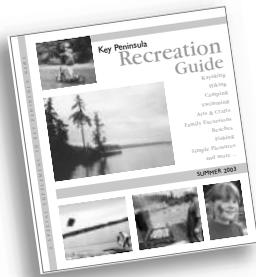


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Vaughn Class Reunion
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People with a 'vision'

Key Peninsula Lions Club celebrates 20 years

By Irene Torres
KP News

Key Peninsula Lions Club members have been proud hosts of the Citizen of the Year Banquet for the last 19 years, to recognize volunteerism in the community. Even though Lions Club members are not eligible for that award, their own spirit of volunteerism never wanes. The club plans to celebrate its 20th anniversary with a dinner on June 21 at the Tacoma Elks.

To contact KP
Lions, call Frances
Challender at
884-3485.

"Lions' donations to the Little League, scholarships, the prison pet partnership and other worthy causes really make a difference," President Pat Medveckus says.

The Lions have become involved in funding hearing aids for infants, children and adults, as well as providing for need-



Some of the
KP Lions
during a
recent
meeting.

Key Peninsula
News photo

ed cochlear implants. Members work to establish and improve parks and playgrounds. They can be seen in their bright yellow vests at various events at KP parks, the Volksmarch, the annual KP Fair—all in support of the community and raising funds for their projects. A peace poster

contest is planned for this fall, challenging youth ages 11-13 to depict their personal interpretations of world peace.

KP Lions are part of the Lions Club International, nearly 1.4 million mem-

(See **LIONS**, Page 2)

Insurance rates rise again for Civic Center

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The yearly insurance policy renewal in May for the Civic Center brought a \$4,500 increase to the tab, taking the total cost to about \$500 per week. The \$25,365 policy reflects a more than double increase since 1999, and is prompting the Civic Center board to look for extra fund-raisers.

"It's a humongous amount. We have to hold a fund-raiser every month to bring in \$2,000 just to pay the insurance," said board President Betty Kelly. The insurance increase reflects the tough economy and sluggish stock market, Kelly said, which have drastically narrowed the insurance market.

The insurance is needed because of the type of activities at the center, including skate night. A popular event, skate night brings in an average of \$600 per week but is on hold during the summer due to low participation.

"We've cut everything as far as we can from our budget but there is nothing left to cut," Kelly said. "We need the fund-raisers to pay the bills to keep the doors open."

Several of them are planned for the summer and fall, including Prohibition Band's Jazz in June concert on June 14, a fireworks stand between June 28 and July 4 next to the Key Center Saloon, dances in September, November and December, as well as the popular Flavor of Fall.

Key Peninsula loses a legend

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Vaughn legend LeRoy Challender was carried to his final resting place on May 19 on his favorite vehicle—his John Deere lawnmower. Robert Ross made the final round for his grandfather on the vast lawn that Challender mowed until his last days. As Ross carried the urn with ashes uphill from the Challenders' home to the Vaughn cemetery, someone remarked that if LeRoy had his say, he'd take the mower with him.



CHALLENGER

What he did take was his warm smile, genuine handshake, love of people—and

(See **LEGEND**, Page 14)

Vaughn Elementary wins hotdog of a prize



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

The winning class lines up to go inside the giant hotdog car, designed by Oscar Mayer's nephew in 1936. Hotdog steering wheels and relish-colored seats are part of the interior.

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Vaughn Elementary was proclaimed "Washington's top dog" in May by the Oscar Mayer Corp., which even sent a "Wienermobile" to congratulate the school on the occasion. Jodi Kimuzuka's third-graders won first place in the state in the company's Talent Search School House Jam contest, earning the honor to bring the Wienermobile—and \$10,000 — to the school.

With lunchroom staffers dressed as ketchup and mustard bottles, a teacher sporting a hat saying "Relish the thought of \$10,000," and classes lining up to take photos by the giant hotdog — it was almost hard to tell whether the kids or adults had more fun at the special school assembly May 27.

It took the class about two months, and many missed recesses, to put together a "commercial" featuring the "I wish I were an Oscar Mayer wiener" jingle and a skit for the contest. Once the class brainstormed and voted on the best concept, the duo that has organized the school's performances for seven years, music teacher Mary Farr and cultural enrichment teacher Ernie Donehower, helped them turn the idea into a mini-musical—handmade costumes and props included.

"It was the children's project," Farr said. "All I did was coach them." The videotaped entry won the state \$10,000 prize, which will be used to buy instruments. Without the money, it would have taken the school three years to purchase the additions, including Congo drums and Orff instruments.

(From LIONS, Page 1)

bers strong, with 44,000 clubs in 190 countries. For the last 85 years, Lions have taken on the challenges of blindness. This service began when Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness" during the association's 1925 international convention. Since then, Lions worldwide have become involved in prevention of deafness, drug abuse, and diabetes awareness.

The World Health Organization estimates that nearly a quarter of the world's population needs corrective lenses, though for most, eyeglasses are unaffordable and inaccessible. Lions have been collecting and recycling eyeglasses for distribution in third-world countries and have facilitated nearly 20,000 corneal transplants annually.

Locally, receptacles for donations of used eyeglasses and sunglasses are located at Sound Credit Union and at the Health Center. From there, the glasses are shipped to the receiving center in Muncie, Ind., to be sorted and cleaned, prescriptions determined, and shipments packaged for mission destinations. Local grants for eyeglasses or hearing aids may be available from the club.

Hugh McMillan, membership chair, has long been active in the Lions organization, and lives its mission, "We Serve." McMillan can be seen throughout the Peninsula as he volunteers countless hours for various activities. He says, "Our club is small in numbers, but the community thinks we are many," because the core group is so active. McMillan introduced a new membership campaign at a recent board meeting by saying, only half-joking, "Each of you here tonight shall clone yourself."

Local resident Marvin Keizur has recently been elected and will assume office in July as Zone C-1 chairman for the Washington State Lions Club, succeeding Frances Challender, who has also served as secretary for several years.

Irene Torres is a Lions Club member.

Habitat starts 2nd house on Key Peninsula

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

On a chilly, drenching Sunday afternoon last month, a single mom, Angela Hebard, and her four kids, ages 4 through 14, joined a cheery, albeit soggy, group of members of the Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Chapter of Habitat for Humanity for a ground blessing ceremony at a site in Lake Minterwood Estates where Habitat will build its second house on the Key Peninsula.

Robert DeLaney, Habitat's volunteer coordinator, said, "The land was cleared and graded for the house and septic system; foundation work begins as soon as we get the permit from Pierce County."

Hebard's children are looking for-



The Hebard survey the lot that will soon be their new home.

Photo by
Hugh McMillan

ward to their new four-bedroom home, and she has been working on her required 500 hours of "sweat equity," some of which she contributed working

on Mike and Angie Knapp's home, the first house built by the chapter on the Key Peninsula.

Call 884-6469 if you'd like to help.

News Briefs

Community Council June meetings

The following subcommittees of the council's organizing group meet in June:
Student Projects: June 5, 3 p.m., KPMS; chair David Locey, 857-4505.
Process/Structure: June 3, 7 p.m.,

Windermere Key Realty; chairs Irene Torres, 884-6794/Simon Priest, 884-6446.

Finance: June 9, 10:30 a.m., CIS (KP Hwy & 84th); chair Barb Waller, 884-4464.

Communications/Outreach: June 10, 1 p.m., Civic Center; chairs Ruth Bramhall, 857-5184 and Vicki Biggs, 884-9438.

Needs Assessment: June 17, 7 p.m., KPMS; chair Denise Carron, 884-9498.

The meetings are open to the public and all interested citizens are encouraged

to attend. The next Organizing Committee is June 24, 7 p.m. at KPMS, with all the subcommittees reporting on their progress. Contact Dennis Taylor, 884-7899, or Jeff Harris, 884-5733.

New Parks & Recreation commissioner sworn in

Mike Salatino was sworn in as commissioner of the KP Parks and Recreation

District at the board meeting May 12. He has served as a commissioner before, is an active board member of the Civic Center for more than 20 years and is one of the three founding members of the Key Peninsula Fair.

The board meets second and fourth Mondays each month at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Sports Center and Fairgrounds (Volunteer Park) Annex. Everyone is welcome to attend.

BLUES & FUN FOR GOOD CAUSE



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The Fourth Annual Dinner Dance to benefit the Evergreen Elementary School reading program, held on May 10 at the LIC, raised more than \$1,200 for the school. KPCC served over 130 meals and a good time was had by all. The dance, sponsored by Baillie & Associates, Inc. and Larson Anthropological Archaeological Services Ltd, featured entertainment and dancing by the Blues Passage Band. Evergreen Elementary's Blues Kids performed with Geoff Baillie, PSD board member and the band's instructor in harmonica. He has been volunteering weekly at the school to teach the kids how to play harmonica. The kids are from pre-school to fifth grade and are surprisingly good.

New phase in watershed plan

By Irene Torres
KP News

The Key Peninsula Gig Harbor Islands Watershed Plan, adopted in 2000 with the purpose to protect water quality and plan future projects, enters its first phase, the Characterization Phase. Expected to be completed by the end of the year, it will include a field study and two public meetings: the first at the beginning so that residents can supply information where they have observed flooding, and another toward the end of the study.

The basin plan emphasizes water quality, especially as it relates to shellfish. Many shellfish beds throughout the area, both commercial and recreational, have been showing signs of decline. The field studies will be limited to about 10 days during the summer. Researchers will evaluate physical features (stream width, depth, and flow), fish habitat conditions, and riparian buffer conditions for each stream.

"Property owners will receive a letter specifying exactly which days we expect to have scientists and engineers assessing their section of creek and how to identify them as members of our research team," said Barbara Ann Smolko, project manager for Pierce County Water Programs. "Property owners will have the right to refuse access to researchers at any time. However, the assessment methodology is

blind to parcel boundaries and results will not be published in a way that links them to specific parcels."

The results will be used to determine potential water program projects. The KGI Watershed Interim Council, a group of volunteer citizens and residents, works with county staff and consultants to prioritize future construction projects, with the goal of protecting water quality, restoring streams, improving habitat, and reducing flood-related problems.

The plan will be implemented over a 10-year period. Its focus is on nonpoint pollution, which cannot be attributed to a single source discharge location but can result in water quality degradation. Agriculture, roads, boats and marinas, forest practices, storm water erosion and runoff, on-site sewage systems, household hazardous waste, fertilizers, pesticides, and recreation are some pollution sources.

Pierce County is building a mailing list of people interested in receiving information, and for distribution of a survey to garner public input and support for the project. Contact Pierce County Water Programs at 253-798-6156 253-798-2725, or email pcwater@co.pierce.wa.us. The report is available online at www.co.pierce.wa.us and at Pierce County Library branches. Streamside property owners will be notified automatically, but others may ask to have their names added to the mailing list.

Peninsula Light Co.

Workshop Schedule

2003

All workshops are held on Wednesday nights from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Peninsula Light Headquarters unless otherwise noted.
Call (253) 857-1530 For Reservations.

2003

June

INDIVIDUAL WELL AND SMALL WATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Recommended maintenance for your individual well or small water system, well head protection, water sampling. Cross-connection, and your questions answered. Evan Reames and Kevin Odegard, Peninsula Light Water Services Department.

SHORELINE GEOLOGY

Harriet Beal, Coastal Geologist with the Puget Sound Action Team will explore how our shorelines are shaped by wind and wave action and how they were geologically formed. Best management practices for bulkheads and lessons learned. This is the first of three workshops on shorelines.

July

- 12** INTRODUCTION TO SHORELINE PERMITTING AND BULKHEADS
Anna Maria Sibon PC Planning and Land Service-Colin Wagner, Camp Seymour Project Engineer. To be held at Camp Seymour 11am to 2pm.

August

- 12** LANDSCAPING AND STORM WATER CONTROL FOR SHORELINES
Harold Smelt, PC Water Prog Project Engineer. To be held Tuesday at GH Civic Center Council Chambers 6:30 to 8:30pm.

September

- 10** SEPTIC, SENSE, SCENTS AND CENTS
How to maintain your septic system. Jim Hoyle, Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept.
- 24** GENERATOR SAFETY
Electrical code requirements, transfer switches, fuel options and more. Jonathan White, PLC Marketing Coordinator.

October

- 22** Is your furnace Installed Correctly?
Problems encountered by a field inspector. Paul Thorton, Field Inspector, NW Sheet Metal Inspection Service.

www.penlight.org

 KITSAP BANK



More workshops to be added. Watch for details in future issues of our LIGHTS newsletter or our website at www.penlight.org

Editorial

In a recent survey by the Peninsula School District of middle and high school students, only 24 percent of the respondents felt that adults in their community value youth, and only 34 percent felt they are given useful roles in the community. While the numbers are the same or better than the national average, they should give us adults on the Key Peninsula some food for thought.

Positive values are acquired at a young age—it's much easier to grow a child than to fix an adult, as someone put it. If these youngsters feel they don't have anything to contribute today, will their attitudes change when they are adults? If they don't feel appreciated now, will they treat the young generation differently when they grow up?

The above mentioned survey looked at other internal and external traits, called "40 developmental assets," that have been found to have direct correlation with at-risk behaviors: The more assets young people have, the less likely they are to engage in risky behavior. Embracing that model, the school district has spearheaded an effort to bring together the community in a "Promise to Youth" initiative that would encourage partnerships and build more positive experiences for kids. It's not a classroom program or a curriculum addition, but rather a concept, and the group will also seek the students' input during the discussions.

Representatives from the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula areas have been helping shape the initiative, including from Children's Home Society in Vaughn, Communities in Schools, Safe Streets, After 'OURS, and KP school principals. It is very encouraging to see these leaders seek out a common vision and band together for our kids.

But now it's our turn as community members to listen in, find the missing link between adults and kids, and integrate them better into our works. With the myriad of groups doing various good deeds, surely there are outlets for the young leaders to be involved.

Now is the time to embrace them, make them feel welcome in the community, and encourage them to leave positive marks anywhere they go. The young generation is willing and ready for it — are we?

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of the Civic Center.

WHAT'S UP?



We could have ventured some guesses about what is happening in this photo, taken at a recent event at the Miracle Ranch.

Do you have a guess? Write your own caption and send to us, and the best choices will be published next month. Funny, serious or poetic—we want them all. Send caption with your name on it to: KP News caption; PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394, email to keypennews@yahoo.com or fax to 884-4053.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Letters to the Editor

Reader supports paper

I have heard the new Key Peninsula News as being a phoenix, or a resurrection of the old paper. But no, I thought this is a new paper with a lot of interesting articles and information to read. Then I happened on to some real old Key Peninsula News papers and by golly they had a lot of community news in

them. So maybe it is a remodel of the old.

I even looked at some Peninsula Gateways from the early 1950s and they had a lot of news about our community, but they don't anymore.

The staff of the Key Peninsula News has brought a new enlightenment to our community with the change in content, layout and quality in the paper they produce. But a newspaper can only keep providing this service if they have adver-

tisers. They can only keep advertisers if we support them. Look at the ads and when you go to the business that has the ad tell them where you saw the ad. By the way, this letter was not solicited in any way, nor was I coerced into writing it.

Fred Ramsdell
Lakebay

We welcome your letters to the editor. Mail, fax or email your submissions of 100 words or less. Letters must pertain to the Key Peninsula.

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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

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

The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. All letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Submissions are used on a space available basis and may be edited if used. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to keypennews@yahoo.com

LOVE TRIANGLE: Close to Home Espresso owner mixes love of coffee, art

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

When Laura McClintock moved to the Key Peninsula from Seattle, she found something missing: a good cup of espresso. Since she didn't like the idea of commuting to a job, and she loved coffee, she brewed up a plan to answer both dilemmas. She opened Close to Home Espresso at the corner of the Key Center's marketplace, and in May celebrated the shop's 10-year anniversary with contests and give-aways.

The shop serves up more than good coffee, McClintock says—it serves a “feel-good” atmosphere and a friendly visit. Of course it helps that the visits are more personal than at many coffee



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Coffee shop owner by day, artist by night: Laura McClintock splits her time between brushes and espresso, as she balances out her two commitments.

service to stay competitive.

The growth has allowed her to add part-time help, but the business nonetheless keeps her pretty busy. So she has to fight to schedule in her other commitment — painting.

A successful artist who won a national award in 2000, McClintock can now devote more time to her art. But it's not an easy choice, as she feels torn between the two.

“I have to produce work because I am part of a cooperative gallery (Gallery Row in Gig Harbor), and sometimes I feel being split apart,” she said. “It's a hard thing to balance.”

Even so, once in a while her two loves mingle — like last month, when as part of the shop's anniversary celebration, she gave away one of her paintings.

“I don't like the idea of a drive-through.”
-Laura McClintock

shops: Coffee drinkers must walk, not drive, to the window.

“I don't like the idea of a drive-through,” McClintock said. “Here, people can stand in line and talk to each other. The spot is a central hangout.”

Having a coffee stand in a remote location used to have advantages 10 years ago, but competition has popped up in the last few years. Although McClintock has felt their impact somewhat, she says her business has been steadily growing, and she tries to keep up with trends and offer great customer



Barbara and Harry Nimrick at their newly opened store.

Photo by
Hugh McMillan

Antique store opens doors

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Nimrick's Furnishings opened May 8 in Key Center. It is a family-owned business located in the building formerly known as Red Dogs, with the slogan “Discover a great place to shop.”

Proprietors Barbara and Harry Nimrick have long been active in the Key Peninsula community. Barbara was a member of the KP Community Services/Food Bank board of directors,

Harry a charter member of the KP Lions Club. Their son Randy Nimrick and his wife, Geri, share the ownership.

“The building has been vacant for the past five years. We're happy to have it, have cleaned it up, and plan to offer different old and new items weekly,” said Barbara Nimrick.

The store will be open Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. and will offer a layaway plan. The address is 9814 Key Peninsula Highway North, phone 884-3717.

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Camp Seymour wants to lead sustainable living example

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

In March, the Key Peninsula became one of about 30 places around the world with an operational Living Machine—an innovative, environmentally friendly wastewater treatment system. Located at YMCA Camp Seymour, the system is part of a future interactive educational center designed to showcase sustainable living.

A garden and a pond are also planned on the site, collectively envisioned as a community learning center. To add to the sustainability theme, the camp will purchase a vermiculture machine this summer and turn food waste—about 230 pounds of it per week—into compost with the help of worms.

The Living Machine utilizes bacteria, plants and organisms to process and purify wastewater, which will in the future flow back into the camp's bathrooms. The new technology mimics the natural ecosystems' water purification. At first glance, the sys-

tem looks like a collection of six miniature water gardens, with giant "tanks" holding pond water and vegetation. The tanks are hydroponic reactors that complete the processing of the wastewater after it is pre-treated by microorganisms and biofilters.

"The Living Machine Co. gives a list of species that do well with each other and grow well in these conditions," said Scott Gjerston, a naturalist at Camp Seymour.

A group of local residents meets regularly to discuss ideas for the garden—a separate project from the Living Machine but part of the camp's sustainable living vision. Although the educational project is spearheaded by the camp, it is a community effort, Gjerston said, and the goal is to involve environmental clubs and schools. "One of the ideas is to have educational and theme gardens that... maybe could be used to experiment to see what grows best," he said. The garden is in early planning stages and the group is looking for local experts and volunteers to help design it.



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

The Living Machine uses plants and organisms to process wastewater, and resembles a water garden. Many native plants were used in the machine's six "hydroponic reactors," shown up-close to the right.



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School Briefs

Peninsula High School freshman takes state award

Josiah Ward, a Peninsula High School freshman, was awarded first place in the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association State Solo and Ensemble Contest 2003 in April. He competed in the Soprano-Alto Saxophone Soloist division, performing the II and III movements of the Paul Creston Sonata for alto sax.



WARD

Ward currently studies privately under the direction of Tracy Knoop of Gig Harbor. He also plays in the symphonic band and the jazz band at PHS under the direction of Noel Abrahamson. Ward maintains a 3.91 GPA and plays basketball and baseball as a Seahawk. Josiah is the second oldest of six children in his family, which lives on the Key Peninsula.

Key Peninsula student to perform in Europe

Elizabeth Mann, a senior at Peninsula High School, has been selected to perform with a national group called The Sound of America Honor Band and Chorus. Comprised of student musicians from all the states, the group will tour Europe in July after four days of intense orientation in Carlisle, Penn. The program was started 27 years ago and is recognized as a successful tour concert. The 25-day tour will include 10 performances in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France and Luxembourg.



MANN

Mann is the principal flute in Peninsula High School's symphonic band and has previously performed in the Pacific Lutheran University All Northwest Honor Band. She is also part of the school's Woodwind Quintet and a former pep band director. She lives on the Key Peninsula with her family.

Correction

My apologies to Cristi Watson for misspelling her name in the May issue.

She's a special lady and I regret my error.

— Colleen Slater

New Boy Scout troop seeks members

Boy Scout Troop 232 was started last year in order to serve boys in the Lakebay area, and the group is planning lots of fun events and outdoor adventures for the summer. "Our goal for the troop is to offer a place for boys to come and learn important life skills," say organizers Gary and Andrea Davies. "Scouting builds on the concept of a boy lead troop, where the boys can learn important leadership skills, build confidence and friendships."

Since the group formation, the boys

have gone on hikes, snowshoeing, snowboarding and camping. This summer, the troop will be camping, hiking, biking, fishing, and much more. They are also planning community service projects, including helping maintain the Lakebay Cemetery and setting up benches donated to the Home Park and the KP Sports Center and Fairgrounds.

"Our troop is still small at this point but we hope to grow and be a place for the boys to come and have fun and learn lots of important things that they can use

for the rest of their lives," Andrea Davies said. "We hope to grow and be an important part of the Peninsula community; this is a great community and we look forward to serving it."

The group meets at the Lakebay Community Church on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Some meetings are held at the Scout Master Gary Davies' home, where they play games and participate in projects like building and making things. Anyone interested in joining the troop should call Gary Davies at 884-6860.

News Brief

KP Electronic Newsletter merges with KP News

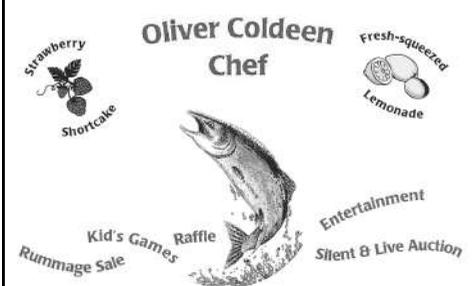
The Key Peninsula Electronic Newsletter, launched last year by local resident Simon Priest, will be merging with the Key Peninsula News this month. The e-newsletter has been delivering community announcements and information to

more than 500 subscribers, and was created to fill the void for an information vehicle during the Key Peninsula News' restructuring downtime.

Priest announced last month that increased responsibilities with his firm will not allow him to devote the needed time to the newsletter, which he distributed several times a month. "Now that the newspaper is running so smoothly, and appears to be permanent, the need for an alternative is gone," he said. The Key Peninsula

News will take ownership of the newsletter's Internet domain, www.keypen.com, and reshape it in the next few months into a community portal that will include news and local information. The electronic newsletter will be integrated into the newspaper, and be relaunched in the next few weeks in a format similar to the one offered previously. To subscribe, send an email to info@keypen.com, or watch the KP News for announcements on the newsletter's relaunch.

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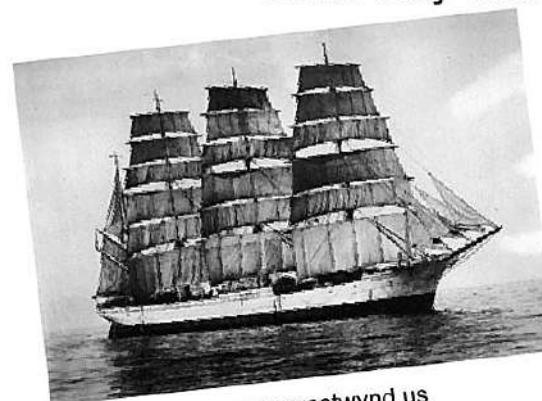
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SAYING GOOD-BYE TO GRADUATES



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Jessica Welker (left), Peninsula High School senior, celebrated Arbor Day by accepting a "Good Stewardship Award" for the school's Environmental Club.

Welker is one of many Key Peninsula students who received scholarships on May 21 for college studies. Read about Jessica and several other local students—and their college plans—in the July issue of the Key Peninsula News.

A good friend leaves Health Center

After 18 years with the KP Health Center, LPN Susan Nettler retired in May for health reasons.

A friend to many people, she visited them at their homes or even in the hospital.

"Susan has been a quiet pillar in this community, has gone out of her way to make house calls to people who needed aid and has been available at all times to assist and answer questions," says Sylvia Haase. "Over the years, many of us have relied on her wisdom and experience."



Photo by Hugh McMillan

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Double Duty

Grandparents (relatives) raising grandchildren

By Irene Torres
KP News

In 30 years, the number of grandchildren under full custody and responsibility of their grandparents has more than doubled to 4.3 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. foster care system is overburdened and fraught with its own set of problems. Grandparents (or other kind-hearted relatives) are often seen as the last hope to provide a stable home life with consistent, positive reassurance for the youth. In the eyes of these children, hope for a bright future can be seen, thanks to the caring, loving custodians, who do "double duty" to ensure our country will pass into capable hands.

Often, placement with relatives is temporary, but legal guardianship or adoption can simplify procedures for school registration, insurance plan enrollment and obtaining medical care. So some relatives have formalized their "parenting" role through the court system.

On the Key Peninsula, a support group

Support group information

Contact the Children's Home Society at 884-5433 for information about these programs, to volunteer time, or to contribute to the clothing bank for these deserving children.

The support group meets monthly at noon at the Civic Center in Vaughn.

called Relatives Raising Children meets regularly. Members are most interested in education and outreach, sharing their learned wisdom. They help one another through difficult situations, offering resources and ideas, and giving emotional support as a way to keep in touch and prevent isolation.

"There are so many issues of the children seeing things children shouldn't see," reflects Key Peninsula resident Nancy Hacker, who has been intimately involved, raising two of her own great-grandchildren for the last four years.



Great-grandparents Nancy and Don Hacker (left), pictured here during a support group meeting at the Civic Center, help raise LaToya and Dustin Rice (center).

Photo by Rodika Tollefson

"The relatives are trying to do the best they can, and often end up in custody battles with their own children (or other family members)." This can result in a "tug-of-war" emotional situation, pitting the children against the caregiver when an absent parent seeks custody, "and that takes a toll on the child."

Thousands of dollars spent for court costs, court-ordered psychiatric care, counseling and related expenses are not covered under the small state grants provided for the care of a child. A second child in the custody of a relative receives signifi-

cantly less support from the state, further depleting the finances of the home.

The Key Peninsula group works in partnership with the Children's Home Society. The monthly meetings have speakers ranging from state legislators to family law attorneys to drug and alcohol counselors. Support is important, as there may be emotional issues associated with estrangement from birth parents, competition with other grandchildren not living in the home, or moving into a new environment, and adjusting to a new school.

Family pulls together for kids

In a murky reflection of a society riddled with teen pregnancy, child neglect, abuse, parental incarceration, divorce, mental or physical infirmity and unemployment, we see an increase of 30 percent in the number of children raised by their relatives. AARP cites birth parent chemical addiction as the most common reason parenting duties fall to grandparents, accounting for nearly 44 percent of all such cases.

It is a labor of love. Grandparents and older relatives often face their own challenges due to aging, health, or finances. Taking on the added responsibility means a change of lifestyle. It can bring a loss of privacy, a sacrifice of freedom, marital stress, and an increase in expenses, resulting in postponed retirement for some.

This can touch families in every socioeconomic level. My tenderhearted sister and her generous husband could not stand the thought of their relation being in foster care. They took custody and bore the responsibility to house, feed, clothe, discipline and love my grandchildren for a year while their parents were away. I visited nearly every evening for an hour.

A labor of love

BY IRENE TORRES

On weekends, I took them for haircuts and double-dip ice cream cones, to show my support and love. I wanted to ensure the children's success, but circumstances did not allow me to take them into my own home. I acknowledge my family's efforts and appreciate all their sacrifices.

Today, those children are happy, thriving, and showing no obvious signs of parental separation. Now teenagers, they formed a special bond, made good memories, and may even love their great-aunt and -uncle more than they might have without their special year together.

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KP LIVABLE COMMUNITY FAIR MOMENTS



Photos by Rodika Tollefson and Hugh McMillan

Left, Matel Zouniga, 2, cheers on for the performing cloggers group, which included his mom. Above, Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy Sgt. Brian Ward demonstrates water safety. The Livable Community Fair on May 10 showcased several dozen nonprofit groups.



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Keeping an eye on crime, one road at a time

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

About 15 years ago, local resident Hugh McMillan found himself "famous" after a newscast interview about some trouble on the Key Peninsula. Three youngsters had damaged school buses parked at the depot, then went on a demolishing spree at the middle school. "We're going to do something about it," he told the viewers — and within one hour the phone started ringing.

McMillan and more than a dozen others had a meeting a month later, then a second, and a third, attended by more than 120 people. "We agreed we were going to do something," he recalled.

And they did. Citizens Against Crime, created to be the eyes and ears of the sheriff's department, later introduced the Citizens' Patrol. The all-volunteer group is still going strong, and various vehicles with the group's decals can be seen driving the roads of the Key Peninsula on a regular basis. Some even patrol their neighborhoods on foot or bike.

"We want to be visible in the residential areas, especially in those with known problems, said member Loyd Miller on a recent patrol with Dana Cavanaugh. Teaming up while on patrol is mandatory for safety reasons.

Driving up and down various roads,

Citizens' Patrol

Citizens' Patrol, under the umbrella of Citizens Against Crime, has 53 current members. Applications are required to join, and background checks are conducted. Members patrol in their own vehicles, with sign plates provided by the organization. Monthly meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at the Key Center Fire Station. For information, call 884-3081 or 884-0808.

To report suspicious activity in your area, contact the Meth Hotline at 888-609-6384 (calls are confidential).

many hidden and out of the way, the two were on the lookout for any suspicious activity or "anything out of the ordinary." More than an hour into the rounds, something suspicious indeed turned up: an abandoned truck full of garbage that had apparently been moved around the area several times. Among the contents were muriatic acid, a propane tank and other possible signs of a methamphetamine lab.

"We'll call the meth hotline and hopefully they will come and look at it," Miller said, as a neighbor came out to talk to them. "We gotta get on the ball and get it out of here," the resident remarked, explaining that the vehicle had been an eyesore in the neighborhood for some time.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

CAC member Loyd Miller inspects an abandoned truck during a recent patrol. Among the garbage, the truck contained suspicious chemicals, prompting a call to the Meth Hotline.

Not all patrols turn out these kinds of results. But members have stopped theft and potential burglaries, located stolen vehicles, and facilitated cleanup of meth labs; they have also provided 24-hour security at the last two KP community fairs, and

participated in various outreach events. And their main goal while on the streets is to be visible, to make criminals aware that someone's watching, someone who has been screened by the police department and trained in crime prevention.

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Sportsmen hold rummage sale

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club is having its semi-annual rummage sale, at 3502 Jackson Lake Road in the clubhouse on Saturday, June 21, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The sale will be inside so you don't have to worry about the rain. Lots of treasures for you to browse through and buy. Come and join us for a fun day.

—Submitted by Marjorie Hurley

Two Waters' summer fun

Two Waters Arts Alliance celebrated its first year in May. June offers an exciting kick-off to summer programming, starting with the monthly drumming session led by local guru Dale Loy at the KPCC on Tuesday, June 3, at 7 p.m. June 15 at noon, we will celebrate the Northwest School with a visit to the Tacoma Art Museum and concert by Jeffrey Cohan and George Shanfrow highlighting Northwest composers. June 18 at 7 p.m., we welcome drawing enthusiasts to monthly life drawing session at the Art Barn in Key Center. Our summer offerings for kids start with a three-day story camp, taught by local teacher Dana Bauer, June 23-25 for 7-11 year olds, covering essential writing skills, illustration and bookbinding. 884-2955.

—Submitted by Margo Macdonald

Free day at Camp Seymour

YMCA Camp Seymour invites you to experience the camp experience on June 1, 1-5 p.m., in a free community day. Programs include boats at the waterfront, outdoor swimming pool, archery, bouldering wall, pickleball, basketball and more. You can even bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the time off with your family. Camp Seymour is located on 160 acres at Glen Cove, at 9725 Cramer Rd. 884-3392.

Angel news

June 7, Gig Harbor Kiwanis will supply an assortment of bikes that have been renovated by the women at Purdy Prison and are in "like new" condition. For every bike purchased, a free bike helmet certificate will be issued. They can be exchanged for the helmets (which must be fitted to the child's head) at the Key Center fire station.

We have almost everything for sale in our shop including a beautiful wedding gown. If you are on a budget and in the market for a special dress, this might be for you.

April was our 25th anniversary and we held a drawing for gift certificates. The lucky winners are: \$25 Renee Welker, \$15



Become an Angel

There are many reasons for joining the Angel Guild (or becoming an Angel). Some of us found ourselves retired from longtime jobs and not wanting to withdraw from society. Some were new to the area and wanted to make friends. Some found their nests empty, some just like to be involved in making our community a better place. Some saw an article in the paper about diminished membership due to moving away, illness or death. Then there are those who just like to shop and were there each business day, and decided to might as well put in volunteer hours to keep the shelves stocked. As you can see, there are many reasons to join an organization.

—By Mary Ramsdell

Photo: Angel Guild celebrated its 25th anniversary with great fun and a fashion show.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Rebecca Carlman, \$10 Jane Williams, \$5 Chris Hesse.

We granted requests for assistance to a scout group, I.M.Pact, and Minter Creek Elementary for buses to Camp Seymour. After electing a new board of officers and a short fashion show, we all partook of a great potluck luncheon.

—Submitted by Mary Ramsdell

Ashes holds annual rummage sale

The Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary "Ashes" annual rummage sale is on Aug. 2, 9 to 4 at the Key Center Fire Station. We welcome your participation and thank you for your support in both your donations and shopping. There will be untold treasures from A to Z (maybe even the kitchen sink). Donations can be dropped off at the fire station Aug. 1 or if you need something picked up call 884-3771 or 884-4834.

And since they say you shouldn't shop on an empty stomach, the KP Firefighters Assoc. will be serving its famous pancake breakfast Aug. 1 starting at 7:30 a.m.

—Submitted by Mary Ramsdell

Great food and fun at annual salmon bake

The Longbranch Community Church will hold its annual Salmon Bake at the LIC

on July 26. The family event will include a deluxe salmon dinner, a raffle, entertainment, live and silent action, and games and face-painting for the kids. The top raffle prize is a night's deluxe accommodation at the Inn of Gig Harbor.

Chef Oliver Coldeen says dinner will be served from 2 to 6 p.m. Advance tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children up to age 12, free for kids under 5, and may be purchased from church members, at Sunnycrest Nursery, Charboneau Construction, Longbranch Marina, Home Country Store, and Coast Hardware.

Proceeds from the event will go toward community and church functions. 857-6474 or 884-3502.

—Submitted by Gary O. Ostlund

Civic Center sells fireworks

The Civic Center will have a fireworks stand June 28-July 4 in the parking lot next to the Key Center Saloon. A fireworks demonstration will be at the Civic Center on June 22 at dark. The fireworks sale is one of many fund raisers the Civic Center must organize in order to pay for operating expenses.

You may also help by turning in your Peninsula Marketplace receipts—the organization could use them to receive a 1 percent rebate.

KPCS serves up breakfast and sale

The Key Peninsula Community Services will serve \$3 breakfast June 14, from 8-11 a.m. Lotsa lotsa lotsa food. This month's menu has ham and cheese strata, fruit, juice, coffee and of course wonderful company. Nobody leaves hungry and nobody but us does the cleanup... win-win for you. Come to eat, then stay to see what's up at our first summer yard sale—clothes, toys, furniture, odds and ends, more odds than ends. All proceeds benefit the local community. 884-4440.

—Submitted by Cristi Watson

KPCS celebrates with salmon bake

KP Community Services celebrates its 21th anniversary with a salmon bake, storytelling, kids' games and more on June 21. Come see what's new and planned for the future. 884-4440.

Public invited to 75th garden club anniversary

Seventy-five years of gardening and community service will be celebrated June 18, 10:30 a.m. as the Vaughn Bay Garden Club dedicates a bench in its Memorial Garden at the Civic Center. The public is invited to share refreshments and hear personal reminiscences of the organization's history. Members will continue their celebration with lunch at a nearby restaurant.

LIC yard sale and antique car show

Saturday, June 21, the Longbranch Improvement Club holds a Community Yard Sale from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Featuring an antique auto show with prizes and refreshments all day; many interesting items for sale at bargain prices. Lunch counter open all day long, with doughnuts and bagels with cream cheese and coffee in the morning, hot dogs and chips, chili and Fritos and coffee, tea and pop. Tables and spaces available, indoors and outdoors. Call 884-3013 to reserve a table.

Library reading program takes off

Calling all children: Please join us for the 2003 Pierce County Library's fun-filled Summer Reading Program "Take Flight-Read." Visit the Key Center Library and pick up your copy of the summer reading activities booklet and program schedule. For each 20 minutes of reading, collect

Special events for June 2003

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	HOW
Start & Finish of WA Bike Race	Sunday, June 1, no times provided	Longbranch Improvement Club	884-3013
Camp Seymour FREE Community Day	Sunday, June 1, 1:00 pm	Camp Seymour, Glen Cove	460-8902
Free bike helmet with every bike sold	Saturday, June 7, 10:00 am	Angel Guild Thrift Store in Key Center	884-9333
KPPRD: Recreation Center ideas (public input)	Tuesday, June 10, 7:00 pm	KP Sports Center Annex (Vol.Park)	884-9240; info@kpprd.org
KP Community Services Breakfast & Yard Sale	Saturday, June 14, 8:00 am	KP Community Services House	884-4440
Historical Dedication of LIC building	Saturday, June 14, 2:00 pm	Longbranch Improvement Club	884-3013
Dance (Prohibition Jazz Band, \$15)	Saturday, June 14, 8:00 pm	KP Civic Center	884-3456
75th Anniversary Vaughn Bay Garden Club	Wednesday, June 18, 10:30 am	Memorial Garden near KP Civic Center	no phone number given
Bayshore Garden Club tour of Brother's Nursery	Friday, June 20, 10:45 am	meet in Longbranch	884-2487
KPOC: Walkabout (Maple Hollow)	Saturday, June 21, 10:00 am	Corner of Van Beek Road & K.P.H.	884-3347 (call before 20th)
LIC: Community Yard Sale	Saturday, June 21, 9:00 am	Longbranch Improvement Club	884-3013
Vaughn Union High School Reunion Dinner	Saturday, June 21, 3:00 pm	KP Civic Center & Historical Museum	no phone number given
Sheep Dog Trials	Weekend, June 27-29, 7:00 am	McDonald's Ewesful Acres, Longbranch	884-2915
PC Kidmobile (free)	Monday, June 30, 9:30 am	Evergreen Elementary School	798-4753

To have an event listed in the COMMUNITY CALENDAR, please send an email message to info@keypen.com with the answers to these questions: WHAT is the event, WHY should people attend, WHO is the sponsor, WHEN is it happening, WHERE is it located, HOW can people find out more?

one of six stickers about flying. The stickers will depict eagles, dragons, hot air balloons, airplanes, and rockets. Enter the weekly-win T-shirt contest and enjoy puppet shows and special programs. Summer reading begins June 21. A schedule of events is also available at www.pcl.lib.wa.us.
—Submitted by Dory Myers

Vaughn High Reunion

Vaughn Union High Reunion will be held Saturday, June 21, at the old high school stompng grounds, KP Civic Center, beginning at 3 p.m., with catered dinner at 5. The KP Museum will be open, and is offering for sale a book, "An Automobile Tour through Key Peninsula History," which will bring back many memories. The Key Peninsula Singers will sing several old songs of our time slot as teenagers. The

cheerleaders will lead in Vaughn High cheers. We hope everyone received an invitation, but anyone who attended Vaughn Union High until it closed in 1947 is welcome to come and bring a guest.
—Submitted by Joyce Niemman

LIC dedication ceremony

Saturday, June 14, at 2 p.m. a community ceremony will celebrate the dedication of a plaque commemorating the listing on the National Historic Register of the school building in Longbranch, owned by the LIC and now used as its clubhouse and community building.

Bayshore Garden Club tours nursery

The Bayshore Garden Club meets at

10:45 a.m. on June 20 in Longbranch. There will be a tour of Brother's Nursery near Port Orchard, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Newcomers and guests are welcome. Call Sylvia at 884-2487.
—Submitted by Sylvia Retherford

Outdoor Club has trail walk

The Key Peninsula Outdoor Club has its regular meeting June 12, at 7 p.m., at the Key Center Library. There is no workshop planned but the group will be discussing potential outdoor activities for July and August with maps, ideas and plans.

The June trail walk will be to Maple Hollow on Saturday, June 21 at 10 a.m. Meet at Van Beek Rd (about a half mile from KP Sports Center) and the Key Peninsula Highway. 884-3347.
—Submitted by Nancy Lind

Evergreen Elementary celebrated flying, reading

Evergreen Elementary celebrated 100 years of flight with its final RIF Day book giveaway. The theme was Fly Wright- Take-Off Reading and Evergreen's library had many model airplanes hanging from the ceiling, thanks to Kris and Scott Sherman. Students from preschool through fifth grade selected their third book of the year. Thanks to Angel Guild and a federal grant, Evergreen students participate in these three fun days each school year.

If you are interested in joining the fun next fall, contact Robin Roe or Sabra Stratford at Evergreen Elementary, 884-3393. Volunteers read aloud the books that students select.
—Submitted by Sabra Stratford

Walk in Someone's Shoes



Photo by Hugh McMillan

KPMS seventh-graders Kyle Gootkin, Duncan Harrison, and Dillon McClanahan "Stepped Into Someone Else's Shoes" as part of their class project to promote reading and diversity. The students, seen here with teacher Connie Nelson and Communities in Schools Director Jeff Harris, were in charge of funding the project and made a grant presentation to CIS. Though CIS didn't have the funds available, the organization put them in touch with other groups that did.

Get involved

Local groups need volunteers

Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor Islands Watershed Interim Council is looking for people who can visit area streams and watch for salmon in order to find out what type are using the streams and how many. Volunteers will be trained to spot salmon and salmon nests. Call 549-2879.

The Civic Center needs a few fun-minded people to help organize Flavor of Fall. Help is needed with decorations, publicity and more. Call Claudia at 884-3937.

Tacoma Community College is recruiting literacy volunteers to tutor

adults as part of the upcoming Key Peninsula Outreach Program. Volunteers will undergo a state training session. TCC also needs a site coordinator at the Civic Center. Call Karen Knipher at 851-2424.

Children's Home Society needs a few motivated teens who enjoy working with children for the recreation program in July. Training provided and community service credits may be possible. Call 884-5433.

Two Waters seeks volunteers with or without artistic background to help with organizing, publicity and other projects. Call Kathy at 884-9172.

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church celebrates 25-year anniversary

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

In September 1977, 50 people gathered at the Civic Center for church services at the invitation of Pastor Edward Wagner of Peninsula Lutheran Church in Gig Harbor. His mission was to offer Lutheran church services to a community "in the middle of nowhere." The community responded with enthusiasm, and so began the journey of Key Peninsula residents who gathered together that Sunday morning.

"There is no growth potential here. We'll give this parish three years," said the Division of Service and Mission in America. Undaunted by those doubts, dedicated members organized the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church and joined the American Lutheran Church in April 1978.

On the first Sunday last month, the

KPLC congregation celebrated its 25th anniversary at its church. Focusing on the theme "Celebrating Our Past to Inspire Our Future," a dinner and program followed the church services.

Many visitors, friends and charter members commemorated the special occasion. Cub Scout Pack 222 members and Lakebay Jr. Girl Scout members, Nicole and Carol Larson, helped serve dinner to some 150 people. The church building was dedicated on April 8, 1984 and a fellowship hall was completed and dedicated on Nov. 18, 2001.

The church has had five pastors who helped the congregation grow: Edward Wagner, 1977-1987; Robert Sachs, 1987-1989; Richard Brandt, 1989-1996; Janis Otto, 1996-2000; and Alan Marshall, who was called to serve in April 2003.

"Each has brought this church community courage and encouragement and

Kids Care Club members will ride a float at the Gig Harbor Maritime Gig in June and have a cookout and cleanup in July. For details, call 884-5754.

each has come just at the right time to provide leadership with love," said member Ramona George. "KPLC members are community service oriented. We provide an Adopt a Road cleanup program, donations to the food bank, sponsor Creating Safe Space for Kids and support shelters housing mothers and children. Kids Care Club is a collaboration between YMCA's Camp Colman and KPLC and offers Key Peninsula children grades one through five an opportunity to learn more about community responsibility and civic duty, making the world a better place starting in our own neighborhood."



Photo by Hugh McMillan

KPLC members and guests celebrate the successes of the last 25 years.

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253-884-2360

Summer youth group

Calling all youths going into 6th through 12th grade: Key Peninsula Baptist Church is introducing a Summer Youth Group. The group will meet Wednesday nights, 7- 8:30 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, starting June 18.

The Youth Group will feature time for praise and worship, Bible and life lessons, and fellowship activities, and it's free. For information, contact kpbcyouth@keypeninsulabaptist.com, or call the Cooks at 884-1911.

To submit a religion brief to the newspaper, call 884-4699, email keypennews@yahoo.com or fax to 884-4053.

(From LEGEND, Page 1)

the ability to sell anyone a raffle ticket, as friends recalled during the remembrance ceremony at the Civic Center. Challenger, an author of two books and a Key Peninsula Lions Club member of 16 years, was a fixture at many fund-raisers and community events, and described as a marathon raffle seller. "Every Lion leaves a footprint," said a fellow club member, "but LeRoy left a very large footprint."

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James Rouse, Senior Pastor

Raising the Haflinger

By Karl Anderson
KP News

Local residents Maureen and Bruce Morlang have specialized for two years in breeding the Haflinger, a horse whose homeland is near the town of Hafling in the Tyrolian Alps of Austria. On a beautiful ranch just north of the Key Peninsula Sports Park and Fairgrounds, they started off breeding Arabians but 25 years later grew an interest in the Haflinger.

Also known as the Golden Horse or the Edelweiss Pony, the Haflinger stands between 13 and 15 hands, which is a universal equestrian measurement of 4 inches (10 cm) per hand. Characterized by large eyes, big open nostrils, and small ears, the Haflinger is powerfully built, especially strong and muscular in the loins, and with well-formed quarters. It is sure footed, a versatile and willing worker, and will draw sleighs or wheeled vehicles, because it is as well adapted on forested mountain trails as it is on the farm.

"We have foster children," explained Maureen, "and we wanted a nice, quiet, trustworthy breed of horse for them that

had the strength of a larger breed but was not as large. We feel the Haflinger is the ideal choice."

Maureen's interest in the Haflinger began when a friend from Austria introduced her to the breed, and her daughter furthered that interest while working in Austria. Used both for riding and driving, it has the innate ability to work on the steep mountain slopes. It has an uncomplicated temperament, and is always chestnut brown or Palomino in color with a profuse, flaxen mane and tail.

The Haflinger is referred to as a pony in its native Europe: Any breed under 14.2 hands is considered a pony while anything larger is a horse, making these horses, because the typical size for this breed runs larger in North America. All stallions in Austria are owned by the government, and breeding is free, Morlang said. "The government chooses the best match for your mare. It's their way of controlling the quality of the breed," she said.

The Morlangs spend a lot of time riding the trails of the Pacific Northwest, and feel the Haflinger is a much more ideal mountain horse than the Arabian. "We've done



Photo by Karl Anderson

Maureen and Bruce Morlang at their farm with their Haflinger.

lots of riding in Caldwell National forest and also on the Pacific Crest Trail, and they just go for it hard and steady," she said.

With a stallion named Whisper M & B and three brood mares, the Morlangs have had two foal crops, presently owning nine of the breed. They have five for sale, including one broken mare. "The Haflinger is truly a beautiful, distinctive horse and it is not unknown for them to still be fit and active at 40 years of age," Maureen said, adding that they are suitable to all climates.

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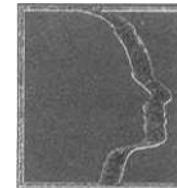
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Vaughn Bay Garden Club turns 75

By Colleen Slater
KP News

In the spring of 1928, a dozen women met at the home of Dorothy Van Slyke to organize The Garden Club. On June 18 the group will celebrate 75 years of gardening and community service with the dedication of a bench at the Garden Club Memorial Garden at the Civic Center.

The club's original motto was "to aid in the protection of native trees, flowers and birds, and to encourage civic planting." Elsie Olson, now 99, was the third president and is the only living charter member. No dues were collected at first, but at each meeting until the mid-1950s, a penny drive was held, which provided the group with the few dollars they needed to operate. In 1943, they voted to have annual dues of 25 cents in the hopes that the small sum raised might make possible some community benefit.

Christmas shows were held from 1956 through the '60s with wreath and holiday arrangements. Several years later this event became an annual bazaar with craft and other homemade items from local

organizations, the precursor to the current Holiday Fair.

Club members provided and maintained flower boxes at the Civic Center for many years, and donated some of the foundation plantings. The garden by the Civic Center reader board was planned as a memorial for past club members, but the Seniors paid for heather plants, and individuals have also donated plants. Plants were also given to the Vaughn Cemetery, Peninsula High and Vaughn Elementary. The club contributed to various area needs, including Christmas gifts for soldiers at Madigan Hospital and residents at Remann Hall and Rocky Bay Nursing Home.

A flag was purchased for the local Girl Scouts, a flagstaff for the Brownies, tumbling mats for Explorer Scouts, and a canopy for the cemetery. A refrigerator, drapes, curtains and blinds for the meeting room were some of the many contributions to the Civic Center.

For a few years, the organization was renamed The Vaughn Garden And Craft Club, including various craft projects in the meetings. The name, motto and pur-

pose have changed over the years. The current emphasis of the Vaughn Bay Garden Club is on sharing the joys of growing plants, with the theme of "Gardening is Fun."

Come celebrate

Seventy-five years of gardening and community service will be celebrated on June 18, 10:30 a.m. as the Vaughn Bay Garden Club dedicates a bench in its Memorial Garden at the Civic Center. The public is invited to share refreshments and hear personal reminiscences of the organization's history. Members will continue their celebration with lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Theater talent wanted

The Longbranch Players, sponsored by the Longbranch Improvement Club, is announcing auditions for the upcoming community theater production of "Sylvia" by the popular playwright A.R. Gurney.

Auditions for the short two-act play will be at the Longbranch Improvement Club Sunday, June 22, 1-4 p.m.; Monday, June 23, 7-10 p.m., with callbacks on Monday, June 30, 7-10 p.m. Several male and female actors are sought.

The play will be performed Sept. 18-19 and 26-27 in a dinner-theatre production.

To learn about the roles and the production, contact Jo Sturm 884-1350, Pat Thompson 884-5286, or Mary Mazur at 884-1061.

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Former art teacher finds new passion in pottery

By Irene Torres
KP News

There is life after retirement, as Gary Andersen discovered when he retired in 1995 from teaching art, graphic arts and history, after 26 years at Peninsula High School. That's

when he decided to devote full time to his business, Lakebay Pottery.

"At the high school, they wanted me to teach pottery. But I had to take a class to learn how... and it soon became my passion," he said. "I built my first potter's wheel from a car axle and 2 x 4s from a set of plans I found in the back of a magazine."

Now, with two modern electric potter's wheels, his workspace seems small in comparison to his talent. Andersen has been a potter for over 30 years, specializing in utilitarian stoneware fired on one of two electric kilns. The sets of dishes, casseroles, small serving pieces, pitchers, compost pots, dispensers, and the like represent a mere smattering of the variety of pieces he makes.

Customers' travels abroad have inspired orders for garlic shredders, vinegar cruets, and butter dippers, to duplicate products seen in France. Kitchen items, some cleverly designed as pigs, and other "gag gifts" reflect his keen sense of humor.

His favorite specialty is custom-designed orders. Some, such as personalized mugs for restaurants and organizations, are routinely thrown and fired at Lakebay Pottery. Other eclectic items line the shelves of his studio, the drying room, and the kiln shed. Even the garage has been transformed into a display room.

"The ideas for some of our most interesting pieces come to us originally from customers," says his wife, Michael, listing some of the more unusual custom-order items: burial urns for both pets and people, reptile houses for turtles and snakes, and even a foot-bath for a professional manicurist.

Gary's eyes light up when he's asked if he can craft a specialty mug with the design of a Norwegian sailing ship. "That's the challenge, the fun of it. If you can come up with the idea, I can probably make it," he says proudly.

Andersen's original designs for decora-

Gary Andersen offers pottery lessons at his studio. His works can be seen at the Ebb Tide Gallery in Tacoma.



Photo by Karl Anderson

Gary Andersen spins his magic.

tive patterns are unique in their simplicity. He uses dried lavender and fresh leaves, natural materials to imprint a motif, encircling the piece. After firing, which burns away remnants of the natural press-mold, he hand-paints the design, blue-leaf or green-leaf. Recently, he added cranberry to the color choices.

Andersen holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Puget Sound, where he received his teaching credentials. But this teacher hasn't really retired, and his frequent demonstrations in schools allow children to get hands-on experience.

At home, he has a working studio, where he encourages people to come and watch him transform clay into useful — and beautiful — objects.

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Longbranch artist finds success with marine paintings

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

For most people, job downsizing is a bad experience. But for Steve Mapel, it was a cue for a career change. After 30 years in banking, he traded his business suits for paints and brushes — finally following a long-time dream.

First, there were a few loose ends to tie—like getting married, buying a house

in Longbranch and moving from Oregon. A beautiful home on Taylor Bay seemed the perfect spot. “I discovered Puget Sound 10 years ago during my travels with the bank and fell in love with it,” he says. “There is a beauty to the undeveloped charm of the Key Peninsula.”

Though only pursuing art full-time for a couple of years, Mapel’s artistic background goes back to his childhood. His grandmother and mother both artists, Mapel “grew up with the smell of oil paint and access to materials.” A full banking scholarship after high school steered him away from an art education, but art remained as a sideline.

“I was always a right-brain artist trapped in a left-brain world,” he says. But the left-brain world experience had a great advantage: Mapel is savvy in the business side of art, including marketing and promotion.

Mapel didn’t have to think long about where to take his new career. Always interested in boats and water, he knew right away what he wanted to paint. Having sailboat racing experience helped. The only adjustment he made



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Steve Mapel travels to Washington, DC, in June as part of the Coast Guard program.

was approaching his talent as a job rather than a hobby.

“It takes focus to be in the studio at 8 a.m. I know the difference between work and play and I have to keep them separate to be successful,” he says.

Mapel is focusing on creating inventory, but has also been doing commissioned works. His love and knowledge of boats has recently paid off, as he became an official U.S. Coast Guard artist, and one of his works was accepted by the Coast Guard Art Program for its prestigious collection.

The painting, “CG44363 at La Push, Washington,” is a depiction of the 44-foot motorboat crossing the mouth of the Quillayute River. In 1997, the boat made the news after it was lost with three of the four crew members during a sailboat rescue. The painting involved a lot of research to find the right boat, and he wanted to acknowledge the dangerous work of the Coast Guard members. “I respect the people who go out there and risk their lives,” says the former U.S. Marine.

Though seascapes and marine oil paintings are his focus, he has other realistic works and is experimenting with other mediums, like gouache. And even after he leaves his cozy studio, the creative process goes on: “Paint and paper is just part of it: A lot of the work is in your head,” he says.

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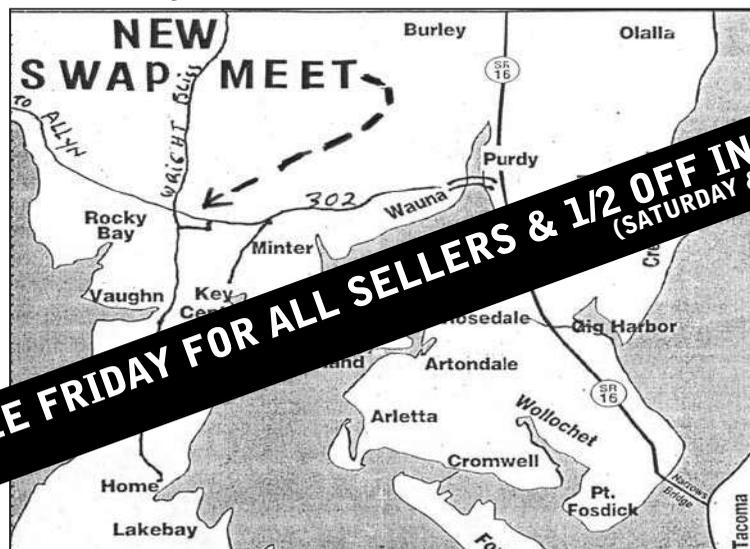
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Department & Demographics:

The Key Peninsula is in the west region of Pierce County, near Gig Harbor. The community’s population is approximately 18,000 and is generally viewed as a quiet and rural bedroom style community. The Department operates inside a 3 million-dollar budget. The management staff consists of the Fire Chief and Administrative Assistant, supported by two Administrative Secretaries.

Position Overview:

The selected candidate will serve as an Administrative Secretary, a twenty four- (24) hour per week position. This person will work directly under the supervision of the Administrative Assistant according to an established routine. A full job description is available upon request. Candidate will also serve as back up to the front reception Administrative Secretary in the event of illness and vacation time and as needed for effective front office coverage. At times, this position will be required to work up to forty- (40) hours per week. This candidate must have the ability to plan, organize, prioritize, and meet deadlines, frequently working under pressure to meet those deadlines. Hourly rate will be \$11.00.

Application Process:

Applications and complete information may be acquired by calling 253-884-2222 or in person at 8911 Key Peninsula HWY KPN. Lakebay, WA 98349. Applications must be returned by June 6, 2003, 4:00p.m. Any applications received after June 6 2003, 4:00p.m. will not be considered. Qualified candidates will be notified of their testing times. Testing will be conducted June 10-13. Hiring date is June 18, 2003, with a start date of June 23, 2003.

Key Peninsula Fire Department is an equal opportunity employer.

Nudibranchs much more attractive than land-based relatives

Beneath the Sea with Karl Anderson

One of the most exquisitely designed and colorful groups of animals in our waters are the Nudibranchs (pronounced noodih-branks). There are more than 3,000 species in our seas worldwide, ranging in size from half-inch to 10 inches in length, though most are 1-2 inches. They are members of the class Gastropoda and the phylum Mollusca that includes their land-dwelling relatives, the slugs. While we repugnantly regard slugs as ugly, slimy creatures, their marine counterparts are much more attractive and certainly more festively-decorated with colors ranging from white to orange, purple, blue, pink, red, or yellow.

Nudibranch actually means "naked gills" and theirs are conveniently carried on their backs. They possess the unique ability to inherit the mildly venomous properties of the small animals they prey upon, including sponges, Sea Pens, hydroids, bryozoans, and even other nudibranch species. This toxic or unsavory taste is in reality their best means of defense, for in nature many brightly-colored animals sport their colors like a warning sign to potential predators as if to say, "Don't eat me or you'll be sorry!"

One of the most common species of nudibranch in the waters around Key Peninsula is the White Dirona, also known as the Alabaster Nudibranch. It is easy to identify, with its striking white lines on a grayish-white or purple background. It is 1-2 inches long, and the sectional "wedges" that adorn its body can easily come detached should it be disturbed, which may act as a secondary defense to confuse a predator as it makes a slow but deliberate retreat. Nudibranchs are a favorite photographic subject for divers with underwater cameras because they are slow-moving and have a wide variation in colors.

Recreation Brief

KP tennis program begins

The Gig Harbor Tennis Club is launching a tennis program this summer on the Key Peninsula. The program kicks off June 8 with free tennis lessons and clinics for all ages, from 5 to adult, and various skill levels. For schedule details or to sign up, call Rick Johnson at 857-8424.

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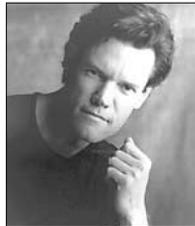
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Singer Randy Travis visits Key Peninsula

Honky tonk cowboy Randy Travis will visit Miracle Ranch this summer in a benefit concert for Crista Camps.

In his only Washington performance during the visit, Travis will perform at 8 p.m. Aug. 6. Tickets will be sold beginning May 31 through Ticketmaster. Festival style seating tickets will be available for \$30.

Travis has been one of the top country superstars in the world, with 18 albums, and has appeared in several movies and TV shows. In April, he received the coveted Dove award for "Country Album of the Year." His numerous awards include three Grammy Awards, five Country Music Association Awards, eight Academy of Country Music Awards, 10 American Music Awards and three Dove



TRAVIS

Awards.

Travis' struggles as a teenager, with drugs, alcohol and numerous encounters with the law, nearly led him to prison. His friend, Lib Hatcher, who later became his wife, helped him turn his life around with the help of the Bible. Travis said reading it gave him a sense of peace. To this day, Travis' songs reflect on his spiritual journey.

Miracle Ranch summer camps have a Western theme. Programs feature Western and English horsemanship instruction or Trailride horsemanship on acres of wooded trails. Fun activities for kids from first to 12th grade include vaulting, animal science, golf instruction, rocketry, paintball, boats, canoes, lakefront swimming, crafts, archery, marksmanship, sports and much more.

For information on the concert or the camp, call Miracle Ranch at 851-4410 or see to www.crista.camps.com.

Fair grows into new milestone

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Three years ago, a few community leaders representing different interests thought they could pool resources to have one big fund-raiser—and one big party—instead of each group organizing small events. A few months later, the Key Peninsula Community Fair was born—an instant summer attraction for residents and visitors alike. This year, the fair has outgrown its original grass roots efforts, as a paid director was hired, national acts booked, and the list of activities expanded. More than 10,000 people are expected to attend the fair, owned jointly by the KP Business Association, Civic Center, Longbranch Improvement Club, and KP Parks and Recreation District.

"The first two years the fair was good quality, but now we are working on making it an anticipated event," said Director Sharon Kaffer, who brought with her experience of organizing similar events. "The goal is to create a tradition."

Vendors come from as far as Missouri, and activities include a climbing wall, pho-

tography contest, demonstrations, carnival rides, petting zoo and beer garden. Entertainers from as far as Canada will keep the stages booked, along with local talent. "The fair is still in its infancy, but we all knew that it will eventually grow and expand if we keep advancing with it," said Fred Ramsdell, KPPRD commissioner and one of the fair "pioneers."

Even as it grows and becomes popular beyond the Key Peninsula, the fair remains a community affair: More than 300 volunteers helped last year and are expected to join in again.

The fair will dazzle at the KP Sports Center and Fairgrounds Aug. 15-17, and advance tickets are available at discounts. This year's acts include the Valentine Performing Pigs, The Amazing Pop 'O illusionist, bands and singers, in-crowd entertainment, and other attractions waiting to be confirmed. See www.keyfair.com for details. To volunteer or learn about the talent search, call 884-4FUN.

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Prohibition Jazz is back

On Saturday, June 14, the members of the Prohibition Jazz Band will again entertain with their great music at the Civic Center.

The group has been performing throughout the Northwest since 1994 and is featured at many of the jazz festivals in the area. This will be their fifth year on the Key Peninsula.

The band features Mike Ernesti on drums, Terry Strong on trombone and vocals, Willy Peterson with hot cornet, trumpet, flugel horn and vocals, Greg Massett on bass, leader Ron Harper with plectrum banjo and guitar, and Jeff Winslow on reeds. Their toe-tapping

arrangements and improvisations are great for listening and dancing.

Doors will open at 7 p.m., with Doug Henry of InStep Dance offering free dance lessons to help warm you up. The Prohibition Jazz Band will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. Snacks and an open bar will be available. No minors will be admitted.

Tickets at the door are \$15. Advance tickets are \$12.50 and may be purchased at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, at the KP Civic Center office in Vaughn and at the Home Country Store.

Call 884-3456 for more information.

KP News offers free writing workshop

If you have a knack for feature or news writing but are not sure where to start, or are a fiction writer wanting to try your hand at journalism, you are invited to attend a two-hour writing workshop on Saturday, June 21 at 4 p.m. Presented by Rodika Tollefson, Key Peninsula News executive editor, the workshop is geared toward the newspaper's volunteer writers but will also cover the nuts and bolts of journalism writing for anyone interested.

The workshop will also show press release writers how to better attract

the attention of editors.

Tollefson is a freelance writer with local and national newspaper, magazine and newsletter credits, copy editor at the Seattle News Fax, former beat reporter, and holds a BA in journalism. To participate or find out details, call 857-6564 or email keypennews@yahoo.com.

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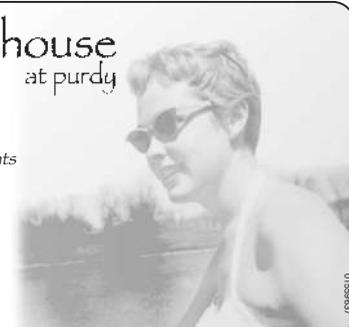
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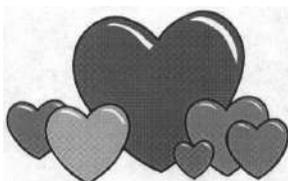
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Philippians 4:8

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Recalling the good old days of Vaughn High School

By Colleen Slater
KP news

As former students of Vaughn Union High School plan for their June reunion, memories of “those good old days” resurface.

The day the Narrows Bridge, the infamous Galloping Gertie, collapsed, was exciting. As soon as the announcement was made, people scrambled to get in cars and drive to the scene.

Although the smallest school in Pierce County, Vaughn fared well in sports. Everybody turned out for the teams, and they won a good share of their games. In the 1940s, the baseball team played practice games with Port Orchard and

Stadium in Tacoma, and if those schools could hold their own or beat Vaughn, they thought they did well. “Beat Gig Harbor” buttons were worn when playing their chief rival in sports events.

The old gym had the east wall basket right on the wall, so players had to learn to negotiate their play to avoid slamming into the wall. Some did it on purpose.

Students signed up and performed a couple of plays each year for a small fee at local community halls. Chet Dadisman remembers “Yimmie Johnson’s Yob,” which was presented at Vaughn, Lakebay, Longbranch, Home, Victor and even Allyn. The money collected helped pay for uniforms for the sports teams.

Vaughn Union High School: a history

By Elsie M. Olson and Colleen Slater

The Vaughn Union High School reunion on June 21 is expected to draw about 100 alums and guests. Many live in the area, but others come from as far away as Alaska and Oklahoma.

Vaughn Union High School, organized in 1903, was the first Union High School in Pierce County. It was given the No. 1 designation, but soon changed to No. 201 to designate it as a secondary school.

The first few years were spent in the parsonage of Vaughn Church, with 14 or 15 students including eighth-graders.

The high school was built in 1907. The brick-faced building was built in the late 1920s, a basement put under the old building, and an addition built around it.

Eventually an outdoor gym was built with a dirt floor, which didn’t bother anyone much, as before that, baskets and

poles had been set up on the dirt road, the same one (now paved) that runs in front of the Civic Center.

Later a rough, heavy, very wide board floor was put in, bleachers were built on the east side and a room added, used for

awhile as a Domestic Science room and to make coffee, etc. for neighborhood picnics.

A dirt tennis court was constructed near this first gym. This project was started by “The Mothers’ Congress” members, who volunteered their sons and husbands for the job. The women had to feed them, though!

There were no barriers around the court, so many balls were chased out of bounds. On weekends people of all ages from the community converged on the courts to play.

In 1937, with the help of the Federal Government PWA, the new gymnasium was built, using much volunteer labor. The men took great pride in the workmanship. The first extra millage was voted on for the floor (regulation sized basketball court), still in use today.

These three units (original building with additions, brick-faced annex, and gymnasium) served as the high school until 1947, when Vaughn joined with Gig Harbor Union to form the Peninsula High School at Purdy.



Photo courtesy of Key Peninsula Historical Society
Vaughn Union High School, 1920s.



Photo courtesy of Colleen Slater

Reunion committee members: Back row (left to right) Bill Hipp, Chet Dadisman, Harmon Van Slyke, Milly Niemann, Marge Radonich, Don Lind. Front row (left to right): Jane Van Slyke, Frances Kinkaid, Joyce Niemann, Shirl Olson.

Mrs. Bondy took some seniors to the Temple Theatre to hear Marion Anderson sing. Mr. Hosteder was the coach for many years. He required the boys to run to the playfield (where Vaughn Elementary is now) and back for part of their physical training.

Miss Morgant taught dancing, including the Jitterbug, in the upstairs room

with the jukebox. Mr. Lippert ran the farm shop behind the high school. A chimney for the old gym, coat hangers and benches for “the girls’ room” were produced in the shop.

The upcoming reunion will air more memories and stories of former students, with laughter the outstanding hallmark of the occasion.

From Pioneer Stock Elsie Olson

By Colleen Slater
KP News



Elsie Olson of Vaughn bears two distinct honors. At 99, she is the oldest alum of Vaughn Union High School who still attends reunions, and the only charter member of the Vaughn Bay Garden Club still participating in the group.

Elsie May Bill was born in Leduc, Alberta, Canada in 1904. When she was 7, the family moved to Vaughn so Elsie and her three siblings could attend school. Both sets of grandparents, the Thomas Bills and Ted Buckells, had settled in Vaughn from the Leduc area.

Her family visited the Vaughn relatives in 1910, and she recalls riding in a streetcar on her sixth birthday in Portland, where her uncle Alfred Buckell attended medical school.

They stayed with the Bill grandparents until a chicken house could be built. That was their home until her father and grandfather completed a two-story, five-bedroom house. The garage constructed by Frank Bill still stands at the property on Hall Road.

Elsie graduated in 1921, completing her formal education in 10 years. The following March she became Mrs. Elmer Olson, and moved into their

new home, now occupied by daughter Joyce Niemann.

Elsie and Elmer raised five children on their farm as well as dairy cows, chickens, pigs and strawberries. They bought and sold huckleberries, using the berry cleaning machine invented by Elmer, which is on display at the Key Peninsula Museum.

She held memberships and offices in the Vaughn Bay Garden Club, the Good Roads Club, Upper Sound Grange, PTA, Vaughn Church and other local organizations. Her awards and accolades are many, but she laughs and says she did what she could when it was needed. And those who know her are aware that she enjoyed most of her activities.

Cooking at school, teaching Sunday School, being a lookout during World War II, helping make mattresses for Good Roads Club, or organizing a Grange dinner, Elsie did her various jobs with expertise and a cheerful demeanor.

She holds another distinctive honor, being the only Mayor of Key Center. A gag pulled on her by A.E. Visell and C.D. Hipp included the presentation of a bouquet of “Official Key Center Flowers” — skunk cabbages!

Her willingness to do what needed doing, her ongoing sense of humor and quick wit, her love of people, and her many abilities have seen her through these many years of “a wonderful life” in this area she calls home.