

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula

North Pole explorer visit, page 9

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◀ Local students honored, SEE PAGE 13

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INSIDE

March 2007



▲ Key Pen petroglyph, page 32



◀ Innkeeper receives award, page 31

News

New parks commissioner	2
Fair board changes	7
Geoduck series concludes	8
Tornado in Vaughn	11
KPMS candy-free	14
Fire district stats	21
Obituary	25
Citizens of the Year	26
Windermere to move	28
The Landing opens	29
Encore! Theater	33
Out & About	36

Sections

Peninsula Views	4
Schools	12
Community Works ..	18
Business	28
People & Lifestyles ..	31
History	32
Off the Key	33
Arts & Recreation ..	34

Weightless in Texas

KPMS teachers get unique opportunity

By Erica Ma, Hugh McMillan and Rodika Tollefson

Nearly everyone, at some point in time, has combined vinegar and baking soda together, reveling in the chemical reaction that results. However, what happens when the two are combined in a weightless environment? Will the chemical reaction differ? Presented with those questions, a NASA team from KPMS set off to find the answer.

Amy D'Andrea, Kathy Tucker-Patton, Ron Stark, and Brianna Randall, the four teachers/test subjects, flew to Houston, Texas, in February to try out the experiment aboard NASA's "Weightless Wonder," a modified McDonnell Douglas DC-9 capable of executing a series of parabolic maneuvers to produce about 25 seconds of weightlessness. (To produce each weightless moment, the DC-9 makes a steep climb followed by an equally steep dive, when everything not nailed down floats.) KPMS was one of 20 NASA Explorer schools selected for the activity.

The teachers were joined by former KPMS students John DeLeo (now Peninsula High senior) and Brett Knisely (now a physics student at Washington State University), who served on the ground

(See NASA, Page 16)



Photo courtesy NASA

KPMS' Amy D'Andrea's weightless experience is a rare adventure for a teacher.

Living off the grid: By choice or necessity

By Irene Torres, KP News

During the windstorms of last December, all power subscribers on the Key Peninsula were off line for their electricity. That harsh reality brought back memories of Dec. 25, 1926, when Peninsula Light first energized the area. Long-timers remember when the entire local population lived off the electric grid.

In a 2002 issue of a PenLight newsletter, Dulcie (Van Slyke) Schillinger recalled her family in

Vaughn was one of the first to have electricity, as her grandmother recorded in her Perpetual Datebook the day "the wiring went in: July 1926. The lights were turned on Jan. 8, 1927. The meter was installed on Jan. 10," on Jan. 19 she "used the electric iron for the very first time to do a stack of laundry... (and) on Feb. 5, 1927, Grandma paid the first bill for the electric current: \$4.82."

Some estimate the number now off the grid to be less than 2 percent of the KP

(See GRID, Page 30)

Community service project tangled up in county permitting net

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Since September 2005, the Key Peninsula Metro Parks District (KPMPD) has been attempting to obtain a Pierce County building permit to allow the Key Peninsula Lions Club to construct a simple picnic shelter for public benefit at the Home Park, at the corner of Eighth Street and Key Peninsula Highway North. Initial plans were designed by Ed Robison, son of former KP Lions

(See PARK, Page 24)

New parks commissioner appointed

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

At their February meeting, the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District commissioners appointed Greg Anglemyer to fill the seat vacated in late December by Paula DeMoss. Anglemyer, selected out of three applicants (one of whom subsequently withdrew), will serve until the end of 2007 and must run for reelection in November to keep the seat.



ANGLEMYER

A relative newcomer to the Key Peninsula, Anglemyer has already been volunteering in the community as a math mentor for Communities in Schools-Peninsula and on the board of Friends of Key Center Library. He said he has been following KPMPD events in the newspaper, and when he read about the opening in the Key Peninsula News, he decided to apply.

"It seems there was some dissatisfaction... and some controversy going on. I thought, I'm a new face and come without any preconceived ideas about what's going on," he said.

Anglemyer's background includes working for Boy Scouts of America and in healthcare marketing. He owned and operated a successful Tacoma inn for about a decade before retiring with his wife, Becky, to the Key Peninsula. The couple looked all over Washington, Oregon and British Columbia for a rural spot on the water. "I feel people in this area know what they like for a lifestyle, even as we grow," he said. "Parks are part of that growth."

Anglemyer is the second commissioner to be appointed to an unexpired seat. DeMoss' resignation was preceded last year by the departure of Jerry Schick, who cited dissatisfaction with the district's management practices as well as frustration over controversy brought by the commissioners' decision to allow a stipend. DeMoss, on the other hand, said her decision was based on having to shift focus on her family and two jobs, and said she remains a park district supporter. Both DeMoss and Schick were commissioners under the now-dissolved KP Parks and Recreation District, which preceded the KPMPD.

Palmer Lake set to become shooting-free

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Lloyd Miller lives on Whiteman Road not far from the development of Palmer Lake. About two years ago, he and his wife began hearing high-caliber shooting sounding like it was coming from the direction of that development. He called the county sheriff, who investigated and reported back to him that individuals were shooting into a backstopped area, and that they were within their rights, as this part of the Key Peninsula was not designated a "no shooting zone." The only county ordinance on the books at the time prohibited shooting within 500 feet of a residence or building.

Miller, an active member of Citizens Against Crime, was determined to change the shooting status of the area around his home for safety's sake, and, using a petition from another jurisdiction as a guide, he wrote a formal petition, whose purpose was to "prohibit the discharge of firearms in the area of Palmer Lake." He arbitrarily selected roads on four sides as visible and known boundaries, and set about obtaining signatures. Altogether, he and Miriam Goad, a Palmer Lake resident and also CAC member, gathered 48 signatures from residents who felt the same as they did. Miller then called Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, who told him to "send in what you've got" so he could look into the protocol for the petition's passage.

At a public hearing on the petition in October 2005, before the newly created Pierce County Firearms Advisory Commission, public testimony involved concerns over shooting in the existing Palmer Lake development, and danger from stray shots to landowners, their families and guests.

A letter from Pierce County Planning and Land Services Senior Planner Sean Gaffney, chair of Pierce County Firearms Advisory Commission, to Pierce County Councilman Shawn Bunney discusses testimony, and says "it became evident to the Commission that most concerns involved noise issues and ongoing contention between certain residents."

The proposed boundary of the new no-shooting zone was greatly debated at the hearing, including the option of creating two zones — one a "no shoot" and the other a "shotgun only" zone in specific locations within the boundary area. Gaffney's letter further states, "The motion was withdrawn and restated two more times. The final motion was made to restrict the Palmer Lake subdivision only to a 'No Shoot' zone. Motion passed with a vote of 5-0. A motion was made to exclude all (other) areas from the 'No Shoot' zone... No one knows why those properties were included and if desired they can be brought back for inclusion at another time." Only Councilman Robert Brown voted against the motion because public testimony noted a problem in the area, and he did not believe the motion addressed the issue.

The petition was approved by the Economic and Infrastructure Development Committee of the Pierce County Council in late January of this year. It was "grandfathered-in from the 160-acre maximum for any single proposal" under new Ordinance No. 2004-72s, since the citizens' petition was submitted prior to enactment of that document creating the Firearms Advisory Commission. According to Lee's office, The Palmer Lake No Shooting ordinance (2006-131) is scheduled for a hearing by the full council at

For a map of the proposed Palmer Lake no-shooting zone, visit our Website at www.keypennews.com.

its March 13 meeting, after which, if passed as expected, it will go to Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg for signature and implementation.

In an interview, Lee said, "The hard work was done in the field by citizens of the Palmer Lake area."

The ordinance is complaint-driven. "Pierce County is not proactive," Lee said, "and enforcement is always an issue." He said a new neighborhood patrol deputy, on board with the Peninsula detachment since early February, will be interacting with business owners and citizens to engage them in Pierce County Code ordinances affecting Key Peninsula communities.

Miller recently said that in the interim between beginning the petition process and today, he has noticed a cessation of large-caliber, rapid-fire weapons' noise, although he does still hear gunfire from the Palmer Lake area.

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Horseshoe Lake 'park' uncertain

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The Key Peninsula is once again on the list to receive Department of Natural Lands forestland property to be used as local parks. The two parcels are the 350-acre Horseshoe Lake property that was previously in line to be transferred to the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, and a 60-acre site called Maple Hollow, which has been on the "wish list" for local parks for a long time.

The state Legislature included the property dubbed Horseshoe Lake in its 2005-07 appropriation through the Trust Land Transfer program, which funds public schools in the state. The total package for any given biennium must average an 80/20 ratio for timber/land value.

"Horseshoe Lake has unique value issues that we didn't anticipate when the property was nominated for the Trust Land Transfer program over two years ago," Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland wrote in October 2006 in reply to an email from KPMPD Commissioner Kip Clinton. "During the appraisal process, our geologist informed

us the property was situated on top of a valuable deposit of sand and gravel. This value must be factored into the total value of the property at transfer. In addition, rapidly increasing land values increased the property value beyond budgeted expectations. For these reasons, there are insufficient funds in the current appropriation to transfer the property."

Horseshoe Lake was one of several properties on the 2005-'07 list that did not get transferred and are included in the 2007-09 package. However, instead of being part of an outright transfer, both Horseshoe Lake and Maple Hollow are listed among five properties for "lease transfers." The lease would expire in 30 years.

The estimated value of the Horseshoe Lake property is \$9.35 million (vs. \$3.42 million estimated two years ago), and the Maple Hollow is estimated at \$1.95 million, largely due to its waterfront location.

"The lease option... applies the entire lease value to the school construction fund (vs. only the timber value) so that it doesn't reduce the timber to land value ratio. This is one way we can transfer such high land value properties in this program and meet

legislative intent," Sutherland wrote.

At the end of 30 years, the properties would return to DNR ownership, and would need to be transferred again via legislative appropriation in order for KPMPD to continue their use, according to Evert Challstedt, DNR project manager for the Trust Land Transfer program. The park district has been lobbying legislators for a way to acquire the properties instead.

The total package this year includes 33 properties for an appropriation of \$100 million. It is up to the Legislature how much of that to fund. Except for the 1989-91 biennium when the Trust Land Transfer program originated, with an appropriation of \$171.5 million, the highest amount the Legislature has funded is \$66 million.

Clinton said park commissioners would like to see the properties transferred to KPMPD outright, but thinks the district would accept them through the lease. "At least it takes the properties off the real estate market," she said. "It gives us time (to find a permanent acquisition solution) and if nothing else, the properties will not be (commercially) developed."

She said the district is not likely to invest

a lot of capital funding, however, if they only receive a lease, and would probably make minimum improvements during the lease. Maple Hollow already has interpretative signs, and according to KPMPD Executive Director Scott Gallacher could be used for passive recreation and environmental education. Previous plans for Horseshoe Lake included potential ball fields, fairgrounds, and a skate park.

In the meantime, the district is trying to identify other local properties for potential future acquisition, and is asking residents interested in preserving their land as open space to contact KPMPD. The commissioners are also asking residents to complete the parks survey (published in the February issue of the KP News and available online at www.keypeninsula-parks.com) by April 2.

"We are still thinking big," Clinton said. "We can't do anything else, however, without a park system plan and we encourage everyone to turn in the February survey as soon as possible."

(Right before press time, the KPMPD received a call from DNR stating the Horseshoe Lake property would probably be pulled from the list, due to its high value. The KP News will provide details in the April issue.)

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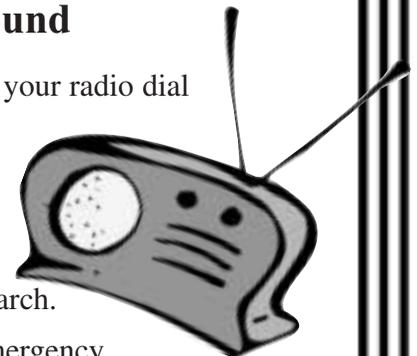
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EDITORIAL

Geoduck series ends, discussion continues

For the past six months, the Key Peninsula News has taken a look at the issue of commercial geoduck farming. The farming of geoducks (pronounced "goeey duck"), a bivalve mollusk found in harvestable quantities primarily in Puget Sound, is a growing industry. But don't expect to find them at your neighborhood restaurant any time soon — most of the crop is shipped to Asia, where it's a prized delicacy. In Washington state, which produces more than half of the world's geoducks, this treat is not easy to find, however.

In the series that ends this month, we have looked at what impact this lucrative export may have on the local community — considering that the Key Peninsula's tidelands are a prime spot for the growing industry. The issue is as complex as controversial, with multiple players and interests, and concerns — from environmental to property rights — that have now reached legislative level. So as we conclude the series, the discussions will go on, and a compromise is far from being close.

There is no doubt that more regulations, whether at county or state level, are on the horizon. We'll continue to follow the news about proposed regulations and local developments. In the meantime, we invite our readers to attend a community forum focused on geoduck farming on Thursday, April 5, from 6 to 9 p.m.. The forum is sponsored by the Key Peninsula News in collaboration with Shellfish Partners (a coalition of Pierce County's Water Programs, Pierce Conservation District and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department) and Key Peninsula Community Council.

The forum will feature several panelists, including Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, who will represent interests ranging from industry and environmental to property rights. The audience will be invited to ask panelists questions and a comment period will be reserved at the end. The goal of the forum is to provide local citizens the opportunity to speak directly to various stakeholders, to voice their views, and to learn more.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center graciously offered space in the Whitmore Room free of charge. We hope to see you there!

Planning proves positive

If you see me in a meeting, you'll recognize me as the restless one. I don't particularly like sitting idle. I like to accomplish things, so it is gratifying to see something positive come of all that planning, other than just the caffeine buzz.

Such was the recent case this past December, during and following the big windstorm. The years of planning paid off big. I didn't realize just how great we did here locally until I met with other emergency services leaders and heard the stories of how they fumbled through on their own.

At this countywide review with Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (DEM), I saw the light. Sitting there with other representatives from the two peninsulas, we were able to share our success story and we listened to the problems other areas encountered.

Our story started on Dec. 14, as we began preparing for what had been billed as a really big windstorm. We checked all the tools, called our people and secured our buildings. On Dec. 15 we continued by checking the generators and supplies. At about 5 p.m. we began responding to the normal windstorm type calls for tree damage, lines down and roadways blocked.

CHUCK WEST

Division Chief, KP Fire



At about 11 p.m. we pulled our people inside, as we had planned, when it became too dangerous to chase the downed trees. We prioritized only the life safety calls. Our planning paid off, no one was injured, and damage was minimal, comparatively.

As Dec. 16 dawned, we met with local representatives at the Purdy Publics Works office to begin an interagency effort to mitigate the problems of the evening's event. The players who had been meeting for years came together again to follow through with what had been painstakingly discussed and rehashed into a Regional Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

An Emergency Operation Center (EOC) was established at the Gig Harbor Fire District headquarters, as planned. Throughout the next several days representatives from various agencies worked together to bring life back to normal for the citizens of the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas. Those efforts were lead by

Tom Minor from DEM with representation from the city of Gig Harbor, Peninsula School District, Fire Districts 5 and 16, Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Peninsula Light Co., Public Works, CenturyTel and KGHP radio station. Many others were contacted during the coordinated process of putting the community back together.

It was a very methodical effort of prioritizing the community needs. Peninsula Light worked first to restore our commercial centers, allowing people access to food and supplies in a timely manner. They had several centers up that first day. An incredible feat considering the magnitude of damage we incurred.

What also set us apart from others was the communication. We did great, updates were heard on the KGHP radio advising the citizens of our progress and groups were realistic in their timelines. Even I, as an emergency worker, was out of power for seven days, but I knew and could plan for the extended time. Thank you, Peninsula Light, for being clear with us.

The secret to our success? We prepared. We planned ahead and when it came time to mitigate, we knew each other's names and capabilities. We did much better than most Puget Sound areas who wandered through the process without coordination.

Got to go for now, another meeting. Thank you for your support.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Radcliffe quiet but devoted community supporter

I would like to thank you for the great job that is being done at the paper. It just seems to keep getting bigger and better.

My main reason for writing is just some comments on a couple of recent articles. Mike Salatino and I might have agreed on something sometime but then again I don't remember. I do agree with his comment about Phil Radcliffe. Phil has quietly done more for the Key Peninsula community than anyone will ever know; he always goes beyond what is required and makes the job a little better. I worked with him on fire station site preparations; with his many years of experience he did the job right no matter what the engineers said. They

would say things were not needed and Phil said it would cause trouble in the future if he did it their way. Phil was right. I have been following Phil's recovery on the Internet. This family is unbelievable. Their strength and courage throughout this hardship should give us all direction.

On another item, I believe it was a big loss to the community and the park district when Paula DeMoss resigned. I really did not support her when she was running for election, but she proved me wrong. She made good decisions and they were her own.

This letter is from paradise in the country to a place that is next to paradise in the country, the Key Peninsula.

*Fred Ramsdell
Naalehu, Hawaii*

Civic Center welcomes new members

One of the rewards of becoming a board member of the Civic Center is

the opportunity to work with a lot of really gifted and dedicated people whose common and principal concern is the betterment of our community. To that end we will be trying to add at least one new member to our group at every monthly meeting. Our new quality members that we wish to welcome so far this year are: Claudia Jones and Mark Roberts.

Claudia is returning to us after an extended absence and we are thrilled to have her back. She is a tireless worker, well known in the community for her volunteer efforts and her seemingly inexhaustible energy.

Mark Roberts, his wife, Kirsten, and two lovely daughters are relatively new to the community. Mark and his family are devoted equestrians and hope to lend their support to making the Civic Center more interactive for the younger populace and more outreaching for others.

*Ben Thompson
KP Civic Center president*

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Civic Center has big year planned

By Bruce Macdonald, Special to KP News

It's not easy bearing the weighty position of second vice president of the Civic Center. On occasion I am called upon to consider taking on the duties of the first vice president ... something I could never adequately do. Periodically, I must review all the mail that can't be classified to other officers... lots of very dry investment advice and ballpoint pens with the Civic Center name on them. However, one chore has come down to me that I happily accepted and embraced... write this editorial, in hopes to convince a few of you fine readers to join us on the Civic Center board.

A few years ago it occurred to me that it was payback time, that so many of the significant events in my family's life have been at the Civic Center and that I wished to give something back — like a little of my time. My kids had art and dance classes at the Civic Center. They had parties and they went to Friday Night Skate. Some of our friends have been married here or celebrated significant birthdays and anniversaries. Dances and auctions, fairs and forums and meetings — we even celebrated the new millennium down on the dance (gym) floor. In addition, the Civic Center is home to the Children's Home Society, two churches, the Key Peninsula Museum and numerous other organizations. It is also the owner of the Key Peninsula News. It is “the” center for our community and, as such, we need to see to its care and feeding. Please think about lending us a hand. It just takes a little of your time and, I'm betting, you have just the experience we need.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates, and watch the Community Works section every month for other Civic Center events.

March 10: Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year Awards Banquet. A tradition for many years... Who will be this year's winner? Contact your nearest Lions Club member for tickets.

March 17: Two Waters Art Alliance hosts its fifth annual Art Sale and Celebration. Several of the Key Peninsula's best artists will have their work on view and for sale. Wine, beer, coffee/tea and desserts will be served starting at 7 p.m. Entertainment by Jazz Musette. \$15 entry fee at the door.

May 12: The Lakebay Fuchsia Society Sale and the Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair. Learn what goods, services and businesses are available to you here on the Peninsula and purchase the plants you need to make your life even that much more livable. The kitchen will be open for snacks and lunch and there will be entertainment throughout the day.

This is not a complete list of what's happening. Many events are in the planning stage and have not, yet, found dates and times. However, there is one big evening upcoming that is firmly set and we should all be planning for. Oct. 6 is the date for the next installment of the Flavors of Fall Dinner and Auction. This is one of the community's biggest events and fundraisers. You don't want to miss this one; who knows when it will come around again. Design, organization, work and proceeds are being shared between the Civic Center and Two Waters Arts Alliance — it should be twice as good. Auction items and underwriting is gratefully welcomed. Contact Betty (884-4126) or Margo (884-2955).

Bruce Macdonald is the second vice president of the Key Peninsula Civic Center and a member of the Key Peninsula Publishing Board.

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Key Pen Planning board considers rezoning changes

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

With only one component left for discussion by the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board — commercial design standards — the draft KP community plan is nearly completed. At the end of April, the board's recommendations will be forwarded to the Pierce County Planning Commission.

At one of the February meetings, the board decided to reconsider one of its earlier recommendations that would have zoned about 5,000 acres of the Key Peninsula as forestland resource. The board earlier recommended that many of the parcels that meet criteria for timber resource (most of them 20-acre sites) be zoned as such. The zoning would not allow for those parcels to be subdivided. Currently there are no parcels with that designation west of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, according to county planners. (Forestland resource zoning is separate from, and not affected by, the county's voluntary sensi-

Planning board meetings

The next Key Peninsula Community Planning Board's meetings are scheduled for March 7 and 21. The meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Key Center library. The community character element will be discussed in March. Community members are encouraged to attend and comment at the meetings. For details and to see a map of the proposed land use, visit www.piercecountywa.org/landuse. The map is also available at the Key Center library.

tive resource program used by many property owners for tax-relief purposes.)

The reconsideration came at the recommendation of Pierce County Senior Planner Mike Kruger, who has been overseeing the Key Peninsula Community Plan for the last year and a half.

"From my perspective as a planner, I'm not sure those lands are viable long-term forestlands," he said in an interview. "There are no real large blocks in one part of the community; they are all spread out — I'm not sure that's sustainable."

Although some of the proposed

rezoning would work in favor of property owners, a forestland resource rezoning is likely to bring in a rash of short-plat applications from property owners once they realize they have a short window for subdividing. "If you make it forestland, you probably make it less valuable because (land owners) can't split (the property) up," Kruger told the board. "When that (proposed zoning) map leaves here and goes to the Planning Commission, it will trump existing zoning."

Board members at the Feb. 21 meeting appeared in favor of reviewing the zoning. "I grew up here, and I like the woods... but that is not where the

future is going," said Chuck West. The board was in disagreement whether those plats currently proposed to be zoned forestland should be turned to R-20 (which allows one housing unit per 20 acres) or R-10. Either change would increase the development potential in those areas, but Kruger said the increase would not be significant. Board member Claude Gahard was not in favor of R-10, saying he was concerned with environmental aspects including aquifer recharge, and the rural character of the community in general.

Any of the plan's shortcomings in term of Growth Management Act requirements can be challenged to the GMA Hearings Board, which is one of the aspects of the plan the Planning Commission will consider once commissioners receive the recommendations from the community board. Kruger expected to forward the plan to the commission by April 24. An open house will be scheduled on the Key Peninsula before the community planning board is officially finished.

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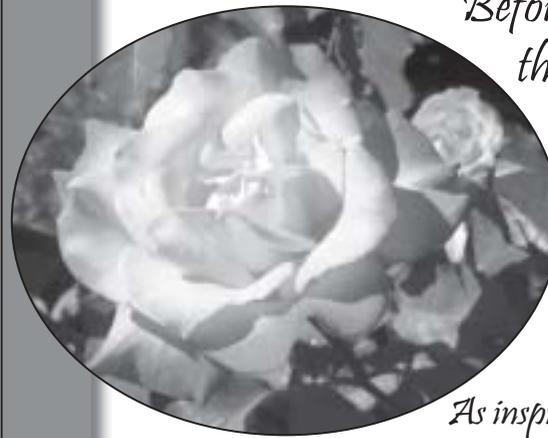
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Key Pen Fair Board flies against convention

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

When the Key Peninsula Fair Board met last October at its annual meeting to seat newly elected board members, a new idea was taking form. Just after the fair's end in 2006, Director Mary Graves left after only one year, moving to Eastern Washington. That year, the fair broke pretty much even, according to new Vice President Michael Hays. As far as Hays can recollect, there had always been a manager to oversee and keep this major annual event "on track." With the previous director gone, and no one ready to step in immediately, the board members decided to make the 2007 Key Peninsula Fair happen by themselves.

This year, volunteers are in charge of major fair divisions. "It's sort of an experiment," Hays said. "Rather than hire a manager, we recruited good people from the community, and are letting them run with their experience and expertise; we are overseeing the process in a decentralized fashion." Hays is of the opinion that the manager's salary won't be used, but will go for upgrades to other fair components.

Newly elected President Ruth Bramhall

is focused on sponsor-acquisition, while Hays is tending to scheduling and planning.

The Key Peninsula Fair is owned by three major community nonprofit organizations: the Longbranch Improvement Club, Civic Center, and KP Business Association. Last year, local business sponsorship amounted to almost \$20,000 by May; this year, through the early efforts of Bramhall and the business association, the fair board expects to reach a halfway mark of \$10,000 by early March. This summer event does not rely on grants or other outside funding. Besides business sponsorships, budget resources come from gate and parking fees, vendor revenue, and a percentage of the carnival revenue. The board expects to show a "respectable" profit this year, which will be distributed equally among the three ownerships — where it will be returned right back into Key Peninsula communities. Hays said people have asked him if the fair should be about profit or people. His reply is that the fair "should be about both — it must be fiscally

viable, and it's also about community."

Hays and Ed Taylor attended the Washington State Fair convention this year, and not only succeeded in signing on the same carnival that was present last year (Davis Cascadia from Clackamas, Ore.), but obtained a multiple-year agreement that included bringing in twice the rides previously onsite.

The board is making some logistical changes to the fair layout at Volunteer Park, after getting feedback from retail, nonprofit, and food vendors. Retail booths will be clustered close to the midway, and the antique tractor display will provide a natural gateway to the AgriVision area, a part of the fair that last year seemed removed from the festivities.

Chris Sherman, the board member managing AgriVision, entered into agreement with the state 4-H office by moving the fair dates up to July 12-15. The earlier dates make it possible for local 4-H youth to participate in the fair's agricultural section for ribbons and awards in crafts, agriculture, and animal husbandry. This major shift in format also sets the event up to meet requirements for state grant

funding for local and community fairs.

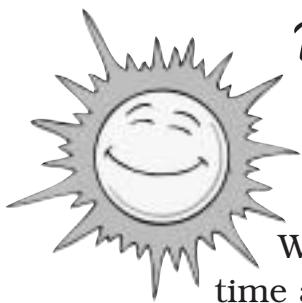
George and Lisa Bryan are board members in charge of securing vendors. According to Hays, many vendors present last year are returning; the Bryans are "way ahead of schedule" in managing that aspect of the fair. This year, a contract with professional sound/light/stage person, Danny Fritts of DEF, was added to ensure stage entertainment is lively and well-orchestrated. John and Vicki Biggs are looking at and signing up talent now, and have been given a bit of a boost to that budget, as has Sherman for the AgriVision efforts. Tom Bordman and Phil Bauer have taken on the huge job of setting up the site and tearing it down after all the festivities are over.

According to the timeline the fair board put together earlier in the year, all preparations for this year's event are "literally a couple of months' ahead of where they were last year," Hays said. What they are lacking, however, is a permanent treasurer. Tom Ashley, past treasurer, has stepped in to fill the position temporarily, and will mentor whomever assumes the role permanently.

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Middle School session is from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Cost is \$4.00 per person

Tide begins to turn for unregulated aquaculture

Legislature, county council, industry, opposition square up

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Editor's note: This is the last article in an ongoing series about the geoduck issue on the Key Peninsula (read entire series at www.keypennews.com). As a conclusion to the series, the KP News, in collaboration with Shellfish Partners and Key Peninsula Community Council, will sponsor a forum on the topic in April.

The burgeoning shellfish industry makes no bones about its intention to change the shorelines of Puget Sound and the marine environment. In a letter to the Pierce County Planning Commission in January, Peter Downey, shellfish farmer and local government liaison for Pacific Shellfish Growers Association, wrote: "Private tidelands are misrepresented as residential/recreational beaches. The county must recognize that the primary purpose of privately held tidelands is shellfish farming and not residential recreation... Moreover, shellfish farmers have every right to post these private tidelands and prevent trespass."

Throughout the long history of leasehold and privately-owned tidelands involving Washington state agencies — Departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Ecology, Health — there is limited accounting of exactly how many shellfish sites exist, how large they are, and where precisely they are located. Documentable evidence, from estuaries whose courses have been altered by grading for planting beds, to the bottoms of bays where derelict aquaculture gear lies side-by-side with invasive beggiatoa bacteria, threaten inland Puget Sound waters that produce more than half of the world's geoduck. A recent slew of applications trying to beat the tide of proposed regulation, and the opposition those applications created, have prompted both the Pierce County Council, and the state Legislature to draft language calling for science and caution.

Last fall, Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee sponsored a call for interim regulations that were researched and drafted by Senior Advance Planner Mike Erkinen and staff of Pierce County Planning and Land Services. They pulled conditions from recently approved applications, resulting in 43 recommendations to the Peninsula Advisory Commission, which

held multiple public hearings on the issue. After public testimony and correspondence pro and con, the PAC made additional recommendations. Those, and PALS' draft report, were sent to the Pierce County Planning Commission. All the recommendations were drafted into one ordinance sent in mid-February to the county council. Lee expects the full council to discuss the proposed interim ordinance, which includes 25 geoduck-specific regulatory measures, in May. (To obtain a copy of the "Title 20 Shoreline Management Use Regulations" concerning "Chapter 20.24 – Aquacultural Practices," email Erkinen at merkkin@co.pierce.wa.us.)

Both Lee and Erkinen anticipate that passage of any regulation will result in appeal filed by one or both sides. In an interview, Lee said applications submitted prior to the effective date of any new regulation will be grandfathered in under existing shellfish regulations, despite the fact that geoduck farming is a new aquaculture, developed long after current laws went into effect. Any pre-interim regulation vesting "would stay in place," Lee said, "unless it becomes a health, safety or (public) welfare issue."

This legislative session, Rep. Pat Lantz sponsored HB-1547, examining geoduck aquaculture techniques and practices. Rep. Bill Eickmeyer sponsored HB-1728, promoting a coordinated shellfish aquaculture regulatory process; a companion Senate bill has also emerged. (For a comparison of the two bills, visit www.keypennews.com.)

Locally, the battle over geoduck production has been discussed at Key Peninsula Community Plan meetings. Claude Gahard, Lakebay resident and member of the KP Community Planning Board, said, "We need to have a balance here; to see what has happened in the past and what is happening now, to look at this issue through science, not emotion."

The battle over owners' property rights continues to be tested. Two Shoreline Substantial Development Permits, filed by Taylor Shellfish Farms on behalf of waterfront owners Meyer and Stratford for geoduck farming on their tidelands, received approval, with conditions, last November. Immediately, both Taylor and Pierce County filed appeals, each claiming

Geoduck forum planned

The Key Peninsula News, in collaboration with Shellfish Partners and Key Peninsula Community Council, will host a community forum on the topic of geoduck farming on Thursday, April 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. The forum will include panelists representing property rights, environmental and industry interests. Following short presentations, the presenters will answer questions from the audience members; a comment period will be available at the end. Refreshments to be provided. Details will be available in the April edition of KP News, and closer to the forum, online at www.keypennews.com.

conditions were either too strict or too lenient. In January, Hearing Examiner Terrance McCarthy issued his decision on reconsideration. Pierce County filed that document with the Department of Ecology, the next player in the process. The property owners and Taylor received a letter from Ecology on Feb. 2, informing them of the filing of their permit (amounting to approval, subject to a waiting period of 21 days to allow for possible appeal) to cultivate geoduck.

Taylor apparently was not satisfied.

According to documents obtained by the KP News, a petition for review, dated Feb. 20, as sent to the state Shorelines Hearings Board from Buck and Gordon LLC, Attorneys at Law, on behalf of Taylor Shellfish Farms (and Meyer/Stratford), challenging the hearing examiner's decision. Although the permits were approved, and the property owners granted the privilege of using their private residential tidelands for commercial purposes, Taylor claims in court documents, "The permit(s) impose conditions that are unreasonable and inconsistent with applicable law... are not supported by evidence, are arbitrary, and are based on unsupported assumptions." Of particular concern appears to be the "work window," which provides relief for surrounding property owners, while still granting harvest protocol to the growers, and the financial bond requirement for clean up in the event of grower default. Both of these issues were of particular concern to surrounding property owners.

Where do the "rights" of all parties begin and end? It is a contentious question with no legal end in sight, subject to re-review, appeal upon appeal, headed up the legal food chain, where eventually it will be decided by legislative action and/or the courts.

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Renowned North Pole explorer to visit Key Peninsula

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News



Photo courtesy Helen Thayer

Helen Thayer with her canine companion, Charlie, in the Arctic.

fascinating photography about animals living in the Arctic North tundra.

Born in New Zealand, Thayer climbed

her first mountain at age 9. One of the people who inspired her was family friend Sir Edmund Hillary, the first person to conquer Mount Everest.

Thayer, a National Geographic Explorer who lives in Snohomish County, was 50 years old when she took her first solo trek, accompanied by Charlie. Walking to the North Pole, one of the most dangerous spots on the planet, she pulled a sled by herself, without resupplying, and faced polar bears and a storm that destroyed most of the food and supplies. Thayer said in an interview she took the quest in an effort to develop an educational program for an adventure classroom. "I've been doing it ever since," she said.

Thayer's 60-year birthday may have been the most memorable one: She celebrated it during a 450-mile solo expedition in Antarctica, which entailed pulling a 260-pound sled, and being without any contact with the outside world.

Now 69, Thayer is far from slowing down. She and Bill are planning a trek to Tibet to study and document,

'I Lived with Arctic Wolves' presentation

Helen Thayer will present at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, at the Key Center Library. The program is free. Books will be available for purchase and signing during the program. For more information about Thayer, visit www.helenthayer.com.

through writing and photography, the area's disappearing cultures. As with all the other expeditions, no animals will be used, and the couple will walk — this time, 2,000 miles.

"We are environmentally sensitive," she said. "We walk, we don't use animals; this way we experience the environment more."

Thayer's adventures have resulted in several books, including "Three Among the Wolves," in which Charlie plays a key role. The husky, who was also featured in her "Polar Dreams" book about her first expedition, passed away in 2003, at age 23.

Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Arbor Day Foundation Community Photo Contest

First Place \$100 cash award.

Open to all residents of the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula area.

Photos should send a visual message about the positive impact of trees on people, animals or our environment.

One entry per person.

Minimum size for photo is 5" x 7".

Must be mounted on/behind a mat suitable for display purposes.

All photos will be displayed at the **Arbor Day Celebration** on April 28th, from 11-2, at the Gig Harbor Civic Center on Grandview St. Photos will be returned upon request. Photos may be given to Carol Alex, c/o Peninsula High School's main office or mailed to the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Arbor Day Foundation; P. O. Box 1493, Gig Harbor, 98335 and must be received by April 18th .

Include your full name, address and phone number or email on the back so that you can be notified if you are a winner.

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60 Homes with Sales pending, contingent or subject to inspection

36 Sold - since January 1, 2007

Of the 36 sold listings

Lowest Price was \$77,500

Highest Price was \$915,000

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Average Day on Market 104 days

Where are the buyers coming from?

According to the National Association of Realtors 2005 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers, these are the sources buyers use in their home search:

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Tornado twists through Vaughn living room

Danna Webster, KP News

“Needless to say, it was frightening, and at 1 a.m. we decided to move downstairs to sleep for the rest of the night.”

— Janet Gormly

“One week and four days before Christmas, the state of Washington was forewarned that a hard wind and rain storm was coming. And indeed it did! During this storm, a freak twister — gust of wind — hit our house (only ours in a whole row), blowing off the roof of the living room wing and damaging the deck and the sun-screening on the south side of that room. The whole house shuddered and I was certain we were having an earthquake as well as a storm.

“Needless to say, it was frightening, and at 1 a.m. we decided to move downstairs to sleep for the rest of the night. We happened to glance into the living room and were astounded to see it completely scrambled. No window was broken, and we finally fell asleep still puzzled by a large

chunk of timber on the floor.

“The next day we figured out what happened. The roof had lifted like a trunk lid, still attached to the rest of the house, pulling out nails, and slamming back down almost in place. Some things went out and some came in. One curtain was gone, rod and all. Another did not completely make it, and still hangs half out and half in. What came in was an 8-foot-long timber.

“In an incredible feat of perfect timing, with the sunscreen going in the opposite direction, the roof lifted momentarily; the timber board slid in and settled down without damaging a thing; and half of the window curtain escaped and landed high in our apple tree, looking like a gleeful elf.

“We have cleared the room; the insurance wheels are grinding slowly, and some reconstruction action will eventually take place. There has been no water damage to any furnishings. We are snug in the undamaged part of the house. We are alive, unhurt, and very thankful it was no worse... And so, belatedly, we send our best wishes for a happy and more hopeful New Year.”



Photo by Danna Webster

Janet and Richard Gormly stand beside the large board that came into their living room on the night of the December tornado. Artist Janet predicts the board will become a sculpture in their yard. For more tornado photos, visit www.keypennews.com.

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As a fundraiser for Vaughn Elementary School fifth-grade annual campout at Camp Seymour, a team of staff, parents and students held a "takeover" (or rather, a "McTakeover") at the McDonalds restaurant in Gig Harbor North, for two hours greeting and serving meals to customers, many of whom were there to support Vaughn. First row: Fifth grader Tyler Orth, teachers Karen Ramirez and Susie Leavitt, PTA parent Jenny Nicholson, third grader Ashly Whittington standing in front of PTA parent Phyllis Whittington, and teachers Jodi Kimizuka and Stephanie Tachell. Second row: PTA volunteers Debbie Orth, Lisa Devega, and Heidi King, teacher Marc Ross, Principal Mike Benoit, and PTA parents Mike Richardson and Annie Skoglund. The effort raised nearly \$600. *Photo courtesy Shirley Crane*

Tina Self and Marci Cummings-Cohoe, co-chairpersons for the Vaughn Elementary School's auction, show off the model of the new playground being organized by the PTA. The first phase of the playground is going in on March 10. The environmentally friendly equipment made by Big Toys through Gig Harbor's Cascade Recreation will include many exciting features like a glider, curved monkey bars and a zip line.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Photo by Hugh McMillan

At an early morning breakfast in the Key Peninsula Middle School's, faculty lounge, five new math and science teachers receive a warm welcome from Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck, KPMS Principal Sharon Shafer, and a large number of members of the KPMS staff. The five are Dighina Chilson, Mikke Ayers, Briana Randall, Bruce Olson, and Mary Anne Alberding.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

KPMS seventh grader and point guard for the girls basketball team Xandra Moore blazes up the court to the basket.

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March Calendar of Events!

March 3 & 4	O'Callahan's Bar-athon (Softball, Pool & Darts)	7am - ?
March 2	Loose Gravel	8 pm
March 9	Micheal/Miller Band	9pm
March 16	Whistling Oyster's	9 pm
March 17	St. Paddy's Day Celebration with Whistling Oyster's	7 pm
March 23	Billy Farmer & The Ramblers	9 pm
March 30	Ed Talyor Jazz Band	9 pm
March 31	Band Of Brothers Poker Run	11:30 am -12:30 pm

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Geoduck Aquaculture Information Forum

Commercial geoduck farming is a growing industry throughout Puget Sound waters, and Key Peninsula tidelands in particular. The bivalve clam, a high-priced delicacy in Asia, is the shellfish industry's most lucrative market, and promises substantial income for both private tidelands lessors, and public lands' tideland leases with the Department of Natural Resources, through both leasehold revenues, and a percentage return to state coffers at harvest.

How will this growing aquatic farming practice impact the future of the Key Peninsula? Environmental and property rights issues are among the concerns.

A panel representing various sides of the contested issue will make presentations, answer audience questions, and take citizen comments. Panelists include Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee.

April 5, 6 to 9 p.m.

Key Peninsula Civic Center

17010 South Vaughn Road, Vaughn

Sponsored by the Key Peninsula News in conjunction with the Key Peninsula Community Council and Shellfish Partners (Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, Pierce County Water Programs and Pierce Conservation District)

Further information will be available in March on the Key Peninsula News Website at www.keypennews.com; or call 884-4699.

KEY PENINSULA
NEWS

**Shellfish
Partners**



Evergreen hosts 'Reflections' and movie

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Recently, Evergreen Elementary School displayed its annual PTA "Reflections" program's show of student-created artwork.

"The program generates excitement and enthusiasm for art in children, parents, schools and communities," said Evergreen's PTA member Seana Lutz. "At our school, the AFTER 'OURS' program, along with Communities In Schools-Peninsula, sponsored a Reflections class taught by music teacher Teri Hammon, as part of the lineup of enrichment classes offered on Thursday afternoons. Many kids chose to take this class and were able to explore, express and create. The majority of our entries for a chance at state competitions came as a result of that class."

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program that provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education. It was established in 1969 by National PTA board member Mary Lou Anderson. Since that time, more than 10 million students have participated in the program.

Evergreen fourth grader Megan Ross, whose work earned a finalist award and will be entered at the state level competitions, said, "I'm glad we have Reflections, it's not like other AFTER 'OURS' programs where the adults do more. This is more hands-on and is more our own creation. I came up with the idea of my drawing because I love to read, which sparked the idea of my imagination. That's why my picture includes both the library and me sitting reading a book and you can see how my imagination is growing."

Nineteen young Evergreen artists submitted over 30 works of art. Of those, judges chose four finalists who will go on to competition May 7 at the state PTA convention. Other finalists were second grader Thomas Lancaster for visual arts, third grader Jaycie Grisso for photography, and fourth grader Christina Peer for visual arts.

Jaycie's mom, Heidi Grisso, said she "took Jaycie to Penrose Point State Park, handed her a camera and told her to 'go



Photo courtesy Seana Lutz

Evergreen Elementary School third grader Jaycie Grisso proudly shows her prize-winning photograph and the finalist certificate it won in the school's annual Reflections program. It will be entered in the state level competitions.

for it." She was amazed at what her daughter came up with.

Reflections is a unique program that not only offers a chance for kids to be creative and think outside the box, but to get positive recognition for their work. It is a valuable learning process that challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents.

Said Lutz, "I saw such a look of pride on the faces of these kids as they were pointing out their art to friends and family. And so many of the adults were just amazed at what imagination and creativity were displayed. This program offers kids a chance to express their individuality. Kids in schools all across the state and throughout the country are participating in this program with the same rules and the same theme, but no two pieces of art will be the same. That is a powerful thing. Kids can and do amazing things if given the chance, and this program provides that opportunity."

At Evergreen, the PTA hosts a Movie Night in the gym once a month. Families are invited to bring pillows and blankets and enjoy a movie, popcorn, and soft drinks free of charge. Many families stayed after the Reflections art show for Disney's "Cars," an animated bit of clean frivolity.

But the high point of the evening was the incredible creativity of the kids — at all grade levels.

KPMS a candy-free zone

By Kim Koczara Hayes, KP News

This past fall the Key Peninsula Middle School PTSA decided to stop selling candy to students at the school's student store. Diana Nole, PTSA president, explained, "Peninsula School District has guidelines stating that any item sold to students contain no more than 40 percent fat and/or 40 percent sugar. So, when I became PTSA president, though I was not required to follow these guidelines, I felt the snacks offered in the school store could be substituted by healthier choices. Mentos was our No. 1 seller before but since removing candy, now Garetto's (snack mix) is the top seller."

This is a growing trend throughout Washington, indeed nationally, that is spreading quickly. Diseases like type-2 diabetes, once only found in adults, are now being diagnosed at an alarming rate in children as young as 10 and 12. Along with physical ailments come mental anguish and stress, as overweight children struggle with peer pressure, self-image and trying to make healthy

choices.

There are many examples of this trend in other public schools throughout the nation. Public schools in the state of Maine banned all "junk food" and soda. Their agreement defines junk food as "food that has minimal nutritional value and provides less than 5 percent of the daily allowance of eight nutrients per serving or 100 calories. The nutrients are iron, vitamin A, vitamin C, niacin, riboflavin, thiamin, calcium and iron." That includes soda, but not drinks that contain fruit juices. It also includes chewing gum, hard candy, lollipops, mints, sugar wafers, jelly beans, candy-coated popcorn and gumdrops.

The Minneapolis School Board has battled with parents upset by a soda vending machine in a local elementary school. Some school board members advocate the selling of soda and candy as a way to raise funds for PTSA activities. However, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Dental Association and even the American Beverage Group recommend a ban on soda pop and candy in schools.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Diana Nole, KPMS PTA president, unloads the snacks for the student store.

At KPMS, some students support the decision, while others oppose the new rules. As one seventh grader points out, "Kids should be able to choose what they eat; if they want to put a bunch of candy into their bodies everyday, they should be able to. The choices we have now don't really appeal to me or my friends." An eighth grader, however, had a different point of view, stating, "There are too many kids our age that are unhealthy and

overweight and just won't make healthy choices no matter what."

Some parents are happy to know the lunch money they send to school is being used to buy lunch and not handfuls of candy, as was sometimes the case when students could buy candy during the lunch breaks at the school store. Other parents, however, feel that middle school students should be responsible enough to make these choices for themselves.



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School district task force looks at population growth

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Last September, a "Long-Range Facility Planning Task Force" was launched by the Peninsula School District. Its charge is to "develop a comprehensive 20-year plan for school facility improvements, upgrades and additions." Task force members expect to conclude all three phases of their agenda by the end of March.

Phase one included demographic, facility and program data review. In phase two, task force members are analyzing data and providing input to the school board regarding facility needs, locations and timelines. In phase three, the board will review the recommendations and determine how to move forward to meet identified needs, which may include building new schools or upgrading existing facilities.

Although 3,000 new households are projected on the Gig Harbor Peninsula by 2022, building permits for that area have decreased since 2003, down from 444 applications in 2003 to 296 in 2005. Conversely, on the Key Peninsula, the number of applications has increased — from 149 in 2002 to 265 in 2005. There are fewer unimproved parcels on the Gig

Harbor Peninsula (2,519), compared with those available on the Key Peninsula (3,783). Both peninsulas are experiencing in-migration of 50 percent ratios; half the new homeowners moving to either place are retired or empty-nesters, half are families with children.

According to the demographic study done on behalf of PSD by Reed Hansen & Associates, "Peninsula School District enrollment has been more or less static since the mid-1990s. Since the 1999-2000 school year, enrollment has declined at about 0.3 per annum, representing a decrease of about 150 pupils." The Puget Sound Regional Council indicates the peninsulas served by the school district have been growing at about 1.65 percent per annum. More people and fewer students. The study suggests two major reasons for enrollment decline: In-migration families have fewer school-age children, and existing resident households have fewer children than in previous decades. They also suggest that an increased preference for home-schooling and private schools may play a role in the decline.

Leslye Stewart, a Gig Harbor real estate agent asked to share with the group information on trends seen in the real estate

market, "indicated she didn't believe there would be sufficient student growth to generate enough students for a new school." Growth would move toward Port Orchard, in her opinion, before moving down the Key Peninsula.

The Hansen study concludes that any near-future deficit (more students than facility resources) in Key Peninsula schools through the elementary grades will be "at modest levels." Middle grade student capacity deficits are also projected to be

relatively small; by 2030, the study estimates a shortfall of only 62 spaces (62 students more than available resources). High school figures are even more encouraging. Using only Peninsula High, through the entire projection cycle, ending in the academic year 2029-30, facilities will be able to accommodate 45 more students than are likely to be enrolled.

School district officials could not be reached for comment regarding the task force progress.

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(From NASA, Page 1)

crew at Johnson Space Center's Ellington Field.

The many twists and turns of the jet may cause dizziness and nausea, hence the famed nickname "the vomit comet." The teachers were advised to prepare accordingly. There were two trials; the first done by D'Andrea/Randall and the second by Tucker-Patton/Stark. Both groups claimed they were nervous at first, but ended up enjoying the ride.

After the first trial, the crew held a live video conference with several KPMS science classes. "The most exciting part of the experiment was actually performing it in microgravity... It was a lot different than practicing it at KPMS! The syringes [containing the baking soda and vinegar] were harder to plunge, and the body positioning was different than expected," Randall described during the conference. "We didn't know how our bodies were going to react to the G-forces and microgravity, so we had a lot of 'unknown' elements to deal with, and most of the time, unknown is scary!"

Despite those little snags, they were treated like professionals. D'Andrea, the KPMS team leader, said in an interview upon return the project was very well organized by NASA staff, who "lived up to their every word." The flights weren't just for show either: During D'Andrea's flight, two NASA scientists from the Glenn Research Center were aboard with a "real" experiment.

To the relief of the team and the slight disappointment of the students, no actual vomiting was involved. KPMS teachers successfully completed their "missions," and data concerning chemical reactions in weightless environments was collected. Eighth-grade astronomy students will finish analyzing the data from the experiment, comparing it to the data collected by KPMS students



KPMS team No. 2, Kathy Tucker-Patton and Ron Stark.

Photo courtesy NASA

under normal gravity conditions.

"This opportunity is one more connection our students are able to make with the STEM (science technology, engineering and math) community through collaboration with NASA scientists and engineers," said KPMS science teacher Kareen Borders, who initiated the process that turned KPMS into a NASA Explorer School. "We are very proud of our students."

This is the last year of the three-year KPMS partnership with NASA that is designed to inspire future science, technology, engineering and mathematics professionals. KPMS was the first of two NASA Explorer Schools in Washington and has taken part in many unique, NASA-sponsored activities to help address the math and science needs of its students. Recently, KPMS' participation in the Explorer Schools program was recognized by state Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson, who highlighted it as one of three middle schools making exceptional progress in Washington state.

By investing in the nation's education programs, NASA's goal is to attract and retain students in science, technology,

engineering and mathematics, or STEM, disciplines. To compete for the minds, imaginations, and career ambitions of America's young people, the space agency seeks to encourage the students' pursuit of educational disciplines critical to its missions.

DeLeo, despite graduating from KPMS before the Explorer program began, is one example of how NASA's approach is working. The Key Pen resident is interested in aerospace and plans to study engineering in college.

For more photos from the teachers' Texas trip, visit www.keypennews.com.

Visiting the Johnson Space Center, watching "mission control" in action and interacting with the engineers "was an awesome experience" for him — and he hopes to work for NASA some day. He passed that excitement on to KPMS students during the video conference from Texas.

"It impacted our kids a lot," D'Andrea said. "(His) message was, 'Do well in school, and you, too, can do cool things.'"

Tucker-Patton had some inspirational advice of her own: "From what I saw, everyone who worked for NASA loved, loved their jobs," she told the students. "Investigate careers with which you may not be entirely familiar. The sky's the limit and failure is not an option!"

Excellent advice for the students, it applies to the adults as well. D'Andrea was fascinated to see the science behind NASA's explorations. "What humans are doing is incredible," she said. Like DeLeo, she left Houston thinking that a job with NASA could be cool, indeed.

"If there is a place for me at NASA some day, don't be surprised," she said.

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Vaughn's annual salmon release in Vaughn Creek

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Every year, the Friday before schools let out for Presidents' Week, Vaughn Elementary School students release the fingerling salmon they have raised from eggs in their aquarium located in the hall off the main entry, "so that all our students can watch as the eggs go through the many changes involved before they become active, ready to return to the seas tiny fish," said teacher Doug Smith, for whom the fish have been a passion for many years, and who started the tradition.

"We release them at this time," Smith said, "because we know they're ready and to ensure that during our absence during the school break, nothing goes wrong." He explained that, in the event of a power failure, the pumps that keep oxygen in the aquarium's water would cease to function and without oxygen the fish would die, or were the temperature control to fail, they would perish. "Can you imagine how devastating that would be to our kids who have 'mothered' the fish from eggs to wiggly little life forms?" he asked.

The kids can give detailed scientific names of each stage of the fingerlings development along the way and even name the wee things they slip into the creek, wishing them a safe journey and safe return.

Smith expressed his gratitude to James Bosch, who makes his property and



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Vaughn Elementary students from the top: Sheylene Bennet, Iyana Nance, John Tyler, Mateo Cannas, and Michael Johnson carefully release into the chilly waters of Vaughn Creek fingerling salmon, which will hopefully return to Vaughn Creek in a few years to spawn.

access to Vaughn Creek available to the kids each year. He also alerts Smith when, usually in November, some of the salmon whose fingerlings the kids slipped into the creek years earlier return.

BRIEFS

school

District moves to all-day K

Peninsula School District will offer all-day kindergarten for every child, at no charge, starting with the next school year. Parents have the option of enrolling their children for only half the day (morning session only); however, no midday transportation for kindergarten students will be available. The state of Washington funds half-day kindergarten programs, and the remainder of the cost of the all-day program will be paid by the district.

School district officials say PSD is very

supportive of early learning programs, and over the past decade there has been an increased interest in the earliest years of a child's life. Investing in those early years is showing positive results in improved academic performance and graduation rates. Providing the program district-wide offers equitable opportunity for all families.

Kindergarten registration for the 2007-08 school year kicked off in February, and will continue until the end of this school year at each elementary school.

A parent forum will be held at Minter Creek Elementary School on March 19, 6-7 p.m., to answer parent questions and provide more information. For details, contact PSD at 530-1000 or visit www.psd401.net.

Apply before April 30, 2007 to receive promotional offer. Applies only to owner-occupied loans. \$500 promotional offer cannot be used toward down payment or with any other discounts. Must be a Sound Credit Union member to participate. Membership at Sound Credit Union requires a savings account with a minimum balance of \$25. Standard underwriting guidelines apply.

COMMUNITY WORKS

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

March 2 – Key Peacemakers film

The Key Peacemakers are showing the film "Peace, Propaganda and the Promised Land: U.S. Media and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," a powerful documentary film that provides a context to enable understanding of the conflict, a contrast of U.S., British and Israeli media coverage of events and a detailed description of the Israeli apparatus that controls the U.S. media. The film combines news clips with observations by analysts, journalists, and political activists. It is a production of the Media Education Foundation. The goal of the film and Jimmy Carter's recent book "Palestine" is to open the discussion so that the American public may be better informed.

Friday, March 2, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; 884-9299

March 2 – Mustard Seed Project meeting

The Mustard Seed Project, focused on building an elder-friendly Key Peninsula, will hold four community task group meetings scheduled for March. A speaker will present at each meeting, followed by information sharing and group work. Residents of the Key Peninsula, as well as current and potential service providers, who want to gather information, review possibilities and create options for "aging in place," are urged to attend these meetings.

Senior Information and Referral Group - Friday, March 2, 10 a.m.

Transportation and Mobility for Elders Group - Friday, March 9, 10 a.m.

Elder Health and Wellness-Related Services Group - Thursday, March 15, 10 a.m.

Housing Options for Aging in Place Group - Friday, March 23, 10 a.m.

Key Center Library, Brones Room; Edie, 884-3920 or ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org

March 10 – Library presentation for youngsters

Last Leaf Production will perform a free, live rendition of the popular tale "Three Little Pigs." The theatrical performance, sponsored by Friends of

the Library, will be presented through the voice of the infamous wolf.

Saturday, March 10, 2 p.m., Key Center Library, 8905 Key Peninsula Hwy N

March 11 – Have a drink for Phil event

Close to Home Espresso in Key Center is holding a fundraiser for Phil Radcliffe, who was critically injured in a sawmill accident last December. The money raised by the community will help defray medical expenses. All proceeds, including tips, will be deposited in the Phil Radcliffe Fund at Sound Credit.

Special pastries, espresso and noncoffee drinks will be served by the baristas. Musicians who would like to perform are encouraged to call Laura McClintock, owner, at 884-3241.

Laura and all the baristas of Close to Home Espresso encourage you to join them for this special event.

Sunday, March 11, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., Close to Home Espresso (next to Peninsula Market); Laura, 884-3241

March 15 – Senior Society celebrates St. Pat's

The Key Peninsula Senior Society will be hosting an Irish menu including corn beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots and other potluck delights on St. Patrick's Day. All are welcome to come for food, card games and the company of many friendly folks.

Thursday, March 15, noon, Key Peninsula Civic Center; 884-5052 or 884-4981

March 16 – Key Peacemakers' play

The Key Peacemakers will perform a reading of the play "My Name is Rachel Corrie," a dramatized editing of Rachel's writings. Her home was in Olympia and she went to The Evergreen State College. In 2003, she joined the International Solidarity Movement whose purpose is "to support Palestinian nonviolent resistance to Israel's military occupation." Corrie was killed at age 23 in March 2003 by a Caterpillar D-9 bulldozer, a vehicle especially built to demolish houses, while she was in Gaza protecting a Palestinian

home. The play has had a successful and enthusiastic run in London, but has been surrounded by controversy in the United States.

Friday, March 16, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; 884-9299

March 17 – Two Waters' Spring Fling

Several of the Key Peninsula's best artists will have their work on view at the fifth annual art sale and celebration sponsored by Two Waters Art Alliance. The artists are chosen by invitation and represent the best of the peninsula. Coffee, tea, a no-host bar and desserts will be served starting at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Jazz Musette. TWAA patrons and members are free; nonmembers are \$15. This event is open to the public-16 years and older only.

Saturday, March 17, 7 p.m., Key Peninsula Civic Center; Kathy, 884-9172, www.TwoWaters.org

March 24 – Little League breakfast

Join fellow baseball fans for the Key Peninsula Little League Breakfast 2007 at the Key Peninsula Middle School. The breakfast will be followed by the Opening Day ceremony at Volunteer Park beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Little League baseball games will begin at 1 p.m.

Saturday, March 24, 8-11 a.m., KPMS

March 30, April 18 – Arbor Day contests end

Get ready now for the Spring Arbor Day contests. Enter the photo, poetry, and poster contests with themes about the positive impact of trees on people, animals or the environment. All poster contest entries, for grades 4 and 5, and poetry contest entries, for grades 6 to 9, are due by Friday, March 30.

The photo contest has a deadline of April 18, and is open to all residents of the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula. Photos should send a visual message about the positive impact of trees on people, animals or our environment. The minimum size for photos is 5" by 7" and the photo must be mounted on or behind a mat suitable for display purposes. There is a limit of one

entry per person. All photos will be displayed at the Arbor Day Celebration on April 28. Photos may be given to Carol Alex at Peninsula High's main office or mailed to the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Arbor Day Foundation, PO Box 1493, Gig Harbor, 98335. Include the full name of the photographer, address and phone number/email on the back of the photo in order to be notified of winning. Photos must be received by April 18 and will be returned upon request.

All entries are for the Gig Harbor Arbor Day Celebration held April 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Hall. \$100 prizes for all winners and their teachers will be awarded. See www.GigHarbor-Arbor.com for details.

March 31 – Mad Hatter Day at the library

The Friends of the Key Center Library are inviting elementary school children and their parents to Mad Hatter Day at the Key Center Pierce County Library. Co-sponsored by Two Waters Art Alliance, the event will feature Kathy Bauer and Paddy Gilson showing how to design and decorate your own hat. Free.

Saturday, March 31, 1 p.m., Key Center Library

May 1 – Writing submissions deadline

Key Peninsula writers are invited to submit entries to the 2007 edition of "Voices from the Key," an anthology produced by the Key Peninsula Writers' Guild. Deadline is May 1. Submission guidelines are available at Key Center Library or by contacting Danna Webster, 884-6455; email: danna004@century-tel.net.

Ongoing – Friday's Skate Night

A special fundraising skate night was held on Feb. 10 with over \$700 raised for the purchase of new mood lights and equipment to enhance the ambiance of the Civic Center gymnasium for skating, as well as creating a more pleasant atmosphere for other events. The skate

(See EVENTS, Page 19)

Get Involved

The Key Peninsula Community Fair needs a volunteer accountant/bookkeeper, or formal board treasurer. The fair board meets once or twice a month for a couple of hours, and more as fair dates (July 12-15) approach. Call Ruth Bramhall at 857-5184 or Michael Hays at 253-884-9498.

If your organization has a need for volunteers and you'd like it published here, email your announcement to news@keypennews.com.

KPCCA Upcoming Events

Mar 10 - Citizen of the Year Banquet hosted by KP Lions

Mar 17 - Spring Fling - hosted by Two Waters Arts Alliance

Mar 24 - KP/Gig Harbor Co-op Auction

Questions? Call **253-884-3456**

Key Peninsula Civic Center

~OFF THE KEY~

March 17 – Peninsula Art League deadline

The Peninsula Art League will hold a screening for the Gig Harbor Summer Art Festival. Check www.peninsulaartleague.com or call Carol at 265-8139 for an application.

March 19 – Low vision program

The Gig Harbor Lions Club presents its annual free community awareness program, Living Successfully With Low Vision. The presentation demonstrates a vast array of ways to preserve the quality of daily life when vision fails. It is aimed at those who are learning to adjust personally to loss of vision, who are involved in any way with sight impairment services such as health care workers, and community members of every stripe — families, clergy, educators, managers and staff of area organizations and businesses.

Monday, March 19, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way, 549-4995

March 22 – Peninsula Art League meeting

The Peninsula Art League's meetings are open to the public. This month's topic is "Artists and their Art."

Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m., St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 3510 Rosedale St NW, Gig Harbor; Marti, 352-225-7733

March 31 – Wild Turkeys to feast

The Narrows Strut Busters Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation currently has advanced tickets available for the 6th Annual Hunters Heritage Banquet. In addition to a prime rib and salmon dinner and a door prize, there are also many games for a variety of shotguns, rifles, a muzzleloader, and a compound bow

... plus live and silent auctions and general raffles. To order tickets or to make tax deductible donations of goods or services contact banquet chair John Feddock, 360-871-2709, or johnfeddock@wavecable.com. For chapter information visit www.gigharbronwtf.org or contact president Al Prante, 253-884-9663, or turkeydancer@centurytel.net.

Saturday, March 31, 4 p.m., Inn of Gig Harbor; John, 360-871-2709

Ongoing – Peninsula Toastmasters' Club

The Peninsula Toastmasters' Club is having a membership drive and open house.

Since members have left for various reasons and a club functions more efficiently with more members. The mayor of Gig Harbor has declared a Toastmasters' Week! The club meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Mondays (1st/3rd), 7 p.m., 7400 Pioneer Way, Gig Harbor; Patty Cole, 253-549-4196

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(From **EVENTS**, Page 18)

night staff donated all their own time for the event and the Civic Center board committed \$500 of matching funds towards the project. Part of the expenditures will be to buy custom T-shirts for the staff to help promote staff identification and aid in crowd control. Past President Phil Bauer deserves a big Civic Center thanks for spearheading this project and thanks to the skaters and their parents for supporting the fundraiser.

The first hour of skate night (6-7 p.m.) is set-aside for the K-5th grade and beginners. The second time period (7-9 p.m.) is for grades 6-8. Chaperones are always invited and encouraged to attend.

Friday nights, 6-7 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., KP Civic Center in Vaughn

Ongoing – Aerobics at LIC

The Longbranch Improvement Club has scheduled aerobics and yoga classes for March, April, and May. Cost is \$20-\$25 per month.

Classes are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday Morning Aerobics, 9-10 a.m.

Yoga 10:10 to 11:15 a.m.

Tuesday Evening Aerobics, 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Yoga, 7-8 p.m.

Instructor Kristina Butorec is member

of the exercise & fitness instructional staff at the "Y" in Tacoma.

Contact: Carolyn Wiley, 884-5297

Ongoing – TOPS in the morning

TOPS meets at 9 a.m. every Tuesday at McColley Hall, on the corner of Lackey Road and Key Peninsula Highway. Money and other prizes are available every week for losing weight, attendance, etc. Everyone 7 years and up is welcome to join a fun, supportive group. Gloria 884-2554 or Jonda 884-1335

Ongoing – TOPS in the evening

The group lost 49 pounds altogether in January. The guest speakers were terrific because both Gail and her husband have lost 75 pounds. Using visual aids, they presented an organized, inspiring and informative talk.

TOPS meets with a planned program on Mondays at 6 p.m. at Wright-Bliss RD and Hwy. 302 fire station. TOPS members receive the support of others striving to be at normal weight and have better health. Anyone interested in a friendly and fun way to lose a few pounds may join TOPS. Call 884-4102.



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PSD graduate Billy Foreman enjoys his community

Billy Foreman credits his high school teacher, Roland Smith, with starting him on his career path. As a student in Smith's class at Gig Harbor High School, Foreman became interested in computers, spending many hours in the lab after school and on the weekends to learn everything he could about the computers and software. Soon, he was teaching fellow yearbook classmates how to produce the yearbook on the computer, and presenting to teachers at district in-services.

"Before I met Mr. Smith, my career plans were to do computer drafting," says Foreman, who is the Network Administrator with the Peninsula School District. "I took his drafting class and after learning an enormous amount about computers and programming, I became really excited—and that changed what I wanted to do."

Foreman, a Gig Harbor High 1992 graduate, was hired by the district in 1995, working in several capacities including as a teacher

after earning his teaching certificate. His desire to work for PSD was the reason he remained in the community, along with his commitment to the Gig Harbor Fire District as a volunteer firefighter / EMT.

"I wanted to work with kids and staff members I came to know as a student," he says. "I wanted to stay in the community I enjoy."

Now living on the Key Peninsula with a family of his own, Foreman continues to be involved in the community, volunteering for the Key Peninsula Fire District. While being responsible for the computer network, he also mentors intern students—which allows



Billy Foreman enjoys being able to not only work with computers, but also with students in his job as a network administrator.

him to follow both his passions, teaching and working with computers.

"I love it here," he says. "It's a great environment, a great place to raise kids. I wouldn't want to do it anywhere else."

March Events

- 1 | Key Peninsula Middle School Vocal Solo Recital 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 5 | Key Peninsula Middle School Band Solo/Ensemble 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 6 | Key Peninsula Middle School Band Solo/Ensemble 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 8 | School Board regular meeting Minter Creek Elementary at 6:00-7:30 p.m.

8-10 & 15-17

Gig Harbor High School Drama Presents Beauty and the Beast 7:00 p.m.

- 19 | All-Day Kindergarten meeting for 2007-2008 Key Peninsula parents at Minter from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 22 | School Board Study Session at District Office 6:30 p.m.
- 27 | Key Peninsula Middle All School Band Concert 7:30-8:30

April Events

- 2-6 | Spring Break

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Ben Ramirez, Joshua Keaough, Dalton Neumann, and Tre Starks, third graders from Mrs. Harrison-Hagen's class at Vaughn Elementary, enjoy dissecting a Coho salmon as part of an SEA Outreach marine science class.

AT A GLANCE:

All-Day Kindergarten is now standard at all Peninsula elementary schools for every kindergartener. A forum-style meeting will be conducted for parents of 2007-2008 Key Peninsula students March 19 at Minter Creek Elementary from 6:00-7:30 p.m. For registration details and frequently asked questions visit:

www.peninsula.wednet.edu/education/kinder.asp

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May 19 Key Center Civic Center @ 5:30 p.m. \$25/person table reservations for 10 people/table.



For more information contact Tina Self 857-8552 or 530-4700. The proceeds will go to completing the outdoor "big toy" with a portion of the funds also going to The Marsha Iverson Books for Special Readers Foundation. Your name will boldly be included in our program showing that you are a supporter of not only Vaughn Elementary, but of all of our schools in the Peninsula School District.

FD-16 STATS

Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

Jan. 5

Firefighters responded to a report of an explosion and fire at a Lake of the Woods residence. When firefighters arrived, they found a mobile home nearly fully involved in fire. A burn victim was reported at the Wauna fire station several minutes after crews responded, resulting in a mutual aid request from Gig Harbor and South Kitsap to treat and transport the patient to a Seattle burn center.

Jan. 7

Firefighters responded to 146th Ave KPN for flooding problems due to rising water levels from Doyle Pond. The water was up to the homes, resulting in the 9-1-1 calls for assistance. Citizens were advised that sand and sandbags were available for public use and firefighters were able to assist if needed.

Jan. 20

A rollover motor vehicle crash resulted in the death of one occupant and serious

injuries to the other. The accident occurred at the intersection of Lackey and South Vaughn roads. The survivor was treated and transported to a Tacoma hospital by a Mason County medic unit because other Key Peninsula units were on other calls.

Jan. 24

Paramedics responded to a Minter area residence for a man who was assaulted by home intruders in the early hours of the morning. The man was treated and transported to a Tacoma area hospital for a possible head injury after being struck in the head with a weapon.

Jan. 29

Paramedics were called to a child who received second-degree burns to his left wrist and left thigh when he was pouring boiling water from a kettle into a bowl in preparation of his breakfast. The patient was transported to a local Tacoma hospital for further care.

Jan. 30

Firefighters responded to multiple complaints of illegal burning during the

recent air-quality burn ban. Each event is sent to Puget Sound Clean Air Authority for review and potential fines. All outdoor burning requires notification to the fire department prior to burning.

Jan. 31

Firefighters and paramedics responded to a 13-year-old boy who was assaulted by another juvenile in the Lake of the Woods area. The patient was treated for head injuries and transported to a Tacoma hospital for further medical attention.

Feb. 10

An elderly woman was driving her car westbound on SR-302 when she veered off the road and overcorrected, causing the car to roll down an embankment. The windshield was removed to gain access and she was extricated onto a back board for transport to a Tacoma trauma center.

Feb. 13

A woman was driven by a friend to the

December total calls: 169

Medical aid: 109
 Fires: 14
 Burn complaints: 15
 Vehicle crashes: 24
 Weather related: 1
 Other: 6
 Mutual aid from GHFD: 9

Longbranch fire station after being thrown from a horse. While being evaluated for her injuries by paramedics, she became unconscious. Airlift NW was called and transported the critically injured patient to a Tacoma trauma center.

Feb. 16

Medic crews transported a teenage female who drank 12 shots of whiskey and had a decreased level of consciousness. She was transported to a hospital for further evaluation and treatment of an alcohol overdose.



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

At about 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11, this car left the road as it was traveling north on the KP Highway, just before Van Beek Road. The car rolled about 35-40 feet off the roadway into trees and brush. Sheriff's deputies said she sustained minor injuries. "The driver was simply going too fast on rain-slicked roads," said Deputy J. Kreis with Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

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BRIEFS

news

Environmental health workgroup needs members

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department was awarded a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to find out what environmental health issues are most important to county residents, and what should be done about them.

A Pierce County Coalition for Environmental Health Priorities will be formed, including coalition workgroups in Tacoma, Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula, and Eastern Pierce County. Workgroup members will share environmental health concerns and information, decide which environmental health issues are most important and develop action plans for what should be done about these issues.

The Health Department is looking for people from all walks of life, and incentives such as gift cards and food will be provided to workgroup members. For information, contact Marianne Seifert at 798-3823 or mseifert@tpchd.org.

KGHP changes frequency

Local community radio station KGHP, headquartered at Peninsula High School, is moving from the 104.5 frequency to 93.7. The station, which broadcasts local news, sports, music and emergency information, can be heard at 89.9., 89.3 and 93.7 on the FM dial. For more information, call 530-4519.

Survey deadline extended

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District has extended to April 2 its deadline for accepting the survey to help determine the community's needs and wishes for developing a comprehensive park plan. The survey was printed in the February issue of the Key Peninsula News, and may also be completed online at www.keypeninsulaparks.com.

Library hosts teen writing contest

The Pierce County Library System's 11th annual Teen Poetry and Fiction Writing Contest — Our Own Words will offer cash prizes and publication to Pierce County teens. Through March 23, teenagers in seventh through twelfth

grades, who live in or attend school in Pierce County, may submit one short story and/or poem in the contest. Participation in the contest is free. All entries must be in English.

For details about the contest, visit www.piercecountylibrary.org or stop by any branch.

Weather spotters wanted

The National Weather Service seeks to train weather spotters, who are needed, especially in rural areas, to alert weather officials of pending weather events.

A free training for new or veteran spotters is set for Tuesday, March 20. The class is open to interested citizens; amateur radio operators; PC-NET and Citizen Corps members; law enforcement, fire, transportation and public works staff; as well as those who have weather instrumentation, such as an anemometer. Training includes general information about the National Weather Service, criteria for recognizing and reporting hazardous, event-driven weather, and information about NOAA Weather Radios. Seating is limited. For details, contact Barbara Nelson, Pierce County Emergency Management, 798-2168 or bnelso1@co.pierce.wa.us.



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(From **PARK**, Page 1)

President George Robison. Ed Robison is a civil and structural engineer, and donated his professional services to KPMPD for this project. The Lions chose the shelter as one of their community service projects.

The KPMPD Website lists Home Park as "a success story of what determined individuals can do": The park was created on an illegal dump site by volunteers, who organized garbage cleanup and park maintenance. The Website states that construction of the 18-foot by 36-foot, covered picnic shelter "is set to begin in early 2006." More than a year beyond that projection, Pierce County Planning and Land Services continues to reject each newly submitted requested plan revision.

As early as November 2005, county plans examiner Scott Erickson sent review comments with four specific required changes to KPMPD. Erickson concluded the plan review with the following comment: "Please be aware that as additional information is provided, further code requirements may be revealed." Also late in 2005, county development engineer Jeffrey Sharp called for a "Flood Boundary Delineation Survey," which the county had said would not be required, according to George Robison. A "Separate Driveway Approach Application" was also required; site access for parking must be off Eighth Avenue, and would have to conform to specified county regulations.

One year later almost to the day, in early November 2006, KPMPD sent a letter to plans examiner Donna Magnussen in an attempt to reach county compliance. KPMPD Executive Director Scott Gallacher directed the planning department to its own language identifying a "neighborhood park" as "small in size" (about 3 to 10 acres) and may include "picnic facilities, trails, nature area." Gallacher subsequently received an email from Magnussen stating, "Building (the picnic shelter) has been approved and we are waiting for development engineering (Sharp) to complete there (sic) section."

At about the same time, George Robison sent an email to Gallacher and others requesting their presence at a meeting on Dec. 7, with Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee in attendance. The email revealed Robison's apparent frustration with the seemingly endless permit resubmission cycle.

On Jan. 30, another letter was received from Sharp, stating, "The

Investigate before you leap into construction

Why has construction of a simple 648-square-foot, open-sided, covered picnic shelter become so complicated that it cannot seem to get past county planners to be built on 1.74 acres of park district-owned "parked-out" land? According to Councilman Terry Lee, all projects both large and small must go through Pierce County review. Pierce County must, in turn, comply with mandated state and federal regulations concerning even the most minute of details. The construction of this shelter at Home Park, he says, may "seem to be of little consequence, but still impacts neighboring properties of adjoining uses, and requires a wetlands review. What makes this so bitter is that it's so small in scale... People are frustrated about the process." He admits the county makes these projects "challenging."

In retrospect, Lee says it is in everybody's best interest, prior to beginning a commercial project of any size or kind, to set up a "pre-construction" meeting with Pierce County Planning and Land Services. "There's a minefield of regulations to weave through," he says. Lee encourages anyone considering "the fiscal impacts on a proposed project" to call his office for assistance in setting up either a small (\$300) or large (\$1,700) pre-development interdepartmental meeting prior to layout of construction-related funds.

(newly designed) stormwater runoff control design is not acceptable," and calling for yet another revision of the site plan per his "comments above and the attached redlined plans." George Robison reminded Gallacher that county staff had agreed at the December meeting that the 5,000-square-foot exemption (of an engineered water retention structure) applied to this permit. The exemption does not, however, release the proposed project from construction of an approved runoff containment system. This was later corroborated in an interview with Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, who said, "The Home Park picnic shelter must comply with right-of-way constraints and make a PALS-acceptable provision for storm water retention." The good news is that since the project is less than 5,000 square feet of impervious cover, he says regulations do not require an engineered retention system, although the design will need to show how storm water is captured through infiltration using the "county retention manual."

Robison's email was also his resignation from the project. "Please advise the park directors that I am withdrawing from the Home Park project... I am sorry I ever got involved in Home Park." Robison said there is no doubt in his mind that continuing planning department difficulty with the permitting process is because he "forced them to admit numerous discrepancies and errors in the original checklist."

Meanwhile, his son, Ed, has been deployed to Iraq, where he continues to attempt assisting in resolving the stormwater issue. In an email to Gallacher in early February, Ed wrote,

"By all reasonableness what was proposed meets the intent of the design manual and exceeds anything that should be required for this project because of the receiving waters and project scope." He advised KPMPD to insist that Planning and Land Services approve the current revision. He concluded by writing, "If you allow them to insist on these changes, the project

cannot be built without completely changing the site plan because of the conflicts with the wetland and wildlife buffers that you will incur."

In his 2006 budget, Lee set aside \$2,500 to assist in permitting costs and construction. Gallacher reports those funds were used to pay \$390 in permit/application fees to date, and to purchase materials for the project. He takes a broader look at the scope of difficulty encountered with getting this small project approved. "Most of the requirements are unfunded mandates set forth by the state through the Growth Management Act," he wrote in an email to the KP News. "I know we don't fall into GMA boundaries, but those regulations have to be considered for not just this project, but all."

Meanwhile, Gallacher still works to meet compliance with the county so construction can begin. "I have a meeting with AHBL (the engineering and design company that assisted with another initial KPMPD design project) ... and hope to be able to take care of this issue," he said. "I don't know what it will cost, but we have to move forward. I would hope to have our permit and be completed by summer, but I would not want to speculate."



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OBITUARY

Lee Bernard Spunaugle

Lee Bernard Spunaugle, born Aug. 18, 1948 in Marysville, Kans., passed away Feb. 11, 2007. Spunaugle, a Vaughn resident for 17 years, worked for Peninsula Light Co., volunteered for Key Peninsula Little League, enjoyed various outdoor activities and working on his farm. He may have been known



SPUNAUGLE

best for his love of baseball, boisterous character, and blue pickup truck. He also attended Vaughn Community Church, and most formerly served as a deacon.

He is survived by wife Lane Spunaugle and their children, Leanna (Gray), Emily, Levi, and Sarah; his children, Ruth Miller and Tawnya Raugh; his mother, Mary Spunaugle; sisters Marilyn Hanford and Sharon Dronen; and grandsons Travis and Trevor Raugh.

A celebration of life was held on Feb. 19. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund in Lee Spunaugle's name, P.O. Box 283, Wauna, WA 98395. Arrangements were made by Haven of Rest Funeral Home.

Obituary guidelines

The Key Peninsula News publishes obituaries of Key Peninsula residents on space available basis. Obituaries are subject to editing to comply with KP News style as well as space restraints. Please keep the text to 250 words; longer text will be published only if space permits. There is no charge. Print and digital photos accepted. Email your obituaries to news@keypennews.com or mail to KP News, PO Box 3 Vaughn WA 98394.

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Citizen of the Year nominees

Citizen of the Year nominees

Twenty-six outstanding community contributors as well as an entire organization have been nominated for the Citizen of the Year Award, presented annually by the Key Peninsula Lions Club. The award will be presented at a banquet ceremony on March 10 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn. This year's guest speaker will be Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck. Tickets are available in advance at the Home Store, Sunnycrest Nursery, Blondie's Restaurant and KP Community Services.

Greg and Becky Anglemyer, KP residents since May 2005, have contributed greatly as volunteer mentors for Communities in Schools-Peninsula the last two years and go above their call to duty at Vaughn Elementary and KPMS, giving extra time in the classrooms and the library. They are on the BOD of KP's Friends of the Library, and Becky is with Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild and did two trees for the Festival of Trees.

Phil Bauer has served as president of the KP Civic Center Association's BOD, has contributed countless hours to ensuring the success of the KPCC, the Two Waters Arts Alliance, and the Key Peninsula Fair, and has been instrumental in making sure Key Peninsula residents receive their copy of the Key Peninsula News in their mailboxes every month. As the newspaper's distribution supervisor, he has been coordinating delivery and has recruited other volunteers to help.

Gloria Bowman has been chairperson of the Events Committee at the Civic

Center, and has been responsible for all the events that have taken place there. She is a tireless worker and has devoted much time and effort to making the events successful. She has a great sense of humor and is a wonderful person to work with.

Ruth Bramhall is ubiquitous. A previous Citizen of the Year, she volunteers at the various functions of the Longbranch Improvement Club, the Key Peninsula Fire Department, where she has been a fire commissioner, the KPBA, the KP Community Fair, the KP Livable Community Fair, the annual Citizens of the Year Awards dinner, the KP Sportsmen's Club, and just about anything for which a volunteer's efforts are needed. She probably holds the title for selling more tickets for community events and raffles than anyone else.

Kip Clinton has served on the KP Parks and Recreation BOD and, as it was decommissioned, was elected to a similar position on the then-newly formed KP Metro Park District, currently serving as secretary, promptly and precisely providing BOD members and concerned citizens minutes of meetings and such other documentation as is needed. Her friendly but no-nonsense performance is a valuable asset to the KP community.

Ernie Donehower has taught in the Peninsula School District for 20 years at Vaughn Elementary School. As cultural enrichment teacher, he has taken all Vaughn children on magical trips around the globe. They "live" in different centuries and participate in diverse cultures and customs of all seven continents. They learn respect and empathy

for other times and ways of life. They enjoy folk tales and legends; they participate in drama, music, and artwork, and the lessons travel home to siblings and parents. His impact is felt and respected throughout the Key. He donates hours of his personal time, effort, and money to ensure students receive the best cultural enrichment experiences possible. He organizes clubs, cultural functions, and meaningful activities and spends vacations continuing his education to benefit our children and families. He could teach anywhere in the world but chooses to serve at Vaughn.

Debbie Ehrhardt is an amazing parent who is always at Evergreen Elementary. The school knows it can count on her to be a positive representative for the school and the families. There isn't a day that goes by that she isn't at Evergreen, giving it her all. Whenever she hears of something needing to be done she says, "I can do that!" Her willingness to do what is good for our children, families, teachers, and school is to be commended.

Bill and Claudia Jones, during their early days on the Key, lived on Herron Island. They were among a handful there who became volunteer members of the Key Peninsula Fire Department and played an important role in the Island community's disaster preparedness and citizen assistance programs. Since relocating to the Vaughn area, Claudia has been voluntarily involved with schools, local medical facilities, and KPFD. Bill has continued with the KPFD by upgrading his certification and ability to respond when the need arises. Both are active members of the KP Firefighters'

Association and stepped forward to ensure the continuation of the KPFD-sponsored "Santa sleigh" on the Key.

Ty Hardin has long lent his talents and time to the KP Community Services/Food Bank, assisted on its board of directors, and served to make attendees at the organization's various functions feel welcome and wanted. His great sense of humor keeps everyone amused. The former movie actor is quick to assist with a variety of tasks, among which he delights in reading and storytelling with the kids at Evergreen Elementary School.

Dick Hassan, a Lakewood resident and volunteer baseball field builder, helped repair a retaining wall at Volunteer Park, voluntarily providing, at his own expense, building materials and long, hard hours of work. He became aware of the need to rehabilitate one KP Little League ball field by moving the team dugouts and rebuilding fencing along the first and third base lines, took on the task and did most of the work himself. He is also the proud inventor of "T" ball.

Mindi LaRose began volunteering shortly after moving here with her husband and two daughters from Arizona. A talented photographer, she volunteers with the KP News, traveling around to take photos but also helping with various projects. An involved parent, she volunteers at KPMS and PHS, helping teachers and students. She has been instrumental to the success of the annual PHS Boosters auction, recently serving as co-chair. With husband, Dave, she coached PAA soccer and last year ran a monthly "Coffee Talk" for PHS girls.

Linda LeBlanc is a flurry of volunteer activity for the Longbranch Improvement Club, where she has served as a very energetic president. She has chaired a



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number of committees for the organization and is a source of inspiration to its many volunteers.

Rick Lingle, longtime volunteer with Citizens Against Crime and a steady asset to its Citizens Patrol, recently assumed the office of Citizens Patrol president. He has been a dedicated volunteer in the Palmer Lake area, assisting in cleaning up where the irresponsible have dumped trash, and a constant supporter of the area's neighborhood watch activities.

Mark Michel is Evergreen Elementary School's PTA president. Through his leadership he has helped the team bring about a positive change at Evergreen. He has worked hard with his team to effectively build a PTA that works with the school to support our kids, families and teachers.

Loyd Miller, former member of the KP News Publishing Board, was instrumental in bringing a workable solution to the table as the newspaper underwent internal challenges. He helps deliver the newspaper to post offices around the Key. Active with Citizens Against Crime and Citizens Patrol, he also spearheaded efforts for zoning designated shooting areas on the Key. He volunteers with EnviroCorps and is chairman of the KPCC Grounds and Maintenance Committee. He often prepares and serves food for community events.

Ron Reynolds' heroic, selfless actions saved two victims of a potentially fatal plane crash on Rocky Bay. He immedi-

ately ran down to the beach, grabbed his kayak, and paddled out. A father and a son were both out of the plane, floating in the water. He couldn't take anyone aboard his one-person kayak so he had the father hold the back of the boat and towed him to shore, where neighbors were waiting. Then he paddled back out to the crash site, had the son grab the kayak and towed him in. Reynolds returned home without a thought of seeking recognition.

Ed Robison consistently volunteered his skills as a consulting civil and structural engineer and an accomplished carpenter in support of community projects for the KP Metropolitan Parks District, Habitat for Humanity, and a variety of other community projects, thus saving these entities substantial sums of money for their other projects. A commander in the U.S. Navy Sea Bees Reserve, he was recently assigned to duty in Iraq.

Mike Salatino has done it all. He has been a steady member and supporter of the KPCCA BOD, of which he has served as president, spearheaded the effort to successfully create the annual KP Community Fair, has served on the KP Parks and Recreation board, and with wife, Joyce, sponsors and directs a hugely successful annual Christmas Day turkey dinner with all the trimmings for, as he puts it, "anyone, regardless of financial status, who might otherwise eat Christmas dinner alone."

Earle and Helen Saxer have been

mainstays and steady volunteers for many years at the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank, including as board members. They are omnipresent workers at the annual KPCS Old Timers Day and Old Time Logging Show, where they perform a variety of tasks from organizing to handling grunt work; they don't know how to say "get somebody else."

Kurt Self, president of the KP Little League, has been a strong supporter of youth on the Key Peninsula through coaching a youth soccer team as well as the Key Peninsula Little League. He is also very involved at both Key Peninsula Middle School and Vaughn Elementary, where he is an active member of the schools' PTA.

Ed Taylor has served as president of the KP Civic Center Association's BOD (of which he is currently treasurer), fire commissioner with the KP Fire Department, editor of the KP News, a driving force in making the KP Community Fair a success, an active member of the KP Business Association, and, as a member of the KPMPD's acquisitions' committee, a persistent supporter of efforts to acquire 350 acres of DNR land to be dedicated to the KP community's inventory of park properties.

Kari Wilkinson, Evergreen Elementary's PTA president, has served on the Washington State PTA Convention Committee for the last six years and is co-chairing this year's convention. She was instrumental to bringing the national

PTA program, Reflections, to Evergreen. A father told her his daughter was very shy and lonely, got involved in Reflections and blossomed, and he wanted to thank the PTA for changing his daughter's life.

Wendy Wojtanowicz, Minter Creek Elementary School PTA president for the 2004-05 and 2005-06 school years, has been instrumental in initiating and coordinating a variety of the school's family events, including Trunk or Treat, Family Night, and more. Trunk or Treat is a hilarious evening of shenanigans providing a safe and healthy evening for kids.

Al' and Jean Yanity have volunteered for many tasks on the Key, everything from helping with landscaping at the KP Fire Department's new stations, helping install the safety gate at the KP Civic Center, helping to maintain KPFD's emergency generators, serving as president of Citizens Against Crime and assisting with that organization's Citizens Patrol, and assisting with the laying of the then-new floor in the Whitmore Room of the KP Civic Center. Al' is now a KPFD fire commissioner.

Don Zimmerman, owner of Lake Kathryn's Costless Drug store, helps many people every year without calling attention to himself. He is truly a Good Samaritan. Many people living on the Key in difficult situations without adequate coverage know first-hand his generosity and concern for their welfare. He once said, "Living is not about making money, it's about making friends."

Pastor Heinz Malon represents the many members of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, which was nominated for providing, in consort with Pierce County's American Red Cross chapter, extraordinarily successful emergency services during December's windstorm-caused power outages that left many KP citizens without heat, water, or a means to prepare hot food. A number of citizens spent several cold nights warmed in the church facility, which served over 2,000 hot meals to those in need.

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Huckleberry Inn owner to retire, sell business

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Huckleberry Inn restaurant and lounge located in downtown Key Center is for sale. Owner Martha Swanson decided, after her last birthday, it is time for her to retire. She listed the building now in order to be ready to show the business to potential buyers this summer.

"Everything is fine. I'm just not getting any younger," Swanson said. "I'm going to travel a lot. I love to travel."

Originally, the Huckleberry Inn was a brush shed. Many early KP residents picked huckleberries to earn money, including Swanson's brother, who worked there in 1948. The building was operated by Elmer Elsie Olson, who added a small cafe in 1946 called "Key Center Cafe."

Swanson bought the building in 1994. "I found the old walls of the berry shed when I opened up the wall for the dining room," said Swanson, who lives near Key Center in the house where she was born, the youngest of 10 children.

According to Swanson, The Huck is ready for some new ways to go along with all the growing she expects to see on the Peninsula over the next few years.

"I think we need new things (in Key Center). I kept it (the restaurant) the same because I grew up here. I wanted it old and rustic," she said.

According to real estate listings, the building's sale price is \$649,000.

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Windermere office is moving to Brookside

By Danna Webster, KP News

Windermere Key Realty is moving from its Key Center location into the New Brookside building on State Route 302.

Windermere broker Steve Skibbs has purchased the former restaurant building and is in the process of converting it into realty offices. When asked why he chose to give up the Key Center location for Brookside,



SKIBBS

Skibbs answered he had been looking around the Peninsula for a long time. This property provides "more visibility," he said and cited traffic count reports of 16,400 cars passing by the Brookside daily compared to 9,300 at Key Center.

Skibbs also appreciates the Brookside's attractive setting. Inside the building he plans to keep the view open from the front entrance to the back windows looking out over the brook, which is a tributary to Minter Creek. The patio by the brook will have picnic tables for staff and

"We're not selling hamburgers; but (we are selling) the places where you can cook hamburgers."

— Steve Skibbs

client lunches.

There are no exterior structural changes planned and Skibbs hopes there will be little problem with county zoning permits. "Zoning use was higher (for a restaurant) than what I'm using it for," he says. As a real estate office, the building will have less vehicle activity and less people in and out than the restaurant. He plans to continue to use the familiar reader board but the messages will be different. "We're not selling hamburgers; but (we are selling) the places where you can cook hamburgers," he says.

With about 18 agents, this office will be the smallest of Skibbs' three Windermere companies. The Gig Harbor office has about 80 agents and the Port Orchard

one about 50.

When asked how the Peninsula area fits into the real estate market compared to neighboring communities, he replied that the Key Peninsula is "more rural with land available." There is a "quaintness and country feel about it. The new bridge will increase interest in living on the Pen; and there is more affordable housing," he said. Skibbs also believes people will move to the Peninsula area for the similar reasons that caused his family to settle in Canterwood. "We moved here to get out of the fast pace," he said. "It is a fair distance from Longbranch to Tacoma."

The move to the new location will end Skibbs' nine-year partnership with Joyce Tovey as co-owner of the Windermere realty business in Key Center. Tovey owns the building where the office is presently located, and that building is for sale. When Tovey, a 30-year veteran in the realty business, was asked about the impending move, her response was, "I think it is going to be a good location because it should generate more traffic from the Elgin-Clifton area. I am enthusiastically in favor of that move."

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Two businesses land at The Landing

By William C. Dietz, KP News



Photo by William C. Dietz

The Landing, formerly known as the Key Center Trading Post, has undergone major renovations to become a retail and office building.

divided into five suites and the Spectors have firm commitments on two of them — and that's an interesting story in itself. Even though the couple originally

visualized The Landing as being home to a variety of retail shops, both of the incoming businesses fall into a different category. And that may be indicative of changing trends and the Key Center business environment.

Gardner's Investment Properties, which is owned by Marti Gardner, and Mulberry Street Marketing and PR, which is owned by Ruth Danielson, have been run out of homes in the past. But Ira Spector says the pendulum is swinging back toward formal office space.

"People need a space that doesn't have a washer and dryer next to it," Spector says. "A lot of people have worked out of their homes for years, and that has its advantages, but some of them want to escape the distractions."

As for trends on the Peninsula,

Spector had this to say, "I definitely think (Key Center) is on the up tick. I obviously thought there would be enough local interest to make (The Landing) work... We're one of six or seven businesses that have changed hands in Key Center over the last 24 months. That's one-third of the total business community. People are retiring — and the area is growing."

Starting a new business is never easy, however, and like other local business owners, Spector is frustrated by the restrictions on signage. Especially since his business, like Blondie's restaurant, is off Key Peninsula Highway.

"Signage is a real problem," Spector says. "The county is very restrictive." The businessman went on to say that he and his wife are working with officials to clarify what can and can't be done.

It's a problem that Spector is uniquely qualified to understand, since he received a bachelor's degree in urban planning from University of California, Irvine, in 1974. But rather than plan cities, Spector spent two seasons fishing in Alaska, and a number of years as both a shipwright and custom cabinet maker for yachts. That was followed by 15 years in sales and marketing — and his present contracting/remodeling work under the name NextStep Systems Inc.

Last, but not least, Ira Spector is also the inventor of a device called the "FaucetBeanie," which he describes as a "cold-weather insulating faucet cover without any hooks, bands, or straps." Which, in case you happen to need one, can be purchased at either one of the ACE hardware stores in Gig Harbor.

For more information about both The Landing and the FaucetBeanie, visit www.GoNextStep.com.

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(From GRID, Page 1)

population. Many residents choose to live with alternate power for environmental reasons, and some live with it because of financial necessity. But not everyone is willing to admit their circumstances.

One KP resident who lives off the grid has been trying to get power to his sleep apnea machine. But he has run into problems with PenLight — because he lives in a bus. Unless there is a structure on the property, the light company insists the power cannot be hooked up.

“I used to have electricity, but I couldn’t afford to pay the bill, so I had them take out the meter,” Greg Dravis told the KP News. “Now I need power for medical reasons, and they are fighting it.”

Another KP resident who lived off the grid until a few years ago is Jon Forseth. In an email to the KP News, he wrote, “You start to want the luxury of flipping a switch as opposed to grabbing the axe and saw every morning just to perk the coffee... and filling the lanterns every morning so you can still see what you’re doing after the sun goes down... (It was) a time for the rediscovery of battery and hand crank operated radios and flashlights, a time for reading into that pile of books I was always going to find someday...”

Living green

Those who desire to make the move back to rural independence can take a first step by determining the part-time use requirements it would take to power their conveniences off the grid. This can be accomplished one room at a time. A gadget called Kill-A-Watt,™ manufactured by P3 International, costs about \$30-\$40, and will indicate the battery capacity, size and number of Photovoltaic (direct conversion of sunlight to electricity) solar panels needed to support the load. And for most homes, that can be quite a load.

Just walking around the house, one can see dozens of small devices that require current to operate: television, CD and DVD player, satellite box, radio, computer, printer, hair dryer, electric razor, fan, toaster, microwave, coffeemaker, telephone, cell phone charger, lights, lamps... There are also larger appliances, range and oven, washer, dryer, water heater, furnace, dishwasher, refrigerator, freezer, and water pump. Then there are the power tools.

Forseth said, “I still have everything a fellow needs to get along off the grid, except for pumping water out of the well. For that I have to cheat and use a generator. I like to think of it as my dual system. Even my tools are the same way. Power or

Resources

Northwest Solar Group:
www.northwestsolargroup.org
 Passive solar:
www.soundhome.com/topics/topic_passivesolar.shtml
 Net metering:
www.eere.energy.gov/green-power/markets/netmetering.shtml
 Alternative energy:
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not, I can still cut, carve, saw, and turn any piece of wood into whatever shape I desire; sometimes I think it’s a better way to work, and it is certainly easier on the old ears.”

Options

Rick Sorrels of Glen Cove said, “My first bachelor of arts was in power transmission, conversion, and utilization, which covered everything from solar to nuclear to a lot of things still not utilized... Until 75 years ago kitchen wood stoves were either the primary or only source for heat for cooking, hot water, and room heat... (and) make excellent room decoration, conversation piece, and backup source for these same essentials... Wood would still be available here even if all our petroleum supplies are cut off or rationed.”

Other options for power generation include a gas-, diesel-, or propane-fired generator, solar, wind and hydro power, according to Longbranch resident Dale Sandretsky, who lives completely off the grid. In his single-wide mobile home — a work in progress — he uses several sources to meet his energy needs. His full-size propane-fired recreational vehicle refrigerator keeps food cold and makes ice. He cooks with propane gas and in a conventional microwave oven. He heats the home with a wood stove and a propane space heater, and uses his propane-fired generator for other power needs, such as lighting and watching sci-fi movies on his television. He maintains a backup energy system, which includes a gas-fired generator, batteries, and liquid propane stick lights.

Ed Bressette was not available for comment, but in an earlier KP News article he said he learned ways to lower energy costs from his father, who found many options, but little advice available. For the last few years, Bressette has been active with the Northwest Solar Group, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching conservation and renewable energy usage. In his home, which he built largely from recycled materials, he managed to create a sustainable life for his



Greg “Bull” Dravis is fully sufficient off the grid, but is fighting to get his meter back for medical reasons.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

family. There is a lot to learn from Bressette.

He converted his conventional water heater to a solar panel system and added a passive solar greenhouse on the southern, sunny side of the home. During the day, the sun heats the brick floor. Heat rises from the bricks to warm the space.

Bressette uses cellulose to improve the home’s insulation. According to Build it Green (www.builditgreen.org), cellulose is made from 80 percent recycled newsprint material, and “seals all cavity spaces very effectively, greatly reducing air infiltration and higher frequency sound transmission.”

Bressette’s “on demand” water-heating system can save up to 75 percent over a regular water heating system. Its sensors detect alternate sources, and it only runs when hot water is needed. A tank in the attic stores water, connected through the wall by copper tubing to the wood stove. The copper coils around the stovepipe a number of times. When the stove heats the tubing, hot water rises up to the tank to be available as needed.

The costs

Recent estimates to fully convert a home to alternate energy sources average about \$30,000. According to Mother Earth news, “Buying a renewable energy system is more affordable than ever thanks to rebates, tax breaks (personal tax credits and property tax exemptions) and low-interest loans from state governments, local utilities and even private companies. Depending on where you live, renewable energy subsidies can reduce the cost of a wind- or solar-powered system by more than half of the total expense.”

Net metering, a U.S. Department of Energy policy, is one cost-saving incentive that makes it possible for an enterprising homeowner to receive credit (at retail power rates) on their utility bill. Washington is one of 35 states with this

program. Washington State University’s Website describes the program: “Specifically, net metering is a special metering and billing arrangement between you and your utility... A net metering arrangement allows you to first use any electricity your own generating system produces to offset the amount of electricity you would have to buy from your (utility), and, secondly, to put any excess electricity you produce, but cannot use, back into the electrical grid. When this excess electricity flows out of your home or business into the grid, it turns your meter backwards...”

Safety and preparedness

When generating your own electricity, Sandretsky cautions, “Never plug your generator panel into a wall plug to excite your house panel system... When using the generator, turn off the main panel breakers. That way, you can’t accidentally back-feed your generator to your transformer, which will excite the street power lines.” He also warns of the fire danger from candles and of suffocation from the carbon monoxide gas that can build up without sufficient ventilation.

Sorrels said people “need to wake up before it’s too late.” “The government is not their ‘Mama’; they have to learn to plan and provide for themselves. The worse the disaster, the less help they get,” he said.

Forseth, while back on the grid, is reminiscent: “I miss the old ways sometimes, like the race to be the first one to the woodpile, to chop the wood for the breakfast fire. Hollerin’ over the neighbors, and far beyond, has become a lost art these years, lost in the noise of the tremendous power and noise of the great machines of civilization... Too bad we can’t get everyone to shut off everything some night, so we could see the stars. Even out here, the glow from the city blocks most of them from being seen.

Bear's Lair Bed and Breakfast Los Angeles couple build dream home in Wauna

By Kristen Pierce, KP News

Tucked away on five acres of majestic evergreens and beautiful gardens is the luxurious country-style estate called Bear's Lair Bed and Breakfast. The home, which was featured in WestSound Home and Garden magazine, is the perfect setting for a romantic getaway.

In February, co-owner Jen Santori received the Innkeeper of the Year award from the Kitsap Visitors and Convention Bureau. She was the second Key Peninsula innkeeper since 2003 to receive the award, given to the owner or operator of a lodging facility on the Kitsap Peninsula who is committed to the tourism industry.

"Our goal has always been to provide guests with a great place to stay in a beautiful environment," Jen Santori said. "We are thrilled to be recognized for our work."

Santori and husband Giulio, owners of Bear's Lair (or innkeepers, as they prefer to be called), designed the home with

peace and tranquility in mind. The couple originally lived in the fast-paced Los Angeles area and escaped to the quiet and quaint Key Peninsula in 1991. For over two years, the Santoris and their two teenagers literally camped out in their fifth-wheel RV while building the home from scratch, turning a dream into a reality. Giulio's workshop was actually the first floor of the home for several years.

A decade after they arrived on the property, their daughter, Lianne, decided she wanted to get married there, which is what initially sparked the idea of turning the home into a bed and breakfast.

"We designed and built Bear's Lair with a great deal of thought to providing a peaceful and calm retreat in a truly memorable Northwest setting," Jen said.

Upon entering the home, one cannot help but notice the beautiful attention to detail, from the warm and cozy furnishings to the incredible custom hand-carved woodwork. Giulio Santori, a master woodworker, has left his mark

throughout the home, including the handmade furniture in the "Carriage House" (daughter Lianne's wedding also included a horse-drawn carriage, hence the name). Jen Santori's passion for gardening is obvious while strolling along the manicured paths lush with roses, dahlias, tulips, and other imported and native plants beautifully arranged around the grounds of the home. The garden requires nearly year-round attention, but she doesn't mind following her passion.

There are three rooms within the main house, and the 1,000-square-foot Carriage House accommodates up to four people. The property boasts an intimate gazebo (also built by Giulio for Lianne's wedding) on a pond, perfect for love-birds of all ages.

Bear's Lair is also home to the charming and gentle 10-year-old Retriever mix named Buddy. He is the official "mascot" and "guest greeter" for the bed and breakfast. No visit to this enchanted home is complete without spending some time with Buddy.



Photo courtesy Steve Meltzer

Jen and Giulio Santori with their dog, Buddy, the official bed and breakfast "guest greeter."



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"Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath". (George Carlin)

A mystery on the Key Pen

By Rick Sorrels, Special to KP News

Easter Island has its stone statues. England has its Stonehenge. Key Peninsula has its petroglyph.

A silent, ageless sentinel stands its eternal vigil along the shores of the Key Peninsula. Was it created by the enigmatic Kennewick Man during his travels 9,200 years ago? By our earliest human ancestors who first crossed the Bering Straight land bridge from Asia 17,000 years ago? Or by a bored young Indian teenager "tagging" a rock with stone-carved graffiti?

What purpose does our "Rock Guard" serve? Is it merely "rock art" with no real function except aesthetics? Or is it a monument to some ancient battle or long dead warrior chief? Or a tribute to the gods, a boundary line, or a declaration of "no trespassing"? Or did aliens from Alpha Centari stop by for a picnic a million years ago and use their laser guns to mark "Kilroy was here"?

Few answers are available. Even age is indeterminate, as rock cannot be carbon dated.

There are two main repositories of archaeological information in Washington state: the Burke Museum in Seattle, which is managed by the University of Washington, and the office of the state archaeologist in Olympia. "The Burke" maintains records and studies done by UW archaeologists. State law requires that all archaeological studies and reports for all objects of archaeological interest in the state must be forwarded and maintained by the state archaeologist.

The KP petroglyph is indexed as object No. MS49. Indians did not have a written language, so historical reference had to



Photo by Frank Slater

A mysterious petroglyph is located on private property on a Key Peninsula beach.

wait until the arrival of white explorers and settlers. The earliest reference found for this petroglyph dates to 1909.

A 1948 report by John Winterhouse described the petroglyph as being "a large boulder, 8 feet, 5 inches long and 5 feet high." Winterhouse's report documented "an attempt to remove the boulder to Tacoma for display but its size and weight had prevented it." Dr. Robert Grengo, professor emeritus from UW, discussed this incident further in a 1963 survey done by the university.

Daniel Leen published "Rock Art of Western Washington" in Northwest Anthropological Research Notes in 1981,

which briefly discusses our glyph. Grengo followed with a book, "Prehistoric Places on Southern NW Coast" in 1983.

Despite numerous professional studies, little is known about the KP petroglyph. Leen states in his report there is "no known ethnographic information referring to it," but elsewhere he attributes all of the rock art in Western Washington to Salish (a collective term referring to the various Indian tribes in the region). Petroglyphs, created by carving, incising or abrading rock, are believed to have originated in prehistoric times. They have been found all over the world.

Leen identifies 18 Salish rock art sites in Western Washington, 17 of which are

petroglyphs. Laura Phillips, an archaeologist at The Burke, says, "There are four rock art sites in Pierce County."

Leen describes the carvings in the Key Peninsula petroglyph as depicting "11 faces, seven pairs of eyes, eight circles, two pits, one rake (possibly a quadruped), one face with arms attached and a line issuing from the mouth, and two undecipherable designs." Leen further writes, "This site is the largest single group of petroglyphs in Puget Sound. Because it is typical of other sites in the area in both style and content, it may be regarded as the typeset for southern Puget Sound rock art."

State law now makes it a criminal act to damage or move "items of archaeological interest," and it is illegal to trespass on private property. The location of this petroglyph has not been revealed to remove temptation, and to protect the object and property rights.

Mysteries still surround us. Answers still await discovery. Meanwhile, our "Rock Guard" still performs its duty, whatever that duty may be.



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Spotlight on Encore! Theater

The cast of the heavenly musical "Monky Business," which opens at Encore! Theater, located at 6615 38th Avenue Northwest, on March 2 and runs through March 18.



Photo courtesy Encore!

By Linda L Anderson, KP News

Kathleen McGilliard has been performing since early childhood, using her gifts to entertain, to teach and to bring the theater experience to the community year after year.

With her birthday in January, McGilliard was delayed a year in starting school. Her mother, looking for something to challenge and occupy her child for another year, enrolled her in a dance class in Tacoma. McGilliard has been dancing and performing in theaters ever since. She has been a part of the Tacoma Ballet Co. and Tacoma Little Theater. She performed in college, where she earned a bachelor of science degree and then a master's in fine arts. From there, McGilliard went on to teach at a New York college.

She returned to her roots and established the Gig Harbor School of Fine Arts, through which she was able to teach and produce both theater and dance performances. In 1973 she became a part of the Performance Circle — the Encore Theater, the production part of the operation. This group puts on four indoor and three outdoor stage productions each year plus a unique version of The Nutcracker.

One Lakebay resident, whose family are ardent theater goers, said, "We have enjoyed a number of performances at the Encore Theater over the years. One thing I really like is that they do add a comic flair to many of the stories and that is fun."

All performers of the Encore Theater are volunteers who work very hard to bring a positive theater experience to our

'Monky Business'

Performances for "Monky Business" will run March 2-18, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Organizers say this madcap show has been called the male version of "Nunsense."

Written by Todd Mueller and Hank Boland, with music and lyrics by Gregg Opelka, "Monky Business" tells the story of the fun-loving monks of Saint Bernard's monastery who just happen to be in a jam. Abbot Costello and the other brothers have just learned their monastery is to be turned into a gambling casino called Bernie's Casino Royale unless the monks can earn \$250,000 by midnight. The brothers have rented the WGod radio station and are hosting a radiothon fundraiser with high hopes to raise the money with their singing dancing and vaudeville routines. All is going well, but one of the monks is really a devil in disguise and is out to sabotage their plans.

Call 858-2282 for prices and reservations.

community; among them are Key Pen residents. The next show begins March 2.

In addition to performing, McGilliard offers weeklong theater workshops for children during various school breaks. This program is called the Encore Youth Theater. Children attend classes from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and, at the end of the week, perform a play before an audience. This is not only a great experience for the children of our community, but a helping hand to working parents who need some sort of daycare for their children when school is not in session.

For more Gig Harbor events, see our new Off the Key section in Community Works, page 19.



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Medical display at KPHS museum

Story and photo by Colleen Slater,
KP News

The Key Peninsula Historical Society set up a new display at the museum for February through mid-April.

Most of the medical items are on loan from the collection of Dr. William Roes of Key Medical Center. Antique instruments, books, medications and charts are included, as well as furniture.

The books include "Gray's Anatomy," "The Drugless Road to Perfect Health," and "100,000,000 Guinea Pigs - Dangers in Everyday Foods, Drugs and Cosmetics." Four of the books were used and signed by Dr. Merrill Thomas, who lived at Glencove, but practiced in Home in the early 1930s.

A skull that belonged to George McDonald's

uncle, a doctor from the early 1900s, is displayed as well. Rhys Wood gave Dr. Roes a surgeon's kit of orthopedic instruments, owned by Dr. Bernhard Gilshannon, Wood's uncle, an early 20th century doctor.

Other items in the display include an ear, nose and throat physician's head mirror used by Dr. Bogue, Doan's pills for back pain, Himrod's asthma powder, and a Mickey Mouse anatomy poster in Italian (pictured here).

The KPHS will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, March 24, in the Whitmore Room of the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Gathering begins at noon, followed by 12:30 potluck at 1 p.m. meeting and program. Officer election will take place; the speaker to be announced. All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information, call 884-4857 or 884-4538.



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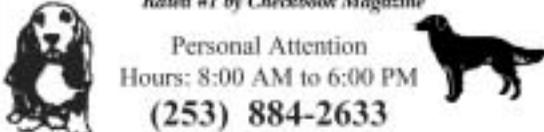
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Out & About

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

Crews are working on remodeling the exterior of the Capitol Lumber building in Key Center. According to store staff, it has been "a very long time" since the store had a makeover. Interior work is also planned.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Workers from Taylor Shellfish Farm walked the shores of Rocky Bay Jan. 30 picking up trash and filling their boat with debris—mostly tires and Styrofoam. They returned a few weeks later for more.

Photo by Danna Webster



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Purdy Spit looks postcard-picture perfect on a nice February day.



Photo courtesy Pierce County

Members of Strategic Energy, a 14-and-under youth baseball team comprised of Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor boys, deliver bags of donated items to the Lakebay Community Church. The church received leftover clothing, coats, blankets, gloves, hats and other items collected by the team during the "Keep Us Warm" project for distribution in coordination with the Tacoma-Pierce County Homeless Coalition's annual count of homeless persons. The project was the idea of coach Erik Boley and his wife, Amanda, whose son, J.T. Boley, attends Key Peninsula Middle School. Other local students include Collin Megee, Jeff Newton, Ben Rossa, all of KPMS, and Trevor Collins of Peninsula High.



Above, Phil Radcliffe, recently critically injured in a sawmill accident, with his wife, Lynn, at a Feb. 24 fundraiser organized by his friends at the Civic Center to help defray medical costs. For more event photos and a Web-exclusive story, visit www.keypennews.com.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church's new pastor, Heinz Malon, shares a bit of humor with church member Daniel Boone of Home at the church's parking area off Lackey Road and the Key Peninsula Highway.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

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

