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Key Center 'mayor' celebrates 100th birthday

Elsie Olson is museum co-founder, community activist

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Elsie Olson becomes a centenarian on Jan. 9.

Her life and the world around her has changed a lot in 100 years, and she has kept pace with much of it.

Born in Alberta, Canada, she came to live in Vaughn in 1911, so she could attend school. Her Buckell grandparents had arrived from Canada in 1908, and her Bill grandparents moved back to the states with her family. Both sets of grandparents emigrated from



OLSON

England to Kansas in the early 1870s. Although she was 7 before she started school, she finished high school 10 years later. In 1922, she married Elmer Olson and spent many years being a farmer's wife and partner at Sunnycrest Farm on the Olson homestead, now owned by daughter Joyce Niemann.

(See **ELSIE**, Page 13)

Family shares



for soldier in Iraq

By Irene Torres
KP News

The words of U.S. administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, spoken upon confirmation of the recent capture of Saddam Hussein, "Ladies and gentlemen... We got him," struck a chord in the hearts of Iraqis and Americans, including the Key Peninsula family of Staff Sgt. Li Gordon Parshall.

Parshall is a combat engineer deployed since January 2003. He has been stationed "somewhere in Iraq"

■ See more on local residents' support of war efforts, page 2.

■ See letter from Staff Sgt. Li Gordon Parshall, page 4.

since February with the 671st Engineer Corps, a U.S. Army reserve unit, "but he can't tell us where," said Parshall's mother, Barbara Bence. Bence said Li's wife of eight years, Anne, called her to share the good news. "Maybe this means Li can come



Jessica, Li, Seth, Anne and Barbara.

home soon," said Anne. Parshall may get a short stateside leave in March, but was disappointed he couldn't come home for Christmas.

"We are trying to have a merry Christmas," Sgt. Parshall told the Key Peninsula News via email from Iraq. "It is not too bad; however, it isn't home," he said, adding that his company may be leaving the area within two or three months.

He said they hoped the recent capture would lessen the attacks on the U.S. soldiers. "Where I am located, we

(See **SOLDIER**, Page 19)

KP native elected commander

By Irene Torres
KP News

One of Key Peninsula's own, Kerry Jamieson, has been elected regional commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 3-5, "The Narrows," which extends through Puget Sound, down Colvos

Passage from Blake Island to Olympia. Kerry begins his duty in January with "The Narrows," one of five flotillas with 150 members in the region.

Jamieson was looking for an opportunity for volunteer service after the terror attack on Sept. 11, 2001. The Coast Guard Auxiliary, the volunteer arm of the U.S.

Coast Guard, was a perfect fit, since Jamieson comes from a line of boating families. Both sets of his grandparents were homesteaders at Rosedale and Vaughn. One grandfather operated a marine freight transport, "The Loren," from Vaughn to Tacoma, Olympia and Seattle, as part of the famous Mosquito Fleet. His father worked in Gig Harbor for

(See **FLOTILLA**, Page 27)

KP Outreach kicks off GED courses

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The Key Peninsula Outreach program, which focuses on adult as well as youth literacy and other local services, will kick off its GED training classes Jan. 5, thanks in part to a recent \$5,500 grant by Target.

Key Peninsula Outreach was started by a coalition of local organizations along with Tacoma Community College's Gig Harbor campus and Tacoma Community House, which also has an employment program on the Key Pen. The outreach effort has a variety of aspects, but literacy is a major focus. Local schools and the KP Family Resources Center have volunteered staff and space for GED testing, the first step for someone who would like to enroll in the program. The grant will



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Target store Team Leader Roger Thomas hands a check for \$5,500 in November to Becky Morgan, director of TCC's Gig Harbor center.

pay for books and other materials.

Local resident Leslie Piery will conduct the classes. Piery couldn't be a better fit:

She too has received a GED and has a first-hand view of adult literacy.

In addition to the classes, which will be held every Monday and Wednesday at the Home fire station, volunteer tutors will provide one-on-one assistance.

"A lot of groups have worked together to make this happen," said TCC's Bob Strobe. "We've been trying to get something started in the area because there is nothing else available."

Although GED training is geared toward adults, children will also benefit, Strobe said, because literacy starts at home. They will also receive books and "literacy backpacks" with a variety of materials. Part of the grant will be used at Evergreen Elementary School, for after-school reading events and other activities.

GED courses

If you'd like to learn more about receiving your GED and taking the placement test, call Bob Strobe at TCC at 851-2424 or Vicki Biggs at KPFC at 884-5433. The program is free and anyone interested is eligible to participate.

Eventually, the goal is to add evening classes so working adults can also participate, and maybe even expand the program by adding English as a Second Language tutoring. KP's Jeff Harris, former Communities in School director, facilitates one ESL offering at the Gig Harbor location, Talk Time, a chance for non-native English speakers to socialize while honing their English skills.

Christmas wishes, from KP to Iraq



Cub Scouts Pack 252 and Troop 252 of Key Peninsula's Latter Day Saints Church sent a little TLC for Christmas to soldiers stationed in Iraq. With the help of adult church members, a group of boys and girls packed some tins with cookies, candy and other goodies, and made some cards to send soldiers with the help of a pastor from McCord Air Force Base who was traveling to the country.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Fire trucks on the way much sooner than planned

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Key Peninsula's Fire District 16 found out recently the FEMA grant they had hoped for did not come through—a great disappointment, considering they made it so far into the selection process, Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen said.

But the disappointment was offset by some good news in December: The district will have its four new fire trucks, approved by voters, much sooner than expected while saving money on them.

Instead of buying the trucks in phases, FD-16 will tack on to a bid worked out by

the Renton Fire District, via an inter-local agreement, which means four 2004 brand new trucks should be home on the Key Pen by this summer or possibly sooner. The lease calls for three payments, the first of which is deferred until June of 2005.

"I couldn't pass up on this agreement," Nelsen said. FD-16's board approved the agreement at its December meeting.

By using the city of Renton's bid through the inter-local agreement, FD-16 eliminates its own time-costly bidding process.

"We really need these trucks," Nelsen said. "Even with a lease, we saved \$5,000 per truck." Those savings came from rebates. Even more will be saved by avoiding inflation, since the cost of the equipment is projected to increase each year by about 4 percent. The interest rate, at 3.71 percent, is also beneficial. The department placed the orders at the end of December.

It will take about 30-45 days after the trucks arrive to have them in service, said Capt. Guy Allan, because all the equipment must be transferred and all firefighters must be trained on driving and operating the new rigs.

As for the FEMA grant, he said, as much as they are disappointed, they will continue to pursue similar opportunities.

Key Peninsula NEWS

To subscribe, please write,
call or fax:
Key Peninsula News
17010 S. Vaughn Rd.
P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394
Phone (253) 884-4699
Fax: (253) 884-4053
Email news@keypennews.com

Executive editor: Rodika Tollefson
Ad sales: Karl Anderson
Staff writers: William C. Dietz,
Hugh McMillan, Colleen Slater,
Irene Torres, Karl Anderson,
Deborah Hoffman, Karen Hale
Distribution: Phil Bauer
Production: September Hyde

Contributors: Nancy Lind
Publishing Committee chairman:
Bill Trandum

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Restoration of the Old Wauna Post Office under way

By Nancy Lind
KPPRD Commissioner

Several articles have been written about the restoration of the historic Wauna Post Office and things are moving forward in the efforts of Friends of the Wauna Post Office (FWPO).

The first project was the removal of the old card room last May when Pierce County provided the dumpsters and an excavator was donated. FWPO spent several hours meeting, planning, talking to the KP Park Board, Pierce County Parks, people who want to help, and the Pierce County Landmarks Commission, whose mission is to save buildings on the Historic Register.

When the Landmarks Commission notified the KP Historic Society that the county wanted to demolish the building, a group went into the building to determine how viable it was to restore. It was decided that the structure was still strong and could be cleaned up for historic, informational and visitor purposes. Because of limited parking, no large groups are planned.

At a park board meeting in August,

members of the KP Historic Society urged the board to sign a resolution, leasing this building from the county and supporting the FWPO to restore it. A resolution was signed unanimously. An inter-local agreement between the KP park district and the county is required and is ready to be signed by both parties as soon as possible.

The first priority is getting the roof done. This plan is in place and ready to go after signing the agreement. The goal is to repair the chimney, fix holes, prepare for painting, secure a bulkhead at the entrance, which will winterize the outside, secure the building, and make cosmetic improvements. The inside can be heated, cleaned and painted in a more relaxed way. All necessary permits will be in place before the work starts.

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee has donated \$10,000 seed money to start the project, and several contributors have committed donations of material, time and money. The rough estimate is between \$20,000 and \$40,000 to clean up and make a very attractive, presentable historic building at the entrance to the Key Peninsula.

Several neighbors have signed a peti-

tion to have the building torn down because they see how ugly it is all the time and see no reprieve to that ugliness for years to come. Many other members of the community are delighted at the prospect of having the building used and kept clean. Consequently, a public meeting is planned for sometime in the next two months to talk about all the concerns and issues. Watch for notices of the upcoming public meeting, which will be held in the Whitmore Room at the Civic Center.

Some of the concerns expressed by the community are listed below. The words in parenthesis are responses offered by the FWPO.

1. It's the wrong side of the street for a visitor center (it's where it is and moving it would be problematic and lose its historic significance); 2. Limited parking (another feature that is part of its historic quality; it's the way it is and we can learn to work with it); 3. No fire flow (the bay is right there); 4. No restroom facilities (this is a problem but if they can send a man to the moon, surely we can solve this somehow; the sani-can outside could also

be modified to be more attractive); 5. No drinking water (use bottled water); 6. Many thousands of dollars to restore (see estimated costs above); 7. The volunteers will start the project and then may have to abandon it (FWPO will have everything in place before we start); 8. Use another building like the old Wauna Fire Station (the cost of purchasing and the non-historic value makes it undesirable); 9. There is lack of support for a park levy if the plan is to spend money on this project (no money has been allocated in the park budget for this project and loss of the levy only hurts the ballpark and the kids); 10. Insurance will be too expensive (this has been cleared with the insurance company and there is very little increase because it would never be rebuilt); 11. Get the county to tear it down and put in something for boaters (Fish and Wildlife wants it down and left empty); 12. The neighbors are opposed to restoration (they don't realize the benefits a group of caring volunteers can add to any site; KPPRD's experience has been that without responsible people who care, irresponsible people will trash).

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Editorial

The winds of change are blowing this way in 2004

Aside from a few community celebrations here and there, at first glance nothing much seems going on around the Key Peninsula. But behind the scenes, things are happening that will change the area for good. The winds of change may not be blowing hard, but there is definitely a good breeze, which in 2004 will grow stronger.

Yes, it may sound presumptuous. But look at our neighbor to the east. Gig Harbor was much like Key Pen at one time. Everyone knew each other, life was quiet, tourists saw a "sleepy village." While that is still true to a degree, in the last decades the population has exploded and commercial development broke records. Big retailers have lined up for a share — Costco being the latest. A second Narrows Bridge will yet again change the footprint of the local landscape and economy.

Key Peninsula doesn't have all those ripe opportunities that would make it desirable to the likes of, say, Wal-Mart. But as Gig Harbor booms and blooms, it will not take long for others to realize that this area, within a stone's throw, has a lot to offer.

Historically, Key Peninsula has been much ignored. Agency services are scarce, roads are repaired occasionally, and basics like police protection, planning, political representation, and children's after-school activities have been sporadic at best.

Local residents, tired of complaining and ready for changes, have started a mini-Renaissance. Some focused on the fight against crime: Citizens Against Crime has done it for years, then Safe Streets joined in, while expanding its outreach to include concepts like livable communities.

Artists decided if they wanted to see local opportunities for the arts, they would have to band together and provide them — and the Two Waters Arts Alliance has not only brought the arts to the forefront but also started a movement that could become a catalyst for cultural revival here.

Things are in the works to bring more activities for the kids. Civic Center representatives are in discussions with the Boys and Girls Club of America about the possibility of using the center for the club's activities. If that were to happen, the local youth will have at their disposal all those activities we always wished we could offer.

The efforts to organize a community council have made a strong headway in 2003 and are looking to culminate in 2004 with elections, bringing something Key Pen never had before — a unified voice for outside representation.

An effort spearheaded by Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee will create a comprehensive plan specific for the KP that would outline exactly where, and how, it will grow. While some property owners are already opposing any such attempts, it was this sort of effort that has saved Gig Harbor from growing too hastily.

Change is tough. We dislike it because the unknown makes us vulnerable, fearful. We like to be comfortable, and change is the antithesis for comfort. But we have two choices in 2004: move out of the way, or join the Renaissance.

We can safely predict that Key Peninsula News will be joining, and doing what we do best: shining the spotlight on it all. At the risk of repeating ourselves, we'll say it again: We can fight change until the ...well you know... but no matter how much we prop ourselves against the gate, it ain't staying closed forever. So we might as well hang out and direct traffic.

Will you join as well?

Letters to the editor

Customer thanks smoke-free restaurant

We would like to say thank you to Lu Lu's Homeport restaurant for going smoke-free. It is something that is important to us, as patrons, to know that the owner has taken the action on herself, before the Pierce County Council voted to make it law.

We have owned an eating establishment in Tacoma, and did the same thing, and we know that it helped our business. Thank you again, LU LU.

Dale & Mary Frank
Lakebay

KP resident sends greetings from Iraq

Hi there from Iraq. I'm currently stationed in Iraq since the war started and I finally got the chance to write my hometown newspaper. I really enjoy reading some of the articles that are in the paper, except they are about a month to two months later because my mom sends me packages with them in it. Now that I can read some of it online (www.keypennews.com), that's great. ...Keep up the great work and Happy Holidays from Iraq.

Sgt. Li G. Parshall
Via KPNews Website

Gig Harbor hospital project is still on track

By Joe Wilczek
Special to KP News

The Franciscan Health System's plan to build an acute-care hospital in Gig Harbor is on track.

Projected to open in 2007 or 2008, it would provide 24-hour emergency care and a full array of medical, surgical and related support services to Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor residents.



WILCZEK

Building a state-of-the-art community hospital is a complex endeavor. It's made more so by the requirement to obtain approval from the Washington State Department of Health through its intense and rigorous Certificate of Need program.

Since we announced plans last June to build a hospital in Gig Harbor, area residents have enthusiastically supported the project by attending informational meetings, distributing informational fliers and writing letters to the state.

But many people also have been puzzled by the fact that we must convince state regulators there's a need for a hospital here and that state approval is not "a sure thing."

The steps toward obtaining state approval include submitting a detailed Certificate of Need application (Franciscan's was approximately two inches thick), responding to questions state regulators may have about the application, and participating in a public hearing. After these steps, the Department of Health staff analyzes the application and approves or denies the request.

We've completed the first two steps in this process and are looking forward to

the state's public hearing, which starts at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29, at Pierce County Fire District 5 headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW in Gig Harbor.

I also invite you to attend an informational presentation about the proposed hospital at a public meeting of the Longbranch Improvement Club, 4312 Key Peninsula Highway S., at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15. Franciscan staff will share details about the project and be happy to answer any questions you have.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health continues to accept written public comments regarding the proposed Gig Harbor hospital.

Signed letters become part of the official public record and are included in the state's review as it determines a need for the planned hospital. Neither faxes nor e-mails are acceptable.

Mail your letters to: Karen Nidermayer-Certificate of Need Program Washington Department of Health, P.O. Box 47852, Olympia, WA 98504-7852.

There is a clear and obvious need for a community hospital conveniently located to serve the increasing number of residents of Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor and the surrounding area. The Franciscan Health System is strongly committed to making that hospital a reality.

Please know that we are doing everything possible to obtain prompt approval from the state for our proposed Gig Harbor hospital. The minor delays we've experienced so far are common to large-scale projects like this.

With your continued support, I am confident that our plan to build a hospital to serve your community will be approved.

Thank you.

Joe Wilczek is president and chief executive officer of the Franciscan Health System, a not-for-profit organization that includes St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma, St. Clare Hospital in Lakewood and St. Francis Hospital in Federal Way.

Key Peninsula News is looking for guest columnists for the Peninsula Views page. If you are passionate about an issue that affects us here on the Key Pen, let us hear from you. For guest editorial guidelines, call us at 884-4699 or email news@keypennews.com

Swap Meet becomes 'Drive Thru Feed'

By Irene Torres
KP News

Change is coming to the Key Peninsula. Jerry Davis, owner/operator of the Swap Meet, is changing his business beginning in January, to "Drive Thru Feed."

He says, "This unique concept, 'Drive Thru Feed,' will allow shoppers to stay dry while they pick up feed for livestock (cattle, horses, pigs and chickens). He says the change came because he is "such an animal kind of guy" and saw the need for it.

"Location, location, location," says Davis of his property, at the corner of State Route 302 and Wright-Bliss Road. "It has the perfect zoning for this business."

He has successfully negotiated with X-Cel, a leading wholesale feed distributor in the Northwest, "to provide high

quality, economical feed at a reasonable cost."

"I'll eventually add a grain tower for bulk feed purchases," he says. He is also working with Purina in hopes to add its line of dog and cat food in the near future.

Various charitable organizations will be able to use Davis' visible and well-trafficked property for fund-raising activities like yard sales at no cost. Later in the spring, Davis plans to add pens at the site for livestock owners to show and sell animals for a nominal daily fee.

To welcome shoppers, Davis has an appropriate offer: For every \$50 purchase, customers will be entered into a drawing for a new saddle.

Later, Davis plans to add a line of tack gear. "The hours of operation for 'Drive Thru Feed' are geared for working families, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., 7 days a week," he says.

Business briefs

Hearing examiner denies business appeal

The appeal made by Washington Shellfish, Inc. to continue its geoduck harvesting off the Purdy Spit was denied in December by Pierce County Hearing Examiner Terrence McCarthy.

In his decision, McCarthy expressed the opinion that Washington Shellfish owner, Doug McRae, did not successfully prove his case and therefore was unsuccessful in the burden of proof.

McRae, who sought to overturn an order to cease and desist his operation along the spit, maintained that his company was wronged and said he planned to continue the fight "as long as we feasibly and financially are able to do so."

KPBA plans annual event

Each year after the hubbub of the holidays, the Key Peninsula Business Association members plan their annual kick-off dinner. "We use this event as a rallying point to introduce new businesses" to the Peninsula, welcome them into the KPBA and "explain what we're about," said June Williams, KPBA resident.

Last year, local firefighter Chuck West coordinated the catered event, held at Camp Seymour and attended by nearly 75 people. Williams said, "He did such an excellent job, we asked him to do it again this year." Details of date and location were pending at press time, but the event is planned for late January or early February.

Anyone interested in learning more about the KPBA and its activities and benefits, joining it or attending the annual dinner, may call Williams at 858-9059.

Does your business have news you'd like to share? Do you own a new or unique business? Have you received any special recognitions or awards? If you have a business based on the Key Peninsula, we'd like to hear from you!
Leave a message at 884-4699 or email news@keypennews.com



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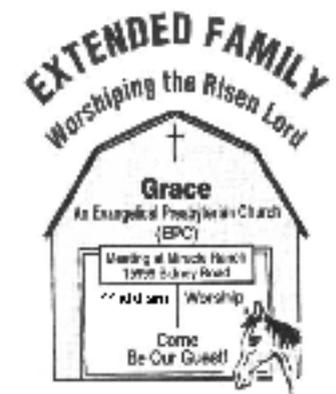
Hospital hearing, Key Pen meeting set for January

The Franciscan Health System's plan to build a 112-bed, state-of-the-art community hospital in Gig Harbor will be the topic of a state public hearing Jan. 29. The hearing is an integral step in the Washington State Department of Health's review of the proposed hospital. It begins at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at Pierce County Fire District 5 headquarters, 10222 Bujacich Road NW in Gig Harbor.

State law requires that construction of new hospitals in Washington be approved by the Department of Health.

Residents are encouraged to testify at the hearing, or submit their comments via postal mail (for details, read the guest column on page 4 by Joe Wilczek, president and chief executive officer of the Franciscan Health System).

A public meeting is also planned for Jan. 15, at 7 p.m., at the Longbranch Improvement Club, 4312 Key Peninsula Highway S. Franciscan staff will present the details of the proposed plan and answer any questions.



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Pilot project immerses local artists into schools

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

In the two years since its creation, Key Peninsula's Two Waters Arts Alliance has built prominence, offering classes and lending the talents of its members for all sorts of creative needs around the community.

But the group has never stopped looking for new ideas on making the arts more accessible to local residents, young and old. This year, TWAA is taking its forte to a most impressionable audience: children in schools.

A pilot program, called Artists in Schools and closely modeled by a similar, very successful program on Vashon Island, will take artists into the classrooms to share their skills with students. Teachers at the four local schools could then use any of the participating artists as collaborators, to work with their students as part of the curriculum while following the themes or subjects being taught.

Two Waters has recruited eight artists for

the pilot, but plans to expand the program in the fall, and recruit interested artists from all fields.

"The teachers will be working closely with the artists, it's a win-win situation for everybody and I think it will make our community unique," said TWAA's Paddy

"Part of Two Waters' focus is to bring the arts to the children, and we felt this is a good way to do it."

-Paddy Gilson

Gilson, who is spearheading the project. A recently retired teacher herself, Gilson remembers those times when she would have loved to enhance her curriculum with various extra projects but the resources were not available. When she retired last June after 30 years of teaching, and heard about TWAA's idea for the program, she

couldn't pass up the opportunity to be involved.

"Part of Two Waters' focus is to bring the arts to the children, and we felt this is a good way to do it," she said. "There are so many ways for the teachers to use the artists."

The group has shared its concept recently with Peninsula School District's Superintendent Jim Coolican, and the district has pledged its collaboration. TWAA is trying to secure grants that will pay the artists for their time as well for supplies.

The group encourages local artists who are comfortable working with children to apply to be listed in the "catalog." When the fall program begins, the list of participating artists and their areas of interest will be available to the four schools, and any teacher who would like to invite an artist for a short-term or long-term project can work with TWAA to find the best match.

Basket weavers, actors, photographers, writers, poets, painters, potters, cultural presenters—all visual, performing, media and literary arts are welcome.

Artists in Schools

Artists, teachers, parents are invited to share ideas and become part of Artists in School. A meeting on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. will be held for the organizing group at the Civic Center, and anyone is welcome to attend. Contact TWAA at 884-9200.

Applications will be collected in the spring. Community members who would like to donate funds specifically for the program are also welcome to contact TWAA.

More information will soon be available at the TWAA's upcoming Website—watch for announcements.

While engaging the children in artistic opportunities is certainly the goal of Artists in School, Gilson hopes for one more outcome: sparking artistic talents. "For children to see that art can be an occupation and for them to work with an artist may inspire them to become professional artists too," she said.

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Crane makers deliver hope

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

When Minter Creek resident Chris Boyton became interim principal last year at Minter Creek Elementary while Principal Leitz was on medical leave, she taught a group of students to make paper cranes. She had a friend who wasn't well, and a few girls decided to make cranes for her.

So when the fifth graders recently learned Boyton herself wasn't well, they pledged to deliver 1,000 cranes by Christmas. "We wanted her to know we're thinking of her in our hearts," said Heidi Grosshmas.

Once the first 140 were finished, the young ladies realized the job was much tougher than it looked, so they had to improvise to meet their deadline. Turning the production to an assembly line, each had a different folding job—a job that had to be done an exact way. By the time the project was completed in early December, the group had

depleted all crafts stores as far as Silverdale of crane-making paper, and turned to Christmas foil instead.

Each crane had a name inside, and No. 1,000 had the names of the entire group.

The task took many missed recesses over a month. It was so tedious they sometimes had to motivate each other. "Some days we had to have licorice to keep us going," said Ann Olson, school counselor and head crane maker. At some point, staff and family members got involved. Olson's daughter even sent in crane paper from California.

Finally, well ahead of their pledged date, the group of seven and their counselor delivered their creations to Boyton's home, along with a book that documented their efforts and friendship bracelets they had made, wishing her a healthy recovery.

As they shared their role in the production and how it felt to sacrifice their time for someone else, the young volunteers came to a consensus: It was absolutely worth it.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Fifth graders Lauren Travis, Erica Ma, Mariah Weaver, Connor Bean, Jess Padilla, Heidi Grosshmas and Makenzie Drolette: just call them "The Crane Makers." After spending countless hours (and a month's worth of recesses) making 1,000 cranes for a friend who struggles with an illness, they have certainly mastered the skill. They mastered it so well, in fact, that they were recruited to teach the art to their classmates. Fellow crane maker and school counselor Ann Olson is not pictured.

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Building a bridge between two worlds

Minter Elementary sends portable libraries to Namibia

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

In a world where books are everywhere, it's difficult to imagine them as a scarce commodity. But when Minter Creek Elementary Principal Steve Leitz visited schools in Namibia, that's exactly what he noticed. Hardly any student ever was holding a book.

"How can you teach without books?" Leitz asks. "Each school there has \$5 a year for supplies. You can go into libraries that have nothing but bricks waiting to hold books."

Leitz' trip to Namibia was part of a project sponsored by USAID called the Ondao Mobile Schools. Because of their semi-nomadic lifestyles, the bulk of the population did not receive an education. That would have required sending the students hundreds of miles away from home.

Pacific Lutheran University, in collaboration with Norway, University of Namibia, and with USAID funding, created about 30 mobile schools, spread over 200 miles, that can be easily packed up and moved to new locations. More than 75 teachers were trained, and hundreds of students received basic education since 1999.

Leitz participated in the training of school administrators. His wife, Paula, manages the USAID grant at PLU. Last school year, the couple also hosted two administrators from Ondao at their home and at Minter Creek.

"They visited students here, taught their culture to students, talked to teachers," Leitz says. "When they saw how kids are learning to read, or snuggle up in a



Photo courtesy of Steve Leitz

Minter Creek Elementary student Angela Compton creates artwork on one of the lids for a "Library-in-a-Tub" to be delivered to Namibia for mobile schools.

corner with a book, the idea for 'Libraries-in-a-Tub' was born."

Minter Creek students assembled the first such portable library as a sample, collecting book donations, organizing them by reading level categories (not by age because all classrooms have mixed ages), and created art for the lids of the containers. The most challenging part, Leitz said, was getting money to buy reference books such as dictionaries. English is the official language in Namibia because the country has 20 to 25 native tongues, and by fourth year English is taught—but teachers have expressed frustrations due to lack of reference materials.

The last piece of the libraries, books by African authors, will be purchased in the country, so students are exposed to their own culture as well as others.

Leitz describes the tremendous conditions faced by the African teachers. There is no electricity or water, the tent class-

rooms get as hot as 100 degrees, and first grade could have students from age 6 to 15. "The circumstances are incredible," he says.

Leitz was getting ready for another training trip at the beginning of this January, and the delivery of the first batch of Libraries-in-a-Tub. Some of the teachers have to walk for a few days to come to these trainings, he says, to immerse themselves in a few days of intensive learning.

More than 50 tubs were assembled since Minter's book drive began. Other schools, local churches and scout troops joined in, collecting 7,000 books. Leitz says close to \$10,000 is needed for shipping, ground transportation once in Africa, and purchasing the native books—and the goal is to deliver all the libraries in the spring. The NAME (Namibia Education) Foundation, a small group of which the Leitzes are members, will organize the shipment of a 20-foot container, which will include other books and supplies sent to Namibia, along with the portable libraries.

"Now the key hurdle is to collect funds

to ship the libraries," Leitz says. And as much as the task seems mammoth, Leitz hopes Libraries-in-a-Tub will become a yearly endeavor. "While AIDS is being talked about, education needs to be the focus as well," he says. "You can put up all the posters you want, but if they can't read them?"

For the Minter Creek students, the experience was an eye opener. The more they learned about the Namibian kids, the more they realized how much all the children in the world are alike. Building a bridge to those worlds through books crosses any language and cultural barriers indeed.

How you can help

Individuals and organizations interested in sponsoring Libraries-in-a-Tub for Namibian children are encouraged to call Steve Leitz at 857-6573, email sleitz@harboret.com, or send monetary contributions to NAME Foundation, 10118 80th Ave Ct NW, Gig Harbor 98332 (mention Ondao Library Project with the contribution).



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We appreciate the wonderful support the community has given to the proposed Gig Harbor hospital. In recent weeks, hundreds have turned out for our community presentations and we have been met with enthusiasm and excitement. However, we are concerned that many area residents think the proposed hospital is a "sure thing." It is not!

It is rare for the state to approve a certificate of need for the creation of a new hospital. We know the community needs better access to life-saving emergency, medical and surgical hospital services. But, it's time to let regulators know that you want a hospital here.

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Franciscan may not be allowed to build a new hospital in Gig Harbor unless the state is convinced that local residents support the proposal. While we have submitted the technical data required to establish a "need" for the facility, the state also

wants to hear from people like you—citizens who can share their firsthand experience of health care needs in the Gig Harbor and Peninsula communities.

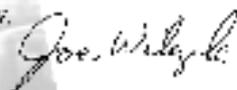
We ask that you please write a letter to the Department of Health as soon as possible. Share your personal stories and tell it from the heart. If you need suggestions on points to make in your letter, please visit our website at www.fhshealth.org and click on the "how you can help" link in the section on the proposed Gig Harbor hospital. This may be the most important thing you can do to ensure a hospital is built. Please send your letter to:

Karen Nickmanet, Certificate of Need Program
Department of Health
PO Box 47852
Olympia, WA 98504-7852

We also hope you will attend the Department of Health public hearing on the proposed hospital, once it has been rescheduled. Check our website at www.fhshealth.org for updates.

Thank you in advance for your help to ensure the Gig Harbor hospital becomes a reality!

Sincerely,



Joseph Wilczek
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Mentors build reading skills, friendships

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Every Tuesday after school, while students are pouring onto school buses to go home, a group of Vaughn Elementary students pour into the library instead. There, each teamed up with an adult mentor, the boys and girls from third through fifth grade spend an hour and a half reading, telling stories, and making friendships.

The reading program is a partnership between Vaughn and Communities in Schools of Peninsula, which has provided resources and, most importantly, the volunteer crew.

"It was our hope to have a one-on-one connection, because it's valuable to every child to have another adult sit and listen to them," said Vaughn's Trish Drage, the site coordinator. "We hope their reading skills improve and they feel supported by their community. ...The mentors are loving it too."

Eighteen students are part of the program but more could join if more mentors are willing to participate. Substitute mentors are also needed to fill in for needed absences. All that's required is love of reading and children, Drage said.

For details, call CIS at 884-5733.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Vaughn Elementary student Kendra Brown cuts the word "family" out of a magazine, as mentor Mary Tyler looks on, during the ice breaking activities on the school's after-hours reading program kick-off night. Students were paired with mentors, and assembled collages that represented things they like or are important to them—from tigers, chocolate, sports and grilled-cheese sandwiches to words like "dream," "read" and "listen."



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On troubled waters: Live-aboard deemed illegal

By William C. Dietz
KP News

On Oct. 31, 2002, Kathy Krech, an aquatic land manager for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources who is now retired, sent a letter to Mr. Gregory Kapp (which is actually spelled "Kapp" according to local residents) informing him that three vessels belonging to him, including a 30-foot houseboat, were in violation of the Washington Administrative Code, and would have to be removed "...no later than December 5, 2002."

Now, in December of 2003, Kapp continues to live on his houseboat in Filucy Bay, or so it appears, and the obvious question is why? Especially since he may be in violation of the law — and there are numerous property owners who would like to see the order enforced. Partly because they consider Kapp's houseboat to be an eyesore, partly because they're concerned that the floating domicile

could become a magnet for more of the same, but mostly based on the assumption that sewage is going straight into Filucy Bay.

So, how bad is the situation? And to what extent could the houseboat be to blame? According to Ray Hanowell, an environmental health specialist with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, there is some pollution toward the headwaters of Filucy Bay, in the area around the marina, and to the east of that facility where a stream enters the bay.

"We're getting higher readings of fecal coliform bacteria," Hanowell says, "which shouldn't be there. It's most likely coming from onsite septic systems or local farms...I don't think the houseboat has contributed to the pollution at the far northern end of the bay, but it could have contributed to pollution in and around the marina, or in the bay generally."

In an attempt to get Kapp's take on the situation, KP News sent word through an

intermediary requesting an interview, and made sure the invitation was delivered. No reply was received.

While it appears that plenty of local residents are willing to speak off the record about the situation, none of them want to be identified. A variety of reasons were given, ranging from a fear of retaliation to the complexities of local politics. And, while no one was identified as one of Kapp's friends, people claim that he has some supporters — local folks who maintain that the houseboat is no big deal, and isn't causing any trouble.

Still, some of the citizens in that area are making their concerns known through their participation in a group called the Filucy Bay Water Quality Protection Team, an organization that includes representatives from local and state government. And, according to Hanowell, the group recently decided to send a letter to the DNR regarding the status of the October 2002 letter to Kapp, and asking what, if anything, the state

plans to do.

Todd Meyers, a spokesperson for DNR, said, "There are 56 derelict (unoccupied) vessels on Puget Sound, some of which present a potential hazard to navigation. Those vessels automatically go to the top of the department's enforcement list. The budget put aside to deal with the problem totals about \$300,000 per year, which comes from a fee assessed on recreational boaters. That isn't a whole lot of money to work with. In order to force someone to move a boat, we need a court order. That's the only course available to us under the law. We understand that the people in the community are frustrated and (we) feel the same way."

When asked if DNR plans to seek such an order, Meyers replied that "it's the logical next step—but we don't have a timeline in which to do so."

So, will Mr. Kapp be forced to take his flotilla of small craft and seek other waters? Or, will he and his houseboat be left undisturbed? It remains to be seen.

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Key Peninsula Fair wants to create traditions

Organizers proclaimed 2003 event a success

By Karen Hale
KP News

You've likely seen the sign with the smiling apple, berry and pie around the Key Peninsula. Have you ever wondered why their eyes were so lit up and they looked so happy? Well, it's because there are people here on the peninsula who remember them and want others to remember them, too.

Key Peninsula Fair Director Sharon Kaffer and board President Fred Ramsdell have a vision. Their vision, as well as the vision of other board members and sponsors, is to keep the fair traditional with activities that display the history and heritage of the Key Peninsula.

Historically, the peninsula was not considered a viable place to live once the logging was finished, and there seemed to be no resources left for making a living. However, some smart folks figured out



Berries and apples helped many people sustain themselves for years, and that history in itself is why the KP Fair has decided they are worthy of being mascots for the fair.

that there was money to be made in a natural, renewable resource growing right here — fruit. Berries and apples helped many people sustain themselves for years, and that history in itself is why the KP Fair has decided they are worthy of being mascots for the fair.

Fair organizers are barely done tallying results and finalizing last year's business, but preparations are already going full force for 2004. This year will be the fair's fourth, and the event is already scheduled for Aug. 20-22. Many entertaining acts will be coming back, especially Sheryl "the Oxen Lady" Curtis, who was a popular attraction. There were 90 vendors in 2003 but more are expected next year. There will also be more art, flower judging as well as livestock judging.

The fair wants to keep expanding on the agricultural aspects as well. Agrivision was a huge success last year, and organizers are actively recruiting for 4-H, which has specific requirements.

The KP fair is a nonprofit organization sponsored by four local groups, and that means when the fair does well, so does the community, Kaffer said.

The fair is also making itself known beyond local neighborhoods. In 2003, the fair Website (www.keyfair.com) won Best in Show at the National Fair & Exposition convention, and first place for hat design (baseball hats with the fair logo).

KP Fair 2004

It takes at least 300 volunteers to have a smoothly run, safe fair. This year, areas of special needs are committee chairs (over 22 sections of the fair), traffic and parking.

Anyone who has 4-H knowledge is especially encouraged to become involved, so 4-H participants at the KP fair can get credit toward their performances.

Anyone who has suggestions, questions or comments or wants to volunteer can contact the fair by phone at 884-4FUN, or Website at www.keyfair.com.

Do you want to see more cows, or horses, or flowers, or have a drawing contest, or maybe be able to enter your favorite canned salsa recipe next year? How about a spinning/weaving/wool dyeing exhibit? Contact the fair and share your thoughts.

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(From **ELSIE**, Page 1)

She worked side by side with Elmer in their various endeavors — chicken hatchery, dairy cows, raising loganberries and strawberries, cleaning huckleberries, and selling Christmas trees during their 63 years of marriage.

Daughter Phyllis says mom didn't milk cows, but cleaned all the equipment. Elsie was always involved in local community organizations and events. She was a charter member of the Vaughn Bay

Later, she was one of several women to start the local museum. She gathered and contributed materials, photos and written information, and spent many hours sorting and identifying articles for display.

Garden Club, First Christian Church, Vaughn Community Church, Historic Vaughn Bay Church, Key Peninsula Historical Society, and an almost charter member of Upper Sound Grange, holding membership and offices in it for 75 years. She was also member and officer in the Good Roads Club, Vaughn Library Hall Association, PTA, Vaughn Bay Cemetery and Key Peninsula Civic Center.

In the depression years, Elsie was in charge of a government program where neighbors would come to the Vaughn Hall and make mattresses for their families from surplus cotton batting and materials.

During World War II, she was responsible for the Aircraft Watch Tower on

Davidson's hill, off Lackey Road, to be manned with volunteers 24 hours a day.

In 1932, Elsie was elected first mayor of Key Center, and there has not been an election since.

When the new Vaughn Elementary School was built on Hall Road, Elsie was one of the main "movers and shakers" to keep the old building as a community civic center.

Later, she was one of several women to start the local museum. She gathered and contributed materials, photos and written information, and spent many hours sorting and identifying articles for display.

When a job needed doing, Elsie was usually available and ready to work. A quick learner and a friend to all, she contributed her talents anywhere she could.

Although she claims her memory is slipping, she is still the one the family checks with to verify historical facts. She enjoys having family and friends around to share news, recall old times, or just be cheerful company.

Her birthday will be celebrated by family and close friends.

We salute you, Elsie, for being a leader in the community, a model for many, and a well-loved friend to all.



Elsie (Bill) Olson
in 1921, age 17.

*Photo courtesy of
Joyce Niemann*

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Three application meetings have been scheduled to extend this opportunity to families in our area. Attending one of these meetings is the only way to obtain a Habitat application. The meetings will be held Feb. 7 at 9 a.m. at the Gig Harbor Library, 4424 Pt. Fosdick Dr. NW; Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. at Fire Station #5, 2217 Pt. Fosdick Dr. NW in Gig Harbor; and Feb. 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the Key Center Library, 8095 Key Peninsula Hwy. N. Applicants will be required to bring copies of pertinent information to these meetings.

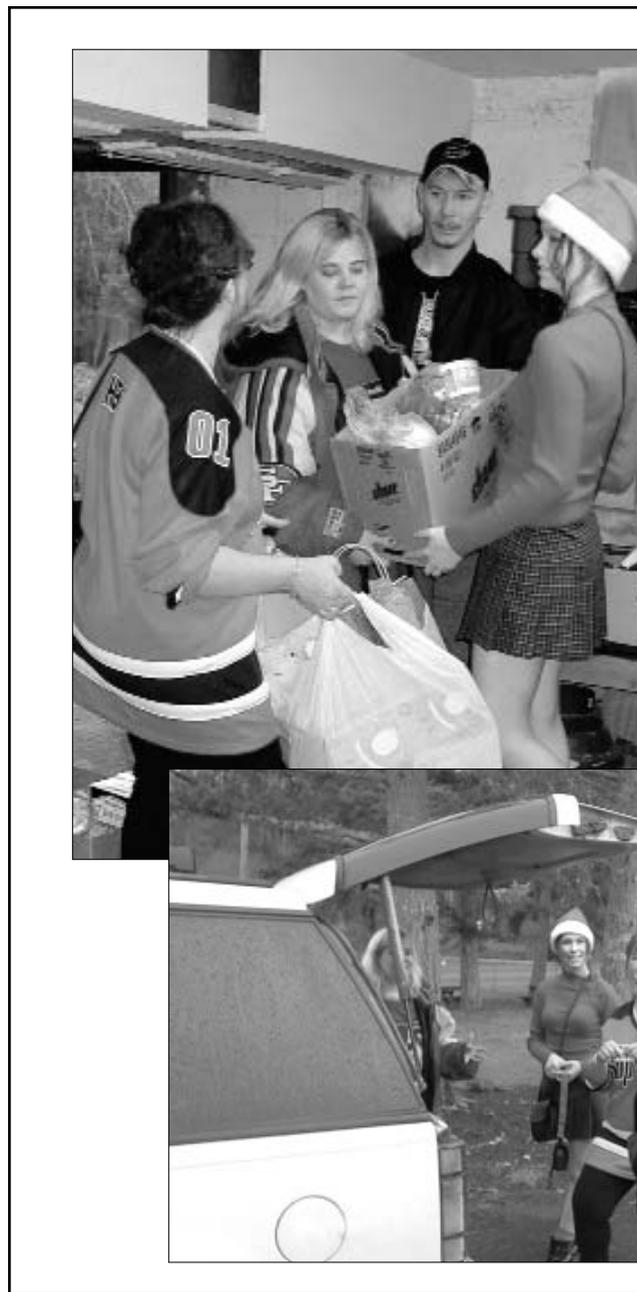
The guideline list concerning these requirements is available at FISH Food Bank, Children's Home Society, KP Civic Center or by calling the main office at 627-5626 to have one mailed to you.

—Julie Day

News from TOPS

Happy Holidays from all of us at TOPS #WA 1019, Vaughn! As the New Year rolls around, we turn our thoughts to making positive changes in our lives. One of the most common New Year's resolutions is to lose weight. It is a proven fact that losing weight and keeping it off must come from lifestyle changes.

This is not an easy endeavor, as many of us know. It requires commitment and willpower. What better way to start the New Year than to join us on Tuesday evenings. We meet each week from 7 to 8 p.m. in the VFW room (which is in the annex building next to the Key Peninsula Civic Center), with weigh-in starting at 6. The purpose of



A very merry school project

Photos and story by Hugh McMillan

Ashley Olson, a senior at Peninsula High School, with a big assist from her mom, Theresa Gilmore, successfully fulfilled her senior project by adopting and providing holiday gift baskets of food to eight needy families on the Key Peninsula over the holidays. They did the volunteer work through the good offices and assistance of the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank.

It was the second such adoption by the team: At Thanksgiving, they had sponsored 20 other food baskets. And while seniors enjoyed their holiday meal and some live entertainment the week before Christmas at KPCS, the two Santa's elves filled all their stockings, used to decorate the KPCS walls, with candy.

Gilmore said she had experienced the need for the sort of assistance KPCS offers in her past and is now happy that she and her daughter are in a position to pay back to the community. Ashley credits her mom with inspiring her to adopt the families for Christmas as part of her senior project, as she helped Theresa organize the Thanksgiving feat. "She made me realize how good it felt to help someone in need," said Ashley, adding that after her stepfather died in October, her mom delivered random acts of kindness to others as a way to cope.

Ashley is also involved in track and field at PHS and maintains a 3.7 GPA. She plans to attend a community college, then transfer to a four-year university and seek a career in writing and the arts.

Photos: Top left, Ashley Olson (right) and mom, Theresa Gilmore (far left) hand gift items to Stephen Latham and George Rankin to contribute to a merry Christmas for them and their four children. Left, the two ladies help the couple load up.

our group is to lend support and encouragement, as well as having programs and guest speakers geared to helping us reach our goals. In case you were wondering, TOPS stands for "Take Off Pounds Sensibly."

Last month we created dream boards collages, which were a lot of fun and inspirational. We had our annual potluck and ornament exchange on Dec. 16. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 253-884-3456.

—Carole Ramirez

Angels welcome 2004

We are eagerly starting a new year. We have a bright fresh face on our little shop, new and different merchandise for good browsing and bargains and great treasures. We look forward to your bright shiny faces, so come on in. We open again Jan. 7.

We were busy Angels during November. We were able to provide help to the Boy Scout pack No. 222 with a pine derby timer, the KP Middle School library, Evergreen Elementary's RIF program and the Thanksgiving Basket Brigade for the Community House. We also help the Community Services and Children's Home Society with vouchers that are redeemable for merchandise, and I.M.Pact with furnishings for the shelter for domestic violence victims.

We thank you all for your support this past year. Your donations, Peninsula Market receipts and patronage in our shop help us help others. Please keep them coming.

Welcome to our new members. Several have responded to our articles. We are still accepting members so it isn't too late to call Bonnie at 884-5983 or Nancy at 857-2321.

—Mary Ramsdell

Museum is looking for expert help

The Key Peninsula Museum has acquired a scanner and printer and the help of an expert is needed to teach the volunteers how to use them beyond the basics. An expert archivist who could teach them what to do with print and photographic materials would also be greatly appreciated. Interested volunteers, please call Leona Britt at 884-3272 or Dale Skrivanich at 884-2712.

News from the Civic Center

Calling all groups and organizations! The Key Peninsula Civic Center has just had its annual election of officers and we have two openings, and need them filled as soon as possible. These are Executive Board positions, and require coming to meetings on the first Monday and second



KPVI helps Children's Home Society

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute has made a sizeable donation to the Children's Home Society in Vaughn to help with the Christmas giving program in our community. President Cy Young, Vice President Jean Christoffersen and Roxyanne Wooldridge presented the donation to Edie Morgan Dec. 8. The funds will support local families and provide gifts and food items for the Christmas holidays.

KPVI members strongly support local charities and have provided support for the Amber Alert Program, Community House (food bank), the Boy Scouts and other local programs. KPVI presents "The Aisle of Honor" twice a year at the Vaughn Cemetery on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, displaying over 200 flags to honor veterans. The "Missing Man Dinner" was organized at Community House for the first time this year, and will be an annual event. The "Trees of Sharing" at the Peninsula Markets and the Home Texaco provide gifts for the veterans at American Lake Veterans Hospital every Christmas. Our thanks to the wonderful people of the Key Peninsula who bring wrapped gifts to the markets to be picked up and delivered to the hospital before Christmas.

If you would like to join us, please call 884-4551 for information.

—Irene Zimmer

Left to right: KPVI Vice President Jean Christoffersen, Children's Home Society Manager Edie Morgan and KPVI President Cy Young.

Photo courtesy of Irene Zimmer

Thursday of each month. The positions available are secretary and treasurer.

Be a part of this wonderful community! Interested parties may call the Civic Center at 884-3456.

Anyone interested in Tae Kwon Do?? Starting Feb. 3, classes will be held at the Civic Center on Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. Contact the Civic Center at 884-3456 or the instructor, Jung Un Lee, at 253-838-8934 for information.

Deadline approaches for nominations

The sponsoring Key Peninsula Lions Club encourages people to submit names of persons they feel should be considered nominees for Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year 2003. Anyone living on, owning property on, or working on the Key Peninsula may be nominated for volunteer services

performed on behalf of the community. Members of the Lions Club are not eligible. Nominations should be submitted no later than Jan. 15.

Letters of nomination should contain the name, telephone number, and mailing address of the nominee and a signed statement describing why the person making the nomination feels the nominee deserves recognition. Letters should be mailed to KP Citizens of the Year, P.O. Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394, or emailed to hcmnp1000@harbornet.com.

For information, call 884-3319 or 884-3485. The event honoring all nominees and announcing the Citizen of the Year will be held March 13.

Community council effort marks anniversary

This month, the organizing committee of the budding Key Peninsula Community

Council will mark one year of progress. Community members are welcome to join the celebration at the Key Peninsula Middle School Library on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. Youth from David Locey's student projects committee will give a presentation of their work on a parallel community council. Ron Stark from the Peninsula School District has been donating his time to work with the group on developing a Website with links to the council.

"Not only are they learning a lot of new things, they are giving to the community," Locey said about his students.

Other progress includes the nearing completion of the articles of incorporation for the nonprofit organization, development of bylaws and nomination and election processes, with pro bono assistance from attorney John Biggs. Tax-deductible founder contributions starting at \$50 to help support the project are still being accepted through Safe Streets.

Fund-raising activities have been discussed, but the committee continues to focus on its primary mission, to organize the council.

Arlene Williams has been appointed official recorder for the organizing committee, to maintain records for future reference.

Recent discussions about membership, with representation set at one per 1,000 KP residents based on census tracts, have included the possibility of a "cap" to keep the council at a feasible working size. Input from the community on that decision is encouraged. The needs assessment committee has finalized a questionnaire to be sent to the community, to help prioritize the activities of the council once it is formed.

For information, contact co-chairs, Jeff Harris at 884-4697, or Joyce Tovey at 884-3304.

— Irene Torres



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(ACROSS FROM VAUGHN ELEMENTARY)

The 'little old schoolhouse on the hill':

Glen Cove school restoration takes step back into history

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Chuck and Sharon West were looking for an investment property. An old, run-down house in Glen Cove that they knew had historic significance looked like the perfect opportunity.

Little did they know that the little old school house on the hill would grow its way into their hearts, becoming as much of an emotional investment as it was financial.

Chuck, a skilled contractor and an electrician, was certainly prepared for some elbow grease. Three or four months were spent just cleaning the badly distressed former Glen Cove Grade School. Then, just about everything was gutted, and Chuck tried to save as much of the original woodwork and fixtures as he could. A local firefighter by day, by night he spent about 30 hours a week in an undisputable labor of love. Sharon, more of a decorator type, focused on the final touches.

Somewhere along the way, they became, as Sharon described it, romantically involved — with the house. "We didn't plan on loving it so much," she said. "I didn't expect to become so protective."

Those who came to the open house in December marveled at the incredible job the couple has done. Photos of the damaged interior when they bought the property certainly spoke louder than anything. But perhaps the most remarkable of all was the authenticity the couple has attained for the old classroom. The floor is original, and the moldings were handmade to match the antique style. Thankfully, Fred Ramsdell, known in the community for his many civic contributions, knows his way with the saw as well. He volunteered his shop and skill to match parts of the wood-



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

The open house for the renovated Glen Cove school turned into a reunion for the former classmates, pictured here with new owners Chuck and Sharon West and 3-year-old Lilly Belle. Former graduates were: Joyce Olson Niemann, Elizabeth Matson Froehlich, Juanita Ball, Bill Hipp, Don Olson, Ed Lund, Ralph (Bob) Tachell, Walt Graham and Jerry Prentice.

work. Other original pieces were matched by shopping at flea markets and creative research.

Bob Fearnough, resident of Home, provided lumber. He also told Chuck he was nuts — or something along those lines. "I told him (the renovation) would take years," he said. "The miracle was his perseverance and various people on the peninsula chipping in where they could."

One thing definitely has changed since the old classmates, who came to the open house in December as if for a reunion, gathered around for school. "We had no electricity," said Joyce Niemann. For some reason, while other district schools used power, this one never got it. "We had a pot-belly stove, and we went to school rain or shine; snow didn't stop us," she said.

Most of the children came from around the neighborhood. On the darker days or when the weather was bad, the teacher didn't even bother with teaching, they just read, another classmate recalled. Built sometime around 1912, the school housed children until 1941. A few decades later, it was used as an antique store for a while.

Sharon West feels the couple has always had a connection to the place, even without knowing it. It was just meant to be. In fact, they had lived down the street and when the house was placed for sale, they knew they wouldn't buy it. But eight months later, it was still on the market — just as some inheritance money came in. "Seeing it all destroyed didn't diminish it in our eyes," she said. In November of 2002, they called it their own. And only a



year later, stunned visitors couldn't stop marveling at the end result.

"You know those kits you can buy (and assemble yourself)?" Sharon asked. "This was definitely an expert-level kit."

Chuck said the work for him was therapeutic, even if he felt rushed at times because of deadlines. Selling the house no longer sounds appealing, they said, because that would mean losing control of its future. Although they plan to rent the home, they hope someday it will once again be filled with the laughter of children: Perhaps a couple would want to live in one wing of the house while using the old classroom for a private school. Or perhaps it would host a studio or a banquet hall.

For now, the couple is looking forward to taking some time off. "Right now we need to be at home watching the kids grow, but someday something may come of it," Sharon said. "We're pretty married to the Key Peninsula and we're very open to whatever takes place."

They are not concerned with what "whatever" is. Things are meant to happen, Sharon said, "and even disrepair was part of the building's presence." But now that she has discovered a sort of a spiritual connection with it, the future does look full of promise.

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For information contact Doug Henry,
884-9236 or KPCC, 884-3456.

From pioneer stock Len Lonning

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Len Lonning, third generation self-employed businessman on the Key Peninsula, is pleased to live on property owned by his maternal Grandfather Woodard. All three of his sons have homes on the original acreage.

The Woodard acreage extended from what is now Horseshoe Lake Road west a mile to the school section, where the power line road meets Highway 302, and north to include current Zeren Ranch property. Len's mother inherited 10 acres, and his dad bought another 6 acres from her relatives.

Len's paternal grandfather, Fred Lonning, came from Norway. He moved to a home south of Key Center in 1908, and operated a Food and Feed Store in Glen Cove.

Len believes his grandfather changed his name when he came to America, choosing a place name from Norway as



LEN LONNING

his surname.

Fred Lonning's son Lennart, age 17 when his father died, logged, picked brush, worked for the light company, and drove a truck for Davidson Logging Co. After Wye Lake was logged by the Davidsons, Lonning was offered the land for \$500. He said no, and chose to start a service station in 1942 on what

soon became known as Lonning's Corner.

"They sold gas, oil, groceries, did auto mechanics, cutting, welding and repaired chainsaws," says Len. He worked there from 1956-67 after high school, had a hitch in the Navy, and some other jobs. These included commercial fishing on his 26-foot motor whale boat, working for an industrial

"They sold gas, oil, groceries, did auto mechanics, cutting, welding and repaired chainsaws."

-Len Lonning

supply company in Tacoma, and spending some time in Arizona.

Later, Len moved to Hadlock to partner a service station, then to a Union 76 station in Gig Harbor.

Three days after a blind date with Dorothy Donahou from Gorst in 1972, he proposed, and six months later they married. Each brought three children to the new family.

Len worked in a Port Orchard saw shop about a year, and when it was sold,

ran a saw shop for Taylor Bay Logging Co. for two years at Purdy. The distributor allowed him to sell saws on evenings and weekends. His basement shop moved to the garage, and in 1988, to the current location on Highway 302, next to the fire station.

In order to open the shop, he had to have a fire hydrant within 200 feet and allow an easement for it, an expensive start to a new business.

Len and Dorothy became foster parents in 1976, and over a 15-year period, about 20 children lived with them. At one time they had six girls, and they remain in touch with three.

Dorothy, who kept books for the shop, retired in 1993, and Len followed two years later. His oldest son, the third Len Lonning, now operates the business. The original service station is now a foreign car repair, Northwest Auto Clinic, and the house where Len once lived is now the Sit and Sip Tavern.

Although only the saw shop continues to bear the family name among the various businesses on property his family owned, Len continues to tell stories about what local folks still call "Lonning's Corner."



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Local residents join worldwide action for freedom

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Ko Khun Sai is a 53-year-old Myanmar (Burma) prisoner whose only crime is speaking out for the rights of his fellow men. The medical doctor is guilty of non-violent expression of his political beliefs and advocacy of human rights — and for that he is paying dearly. Sentenced to seven years in jail and hard labor, he is believed to have been tortured, and has no contact with his family.

Ko Khun Sai is one of an estimated 1,600 prisoners of conscience in Myanmar, and only one of countless others around the world who are tortured, kept in prison or treated inhumanely by their own governments and others in power.

They may not be able to change the world, but a small group of Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor residents are joining in the fight for the freedom of those prisoners, as part of Amnesty International. Ko Khun Sai's case has been specifically assigned to the local Amnesty chapter, and the group writes letters on his behalf to a variety of officials in Myanmar, the local press, or others who have impact on his condition.

"We can't change the world, but we can write a letter on someone's behalf," said Key Pen's Lori Brudvik Lindner, one of the core members of the local group, which became active in 1997. "We're privi-

leged in this country...Those people are only guilty of fighting for their humanity."

In addition to assigning chapters specific cases, Amnesty International sends action alerts that require letter writing. Sometimes the actions are for specific individuals — like asking for protection of trial witnesses receiving death threats — other times they write for entire groups or specific human rights violations, including things like racial profiling in the United States. Many letters advocate for basic civil liberties that are part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed in 1948 and regarded by Eleanor Roosevelt as one of her greatest accomplishments.

Now and then, the foreign officials send replies back. As the group met at the house of Key Pen resident Neal Vandervoorn at the end of November, they read a reply from the Russian Ministry of Education to a letter expressing concerns for the conditions of Russian orphans and foster children. While a white candle wrapped with symbolic barbed wire burned at the table, the group talked about some of the cases. Even if some of the letters don't mean much to the recipients, they say, they let the officials know that the world is watching.

In between the replies and the silence, victories take shape. The group recalls a Bulgarian woman who found their chapter online and contacted them regarding her missing husband. They forwarded the



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Amnesty International members get together once a month to write letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience, or other nonviolent activists around the world as well as in the United States. Pictured here are John Richardson, Lori Brudvik Lindner, Heidi Hendricks, Sue Richardson and host Neal Vandervoorn at a recent meeting.

information for research to headquarters, to confirm that it was due to his political beliefs — Amnesty doesn't get involved in incidents of violence. After Amnesty members went into action, the woman wrote back: Her husband was released. Releases, improvements of prison conditions, commuted sentences — victories come in all forms.

Brudvik Lindner says being exposed to someone else's reality is sometimes hard,

but it's a natural extension of her beliefs and it helps her think globally, outside herself.

"It's not a helpless mechanism," she said. "We feel like we're doing something."

As long as they keep the candle lit, there is still hope for someone, somewhere, for a better tomorrow.

To learn more about the local Amnesty chapter, call Neal Vandervoorn at 857-3655

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(From **SOLDIER**, Page 1)

receive a mortar attack almost daily, but most of us are so used to the explosions that unless they come close, we are not too worried."

Home to the 47-year old Parshall is the Lake Minterwood neighborhood. His grandfather retired from Peninsula Light Co. after working there many years. Parshall attended Peninsula High School, as did his father, Winn Parshall, now living in New Mexico.

Li's sisters, Cheryl Johnson, Laurel Parshall and Virginia Jenkins, all live within seven miles of their mother, for whom Iraq seems a world away. Parshall keeps in touch by phone, email, and snail mail. The family is frustrated that

"I miss him and I love him."

-Jessica Parshall

letters take so long to arrive, about two weeks going to Iraq but more than a month for the reply.

"Li loves news from home," his mother says, so she sends him the Key Peninsula News. "His specialty is bridge construction," said Bence, "so I clip and send him articles about the progress on the new (Tacoma) Narrows Bridge."

Parshall is stepfather to 18-year-old Jessica and 13-year-old Seth, for whom he served as scoutmaster during the

elementary school years. Jessica has taken on a lot of responsibility for household chores since Li left. "It's been really hard without him being here," she said. Her mother has multiple sclerosis, with its episodic debilitating effects. Jessica is very proud of her stepdad: "I miss him and I love him."

"There is a family support group, but attending monthly meetings is hard because they are so far away," Jessica added. The family attends New Hope Community and Fox Island Alliance churches.

Bence, who lives near Key Center, keeps busy oil painting with palette knife and singing with the Key Singers, and tries not to worry too much about Li. She describes him as "a man of actions instead of words" who "acts upon his beliefs."

Bence said she is proud of her son. "I'm proud of all the boys. They're doing a good job over there." Morale is high among the troops, and Li told his family recently, "Now I know why I'm over here. All the Iraqi people are so glad they've been freed from Saddam Hussein."

Letters of support may be sent to:

Sgt. Li G. Parshall
1457 Engineer BN
CO 671st EN CO
Unit 92979
APO, AE 09324-2979

or by email to
ssslglg@yahoo.com

Down Memory Lane...



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

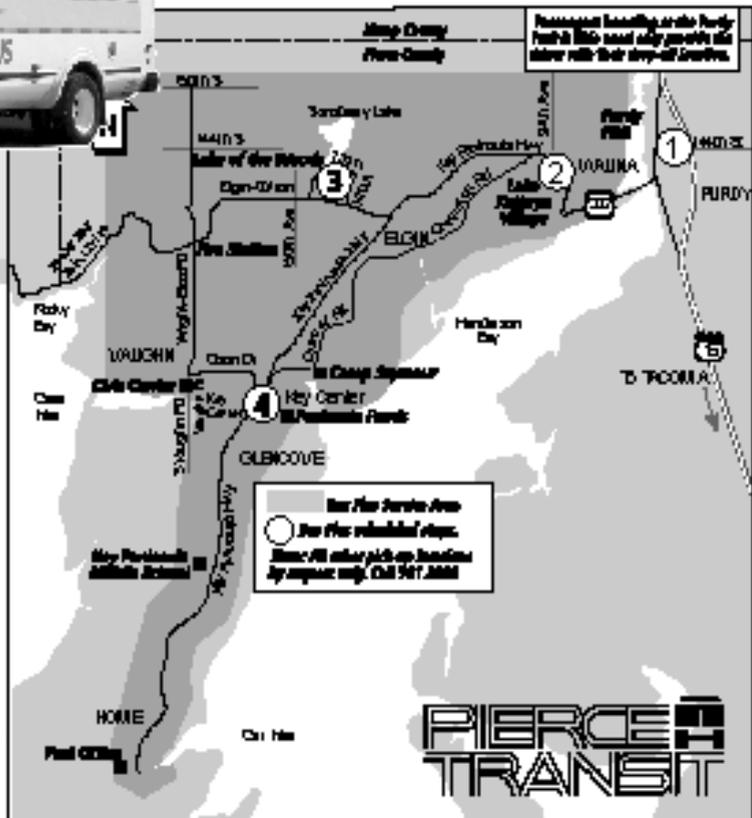
Don Olson, a graduate of the historic Glen Cove grade school, shares some memories from the old photographs of the school during the December open house for the renovated building. For more details, see story on page 16.

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Welcome 2004

As we look forward to a New Year, it is always good to reflect on the year just past and thank all those who have contributed to its success. At Windermere/Key Realty our eleven agents have worked extremely hard to make this a very successful year. They closed 18 million dollars in real estate sales during 2003 with an average sale price for homes on this peninsula of \$185,000. Our land prices too, have increased to approx \$10,500 per acre. Many of our buyers (especially 2nd home waterfront buyers) come from the Seattle area - we seem to have been "discovered" as a close-in recreational area. We also are becoming a mecca for retirees who are being crowded out of the south Seattle, Bellevue, Renton area. We believe the advent of a new hospital and the Gig Harbor north shopping area have both encouraged this market.

The agents at Windermere Key Realty have also given back to their community this year by working on the Habitat for Humanity house at Lake Minterwood; donating a \$500 scholarship to Peninsula High School; donating money to Impact for their new domestic violence shelter on the Key Peninsula; sponsoring TLC (towels, linens & cash) for Impact and Christmas gifts for eight community children. We thank all of you who have helped us make these projects a success.

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Looking out for abandoned babies

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

It doesn't happen very often but when it does, the horror is just the same: babies found in a trashcan in an alley, their life stolen from them by someone who was supposed to protect them.

Key Pen resident and mother of six, Georgina Carr, recalls reading a story in a magazine about a woman who was so troubled by the trend that she organized burial services for these found tiny humans. Later, the woman in the story shifted her focus to saving those babies by passing the Safe Haven law in her state — a law that allows a person, usually a parent, to abandon a newborn baby at a specified location such as hospital or fire station without being criminally prosecuted.

"After reading the story, I got bit by the bug, and found out that Washington state has a Safe Haven law passed last April (2002) but little or no publicity (to promote it)," Carr said.

After some more research, Carr, a nurse, found out most fire stations don't have any basic supplies to care for a baby if one is ever dropped off. Some stations have the funds to purchase items once they are needed, but in the meantime, the newborn may be hungry, soiled or cold, Carr said.

"I'd like to see all the local fire stations stocked," she said. Carr is looking into the possibility of starting a local chapter of Safe Place for Newborns, a nationwide organization that has active members in Washington. Her goal, she says, is to cover the entire county eventually.

To get it started, Carr's friend, Dana Shaw, gave her Brownies Troop No. 792 a community service project: Gather a basic baby package and deliver it to Fire District 16. The girls each contributed items for the box. One girl's grandmother even made a blanket for it.

As the group handed over the supplies to FD-16 Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen in December, he echoed the mixed blessing for needing such a package in the first



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

Brownies Troop #792, third graders at Vaughn Elementary, presented their "baby care" package, which has basic necessities to be used for abandoned babies, to Fire District 16 Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen and firefighter Greg Glassie. Right, Chief Nelsen looks through the package, which contains a baby bottle, diapers, receiving blankets, a changing pad and other items.

place. "My hats off to you for doing this," he told the troop. "I hope we never use it."

It's the sentiment Carr shares as well. She hopes these supplies go untouched, but having a safe place that can receive unwanted babies is much better than finding them dead, she says.

"I am not saying it's OK to abandon babies, but if we can keep a baby a year out of the trashcan, it's worth it," she said. "Someone has to speak out for the babies."

How you can help

If your group would like to take on a community service project to prepare a basic box for other fire stations, or if you are interested in helping start a local chapter of Safe Place for Newborns, call Georgina Carr (evenings only) at 857-5433 or email grca5@aol.com.



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February issue deadline is January 19;
March issue deadline is February 17.

Coyotes on the Key Peninsula

By Karen Hale
KP News

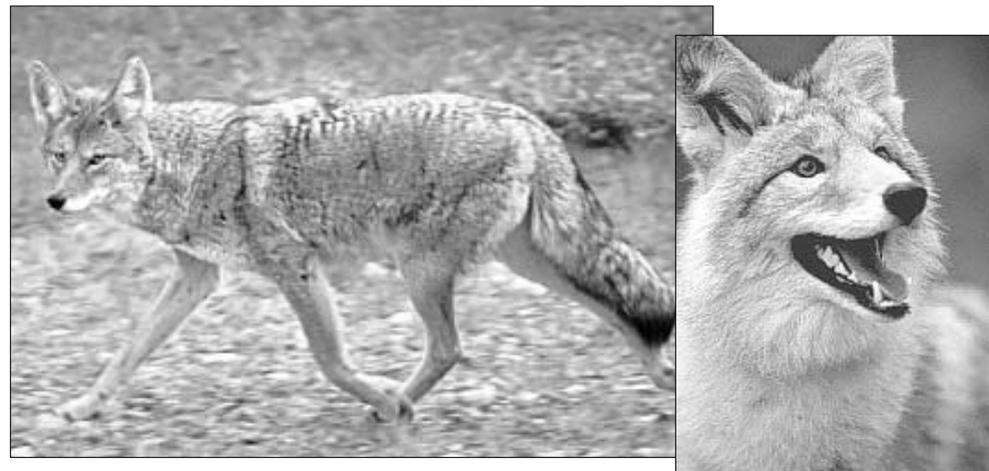
Two and a half years ago, I moved to the Key Peninsula. This is such a beautiful area, I can't think of any other place prettier that I have been.

However, six weeks after moving in, one of my cats turned up missing, my sweet Matilda. She never ventured far, always wanting mommy in the morning. She loved it here, and her favorite spot 10 feet from the barn was tall grass where she could hide and enjoy the outdoors.

I went around and posted signs. That was when I noticed the other signs. Many other signs. Cats missing here, cats missing there. Everywhere I went, signs about missing cats. I started to worry. Then I heard, late at night while I was out with my coffee looking at the stars, something I never heard before: Yip, yip, yooooooooo! I have since found out that that is the distinctive cry of the coyote.

My neighbors, who own the 40 acres across the street, raise peacocks, guinea fowl, geese, ducks, chickens, cows, miniature donkeys, and also board horses. They are the ones who told me about coyotes coming through our area all the time, especially at night. They surmised my cat was dinner, which happens a lot, they said.

We live about 2 miles south of Wauna. In Wauna, at the Minter Creek Veterinary Hospital, coyotes live next door, according to staff. In the Lake Kathryn area, if you venture down into the woods, you will find trails and dens. I would not recommend going down there, by the way; supposedly there are many dens, it's a coyote condo area. Staff at Purdy Veterinary and Brookside



couldn't report any injuries or deaths to pets; seems the coyotes like the area between Wauna and Minter Creek. They seem to know where and when to travel to keep out of sight, which is good for all — us and them.

According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, coyotes are omnivores, which means they eat both meat and vegetation. For meat, they mostly eat voles, mice and rats, small mammals that we consider nuisances. However, that means also cats. A coyote will see a cat as a large rat. Coyotes also eat berries, grass, insects, reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds. Sometimes pet food, garden crops and garbage. Livestock and poultry, too.

Coyote tracks look like the prints of a medium-sized domestic dog, but with a longer stride. Trails are usually found along draws, fences or game and livestock trails, next to roads, in the middle of dirt country roads and on ridge tops. If you see a pile of rabbit fur, you are looking at what is left of last night's dinner.

Their calls are woofs and growls for short-distance threat and alarm calls; lone and group howls are given between separated group members when food has been found, and a yip-howl (like the ones I always hear) is often done after a group reunites. Pups are born in spring, and in summer they are trying out their voices.

Most coyotes only live four years and vast majorities die in their first year. They are highly intelligent and have adapted well to humans living in their world.

This is where you need to take charge. If you have heard or seen coyotes in your area, make sure you police your house and yard, that you have no garbage lying around, keep bushes pruned (mice hiding places for coyotes to chase up to your front door), don't feed your animals outside, and don't use animal products in your compost. Improper composting causes huge animal control problems.

Never leave children unattended. A 5-foot fence can keep a coyote out of an area, but some can climb and an over-

hang may be necessary. All fences should extend 6 inches below the surface to prevent digging. An electric fence set 8 inches high and about 6 inches in front of an existing fence will deter coyotes. (Consult your local zoning office and neighborhood covenants to determine whether electric fences are permitted in your area.) Inspect fences weekly.

Also, don't use remote pastures if coyotes have been reported recently. You can use guard dogs to help. Llamas and donkeys have also been successfully used to guard animals.

Coyotes shouldn't be feared. You just need to know how to co-exist. If anyone is bitten or injured by a coyote (including pets), clean the wound with soap and water, and contact your physician and the local health department immediately.

Rabies has not been found in any coyote populations in Washington, but Canine Distemper and Parvovirus have. These diseases are both deadly to dogs, so make sure your pets' vaccinations are up to date. You never know when a coyote will make a deposit on your property for your dog to find.

I still miss Matilda every day, but now I know to make sure all my pets are in the house at night — every night. I taped my cat door shut, no longer to be used. My son knows better than to wander around the pasture at night, he's heard the yips as well. He's a smart kid.

Remember that it's a crime to poison the animals or use explosives. If you have a problem animal — usually only if the coyote has lost its fear of humans, which is rare — you need to contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife to check for licenses and approval. If you need an animal to be removed, they can give you a list of trappers who can do the job, at your cost. You can contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-9902-2515 or email wildthing@dfw.wa.gov.

Other sources: Washington Revised Codes regarding trapping regulations, www.leg.wa.gov. See RCW 9.41.170, 9.41.185, 9.41.190, 77.15.150, 77.15.196

Coyote information and facts: www.wa.gov.wdfw.

Living with Wildlife in Washington: Coyotes www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/diversity/living/coyotes.htm

Dealing with problem wildlife: www.wa.gov/wdfw/factsheets/problemwildlife.htm.

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The story behind the story

The story (see "Live-aboard deemed illegal" on page 11) began as every piece of investigative journalism should: with a mysterious phone call. It seemed that a source, we'll call him Deep Bay, felt that there could be trouble down around Filucy Bay. Having already dispatched all of the more competent reporters elsewhere, my editor assigned the story to me.



By William C. Dietz
FOR WHATEVER
IT'S WORTH

Everybody knows everybody on the Peninsula, which is why Deep Bay wanted to meet me near the Longbranch Cemetery, rather than down by the water. I arrived early, so rather than hang around the cemetery, I drove down to Filucy Bay. It was a cold rainy day and my windshield wipers made a regular slapping sound as they hit their stops.

I decided to park in front of the old mercantile store, confident that I could see the boats in the marina from there, as well as the houseboat anchored beyond. For some reason, the locals turned to stare at me as they drove by. Perhaps it was the sight of a strange vehicle, the huge pair of binoculars, or the fact that I accidentally honked the

horn while trying to reach for my coffee.

Once I took a look at the houseboat, my first reaction was one of surprise. While a bit messy, it was a far cry from the total eyesore I had expected to see. In fact, it was kind of picturesque. Still, I told myself, don't forget that you could be dealing with a serial polluter! A man

For some reason, the locals turned to stare at me as they drove by. Perhaps it was the sight of a strange vehicle, the huge pair of binoculars, or the fact that I accidentally honked the horn while trying to reach for my coffee.

who, if the rumors are true, would just as soon poop in the bay as look at it.

My resolve stiffened, I scanned the bay with renewed determination, and was almost immediately rewarded. Because there, pulling away from the shore, was a large skiff. A dog stood in the bow, snout to the wind, while a figure dressed in nautical attire hauled on

the oars. He wore a cap with a short bill, what looked like a pea coat, and seemed impervious to the steadily falling rain. Could this be the man I was looking for? Judging from the way he headed straight for the houseboat, he was.

Anyone who has ever made the transfer between a dinghy and a larger boat knows how potentially embarrassing such a maneuver can be. But the man in the skiff made the move look easy. He had already stood, and stepped up onto the houseboat, when I realized that he was equipped with an old-fashioned peg leg. Which, combined with the nautical clothing he wore, made him look like a character from a children's book.

He went inside a few minutes later. What then, I wondered? Would he read a book? Stare out across the bay? Or sit down before an easel? One person told me that the man is an artist, and pointed to the well-executed compass on a local dock as proof, so perhaps that's what he does with his time. I would gladly ask the man himself, except that he has thus far declined to be interviewed.

Whatever the case, and whatever the truth regarding the accusations leveled against Mr. Kapp, one thing is for sure: He has a mysterious past, lives on a floating castle, and is surrounded by a salt water moat. People like that help keep life interesting — and for that we should thank them.

Obituaries

Phyllis Bradley Larson

Phyllis Bradley was born Oct. 7, 1914, in Havre, Mont., to Fred and Olga Bradley. She died in Tacoma Dec. 10, 2003.

The family moved to Vaughn in 1925. Survivors include husband John Larson of Lakebay, sons Bradley Pendleton of Spirit Lake, Idaho, Philip "Pepper" Pendleton of Spokane, and Lon Pendleton of California; sisters Jane Van Slyke of Vaughn and Dot West of Tacoma. A memorial service was held in Spokane.

Gerald Arthur Visell

Gerry was born Nov. 18, 1942 in Tacoma, to Don and Violet Visell of Vaughn. He died suddenly at home on Dec. 13, 2003. Gerry grew up in Vaughn, graduated from Peninsula High School, and Washington State University in Forestry Management.

He served in the Peace Corps for two years and traveled extensively worldwide. He was employed by Weyerhaeuser and Cascade Hardwoods.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald W. Visell and survived by his mother, Violet E. Visell of Tacoma, son Yon Visell of Italy, daughter Amanda Visell of Pasadena, Calif., stepsons Ben Price and Scott Ledford, sisters Arlene Babbitt and Judy Bradshaw, brother Joseph Visell and numerous nieces and nephews.

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TWAA introduces new classes in spring

By Frank Garratt

The growing number of Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula residents who have enjoyed Two Waters Arts Alliance classes in the past year can look forward to an attractive array of choices this spring.

Children are encouraged to attend a stamping class. Under the supervision of an adult friend or family member, children will learn to use inked stamps to make a variety of decorative pieces, including cards.

For older adults, there is a floral arranging class, though it is not limited to seniors. Anyone interested in learning

the basic techniques of floral arranging will be welcome.

Sharon Kaffer, Two Waters program director, anticipates additional classes in hand-built pottery, stained glass, quilting, watercolor, pine needle basket weaving, and oil painting.

One of the highlights of the spring offering will be a class demonstrating and explaining the Japanese Tea Ceremony.

Dependent on the powers of ritual and tradition, the tea ceremony focuses on artistic beauty and provides insight into major elements of Japanese philosophy. It intertwines the principles of tranquility, harmony with people and nature, respect for others, and purity of heart and mind.

All classes will be offered at various times in March, April, and May. Details regarding class times, place, content, and how and when to sign up will be forthcoming in subsequent editions of the KP News. By the end of January, the TWAA

Website, twowaters.org, will carry details about the spring courses. Additionally, in mid-February brochures describing TWAA's spring offerings will be available in local schools, libraries, post offices, and businesses. Questions can be emailed to twowaters@hotmail.com.

Members of the Two Waters Arts Alliance receive a 10 percent tuition discount on all classes. Anyone interested in supporting the local arts community by becoming a TWAA member should contact Lois Ashley at 884-4253.

Two Waters will hold its annual celebration of the arts on the peninsulas, the Spring Fling, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 6, at the Civic Center. The event will feature works from eight to 10 accomplished local artists, much of it for sale.

In addition to the artwork, guests will enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Admission is free.

County offers free tree recycling

Pierce County Solid Waste offers a solution to discarding those gorgeous live Christmas trees after the holidays — treecycling. All trees collected in the program are composted into a beneficial soil amendment that is popular with home and commercial gardeners.

Residents who subscribe to yardwaste recycling can place their tree, cut into 4-foot lengths, next to their yardwaste containers on their regular yardwaste collection day in January. Nails, staples, decorations, tinsel, garland and the tree stand must be removed. Flocked trees are not recyclable.

Households without yardwaste collection service can recycle their trees at little or no cost at any of the drop-off recycling sites throughout Pierce County. Information about these sites is provided by Pierce County Solid Waste at 253-798-4115 and online at www.piercecounty-wa.org/treecycle.

Attention aspiring journalists! Key Peninsula News is looking for a few more volunteer writers for news and feature story assignments. Have fun while meeting interesting people. High school students are especially welcome: Get an early start on your journalism career. Call 884-4699 or email news@keypennews.com for info.

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Get your dancing shoes on, bring your sweetheart and come join other minglers at the Civic Center Feb. 7 for an extraordinary night with the duo "CASANOVA"— James Blade and Diane Powell — who have become a featured addition to resorts, hotel and dance clubs where they have performed. Their consistent return engagements and booking history are a testament to their professionalism and audience draw.

A true variety dance act, CASANOVA moves easily between swing, classic rock, country line dance, Latin, motown, disco, all with irrepressible dance beats (including authentic ballroom styles) and world-class vocals presented with great stage presence.

The CASANOVA playlist of over 300 songs pays tribute to Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Patsy Cline, Glenn Miller, Louis Armstrong,



Santana, Shania Twain, Jerry Lee Lewis, Alan Jackson, Janet Jackson, The Blues Brothers, Bruce Springsteen and many others.

Free half-hour dance lessons prior to the band will start at 7:30 p.m. with dance instructor Doug Henry from Instep Dance. CASANOVA starts playing at 8 p.m. and ends at 11 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are \$12.50 each, or \$15 at the door. No outside alcohol will be permitted.

If you don't make it for that one, don't hang your hat just yet: The "French Connection" is coming on March 6, from 8 to 11 p.m. with free dance lessons once again. Bring a friend, mate or significant other and dance the night away. The cost is the same.

If you have any questions call Doug at 884-9236 or the Civic Center at 884-3456. Watch for next month's issue for details.

—Jena Henak

New Tae Kwon Do classes offered

By Charles Cowan, certified instructor
Special to KP News

Soon the young and young-at-heart of the Key Peninsula will be able to participate in an activity that reduces stress, creates positive self-image and improves health: ATA Tae Kwon Do, where we train people mentally and physically.

I teach classes at the ATA Black Belt Academy in Burien, but I recently relocated to Lakebay and would like to do something in my new community. Over more than six years with the American Tae Kwon Do Association, I've seen what Tae Kwon Do

can do for people, whether they are children or adults, in prime health or not, exceptional students or those who need help. I would like to share this experience with others and become active in this wonderful, close-knit community.

I have heard people here talking about needing more activities for youth, and I'm pleased to say that Tae Kwon Do is an excellent, challenging activity. I'm also happy to hear about the Promise to Youth Initiative. It's good to see a community looking out for children, particularly when they study their needs and develop a plan of action. The article in last month's Key Peninsula News

("Initiative focuses on asset building," page 7) describes some of the assets that improve a child's chances of avoiding at-risk behaviors, including caring and honesty. These assets are among the life skills that we promote in our training and I am glad that such attitudes and skills will be actively nurtured here.

If you are looking for a kick, whether it is that kick of excitement at trying something new, or it's that kick in the pants to get you going, look to the Key Peninsula Civic Center and give Tae Kwon Do a try! Classes start in January, check postings at the Civic Center or call 884-3669.





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(From FLOTILLA, Page 1)

Skansie Boat Building for many years.

Jamieson's boat is certified by the Coast Guard and his name is on the "first responders" list, a geographical picture of local resources available for quick response to boating emergencies.



JAMIESON

"I was born and raised on the Key Peninsula and know my way around, day and night," he said. "That will cut down the response time for local marine environmental problems, oil spills or craft sinkings."

A self-described "jack of all trades," Jamieson is an environmental specialist for the Halroyd

Company, Inc., of Tacoma. He works with the Department of Natural Resources on reclamation of ground water after active gravel mines are closed.

The Auxiliary is an all-volunteer organization with the primary mandate to promote boat safety and education. Its extensive training regimen has been modeled after regular Coast Guard programs.

Members conduct free vessel examination safety checks to make sure federal regulations are met—an important aspect due to danger of combustible fuels and carbon monoxide emissions that can silently kill boaters. The Auxiliary teaches boating safety classes and endorses life-jacket inspections for its exchange program, a partnership with the state's Department of Boating and Waterways to replace old and unserviceable jackets.

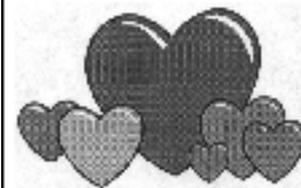
The Auxiliary

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is always looking for new members to help promote boating safety and conduct search and rescue missions. For more information, contact Kerry Jamieson at 884-3691.

While on patrol, Auxiliary members act in an official capacity. They operate under military orders, but use private vessels, equipped with special gear. Members are reimbursed for actual costs incurred while on patrol, including fuel and meals.

"I'm happy to be elected to this position because I think it brings boating safety closer to the local community, where every other person either owns a boat or goes boating at one time or another," Jamieson said.

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Out & About



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Evergreen Elementary hosted its annual tradition recently, inviting grandparents to come share breakfast with the students. The popular event is sponsored by the PTA.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Gary Running gives the thumbs up to Washington state Rep. Pat Lantz as they talked and prepared food donations at the Key Peninsula Community Services in December. Local schools, churches and residents didn't let KPCS down—thanks to collections by Vaughn Elementary, TOPS, and churches, many local families received holiday goodies.



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

Sisters Cameron: Makenna, 4, and Kayla, 18 months, get their turn to tell Santa if they've been naughty or nice. The jolly fella and Mrs. Santa stopped by with their reindeer sleigh at the annual tree lighting celebration in Key Center in December. Right, Bryden Brohmen, 16 months, waits for Santa with grandma, Ladine Duran, while listening to live music and munching on a cookie.



Photo by Karl Anderson

The Wolves of KP! Stan Weston holds one of the dog-tame Wolf Eels off Key Peninsula, which are in many cases truly as mellow as puppies.



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

Above, Donn Allard of "The Highway Drifter" entertained the holiday crowd at the KP Community House.



Left, Heylie Miller takes her horse, Dasher, for an afternoon stroll around Glen Cove.