. The couple, who are both retired and live in Lakebay, will marry on June 4.

Submit an engagement

If you'd like to submit an engagement or anniversary announcement, email news@keypennews.com or call 884-4699.



Key Peninsula Real Estate Trends

Real estate activity on the Key Peninsula continued to be brisk during the last month even as interest rates crept up closer to the 6% mark.

Statistics from Feb 20, 2005 – March 20, 2005:

34 Sales:

\$103,500 Median price

\$ 74,900 Lowest price

\$822,500 Highest price

62 DOM – (days on market)

– includes time to close the sale

2 newly built homes sold

2 homes on Herron Island sold for over
\$400,000

Examples:

Address:	Sale Price:
1520 Von Geldern Cove Rd KPN	\$822,500
2513 McEwan Rd KPN	\$620,000
9704 151 Ave KPN	\$310,000
9604 Cramer Road KPN	\$270,000
14202 Hollyburn Lane KPN	\$178,000
2210 C Street, Home	\$100,000

We would like to welcome Scott and Kirsten Gallacher and Leif and Anna Hansen to the Key Peninsula. Scott is the new director of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District and Leif is the new Program Director of Group and Family Camps at Camp Seymour.

Foundation News: \$500 Scholarship Donation from your local Windermere agents to the Peninsula Hawk Scholarship Program.



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UNIQUE ACREAGE \$167,900
Lovingly maintained home features 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Spacious, open floor plan is elegantly updated and custom decorated. Kitchen boasts wood laminated floors, garden windows and large pantry. Relax in the covered front porch and enjoy the beautiful landscaping. Large, private deck w/ territorial view, three outbuildings - one is a new horse stall. You will enjoy this unique acreage with woodland pond, tall cedars, fir, hemlock and maples. MLS 25031693

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(From WATSON, Page 1)

who do so much for this community. You may not think about the little things you do but they mean so much to this community.”

Watson's own list of contributions would fill several pages. Her smiling face and upbeat presence can be noticed at everything from the various KPCS functions to community boards and volunteer events. Which is why, perhaps, her next two months will be packed with hundreds of hugs and good-bye notes: Watson announced to the KPCS board in March that she is leaving at the end of May.

“We have come so far since she's been here,” board President Bud Ulsh said. “It's not an easy job at all.”

Ulsh recalled a board member saying a while back, “What would we ever do when Cristi leaves? It would be so hard to match what she did.”

Despite her struggle with multiple sclerosis for 25 years, Watson has immersed herself into her job, working full time hours or more on part-time pay. Wanting to make sure the organization is represented on the various local boards and task forces, she volunteered herself to participate in everything from

“Life is short. There is a surfboard in Newport with my name on it.”

-Cristi Watson

the crime task force to the Pierce County community planning board for KP.

“Nobody can go it alone,” she said. “You have to work together.” She has followed that belief by looking for ways to partner with groups like Communities in Schools, KP Family Resource Center, Tacoma Community College and others.

Watson said she'll miss the people the most. She has certainly met—and helped—many at KPCS, which she calls “Ground Zero.” “You do a lot of soul searching out here. You help those you can, and for those you can't, you say a prayer at the end of the day,” she said.

Watson was not a stranger to people in need when she arrived on the Key Pen. In Idaho, where she lived all her life before moving west, she had once started a nonprofit for kids at risk. Even as she hasn't yet moved to Newport, where her two sons and their families

live, she has already found a need she'd like to fill there: There is no senior center in the city.

Asked if she were leaving any unfinished business behind, she exclaimed, “Heavens, yes!” Yet taking the time off to see her family in Oregon has been getting tougher, and her sons have been trying to coerce her for months to move into their large, beautiful house.

“I miss my family. I miss my kids,” Watson said. “Life is short. There is a surfboard in Newport with my name on it.”

On the Key Peninsula, there are many things that will hold her name, and many people and causes that will feel her absence. But while she's leaving behind many memories and unfinished things, she is taking the most important part, the recognition for the works she's done.

“Getting citizen of the year is the biggest accomplishment of my life,” she said. “Never in a million years did I expect it. I am new, a novice. Those people (other nominees) paid their dues.”

Those who know her see past her modesty. “She has done marvelous things and everybody likes her,” Ulsh said. “It was a good thing to end with.”

News briefs

TWAA receives PC grant

The Pierce County Arts Commission awarded the KP organization Two Waters Arts Alliance a \$3,700 grant for its Artists in Schools program. TWAA was among 21 recipients of the 2005 community grants and arts education grants by the commission, awarded each year.

The selection process focuses on programs that address the needs of unincorporated Pierce County and also seek to fulfill the commission's goals of increasing access to the arts, and developing the arts industry as a significant tool for community development. The TWAA Artists in School program brings local artists into the four local elementary and middle schools for hands-on activities.

Council sets priorities

Directors of the KP Community Council discussed objectives and priorities at two recent retreats. The discussion included increasing the number of registered members to 4,000; producing a newsletter and using other information venues; sponsoring a candidate's forum for council elections; focusing on highway improvements; facilitating the creation of a youth council; and others.

The meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. The April 13 meeting is at the Home fire station. This is a one-time change from the regular venue, the KP Middle School.

Correction

An article about a fatal car accident in the March issue incorrectly stated that the injured passengers were Tacoma residents. According to the Pierce County Sheriff's, they were local residents. We regret the error.



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Home Based Taxing with Kate Slater. If you own a business Home Based for your food, home or business, as a gifts yourself or for someone else. This is a class for you. Whether you are a seasoned expert or just want to get started, join here to learn how. \$40 per person - \$60 per family. **Saturday April 16 & 23 10 AM - Noon** at Key Peninsula Civic Center.

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Key Peninsula Historical Society celebrates museum's 10th anniversary

By Ronda Anderson
Special to KP News

The Key Peninsula Historical Society celebrates the 10th anniversary of its museum in May, in a room that was once part of the original high school in Vaughn.

Vaughn Union High School was organized in 1903. The first few years' classes were held in the parsonage of Vaughn Church. The land at the current Civic Center site was donated by W.F. Wright for the high school, and construction for VUHS was started around 1906.

The original building was where the Whitmore room is at the Civic Center. In 1915, an outdoor gym with dirt floor was built behind the current building. A home economics room and boys' shop additions were added to the gym later.

The second building of the new high school was constructed in 1928 and now houses the museum, VFW room, the caretaker's apartment, and the office of KP Civic Center Association and the Key Peninsula News. The building most consider the Civic Center replaced the original building. It was completed in 1937.

The Class of 1938 annual notes, "The year 1937-38 initiated the new building for all school events. The building was completed last fall in time for the term's activities, which included the basketball season, school assemblies, the junior prom, the senior reception and a concert. The building includes two classrooms, a boys' dressing room, a girls' dressing room, a stage, two

Open house

Join the KPHS members on May 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the 10th anniversary of the museum.

dressing rooms back stage, a kitchen, and the gym itself with balcony and entrance hall. There is also a recreation room upstairs." Showers and lockers were included in the dressing rooms. With some remodeling and updating over the years, the Civic Center still hasn't changed much.

The last senior class graduated in 1947 from VUHS. The following school year the high school students, along with Gig Harbor Union High students, attended Peninsula High School. The grade school students who had been housed in a building near the old high school moved into the old high school building until the new Vaughn Elementary School was completed in the mid-1950s.

The senior class pictures from VUHS 1932 to 1947 hang on the walls of the museum. Many of the earlier class pictures can be found in the museum archives.

In 1956 the old VUHS building and land was purchased from the county to be used as a community center. When the Civic Center was started, the library association sold the Library Hall, on Hall Road, and gave the money to the Civic Center, which allowed the library to be housed in the room currently the museum. The library was there from 1957-1981. It outgrew that location and moved into the



Photo courtesy KP Museum

From lower left, clockwise, Denise, Sue and Ronnie Schillinger; Lily Visell, president of Vaughn Library Association; and Billy and Jimmie Broughton in the library that later became home to Key Pen's museum.

current building in Key Center.

The room was rented to various groups until the Key Peninsula Historical Society started looking for a

place for a new museum. In 1994 the Civic Center and KPHS agreed on a rent for the room and the KPHS Museum was opened in May 1995.

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Award-winning artist calls Key Peninsula home

By Jerry Libstaff

There is a new artist on the Key Peninsula. Carolyn Scott Arnold moved her art studio to the Peninsula four months ago because of the appealing location and the friendly community. She works primarily with water colors, and her award-winning paintings are held in private, business and educational collections throughout the United States.



The Genuine ARTicle

Arnold grew up in a family of painters and artists. Her father studied painting under Norman Rockwell. Both her aunt and uncle were accomplished painters and her uncle sang opera. As a child she thought everyone was an artist and was surprised to find her family was unique.

She says, "While my friends spent their money on new clothes, I spent mine on art supplies."

Arnold was fortunate to have exceptional art teachers early on. She says her first grade teacher "played Tchaikovsky during class and told us to feel the energy of the music and paint or draw whatever came into our heads."

A former Silverdale and Poulsbo resident, she explored art in the United States and abroad. She studied in Florence, Venice and Vicenza, Italy, and

TWAA April classes:

April 2: Beginning Weaving for the Scardey Cat with Margo MacDonald

April 2, 9: Introduction to Water Color with Beverly Pederson

April 4, 11, 18, 25: Continued Chinese Brush Painting with Laura Mosley

April 16: Name Board Carving with Nate Slater

April 16, 23: Sumi Painting Workshop with Reni Moriarity

To sign up for a class or receive more information, call 884-2029 or email brynnfos@harbornet.com.

at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Her paintings express a connection with nature and beautifully represent our area's essence. She prefers to paint rather than sketch and frequently creates a work in her mind prior to placing it on canvas.

"I often get up in the middle of the night with an idea to paint," she says. "The images seem to shoot down my arm and become my work."

In 1997 Arnold began a three year excursion in Mexico to experience the country and paint. For a time she lived on a sailboat, which proved to be an extremely awkward studio. So she practiced "building my paintings in my head."

During that time she joined a Mexican/American writers' group and strengthened her writing skills as she



The hardwood floor of the KP Civic Center was aglow under soft lights displaying the works of 24 local artists at the TWAA Spring Fling.

Sculptures, oils, watercolors, jewelry, pine needle baskets and pottery adorned the hall while sweet sounds filled the room from Jazz Musette with Lorraine Hart. Nearly 150 guests expressed their appreciation for the beautiful evening by contributing about \$2,000 toward donations and memberships. Pictured here, Dale Loy shows artist Laura McClintock one of the baskets he weaved out of pine needles, which he collects for his art from sources on the other side of the Cascade Mountains.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

worked with writers of both languages. The experience was inspirational.

Though she enjoys writing, painting is her true passion and that passion drew her back to the Northwest. She established a studio in Centralia to be near family members in Portland and on the Olympic Peninsula. During the past few years she's won several awards for her works and showed extensively throughout the state.

Arnold found that she missed the area: the water, the Olympic Mountains and the pristine landscapes. She returned, and created her studio on the

Key Peninsula to foster experience from the environment and the art community.

Her paintings reflect the area and she says they are created with the intention to "invite my viewers to a peaceful place, one that is quiet and relaxing and perhaps even nostalgic."

Carolyn Arnolds' work may be viewed on her Website at www.carolynsfin-earths.com. She paints, teaches and accepts commissioned work.

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

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Arts brief

Starry Night at PHS

Starry Night, a celebration of the arts at Peninsula High School, is scheduled for Thursday, April, 7 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Parents of art students and younger students are especially encouraged to attend, according to Karen Peck, PHS art teacher.

Several areas of the building will host the art events. The library will present an art college fair and feature a senior scholarship art show. The art rooms will feature "Artists in Action." Guests may bring T-shirts and sweatshirts to student artists, who will silk-screen designs for

them; a Raku pottery class will be offered and guests may glaze fire and take home their work that night. Professional artist members of the Two Waters Art Alliance will be demonstrating their work.

Coffee and dessert will be offered in the commons, along with musical entertainment by the PHS Jazz Band with lead singer Bobby Mhyre (formally known as a Peninsula social studies teacher). In the auditorium, there will be a choir concert offered for a minimal admission charge.

This extravaganza art show celebrates the awareness that arts are alive and well on the Peninsula. For information about the Starry Night program contact Karen Peck at 857-3530.



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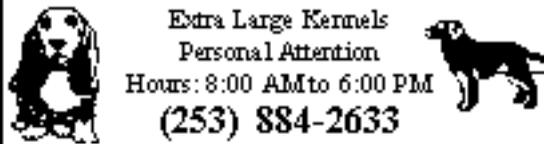
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Obituary

Barbara Lillian Russell



RUSSELL

Barbara Lillian Russell quietly passed away at her Lakebay home on March 17. Barbara exhibited her beautiful, loving spirit throughout her extended illness. She was born in 1938 in Los Angeles and moved to Lakebay with her family in 1971.

Many people have memories of enjoying themselves as guests in Barbara's home, as she was a great cook and enjoyed entertaining. She displayed her commitment to family by encouraging her three sons in all their activities and by being involved with them in 4-H. She attended every 4-H fair where they participated, knowing that she would suffer with hayfever. Her greatest pride and joy were her grandchildren. A caring person, Barbara kept in touch with her friends and their interests throughout her lengthy illness.

Her eldest son, Donald Curtis Russell, preceded Barbara in death. She is survived by Jack, her husband of 45 years and their sons: Bill of Port Orchard, Herb (Mellissa) and their sons Dylan, Michael and Jackson of Sumner. She is also survived by her sister, Marilyn Share, and their aunt, Lillian Bushakra (CA), mother-in-law, Helen Hendrix (Lake Holiday), and sisters-in-law Darlene Russell (CA) and Marjorie Evan (Lakebay), many nieces, nephews and beloved friends.

The Russell family expresses sincere appreciation and thanks to the many loving caregivers who made Barbara's life easier and more comfortable. At herequest, no services will be held.

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Seeking Bids: The Key Peninsula Community Center is seeking contractor bids for remodeling the Community Center building in Home. Contact Cristi Watson at 253-884-4440 or stop by the center between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday for more information. After hours, contact Bud Ulsh at 253-884-3730.

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Out & About



Above, A crew is installing fiberoptic lines to Evergreen Elementary School for high speed Internet and data transfer as part of a CenturyTel project. The group supervisor, Nehl Evans of Sedro Wooley, said the service is planned throughout the Peninsula School District. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Below, More than 100 adults and kids brace a bit of drizzle on a Saturday to get Volunteer Park ready for youth softball season opening on April 2. *Photo by Frank Slater*



The KPMS NASA team: David Locey, Cindy Knisely, Phylis Krueger, Thom Worlund, Kareen Borders, Rya Diede, and Ron Stark at a recent meeting with NASA representative Brian Hawkins. The team is working toward creating opportunities for students, parents, and staff and participate in NASA learning.



Photo by Hugh McMillan



An impromptu memorial is growing at the spot where 15-year-old Donald Jackson was killed in a car accident in February.

Photo by Karen Hale



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Signs that spring is here are visible all around the Key Peninsula in March.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Joshua David Bissenas of Peninsula High School gets ready for a rehearsal of "The Sound of Music" as Max. The play, staged for the first time in more than 30 years at PHS, played for two weeks including March 31-April 2. A full orchestra and beautiful set were included.