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# Public forum addresses KPMS safety

By Chris Fitzgerald  
KP News

At a standing-room-only public forum held at Key Peninsula Middle School the evening of April 18, concerned parents asked hard questions in the aftermath of a thwarted incident resulting in the arrest of three students on April 7. The three boys were charged with allegedly planning to set fire to the school then shoot certain students and staff members. Much has been publicized about the aborted plot; however, telling components included in the police report, made public in a

Pierce County Juvenile Court hearing on April 12, have gone unnoticed.

From the school stage on that evening, after Superintendent Jim Coolican spoke, Principal Sharon Shaffer said, "I am proud to stand before you and tell the story of something that did not occur. Vigilance. Communication. Community.

"Through these, the efforts of an entire educational body and law enforcement averted a potential tragedy," she said.

Officials credit students, teachers, parents and administrators for stop-

(See **KPMS**, Page 9)



Photo by Chris Fitzgerald

Students return to school without incident after spring break and the arrest of three classmates.

# Secret unveiled: KP residents celebrate Hugh

Councilman Terry Lee declared April 22, 2006 as Hugh McMillan Day in Pierce County

By Danna Webster  
KP News

Camera in hand, a little late, as usual, Key Peninsula's well-known reporter and photographer Hugh McMillan walked into the Civic Center on April 22 to cover what he thought was a Boy Scouts celebration.

Little did he know. It was, in fact, a gathering of about 100 local residents, community leaders, school district staff and politicians to honor him — a gathering that, amazingly, the Key Peninsula kept a secret for months from McMillan.

"Whereas, Hugh McMillan has become a friend to students across the Peninsula School District and achieved a new student sense of pride through his recognition of their talents," said Jim Coolican, PSD superintendent, and, after reading 10 significant contributions of Hugh McMillan, declared, "Now therefore

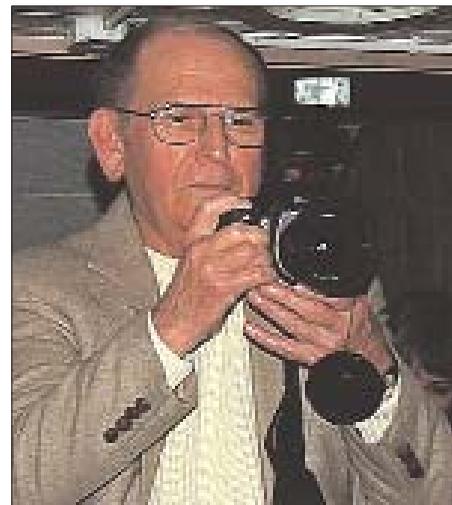


Photo by Mindi LaRose

Surprise! Reporter-photographer Hugh McMillan was on the other side of the camera April 22.

be it resolved that: Hugh McMillan shall be officially appointed The Peninsula School District ambassador, with heartfelt appreciation from the Peninsula School District No. 401 Board of Directors, students, staff and community."

With that, the ceremony of tributes

(See **HUGH**, Page 23)

# New WWII memorial to be dedicated May 28

By Keith Stiles  
Special to KP News

On Sunday, May 28, The Key Peninsula Veteran's Institute will present the 12th Annual "Aisle of Honor" at the Vaughn Bay Cemetery, including the unveiling of a new monument as a tribute to U.S. veterans, both living and passed on, of World War II. Of the approximately 16 million U.S. servicemen and women of that war, an estimated 3.5 million are still with us, but those still living are rejoining former comrades at an estimated rate of more than 1,000 per day.

A familiar feature of the "Aisle of Honor" program will be the colorful display of 231 large mounted American casket flags which will fly on the cemetery hill starting at 7 a.m., and remain there until 5 p.m. on that Sunday. Each of the flags represents an American servicemen or woman who has served their country

(See **MEMORIAL**, Page 19)

# Olson Road receives an extreme make-over

By Danna Webster  
KP News

Pierce County began repair work on Olson Road on April 10 and right on schedule. Paul Marsh from the Road Operations Division of Pierce County Public Works and Utilities explained the process. "Because of the chronic slide problems on Olson Road we have utilized a geo-technical engineering firm to analyze the slide area and assist with the repair design. The geo-technical engineer ... has recommended a repair process that entail roadway excavation of unsuitable materials, installation of a reinforcing fabric, and back filling with select aggregate. The repaired area will then be repaved to match the existing roadway surface," said Marsh.

The first stage of the operation was to dig down to the original road base and clear the damaged area. The excavation



was 130 feet long and 9 ½ feet deep. The operating engineer, Wes Lantz, and his crew were surprised by its depth. Five county dump trucks began a steady cycle of loading the aggregate and bringing it to drop at the site. Layers of the fill were covered with a geo-grid fabric.

Several of the drivers have homes near the Peninsula between Gig Harbor and Victor; and one of the drivers, Karla



Photos by Danna Webster

Left, Winter rains washed out Olson Road causing traffic to detour over 92nd Street KPN. Above, members of the road crew working seven days a week on repairs are (l-r) Rick Russell, Doug Stuart and Karla Brones.

Brones, has strong family ties to Key Peninsula. She introduced herself as Kenny Brones' youngest daughter and said there was a time when "one side [of the land near Olson Road] belonged to

the Olson-Niemann's and the other was the Brones'," she said.

The crew worked seven days a week and reopened the road before their target date in April.

# New direction for KP Community Services

By Kristine Schultze  
KP News

After the annual elections, the Key Peninsula Community Services welcomed three new officers to the Board of Directors: Helen Saxen, Gary Stevenson and Gary Running.



RUNNING

"We've added some fresh faces and a new vitality," Running, the new president of the board, said, "and we're definitely looking forward to a bright tomorrow."

According to Running, plans for the board "look to the future," focusing on the younger generation and helping the community even more than before. They have been looking into getting a nurse out on the KP. They also started a new volunteer program for younger people to work and let the seniors relax and enjoy what they've helped build.

"Our seniors are our cornerstone," Running said. "They've really created a secure foundation for us to do this, and I want to make sure they get credit for everything they've done. If the cornerstone's secure you can do a lot with the

building, add as many levels as you want. And that's what we're doing — adding another level."

Running cites a "character of unity and agreement" as another change, saying the board is basing decisions on "values and principles as well as right and wrong."

"We had some bad press over a situation a while ago, and I think it's important people know any and all allegations have been answered. The whole atmosphere's changed. I've had people tell me it's comfortable here and it feels like home," he said.

The board is trying to maintain a "light" environment where everyone can feel comfortable and happy. "This place is building and building fast," Running said. "That's why we've got to change with it."

KPCS also plans to make changes to the building.

"When I look out here," Running said, gesturing to the neat blue rows of unoccupied chairs, "I don't see empty tables. We could have bingo going on over here and the seniors who want to watch the Mariners game could sit in here and we could have more activities in the other room. I mean, we've got seniors that

## County support

County Councilman Terry Lee announced the near-completion of the audit of the Key Peninsula Community Services (Food Bank). Anticipating successful audit results, Lee plans the release of Community Services funding that has been on hold. He anticipates more contributions to the Center will come, as the trust level in its operations improve.

don't use these facilities; we want to find out why and see what we can do to accommodate them," Running said. "Come here even a year from now and see how different it is."

## Peninsula KEY NEWS

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# Planning board members consider population growth

By Rick Sorrels  
Special to KP News

The Growth Management Act was passed by the state Legislature in 1990. It requires counties and communities to develop plans to "manage" growth in a manner that protects natural resources and promotes quality of life, while still absorbing the growth in population.

The Key Peninsula Community Planning Board is currently developing a Comprehensive Plan for growth management on the Key Peninsula for the next 25 years. Population growth is one of the key aspects considered in the comprehensive planning process.

A Comprehensive Planning Study was completed for neighboring Gig Harbor Peninsula in 1966, with its Comprehensive Plan adopted in 1975. The 1966 study forecast a "rapid growth" from a population of 5,600 in 1960 to 15,000 in 1985. Census data now shows that the "rapid growth" estimate had been shattered by 1975, 10 years earlier than projected.

Members of the KP Community Planning Board agree that population

growth could be a concern and that changes in population trends will affect the area.

Jeff Harris, who is also president of the Key Peninsula Community Council, believes "that population growth will increase at a rate greater than 55 percent per decade thru 2015."

"I expect the population to become older and wealthier, with more retired persons," he says. "House prices will go up even higher, making it difficult for our teachers, police, firemen, and store workers to live in the communities where they work."

Lori Deacon, a real estate agent with Windermere, says that "growth will continue with a lot of pressure put on infrastructure needs like fire departments, schools, and roads." She says, "I expect to see more retired residents and vacation homes."

Frank DiBiase, an environmental health technician with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, sees "a big surge in population after the new bridge opens."

"Our rural character will definitely be threatened," DiBiase says. "Longtime resi-

**"Gasoline, bridge tolls, and transportation expense will keep more people from moving this far out. I expect growth to slow down considerably."**

-Jim Bosch, FD-16 fire commissioner

dents, many of whom are now retired, will feel the pinch from raising property values and increased taxes, forcing them to sell out and move someplace cheaper to live."

Chuck West, a captain with Fire District 16, believes that the growth estimates are too conservative. "More than 1,000 building permits have been issued since 2000; recent years have seen 250 per year, with 2.8 new residents per house," he says.

"We've already got more than 18,000 people living on the Key Peninsula. I've seen a lot of the old seasonal cabins converted to full-time residences. My impression is that most of the new residents are working class with families, not so many new retirees."

Jim Bosch, a fire commissioner for FD-16, however, believes the growth estimates

are too high. "The population will not quite double in the next 25 years," he says. "It will be driven by economic factors. It will be too expensive for the working man to live here. Gasoline, bridge tolls, and transportation expense will keep more people from moving this far out. I expect growth to slow down considerably."

Caril Ridley, a parks commissioner and planning board member, expects growth "to continue at a rate greater than 55 percent per decade for at least 25 more years before it tapers off."

"The limiting factor will be the physical limits of the land itself, limits the board has to wrestle with," Ridley says.

Only time will tell how the Key Peninsula population will grow over the next 25 years, and how it will affect our quality of life and rural atmosphere. Local residents who have thoughts or preferences about their community's future have an opportunity to have their views heard during the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board meetings. The board meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the KP Middle School Library.



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## Editorial

### Alleged school plot brings grief for some, celebration for others

A well-publicized web of events at the Key Peninsula Middle School has cast the Key Peninsula into the negative spotlight once again, helping fuel a stereotype about this area of which we are well aware. Derogatory comments from Gig Harbor teen-agers about Key Pen kids were published by another local paper. Parents were quoted in some media as trying to place blame on the teachers and administration for creating an environment that would cause children to snap.

All parents — as well as the school district and the community at large — should be concerned when boys as young as 12 decide the answer to their frustrations is plotting to harm classmates and teachers. However, the most important aspect of the story is that the plot remained just that. Students who were approached to partake in it instead told adults. School staff, instead of dismissing rumors, acted promptly. District administrators have long

been working on policies to help the school communities deal with bullies and make the schools safe.

Students, parents, staff and district administrators — should be commended for helping prevent what could have been an incredible tragedy. Parents should get credit for teaching their children how to respond to adverse situations. District and school staff deserve credit for keeping and promoting vigilance in their buildings. Most importantly, the students who raised the alarm earned credit for not giving in to peer pressure — an incredible feat for teen-agers in a culture where so much emphasis is placed on popularity, violence and even rebellion.

Those who judge the Key Peninsula Middle School based on the lone acts of three students are amiss. Our local kids, our entire community, should be proud of KPMS. This school would not have demonstrated great academic improvement, would not have been selected as the state's first NASA school, would not be recognized by state officials, and would not be fostering award-winning teachers had it been filled with uncaring teachers and students. And we are proud of our community, which responded with concern as

volunteers, parents and other adults came to school after spring break — the first day after allegations were made public — to show students their heartfelt support.

It is not money, financial status or well-manicured lawns that make a community. It is actions, and in April the actions of the Key Peninsula community spoke louder than any off-handed comments made by those on the outside.

### Key Pen's veteran volunteer deserves kudos

Key Peninsula's most famous person who has worked hard for years received, at last, his own recognition in April. We don't usually brag about our own staff but Hugh McMillan is on the volunteer roster for so many organizations that we can claim but a small part of his good works. It was magnificent to see the Civic Center gymnasium filled with people who came to express their appreciation. It's been said that the former CIA agent could make or break a local political campaign — but mostly what he gets credit for is helping so many groups and events become successful.

Many people may only know McMillan as a writer and photographer for the local



Photo by Mindi LaRose

When asked if he was surprised, Hugh McMillan said, "It blew me right out of my socks."

community papers. But McMillan's work goes beyond telling stories through photos or words. He is an active volunteer or board member for many of the organizations he covers. He is often responsible for bringing elected officials to certain local events. He is known to just about all students and teachers at the schools and can be often spotted alongside children during field trips.

Congratulations to Key Pen's Scoutmaster Bill Macaras for planning the celebration and putting things in motion to make it happen.

## The good guys won

By Danna Webster  
KP News

The radio said some KPMS students were arrested. They had planned to set fires at the school and shoot people. Their plot to destroy and kill was stopped. I rejoiced.

Seven years ago, I was a teacher a few miles across Denver from Columbine. I took my students' poems and pictures and hung them on Columbine's tennis court fence. I walked from the hill above Columbine to the pocket park on the corner — past 13 crosses adorned with mementos — out to the student parking lot where Rachel's car stood parked as she had left it — never to drive it home. It was buried in flowers.

At Key Peninsula Middle School, a Columbine plot was foiled. The Harris and Klebold of KPMS never got their way.

Their friends put a stop to it. Their teachers expelled them. The cops removed them.

KPMS is not a Columbine. It is a friend of mine. KPMS kept my trust and is safe. The good guys won. Rejoice.

## Letters to the Editor

### Reader disappointed that article was left out

I was sorry to learn that you did not run our article about our once a year fishermen's breakfast, scheduled for April 30.

This is an annual event attended by many old-timers and where community members gather to celebrate the beginning of the fishing season. We are a non-profit organization. We are all volunteers. We are very disappointed that you did not realize the importance of announcing the event in the April issue.

It is difficult for me to understand why you chose to ignore this.

Marjorie Hurley  
Lakebay

### Robinson family appreciates support

All of us would like to thank the Key Peninsula News for printing the Obituary in support for our family.

We would also like to thank the community and every individual that has

made and still continue to donate to "Arthur Robinson Memorial Fund" at any of the Sound Credit Union Branches thank you for keeping us in all your thoughts and prayers, and we greatly appreciate all of you heart felt sympathy, support and the love you have shown to our family.

Losing Arthur, it has been the most painful and unbearable tragedy of our family and for every one that knew him personally. He was indeed a very sweet, kind, gentle, loving and loved son and loyal friend, and he will be deeply missed.

Thanks to all, and may God give back to each and every one of you the same love and support you have shown to our family during these difficult times.

The Robinson Family  
Lakebay

### Reader supports 144th Street as alternate to 302

I have been exploring routes for a Trans-Puget Trail System for years and believe that using the 144th Street (pole line) route as a traffic alternative to SR-302 would be the natural choice. Land acquisition and environmental impact

are determining factors in routing such a major thoroughfare along the northern tier of Key Peninsula and emerging from such a project would be the streamlining of transportation that would encourage population growth throughout our region as well as open unused lands as far as Shelton.

Key Peninsula would then be positioned to take advantage of its northern tier commercial availability as well as future financial and sales tax support for our growing communities. This commercial location would generate a well defined business cluster offering the economic infrastructure KP so badly needs.

I believe that opening the pole line corridor would also offer direct access to the large regional park now being planned to the north while leaving the county line available for an east-west Trans-Puget Trail system of non-motorized, multi-use trails connecting the Cascades with the Olympics and passing through some of the most beautiful wetlands and forests in the region.

Caril Ridley  
KPMPCD Commissioner, Pierce County  
Planning Board member, KP Trails Chair



Photo by Danna Webster

Karen Payseno of CHS organized a food workers' class for Key Peninsula. Payseno and Vicki Biggs served as facilitators for the Tacoma Public Health class.

## CHS hosts food safety class

The Children's Home Society staff, under the direction of Karen Payseno, brought the Tacoma Public Health Department to Key Center to present the Food Workers' Training Class. Every chair in the fire department's classroom was filled. Thirty-four people from restaurants, nonprofit associations and churches filled out applications for a food worker's license. A rapid pace was set by instructor Ted Leija who presented the "need to know" information through a video and coaching format. There was enthusiastic participation in the oral question session and pencils went to work on the written test. After the tests are graded, food worker cards will be mailed to CHS to distribute to those with satisfactory scores.



## Key Pen Lutheran Church feeds locals

Head cook Kay Pinter offers a sausage to Pastor Richard Hermstad at a recent dinner at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. McColley Hall has been approved by the Pierce County Health Department as a meal site, and regular meals are scheduled:

Breakfasts, served from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on first and third Saturdays, and 3 p.m. dinners on the fourth Saturday. These meals are a gift from the church to the community, there is no charge, and everyone is welcome. Monthly schedules may change after June.

Volunteers to help serve and clean up for these meals are welcome to apply. For more information, call the church office at 884-3312.

Photo by Colleen Slater

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## News briefs

### KPCC needs directors, committee members

The Key Peninsula Community Council seeks Key Peninsula residents or persons who own property on the Key Peninsula to fill three newly vacant community council director positions, one each in districts 1, 2 and 4. One of the positions will end in September 2006, with the other two expiring in September 2007. Applicants must be 18 or older.

If you are interested in applying and interviewing for one of the open positions, contact the Key Peninsula Community Council at 884-0557, president Jeff Harris at 884-4697, or talk with council members at the Livable Community Fair on May 13 at the Civic Center. Application cutoff May 15; applicants will be asked to attend a brief interview with several current board members on May 18. The recommendation to the Board of Directors and the seating of the new directors will be on June 10. Potential board members must be able to attend the monthly board meetings and participate on one of the council's committees.

The Council also seeks Key Peninsula

citizens interested in participating on council committees for human services, safety, communications, and/or planning. All committees meet once a month. Please call the KP Community Council office at 884-0557 if interested. "Citizen participation ensures that our work truly reflect the wishes and needs of our community," says Barb Trotter, KPCC Human Services chair.

### Blood Drive Mobile dates

The blood donor mobile is scheduled to be at Albertson's (51st Avenue NW) in Gig Harbor on May 1, 2:30 to 7 p.m.; the Peninsula Light Company, on May 9, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and again at Albertson's in Gig Harbor on May 15 from 2:30 to 7 p.m. For details about Gig Harbor stops, call 383-2553, Ext. 265.

### KP Metro Park District needs donations

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District needs the following equipment: vacuum cleaner, hot plate, microwave, small refrigerator, plastic floor mats for office chairs and a typewriter. Equipment must be in good working condition. Please drop off donated items at the ball field office. If you want pick up or need a

receipt for your tax-deductible donation, please contact Scott at 884-9420.

### AARP 55-Alive at KP Sportsmen's Club

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club hosts an AARP 55-Alive Driving Review Course on Wednesday, May 17 and Thursday, May 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day. The cost is \$10 per person. Participants age 55 and older may receive a discount on their car insurance for attending this course. Contact A.E. Dolfin at 884-5767. Reservation deadline is May 12.

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WINDOW TREATMENTS

# Powerline Road on the planning board's table

By Rick Sorrels  
Special to KP News

Powerline Road, a Tacoma Power utility road known on maps as 144th St. NW, is on Pierce County's list of future road projects, but construction may not occur for decades due to assignment of a low priority.

Powerline Road has appeared frequently in the news over the past year. Tacoma Power claims ownership thru a 1923 condemnation action, and has threatened to lock out property owners who use the road as their only access to their homes.

Ownership and easements rights, however, have been in dispute. Residents claim an easement was well established for nearly 100 years. They say sheriff's deputies still issue traffic tickets there. Several property owners sued Tacoma Power earlier this year, and the suit is heading for trial in 2007. Tacoma Power has recently attempted to have the lawsuit dismissed but failed.

State Route 302 handles all the east-

west traffic load for the Key Peninsula. Traffic volume has increased considerably in recent years, according to Pierce County and state figures. Frequent serious accidents at 118th Avenue and at the Elgin-Clifton "Y" have created traffic jams while police conduct detailed accident investigations for fatal and near-fatal collisions. Many residents believe an alternate route is needed, both in case of road closure and also to reduce the daily traffic load. The possibility of using Powerline Road as that alternative has been brought up.

The road has been a point of discussion at the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board, where transportation and road issues for the next 25 years are currently being addressed. Affected property owners have been attending meetings to testify about their current situation and to urge board members to make the road a priority in the plan.

Chuck West, a planning board member and a captain with Fire District 16, says he is quite concerned with the future routing of SR-302. "If the state

ever does relocate SR-302, it will probably be north of the Burley Lagoon in Kitsap County," he says. "This won't help us at all, as 95 percent of the people traveling SR-302 have end destinations in Tacoma and the Key Peninsula. It makes no sense for them to travel farther north; they will continue to use the existing SR-302, continuing the congestion. Developing Powerline Road makes a lot of sense. It's a straight shot, accessible, and located in Pierce County, where it can do us some good."

West further states "that something really needs to be done. The design maximum for SR-302 is 13,700 vehicles per day. The current count at the Purdy Bridge is 25,000 vehicles per day. If Powerline Road can't be developed soon, then County Line Road (160th St. NW) should be looked at as the next best option."

Caril Ridley, a parks commissioner who is on the planning board, is concerned about access to the 360-acre regional park being planned and developed where Powerline Road meets SR-302. "Hopefully within five years this park will be in 24/7

The Key Peninsula Community Planning Board has been discussing transportation issues on the Key Peninsula. The public is invited to participate in the meetings, held on the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Key Peninsula Middle School library at 7 p.m. May meetings are May 3, 17 and 31.

operation. When operating, the fairgrounds will see about 2,000 vehicles per day, and the ball fields another 400 vehicles," she says. "Other activities will see even more traffic. I'm sure that a traffic signal will be required at Powerline Road. Some matching fund grant money will help with capital improvements, but development of Powerline Road would sure help solve our access and traffic problems."

Ridley feels that "developing Powerline Road would provide a wonderful opportunity to establish along that same corridor a system of trails and walking paths connecting the 360-acre park to outlying natural resource lands."

Jim Bosch, a planning board member and fire commissioner for FD-16, believes that "developing Powerline Road would benefit the greater Key Peninsula community, but there are more important issues that have greater need for our scarce dollars." Bosch says, "Powerline Road should remain a low priority, targeted for development about 25 years from now."

While board members don't agree on what should be done with the road, the board does appear to agree that population growth will further increase traffic volumes. There is also speculation that if the proposed NASCAR race track is built nearby in Kitsap County, another multiple increase in traffic will follow.



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Dinner: 6:30—8:30PM  
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# KP ablaze



Former oyster warehouse on Burley Lagoon burned to the ground.

Photo by  
Frank Slater



Church fire causes major interior damage. Exterior structure remains sound.

Photo courtesy of  
Carrie Morlang

## Vaughn Community Church catches fire

By Frank & Colleen Slater  
KP News

million,” said Odegaard, but teams of members were inventorying the specific losses the week following the fire.

Palm Sunday services at the Vaughn Community Church began Holy Week with praises and a baptism. Before the day was over, the church was no longer usable until and unless extensive repairs are made.

A meeting was held two days after the fire, and the decision made to wait for six weeks to make any final decisions on what the congregation will do next. Meanwhile, temporary quarters for the church are in several places. Sunday services will be held at 10 a.m. at Vaughn Elementary School. Offices are in both the Red Barn where Community in Schools (CIS) uses space, and in Dale and Judy Harrison’s private residence. Pastor Tim Stobbe’s phone number is 884-2269.

Chuck Odegaard, Pastor Emeritus, arrived at 5:40 p.m. to lead his ongoing class of Interns in Bible study. Smoke was coming out of the vents. At the door, he heard the alarms inside, and called 9-1-1.

“This fire department is superb,” said Odegaard. “They didn’t have a wasted step.”

Stobbe wants to thank the organizations and individuals who have offered assistance in their time of need, including the Key Peninsula Civic Center, Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Lakebay Community Church, Key Peninsula Community House, and CIS.

Rigs with hoses were there within minutes, and firemen wearing oxygen masks went to work inside. Fire Chief Tom Lique had 15-17 firemen at the site, with three engines, two tenders, and two ambulances, as well as other equipment for backup.

The church, built in 1898 on the shores of Vaughn Bay, has been a Vaughn landmark as the community expanded.

“We’ve lost our building for a long time,” said Odegaard. The exterior appears undamaged.

In 1939, Josephine Welsh wrote “The Chapel By The Sea” about the early history of the church. Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Congregationalists each called the church home prior to a reorganization as a community church in 1949. Extensive remodeling was done to house a growing congregation in later years.

Bob Skaggs, fire marshal from Tacoma, determined the cause to be the baptismal heating element, which had not been turned off after the morning baptism. However, due to lack of oxygen, the fire was contained in the area around the baptistery. The whole interior received smoke damage.

Cracked windows, melted seat covers, charred walls and twisted remains of drums show the amount of destruction in the immediate vicinity.

The current congregation will have to adapt to unusual circumstances for awhile, as decisions are made regarding their future and this beloved community landmark.

Damage was estimated at “half a

## Fire destroys Purdy warehouse

By Frank & Colleen Slater  
KP News

Harbor’s FD-5, as commander.

Traffic backed up halfway across the Wauna sandspit when fire vehicles descended on Purdy to fight the Western Oyster warehouse fire on April 12.

No hydrant was accessible, and firemen are reluctant to stick their intakes into salt water, so tenders with water and hoses were sent from the Fire District 16 and Kitsap No. 7 district. They refilled from Peninsula High School hydrants.

Theron Bailey, in an adjacent building, noticed smoke about 12:50 p.m. His sister, Barbara Hawks, called 9-1-1.

The 40-by-60 foot building, built about 1930 and recently used for storage, was destroyed. Jerry Yamashita said his dad owned it before him, and it had been in the family since 1952. They hadn’t processed oysters there for quite awhile.

A metro drill in Gig Harbor was just completed when the call came through, said Fire District 5 Public Information Officer Penny Hulse. The assembled rigs from Puyallup, Lakewood, University Place, Central Pierce County and Gig Harbor all responded, with Mark Metsker, acting battalion chief, of Gig

Hulse said the cause of the fire was not determined. Yamashita noted the building was uninsured, and irreplaceable. Bob Skaggs, Pierce County Fire Marshal, estimated the loss at \$80,000.

## O’Gallagher’s Pub & Grill

### May Calendar of Events!

As of May music will be on Saturdays from 8-12.

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Saturday, May 13	Polly O’Keary
Saturday, May 20	Pacific Breeze
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(From KPMS, Page 1)

ping a tragedy by assessing rumors seriously and acting quickly.

Investigating statements in the Prosecuting Attorney's Declaration for Determination of Probable Cause stated: "A search of one boy's locker revealed a compact disk containing a download of the 'Anarchy Cookbook,' which describes how to make a variety of explosives... the plan was ultimately revealed to school staff when one of the boys tried to recruit additional students to carry out the plan."

District staff say the safety of students, staff and visitors is a major aspect in the myriad of everyday activities, systems and protocol in practice on a daily basis in every school in the Peninsula School District. At the forum, Coolican stated emphatically several times that the entire district's first priority is safety; both physical and psychological, with ongoing continuous practice and preparation for crisis contingencies.

During the forum's question and answer period, some parents expressed frustration. "Don't we need to know how we failed them?" one parent asked. "Our kids could be the (next) ones who feel that desperate and do something crazy." Before a school or enforcement person could respond, another parent provided the answer: "We can't know. Only they (students) know, and they may never tell."

Dennis Goss, attorney for one of the defendants, was present for the discussion, and advocated prudence, citing the Constitution's guarantee of "innocent until proven guilty." He contended that a valid question existed, and it is, "What is making our kids react this way to this school environment?" He said, "Until these kids have been convicted of a crime, there has been no crime committed."

In a statement that drew applause from some, new Key Peninsula resident Pablo Nichipor said, "I set the temperature that measures attitudes with/for my kids as much as I can." He added that his own responses to situations set the tone for his kids' reactions, and said in East Los Angeles, his former community, police officers were always present in the schools. He expressed his concern about response contingencies to reduce injuries and fatalities.

In reply, Coolican said, "We can't predict every crisis, but we know what to do. There is a plan in place, a precise

lock-down procedure. Kids are never alone; teachers never have to leave the classroom, and all rooms have communication systems linked to first responders."

Both Coolican and Sheriff Paul Pastor assured participants they worked together. Pastor said, "After Columbine, we visited there and worked to design a computerized, photographic map of every school and industrial site in our area. We are one of the best agencies in the state (prepared for crisis response)." A parent himself, Pastor had high praise for Peninsula residents. "We need more communities like this one," he said and explained that today's families are "parenting up-stream against a culture that glorifies thugs and the idea of alienated, hostile kids." He asked citizens for patience, for cohesion in standing with schools and police. "Our job — all of us — law enforcement and every citizen," he said, "is to make sure it doesn't happen here."

**"They are not bottom-feeders."**  
-Kate Van Slyke, parent

Brandy Berthoff, a young mother and wife of a ninth-grade teacher, told the audience, "As a parent, your job is to be sitting down with your kids and know what's going on with them." She implored parents not to look for blame; teachers cannot answer every need, although they try. Her comment brought a heated retort from an audience member: "Not all parents recognize their children's instability..."

The last parent to speak was Kate Van Slyke, recently relocated from New York. Her 13-year-old daughter, Patience, now living out of state, knew two of the accused students. "They are not bottom-feeders," she said. "They are not heartless children; we cannot blame peer-pressure, the teachers. There is no one influence around kids that makes them feel (included or excluded)." Van Slyke urged other parents to be aware, to try not to judge. She expressed sincere support of KPMS, saying, "The staff at KPMS treated my daughter with respect and kindness even when her behavior did not merit it."

After the forum, Sheriff Pastor passed along some wisdom every parent needs to know and remember. "Kids need boundaries. I know what is in my kids' rooms, what music they listen to, whom they are with and where they are. They need both boundaries and love. We forget they need that bright line that clearly points to right and wrong, values, morals, and ethical (behavior)."

# Livable Fair returns to Vaughn

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

May 13 will be a busy day in Vaughn. The Livable Community Fair spreads out in the Civic Center; the Lakebay Fuchsia Society holds its annual plant sale across the lawn; the Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum will be open, with a new World War II display; and Renaissance Faire members will have costumed pirates in attendance.

## Livable Community Fair

The 5th Annual Livable Community Fair at the Key Peninsula Civic Center will be held on Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The theme is "Showcasing people, agencies and organizations making the Key Peninsula more livable." The Civic Center and Safe Streets are two of the many sponsors.

In the gym, there will be tables of various nonprofit organizations of the Key Peninsula, with information, and in some cases, activities for visitors. Lunch items will be for sale from the kitchen.

## The Lakebay Fuchsia Society Plant Sale

The 11th annual plant sale of the Lakebay Fuchsia Society will include 50 baskets of blooming or ready-to-bloom fuchsias. Jackie Crossman, a fairly new member of the group, has prepared these baskets, as well as starts of both hardy and nonhardy fuchsias, including trailing as well as uprights.

Members start perennials or dig them from their own gardens for the sale. Other perennials and annuals are also in the sale, which begins at 9 a.m., and runs until 4 p.m.

The Society plants and maintains the garden on the southwest corner of the lawn area at the Civic Center. This garden demonstrates the variety of hardy fuchsias that grow in the local area, as well as a multitude of companion plants to create an all-season display.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets each month on the first Thursday at the Key Center Library, 7 p.m. Guests are welcome. For more information, call 884-9744.

## The Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum

"The Price of Freedom" is the new exhibit at the Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum, to celebrate Heritage Month 2006 in May.

What was happening on the Key Peninsula Homefront in the 1940s? Many people were involved in a variety of activities in peninsula communities. Featured in the display will be photos, uniforms, and stories from World War II veterans Ralph Kingsbury, John Larson, Ethel Nelson, and Don Olson, as well as others from the peninsula.

The museum will stay open until 4 p.m., with a "Package from home" raffle every hour after 11 a.m. The contents of the packages are a surprise, just as the ones received by the troops were unknown until opened.

A silent auction for two rounds of golf at Horseshoe Lake Golf Club will also be held. This includes a cart for 18 holes.

Regular museum hours are Thursday and Saturday, from 1 to 4 p.m. or by special appointment. Quarterly meetings of the Historical Society include educational programs of local interest. For more information, call 884-3272, or visit [www.keypeninsula-museum.org](http://www.keypeninsula-museum.org).

## The Ren Faire Pavilion

Pirates will mingle with patrons at the Livable Community Fair, and invite people to learn about pirates and the Renaissance Faire at their pavilion set outside the Civic Center.

Russian Jack, a.k.a. Brian Beaulac, plans to do demonstrations with his whip and also sword fighting near his pavilion. Some items of the living history hands-on display are scales, bolts of cloth, tea, bricks, swords, cutlass, daggers, ship's bell, spices, sextant, compass and display of knots used on board ship. The pirates in attendance will explain how these items were acquired and used.

This is the third year these folks have participated in the Livable Fair and are pleased to be invited back with a larger display. The pirates will be in Ilwaco with the Tall Ships on May 20, when they "raid the town" and entertain the people.

Volunteers are wanted from the community to help at the 9th annual Renaissance Faire the first 3 weekends in August. For information on the event, volunteering or for advance tickets, see [washingtonrenfaire.com](http://washingtonrenfaire.com).

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JULY 21-23

2006



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Key Peninsula Sports Center & Fairgrounds - Key Peninsula Hwy, Lakebay

# Focus on the WASL: The stakes have been raised

## Tenth-graders are the first class in Washington history required to pass the WASL to graduate from high school

By Danna Webster  
KP News

*Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning.*

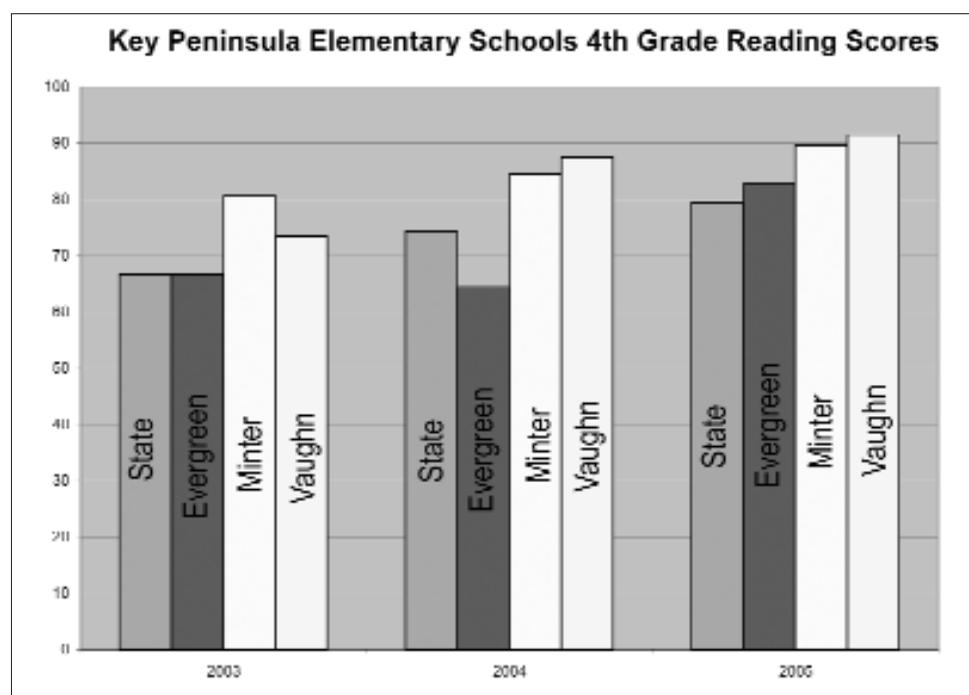
Every elementary school on the Key Peninsula scored above the state average in reading last year. In 2005, Peninsula School District ranked No. 1 in Pierce County and achieved some of the highest scores in the state on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), a mandatory standardized test assessed at several grade levels. Reading scores in fourth, seventh and 10th grades were 82.9 percent proficient, compared to the state average of 73.8 percent.

This year the focus of the school district must shift from the success of the past to concern for the students who fail any part of the WASL, district officials say. At the high school level, sophomore WASL scores

are critical to their graduation in 2008. They have only four opportunities to retake the exam and pass. The first retake is scheduled for Aug. 7-10.

In order to allow time to register for summer school classes, sophomores will receive their WASL scores by June 10 (other students will get their results in late summer). To prepare 10th-graders for their first retake opportunity, PHS summer school will offer classes specifically aimed at WASL testing. Before graduation in 2008, sophomores have four chances to pass: August 2006, spring 2007, August 2007, and spring 2008.

PSD Deputy Superintendent Bob Connelly says the school district is feeling the crunch caused by the narrow window from June 10, when sophomores get their results; the July 5 summer school start-up date; to the August 7 retake. The good news is that the state budgeted \$28 million for summer school modules. The district appreciates financial support from the



Graph provided by the Peninsula School District Office of Assessment

PSD elementary programs are paving the way toward improving WASL success.

state, according to Connelly.

Another new WASL component for the district to address is the alternative package passed by lawmakers this session. Students failing to pass the WASL twice may satisfy

the graduation requirements with an alternative assessment. Some suggested alternatives are: developing a portfolio of student work; meeting the requirements of a grade comparison formula; or choosing to substitute PSAT, SAT or ACT scores.

Connelly says he appreciates the direction state lawmakers took with regard to passing the alternatives options. "I'm very, very pleased that the state has put these alternatives into place. Every student has different learning styles, different strengths," he says, pointing out, for example, that some students are test phobic.

It is essential that the alternatives "maintain the same level of rigor" as the WASL, and alternatives should "not be an easier path but a different way" of proving achievement, he says. And while Connelly is pleased with the alternatives concept and has no objection to what is happening right now, he hopes there will be some evolution in how alternatives are put into place.

"I wish you didn't have to fail twice in order to choose it," he says. "A student should be able to choose it from the outset."

Connelly knows the focus of media attention on high school diplomas has raised the anxiety on the part of PSD students. He says standards are good and they can show real success but he hopes for a reduction in this annual high anxiety. "I look forward to the day when the WASL becomes another bench mark test without stress to students and families," he says.

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## School briefs

### Peninsula High Awards Ceremony May 24

Peninsula High will hold its annual scholarship awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Seniors who prepared scholarship portfolios are in the running for nearly \$190,000 of awards raised from local donors and through profits of the SAVE Thrift Store in Purdy. This scholarship program, which is one of the largest in the state, has been in existence for 21 years.

The entire Peninsula community is invited to attend the event and congratulate both the recipients and the donors. Donors include area businesses, organizations, families and alumni groups.

Criteria are not limited to high academic achievement, but include interests in particular vocational fields, community service commitment, artistic skill, school involvement or other qualities. All students are encouraged to make a portfolio as

their application for the various awards, not just those with the highest GPAs. Students receiving awards may use them for any type of post-secondary education, whether vocational or academic.

Prospective donors or persons interested in serving on the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship committee which coordinates this program may call group president Marsha Williams at 857-7557 for more information.

### New reporting system available for PHS parents

Peninsula High School introduced a new program called ParentCONNECTxp during spring semester. It allows parents to view their child's current progress online.

To register, log on to <http://pcxp.peninsula.wednet.edu> and click on register. The user ID and password will be sent to PHS within seven days and must be picked up at the PHS Main Office. Photo ID is required for the pick up. ParentConnect gives parents access to academic information about their child "24-7."

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Photo by Kristen Pierce

Karen Leach manages Lennard K's restaurant that her son Marty recently purchased.

## Small town of Allyn offers big hospitality at Lennard K's

By Kristen Pierce  
KP News

Karen Leach, her husband, Don, and son Marty, have embarked on a joint venture of becoming the new owners of two restaurants: Lennard K's and the former Allyn Inn. Both establishments are located in the quaint town of Allyn at the end of State Route 302.

Karen was born in Shelton and raised in Allyn. There, she met her husband and raised four boys. Marty, their oldest son, knew the original owner of one the restaurants. Upon his friend's announcement about retirement, Marty seized the opportunity and bought the property and the restaurant. Karen primarily oversees the whole operation and makes sure everything is running smoothly while Don occasionally tends the bar.

Utilizing 17 years of experience as an

office manager for an orthodontist, Karen Leach now manages both restaurants. She also has seven years' experience as a professional cake decorator for Albertsons and is using her creativity on some new and exciting plans for the restaurants. The Allyn Inn, which is now the Allyn Convention, Banquet, and Party Center, will be able to seat up to 180 guests and provide or accommodate various types of entertainment. Leach can arrange for professional photography and prepare a most memorable display of foods and beverages for any event. She hopes to host a variety of occasions such as birthday parties, anniversary parties, reunions, weddings, receptions, business meetings, and company appreciation events. Waterfront wedding ceremonies can be held across the street on the lawn behind Lennard K's. The restaurant boasts lovely views of Case Inlet and has a brand new large deck for outdoor dining and dancing enjoyment.

In the near future, Leach hopes to add a few specialties to the existing Lennard K's menu. There will be a section called "The Deck Menu," from which a hungry patron can choose many of the mouthwatering meals she calls "the picnic foods" that can be ordered outside on the deck.

Although she displays much excitement and enthusiasm for all the upcoming activities planned this spring and summer, Leach says she intends to keep the original character of Lennard K's intact and does not plan on changing its name. Hence, using the term "new and improved" would surely apply to Lennard K's restaurant.

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# It is springtime and business is blooming on the Peninsula

Three businesses held grand openings in April and a fourth is hoping to open early this summer.

JED's and KC Computer shared grand opening honors on April 8. About 100 people dropped in to see the newly remodeled stores. Families munched cookies and lined up for the creation of identification tags and files for their children. The stores co-operated in the process of photos, thumb prints and ID card lamination for over

two dozen youngsters.

The next day, Sunday April 9, signs sprouted along the Key Highway announcing the opening of Trillium Creek Winery. Their grand opening party was April 27. A steady stream of cars and visitors rolled into the winery on Sunday and Monday. (See related story on page 15.)

Meantime, progress continued on the rejuvenation of the old Trading Post building in Key Center. Ira and Alisa

Spector are creating office and retail space and call it The Landing. Plans for the facility are posted on the outside of the building. The front door is moving to the center of the building to accommodate an open courtyard entrance that leads past large office spaces, restroom facilities and back to high ceilings above three smaller suites. Paved parking for the building is provided on the west side and the lawn and grounds will offer the comforts of seating and tables.



The Landing hopes to be open for business this summer. Owner Ira Spector stands beside one of the great support beams that are featured in the open courtyard.

Signs for KC Corral businesses welcome traffic to Grand Openings for JED's and KC Computer.



Photos by Danna Webster



Many guests became loyal customers at Trillium Creek Winery's grand opening. Gail and Randy Fortier, General Manager for the Inn at Gig Harbor, enjoy the hospitality of host Claude Gahard.

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# Trillium Creek Winery is open for business

By Danna Webster  
KP News

## Trillium Creek Winery

Located in Home, off the Key Peninsula Highway at Second Avenue. Follow the signs. Open Thursday through Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 253-884-5746.

On the second Sunday morning in April, Trillium Creek Winery signs popped up along Key Peninsula roads like spring blossoms. This was exactly right because after a dormant winter, completing the tasting room, establishing the cellar and tending the vineyard, the winery bloomed.

Owners Claude and Claudia Gahard hardly expected the parade of customers that arrived that first day. Undaunted, they divided the guests into tour and tasting groups and gave their full attention to every visitor.

The tours strolled between two separate vineyards, labeled and neatly pruned, along a wandering foot path and over a wooden bridge that crosses Trillium Creek. The trilliums, of course, were in full bloom for the occasion. Before returning to the tasting room, the tours stopped in the subterranean cellar to admire the controlled atmosphere protected by one-foot-thick concrete walls and an earth-covered roof.

Inside the tasting room, guests admired the fir beam supports and natural woodwork textures, all from lumber harvested out of the vineyard. At the counter, they were told a history of winemaking around the Peninsula and tasted an original recipe for Island Belle. Guests were introduced to the new fruit wines, which are produced in partnership with Fairview Acres near Delano Bay. Surprise was a common

response to the dignified and delicious tastes of wines made from the berries, fruits and rhubarb grown on the Peninsula. A blended wine, Seigerrebe-Quince, won the popularity honors and may become a signature wine for Trillium Creek. The tasting concluded with the more complex wines from Pinot Noir and Muller Thurgau grapes.

Guests bought their favorites and it was no secret that the artistic label further enhanced enthusiasm for their purchases. Like most of the products featured at the winery, the labels were designed and produced locally. Artist Chuck Kraft, the "Sign Man" of Vaughn, created the label and NorthWoods Graphics, in Purdy, produced them.

The delight of guests was obvious as they took photos and stayed much longer than they expected. The pleasure between guests and hosts was reciprocal. It especially delighted the Gahards to see the fruit of their labor become a desired commodity. They enjoyed the surprises of dry wine connoisseurs who loved fruit wines. But a favorite story was the one about a young man, suspected to be a Budweiser aficionado, becoming a Trillium Creek wine convert.



Photos by Danna Webster

Above, Claudia Gahard and her granddaughter lead tours through the vineyards at Trillium Creek on opening day, April 9. A grand opening celebration was held April 27.



Claude and Claudia Gahard check the oak affect on their pinot noir.

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## Angel Guild news

Our shop is ready for spring. We have children's summer clothing and shoes for a nominal price. Check our household wares — now that spring is here — perhaps you are ready for a change in decor. Is there a wedding in your future? We have a lovely wedding gown on display and you will be pleasantly surprised at the price. Come in and see these gently used items.

In the month of March, the Angel Guild made a donation to the Key Peninsula Middle School NASA Explorer School Program. We also made a donation to the Gig Harbor Kiwanis Foundation for their peninsula back-to-school gifts; and gave two scholarships to Camp Easter Seal. It is our pleasure to make these worthwhile donations with funding that comes from our purchases.

The Angel Guild is located in the Key Center Corral and open Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You will be greeted with a friendly smile and there are always two Angels present to help you.

— By Betty Barkubein

## PC Charter Review Committee sets dates

The Citizens' Oversight Subcommittee of the Pierce County Charter Review Committee has set its spring meeting dates. This month the meetings are May 4, May 11, May 18 and May 25. The June dates are June 1, June 8, June 15 and June 22. The commission's last meeting will be on June 29. The meetings are 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Pierce Transit, (Rainier Room), 3720 96th St. SW, Lakewood.

## YMCA Camp Seymour invites families to event

YMCA Camp Seymour invites residents to the new Seymour Family Sunday May 21, from 2 to 5 p.m. Meet other families, take a camp tour, see recent improvements, and experience camp activities like boating, court games, crafts and a bouldering wall. Enjoy a complimentary snack and a campfire program. Events are free; RSVP not required. For more information about YMCA Camp Seymour (including maps and directions), visit [www.campseymour.org](http://www.campseymour.org) or call 884-3392.

## Annual rummage sale to be held

Troop 220 and Venture Crew 220 are holding their ninth annual rummage sale and car wash during Memorial Day weekend, May 27-28. The rummage sale will be held at Lake Kathryn Village. The



Photo courtesy of Joyce Niemann

Torch Club Society of Vaughn High 1938.

## Old Vaughn Union holds reunion

The 2006 Vaughn Union High Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 10 at the old high school, now known as the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The last reunion was three years ago, and committee members hope everyone who attended the school will be able to come. Invitations have been sent; if one of the classmates did not receive one, feel welcome to come and bring a guest. Call 884-3702 or 884-9123.

The Old Cheerleaders start festivities at 2 p.m., and cheer in the catered dinner at 4 p.m., with door prizes given. The museum (old library) will be open to view classmates pictures, old Tattlers, and history of the Key Peninsula.

Reunion committee members are Bill Hipp, Chet Dadisman, Russel Stock, Harm and Jane Van Slyke, Milly Niemann, Hazel Kingsbury, Shirl Olson, Joyce Niemann and Don Lind, chairman.

car wash will be held at the Harvest Time gas station and store. There will be clothing, toys, tools, furniture, electronics, plants and much more available. If you wish to donate items for this event, please contact Bill Macaras at 884-3133.

## Single Mothers' Car Care Day to be held

Lakebay Christian Assembly is holding its annual Single Mothers' Car Care Day on Saturday, May 20. Our team will change your car's oil and filter and check all the fluids. We will even vacuum the inside of your car. It's free! Lakebay Christian Assembly is located at 2406 McEwan Road in Lakebay and is sponsoring this event as a ministry to women living on the Key Peninsula. Contact Sharron Dean at 884-9948 by May 17 to make your appointment.

## Mother-daughter tea

A mother and daughter tea will be held on Saturday, May 13 at Lakebay Christian Assembly. The cost is \$3, which will cover the craft, food and

are wonderful teaching tales for children. They are visually stimulating and interactive. Please join us for this wonderful evening.

## Bike race coming to Longbranch

The Washington State Bicycle Road Race Championship will once again be held in Longbranch on the Key Peninsula. This year's event will be held on Sunday, May 7, beginning at 9 a.m.

Cyclists participate in a Tour-de-France style race on a 10.5 mile circuit along Key Peninsula Highway and Whitman Road. More than 100 cyclists participated in a single category of racing in the 2005 event with dozens of racers competing in each of the other category events.

The registration and start/finish area is located at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Public spectators are welcome.

## Civic Center news

The April 1 Crab Feed fund-raiser was a very successful family event! We look forward to improving it next year. Our next upcoming event is the Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair on May 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. followed by the Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre at 7 p.m. The KP Livable Community Fair showcases people, agencies and organizations that make our community more livable. The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will also be having their annual plant sale on May 13 at the Civic Center.

Future events include our Jazz in June Dinner/Dance featuring "No Inhibitions" Jazz Band; and on Aug. 26 we plan to celebrate the Civic Center's 50th Anniversary with a huge Country Western Day with a BBQ and dance. Some of the events we would like to have are hayrides, horse and buggy rides, pony rides, a dunk tank, a bounce house, square dancing and hopefully someone to teach country line-dancing. These events will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with the dance from 8 p.m. to midnight. If you or someone you know can help make some of these events happen, please contact the Civic Center at 884-3456 as soon as possible. If you have other ideas to help celebrate 50 years of serving this community, please call the Civic Center with your ideas. Remember, we use volunteers to help make this happen. You can also help by coming to our board meetings on the second Thursday of every month at the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 7 p.m.

— By Phil Bauer, KPCCA president

speaker. If interested, please RSVP to Linda Hacker at 253-312-9187.

## Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden Club meets at 1 p.m. on May 5 at the Long Branch Fire Station. This month's hostess is Jean Humphreys; the theme is cluster gardening, by Doris Boudreau. Peg Robertson will discuss horticulture. Design will be provided by Dolores Argabright. For more information, call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

## Tears of Joy Puppets to perform

Two Water Arts Alliance presents the renowned troupe, Tears of Joy Puppets, performing "Coyote and the Cedar Tree" at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Saturday, May 13 at 7 p.m. This is a family-friendly event. Ticket prices are \$5 per person or \$10 per family. The group performs throughout the Northwest, and Two Waters is thrilled to bring them to the Key Peninsula. The coyote stories are drawn from northwest tribal legends and

## Elder-Friendly group at Livable Communities Fair

Interested in the future of aging on the Key Peninsula? Have some ideas to express about needed services, programs and facilities for the seniors of this community? Anyone who wishes to be in communication on these topics is encouraged to visit the "Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula" booth at the Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair at the KP Civic Center on Saturday, May 13. A community-wide survey, called the "Key Peninsula Elder Needs Assessment," will be conducted throughout the day, and there will be other opportunities to make your ideas, suggestions and concerns known. Information on the concepts of "Elder-Friendly Communities" and "Aging in Place" will be available. If you are unable to attend the Livable Community Fair, but wish to take the survey at the next scheduled opportunity, please contact Edie Morgan at 884-3920.

## Former PHS graduate invites KP residents

The Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides walk is May 13 at Rush Companies/ Cushman Trail. Check in 10 a.m. Walk is at 11 a.m. This is the ninth walk put on by our committee (the others have been at Point Defiance). Lunch is provided!

Our team is "Josh on The Go!" The

team averages about 50 people (friends, family and church members). We have been walking for nine years; my son Josh is 9. We found out Josh had Cystic Fibrosis when he was about 3 months old.

My mom (who grew up in and lives in Longbranch) is having a plant sale to raise money for Josh. She has fuchsias, geraniums and other perennials for sale.

The CF Foundation is rated number one (Smart Money Magazine) in health related organizations for dollars going directly to programs and research. For details, call 858-1869.

— By Deedee (Lawson) Loux, Wauna

## Key Singers get happy about activities this year

They sang patriotic songs at the Community House on March 20 where the Key Peninsula Veterans' Institute presented awards to businesses and people on the peninsula who regularly fly the American flag. The place was packed!

Jean Humphreys, the senior member of Key Singers, celebrated her 90th birthday at the Longbranch Community Church on April 23.

The Key Singers will have a table at the Livable Community Fair on May 13 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. This event is a great way to meet some of the singers and to learn more about them via video recordings.

Watch for events this summer. The

Key Singers will perform for the Key Peninsula Fair and Old-Timers' Day.

— By Barbara Bence, Key Singers

## Key Peninsula Community Fair needs animals

Do you think you have the best pet on the peninsula? The fair would like to see your dog, cat, mink, rabbit, chicken, goose, duck, ferret, mouse, hamster, pigeon, jack-a-lope or any kind of pet animal from the Key Peninsula. They have 100 cages, pet bedding, and the place to show your community what a great animal you have. You might win a ribbon. In an effort to bring the community fair into the realm of "FAIR," they need your support. Please contact Jerry Davis at 884-3386 to make your pet's reservation to show at the Key Fair, July 21-23, or go online to [www.KeyFair.com](http://www.KeyFair.com).

## Home Band rides again

If you played in your high school band and would like to relive that experience, please join the first band practice of the Down Home Band this spring. This is a group of local musicians who perform at various community events, bringing Sousa to the masses. This summer they will be performing at the Gig Harbor Cancer Run, the Key Peninsula Community Fair, Old Timer's Day, and possibly some other venues. If you are interested, bring your band instrument to the first rehearsal at

the Key Medical Center, 15610 89th St.; in downtown Key Center on Tuesday, May 9 at 7 p.m. If you have questions; call the band's director, Dr. Roes at 884-9221.

## KP group searches for players

Key Peninsula Duplicate Bridge group meets at the Key Center Library, and is interested in having more bridge players join them. Call 884-4811 or 884-2663.

## Art gallery and studio opens

Adria Hanson has established an art gallery and studio on 138th Avenue KPN; open by appointment. Hanson will offer private and group lessons through summer. She teaches painting with oil and acrylic, landscape and portraits for ages 7 and up. Her charges are \$20 per hour for ages 7 to 16 and \$30 per hour for those over 17. Contact Adria at 884-0777 or [www.theStudioGallery.US](http://www.theStudioGallery.US).

## Peninsula High School Class of '86 plans reunion

Class of '86, mark your calendar for July 22-23 and get ready to have a great time. The main event will be on Saturday evening and a picnic on Sunday. Please contact Tamara (Ferrell) Sell at [mtsell@bainbridge.net](mailto:mtsell@bainbridge.net) or 206-780-2187 for details and tickets.

## Volunteer spotlight: Joyce Niemann

Story & photo by Chris Fitzgerald  
KP News

Joyce Niemann's clan has called Sunnycrest Farm on the Key Peninsula home for five generations, and she takes the responsibility that comes with these deep roots seriously.

Growing up on the rural peninsula dirt lanes Niemann recalls family conversations about the local cemetery at Vaughn Bay off 186th street. Asked if it seems outdated that families continue with cemetery-related care-taking, she doesn't hesitate. "Not for here," she says. "Families have to be (self-sufficient) out here."

Niemann's grandfather was cemetery association treasurer. Her parents joined the board. Niemann volunteered for them when they traveled, eventually becoming treasurer herself, a post she has held for years.



Joyce Niemann

She is a board member of the historical museum, housed next to the Civic Center in Vaughn. "We really need people (docents) right now," she says, adding that she recently signed up her niece and her granddaughter.

Niemann is a third-generation member and past president of the Vaughn Bay Garden Club, an organization so popular it has a waiting list of potential members. "We're home-grown," she says. "We meet in each other's houses and host speakers."

## Volunteers needed: Get Involved

If you or someone you know has ever had an interest in drama now is the time to get in there and see what kind of skills you might have tucked away. **Key Peninsula Community Theatre** needs potential actors as well as non-acting, behind the scenes volunteers. You might want to assist in rehearsals, stage design, setup and help on the nights of the performances. Call David Starkweather at 884-3172 or emailing him at: [gresstar@centurytel.net](mailto:gresstar@centurytel.net).

The **KP Lions Club** members led by

On her farm, Niemann enjoys growing roses and rhodies. Family members help with annual hay harvests, although the cows are long gone. "I like open pastures," Niemann says. "Yesterday seven deer played in the field."

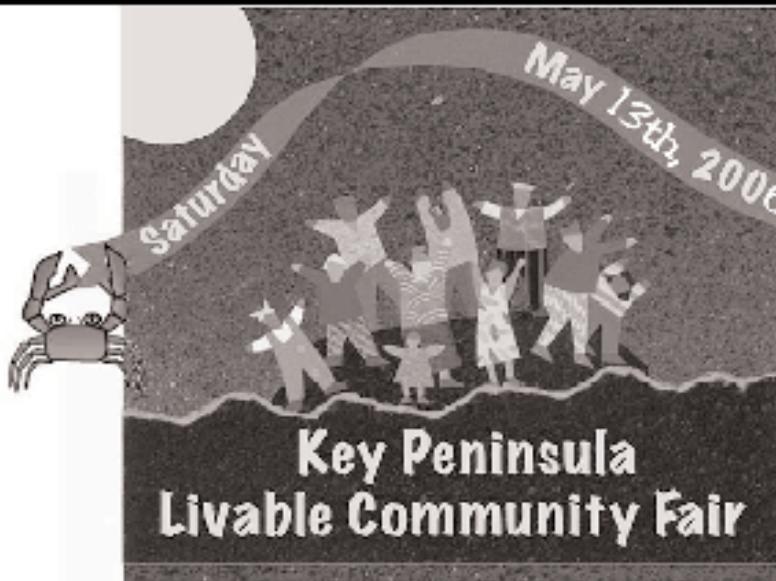
She acknowledges that life on the

George Robison have repaired and painted the flagpole at Key Peninsula Sports Center (Volunteer Park); then they re-installed it, tall and straight. The Lions plan a work party in May to install 500 retaining wall blocks at the park. Call 853-2721 to volunteer.

**Angel Guild** is always looking for dedicated volunteers. If you have time to commit and want to meet a bunch of hardworking, but full-of-fun ladies, call Bonnie at 884-5983, or Pat Kunz 884-3683, or when you are in the shop, tell them you are interested in being an Angel and they will get the information to the right people.

peninsula is nothing like it was years ago. Like many long-time, multi-generational residents, one newcomer attitude puzzles her. "I don't understand new people who move here, and then want to keep everyone else out," she says. Shaking her head, she sighs and looks out over the cemetery to Vaughn Bay.

Over **50** Booth Participants — Non-Profit, Civic, Education, Government, Law Enforcement



# Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair

Saturday May 13, 2006

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This May the Key Peninsula will remember the times of World War II with a special exhibit at the Historical Museum and with a special tribute to the veterans of World War II at "The Aisle of Honor" at Vaughn Cemetery on May 28.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

(From MEMORIAL, Page 1)

in a number of separate wars, and each flag has been presented to the KPVI by the family of the veteran for safe keeping. A great proportion of the veterans represented have immediate roots on the Key Peninsula, and many of those are buried within the grounds of the Vaughn Bay Cemetery.

The formal Memorial Day program will begin at 1 p.m. with the unveiling of the new monument, and will include musical selections by soloist Gabriel Maricich, the Northwest Navy Band, and the N.W. Pipe and Drum Corps. There will be a Memorial Service, and speakers during the program will include Maj. Shawn Campbell of McChord Air Force Base and the Rev. Richard Brandt. Refreshments will be provided by The Ladies of The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute, and there will be an opportunity to visit with

friends who also attend this annual tribute to our service people. All service people and veterans and their families are especially invited, as are all residents of the immediate community and the South Sound.

Even at the end of May local weather may be a bit unpredictable, so suitable clothing (rain or no), and possibly lightweight lawn chairs could be considered, along with sufficient time allowance for parking.

The Annual KPVI "Aisle of Honor" is one of the largest and most spectacular of South Sound Memorial Day tributes to our service veterans and it is expected that there will be the usual large turnout for this excellent program of recognition.

For those requiring driving directions: follow SR 302 west from Purdy and follow the signs to the Vaughn Bay Cemetery. For further information contact Keith Stiles at 857-0242.

## Memorial Day Weekend Rummage Sale

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## New K-5 literacy curriculum helps develop better readers

Peninsula School District elementary grade students and teachers next year will have better tools for reading strategies — thanks to a new literacy curriculum currently undergoing adoption.

The K-5 program, called 'Making Meaning,' is designed to create more effective readers by teaching students to better understand the process of reading and to use certain elements such as visualizing, making connections, asking questions and inferring.

'In addition to teaching strategies, this curriculum has a component to help teachers build the sense of community and cooperation in the classroom,' says PSD Literacy Specialist Judi Wilbert. 'The teachers model the strategy; students practice it together with their teacher, then work in their own books and apply the strategy.'

The new materials include some of the best children's

literature in a variety of genre ranging from poetry to nonfiction.

Many PSD teachers have already been using the approach that is at the core of 'Making Meaning,' and now they will have the additional benefit of materials that are based on years of research.

'Students are learning to think about what they do as readers,' says Literacy Specialist Judy Cronett. 'Using these tools makes them very active and engaged readers, and makes them aware of their thinking strategies.'

'Making Meaning' has been field tested this year at all elementary grade levels, with teachers from each building participating. Teachers from every elementary school were also members of the literacy leadership committee that has developed the school district's literacy philosophy, has researched best practices and has selected instructional materials based on the PSD's needs.



Minter Creek Elementary School second graders are engaged in a "pair-share" technique as part of the "Making Meaning" curriculum.



Mrs. Mebus, Minter Creek Elementary teacher, leads a "Making Meaning" lesson on inferring from a story book.

Photos by Steve Leitz

### May events

- 11** School Board Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Key Peninsula Middle School
- 15** Non-Student Day
- 25** School Board Study Session 6:30 p.m. District Office
- 26** No School
- 29** No School — Memorial Day

### June events

- 8** School Board Meeting 6:30 Henderson Bay High School
- 22** Last Day of School
- 22** School Board Study Session, 5:30 p.m. District Office

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- Become a Judge:** Judges participate for two hours on Thursday to evaluate each company's performance in their final presentations.

For more information, contact Shannon Matson at (800) 686-6442 or email at [shannon@wbw.org](mailto:shannon@wbw.org).

### Photo of the month



Key Peninsula Middle School students are constructing robots during a recent visit to the Museum of Flight, where they also listened to presentations by three Russian women cosmonauts.

### Evergreen Elementary School is celebrating 50 years of education!

All former students and staff are invited to join in the celebration:

**Friday, June 2, 2006**

- 2:30** Assembly honoring former and current staff members, students and families
- 4:30-8:00** Evergreen PTA Carnival
- 5:00-6:30** Open House
- 5:00-7:00** Hamburger Dinner at minimal cost

### At a glance...

**DEBT SERVICE FUND:** The Debt Service Fund was established for the purpose of redeeming and paying interest on bonds. The 2005-2006 Debt Service Fund Budget of \$10,663,770 will reduce the district's outstanding debt for bonds issued to finance construction and renovation projects.

### Did you know...

For the past two years, the average PSD third- and sixth-grade student scored in the 60th percentile and placed among the highest scores in the county on standardized tests.

# From Pioneer Stock Marianne (Nordquist) McColley

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

John Nordquist, grandfather of Marianne McColley, was born and raised on Oland Island, between Sweden and Finland. He knew no Finnish, but called himself a Swedish Finn. He married Anna, in Massachusetts, where son Leon was born. They moved to Tacoma by 1911 where Ernie, Ed and Dick were born.

As a new arrival, he and a friend were impressed with Mt. Rainier, sitting, as it appeared, "right over in Puyallup," and with a free afternoon, thought they'd just walk to the mountain. They learned it was a bit farther than it seemed.

Nordquist was a chauffeur to some of the "big-wigs" in Old Town, Tacoma. Anna worked in a retail store for a time. They apparently had chickens in the backyard, as son Ernie recalled having a poultry made of chicken manure applied to a foot injury. "It healed just fine," he told his daughter, Marianne, many years later.

When they moved to Vaughn, Nordquist continued in the poultry busi-



Photo courtesy Marianne McColley  
Nordquist family - Ernie, Irma, Marianne and Gary.

ness. His egg candling building still stands on "Little Sweden" property, where a collection of Swedish immigrants farmed along what is now Roberts Road.

Marianne says, "Grandpa Nordquist worked with Grandma Lonning in the

poultry business." The two families lived a few doors from each other. Ernie and his brothers worked on the family farm, but also participated in school and community sports.

As a young man, Ernie worked in Freeborn's Vaughn store with his future-sister-in-law, Bertha Lonning (later Mills).

Ernie and Irma Lonning married, settled in Home, raised Marianne and brother Gary, and lived the rest of their lives there. He was butcher for the Home Warehouse, and his job was "frozen" as being essential to the community during World War II. He later managed brother-in-law Aldy Visell's lumber company in Key Center.

Ernie sang bass in the local barbershop quartet, the Home Harmonizers. One of their claims to fame was being part of the entertainment for the opening of the first Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

He drove across that bridge to Tacoma for warehouse errands, and told stories of losing sight of the car ahead when high winds twisted the structure.

Irma became postmaster for the Lakebay Post Office, and when she retired, the couple started traveling. Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Egypt were some destinations, and once she went with sister Lily Visell to the Netherlands.

Marianne, who traveled with husband Phil and her mom after Ernie died, notes the travel bug has bitten her children and grandchildren, too.

Another common thread through the later generations is participation in music. Marianne began piano lessons about second grade, and tells a story about herself when she didn't want to practice. Her mother, tired of her daughter's procrastination, picked Marianne up, and plunked her hard onto the piano stool, saying, "You'll practice now!" The old stool collapsed and Marianne may have missed practice that day, but not after.

Marianne, who has said, "My favorite seat is a piano bench," became a music teacher, and heard many complaints from parents of "I wish my mother had made me practice." She believes parents should insist their children practice their instruments, because it gives them lifelong ability and pleasure once they get past the sometimes boring beginnings.

In 1996, Marianne retired, and she and Phil moved to Home. After her mom's death, they had a new house built on the footprint of her parents' home. She enjoys telling people she lives "at Home." Her license plate proclaims her heritage: McSwede.

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# KP father-son duo's construction savvy to benefit orphanage

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Last fall, Vaughn resident Mark Plummer got a call from a friend in Hawaii with a request for help designing a septic system for an African orphanage. Don Burlingame, who works in Hawaii but lives in Kitsap County, was planning a trip to Kapiyo for a sanitation project, and had no luck with help in Hawaii.

Soon, the two men were not just discussing site planning but trip planning as well: Plummer had decided to join Burlingame on the journey. Plummer, a retired Tacoma firefighter, owns Earth Crafters, a Vaughn-based company that employs eight people and specializes in site development including septic systems, excavation, and road construction. "This is like doing site development halfway across the world," he told Burlingame, who was already envisioning much more than septic work in the future: plumbing, lighting, and a medical clinic.

"I realized he had the enthusiasm and I had the knowledge, so (I said), let's just go," Plummer says.

Burlingame has more than just enthu-



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Left to right, Don Burlingame, Mark Plummer and Shane Plummer are preparing for their June trip to Kenya to help an orphanage.

siasm. A construction company project manager, he had visited Kapiyo last summer to build the actual orphanage. Kapiyo, a town located 150 miles from the capital, Nairobi, has about 30,000 people and a third of them are orphans.

"About a year ago I walked into church one morning and the pastor said, 'Would you go to Africa to build a school with me?' I said, 'Sure.' I thought he was joking,"

Burlingame says.

The visit to Africa brought some startling discoveries. The villagers got their drinking water from a murky, polluted lake more than 1.2 miles away. A hole served as the sewer, and there was no electricity. After they built the school, Burlingame decided he would return to do a septic system, finish the well, and plan a medical facility on an adjacent lot.

The team includes Plummer's son, Shane, who lives in Lakebay and works full-time for Earth Crafters after recently graduating from college. Shane has worked for his father since he was a teen. "They told me about it and my heart went out to the orphanage," he says of his decision to go on the three-week trip.

The group will act as project managers and hire a dozen or two locals as laborers. It won't be an easy task — everything from the cement mixing to the digging is done by hand without power tools — but the bigger challenge is working with the unknown. The men don't really know what to expect in terms of materials and other details.

"We'll be making things out of nothing," Shane says. In other words, improvise.

## If you'd like to help

If you'd like to contribute to the Kenya orphanage sanitation project, mail your tax-deductible contribution to West Sound, PO Box 4016, Silverdale, WA 98383 (checks payable to West Sound/Kenya). For more information about the project, visit [www.earthcraftersinc.com/Kenya.html](http://www.earthcraftersinc.com/Kenya.html) or call Mark Plummer at 405-1651.

"That's our job, to improvise," Mark confirms.

In addition to raising money for their airfare and living expenses, their goal is to raise \$10,000 for materials, labor and other project needs. Plummer's business is a sponsor, along with other businesses, friends and family. Burlingame hopes the work will turn into ongoing support for the village.

"The need that you see when you look at these kids is terrific — they get one meal a day (a mix of cooked ground corn, millet and sorghum), and they own nothing but the clothes on their backs," he says. "Once you go there, your life will never be the same."

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The girls chorus from KPMS choir dedicated old songs with new lyrics to Hugh.



Terry Lee told tales of touring the Key Peninsula with Hugh as his tour guide. Then proclaimed April 22, 2006 as Hugh McMillan day in Pierce County. Below, Jim Coolican awards Hugh the official title of Peninsula School District ambassador.

Photos by Mindi LaRose

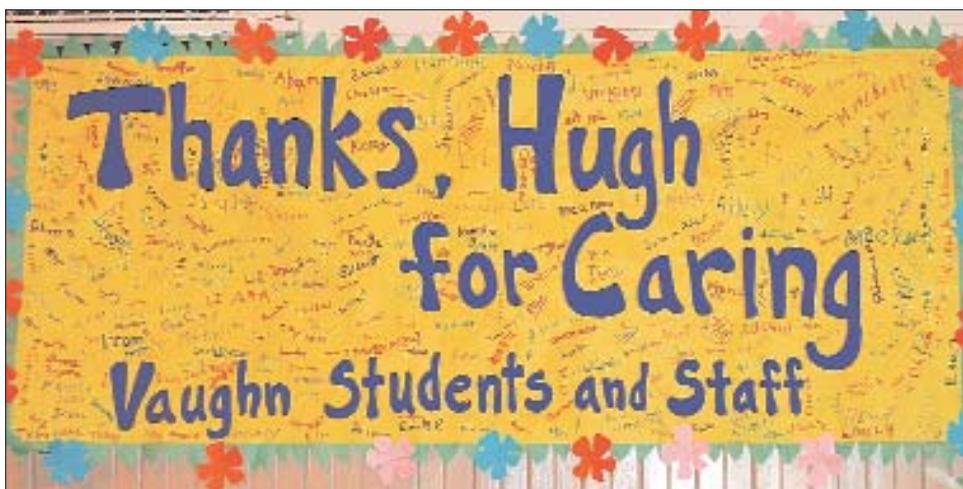
(From **HUGH**, Page 1)

to McMillan was underway. Through musical salutes from the KPMS Jazz Band, Peninsula Youth Orchestra and a KPMS girls' chorus, a stream of notable guests reminisced over memorable stories of McMillan's influence in their lives and upon the peninsulas where McMillan roams with his camera and tablet ready. The stories revealed contributions of this former CIA agent, who once roamed the world at large, to the Citizens Against Crime, FD-16, PSD and the KP Lions Club.

Councilman Terry Lee added another formal proclamation, the official adoption of April 22, 2006, as Hugh McMillan Day in Pierce County.

There was a bit of roasting including the closing remarks from McMillan's devoted wife, Janice, the woman behind the man. After expressing gratitude for the recognition for her husband, she let it slip that, "He doesn't do a thing around the house."

The recognition was produced by the Boy Scouts of America Pack 220, Troop 220, and Venture Crew 220 under the



direction of Scoutmaster Bill Macaras. "I had been thinking about this for a couple of years, so back in November of last year I brought this idea up at a monthly scoutmaster meeting. It took very little discussion because all the scoutmasters and adults at the meeting thought it was way past due for something like this," said Macaras as he recognized a huge number of supporters and volunteers who joined him in this endeavor.

Just as it was at the celebration, after the compliments, some speakers had one

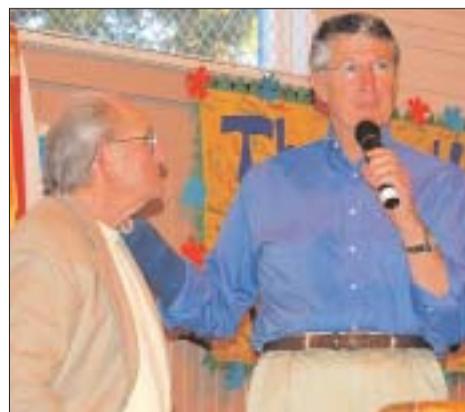
more comment to add.

"Hugh is always late — but he seems to be always late everywhere. He's the busiest guy I know," added Irene Torres.

"I have been a constant admirer of his wife's cookies; his very unusual dogs; and his view of the seals outside of his house," added Keith Stiles.

"When I grow up I want to be just like Hugh," added Jeff Harris.

Rep. Derek Kilmer noted how difficult it must have been for Hugh to sit there as the band and orchestra played, the chorus sang, and not take pictures. McMillan, who usually is known to talk a lot, was at a loss for words and handed the microphone to his spouse.



## Thank you Hugh

◆ "I wish that every community, person and school district had a Hugh McMillan; our children, communities, nation and world would be better off. Unfortunately there is only one Hugh. We are blessed by his passion."  
— Marcia Harris, PSD deputy superintendent

◆ "Hugh brought life, and continues to bring life to the Key Peninsula."  
— Gretchen Wilbert, former mayor of GH

◆ "Every community has at least one unforgettable character. Hugh McMillan is that guy on the Key Peninsula. When I first began to visit the KP to attend my grandchildren's concerts, plays, and other school events, Hugh and his camera were always there. He was the first person I began to recognize from visit to visit. Since those first chance encounters, I've come to count him among my esteemed professional colleagues, and as a true friend."

— Irene Torres, president of Key Pen News Publishing Board and fellow KP Lion

◆ "Hugh is very, very supportive of educational aspects on the Peninsula. He has found an excellent niche in becoming a spokesman for activities and accomplishments of the children in the world of public education."

— Keith Stiles, past president of PSD Board of Directors, founder of KPGH radio

◆ "If there is such a thing as a Key Peninsula celebrity, Hugh would be it— his name is familiar to so many people. What's most impressive about him is that Hugh doesn't just tell the stories about the Key Peninsula through photographs and writing, he actually lives many of them, often as an active member of the groups he covers."  
— Rodika Tollefson, Key Peninsula News executive editor

◆ "Hugh has done, and is still doing, so much for this community and has asked for nothing in return. He is unselfish in his dedication to this community. He just keeps giving. So, I thought it would be nice if the community could come together to show our appreciation to him, his wife, Janice, and his family."  
— Bill Macaras, Pack 220, Troop 220, Adventure Crew 220 Scoutmaster

◆ "While Hugh is a treasure — Hugh would not be Hugh without Janice."  
— Jeff Harris, Key Peninsula Community Council president

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People vs. pit bulls:

# Key Pen deals with a hairy problem

**B**ack in early March authorities discovered that 27 Pit Bulls were being kept on an otherwise vacant lot near 192nd Avenue KPN and 20th Street. Sadly, all of them had to be euthanized later that month. At this point it isn't clear why the dogs were being held there, but the incident serves to raise the whole issue of dogs and personal safety.



For Whatever  
It's Worth  
By BILL DIETZ

First, some facts: According to Erin McCormick and Todd Wallack, who wrote an article on the subject for the San Francisco Chronicle, citizens of the United States suffer an estimated 4.7 million dog bites each year! Something to think about the next time you hold out your hand and say, "Nice doggie."

But, since there's no central agency to

track dog bites, there's no way to know which breeds are the most likely to cause the two-dozen or so fatal attacks that occur each year. According to the Chronicle article, German shepherds killed more people than any other dog back in the late 1970s, then Great Danes took over for awhile, followed by Rottweilers during most of the '90s. Now, it's pit bulls.

Which is why the folks who live in the vicinity of that vacant lot had every reason to be concerned. Of course some people like to point out that you're more likely to be killed by lightning than killed by a dog. A fact that brings me very little comfort since I don't want to be killed by either one. But I digress....

The problem, the real problem, is people, not dogs. Let's not forget that people created all of the domestic dog breeds for specific purposes — which is why Labrador retrievers love to bring you gooey tennis balls. Authorities agree that most dogs, pit bulls included, can be excellent pets so long as they are properly

Key Pen News is unable to provide an update regarding the pit bull investigation because the sheriff's media relations contact, Lt. Ed Troyer, is the only person authorized to speak about the subject, and failed to respond to repeated calls.

loved and cared for. But there are some people who own potentially lethal dogs for the purpose of intimidating others. Or participating in organized fights.... Which is even worse. (You can visit <https://www.workingpitbulls.com> for more information about pit bull fights.)

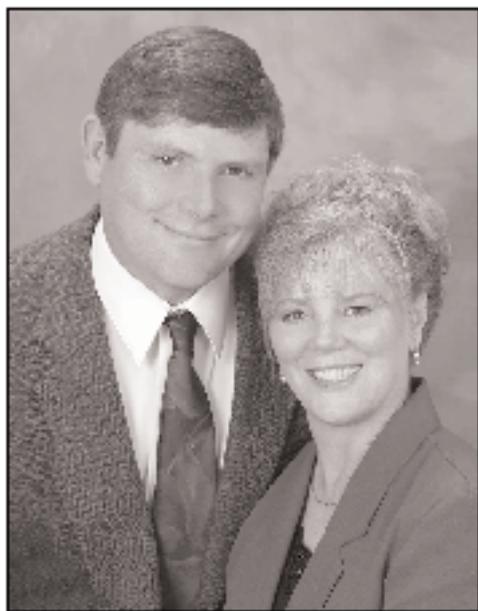
So why didn't someone report the 27 pit bulls earlier? Was it because of the "big scary guys" referred to in the March 15 issue of the Gateway? The "strange goings-on" observed on the property? Or just the traditional reluctance of peninsulaites to stick their noses into other people's business?

Whatever the reason, it makes Lt. Larry Bauer, commanding officer of the Pierce

County Sheriff's Department Peninsula Detachment, feel frustrated. "I have a house full of animals," Bauer says. "And I'm very sensitive to animal related issues. If I had a clue that there was a pit bull farm out there I would have been all over it. One of the things I hear (from Key Peninsula residents) is 'we don't call because you don't come.' But our staffing levels are based on the number of calls we get."

Meaning that the detachment not only welcomes calls because they want to help, but because county resources are allotted according to the number of calls they get. So the more calls they receive — the more protection we receive. "You've got to say something," Bauer adds. "And sometimes you've got to say it more than once.... But I have resources and we will respond."

So whether it's 27 pit bulls, a possible meth lab, or some other questionable activity, each of us has a responsibility to notify the proper authorities. Even if it means sticking our noses into someone else's business once in awhile.



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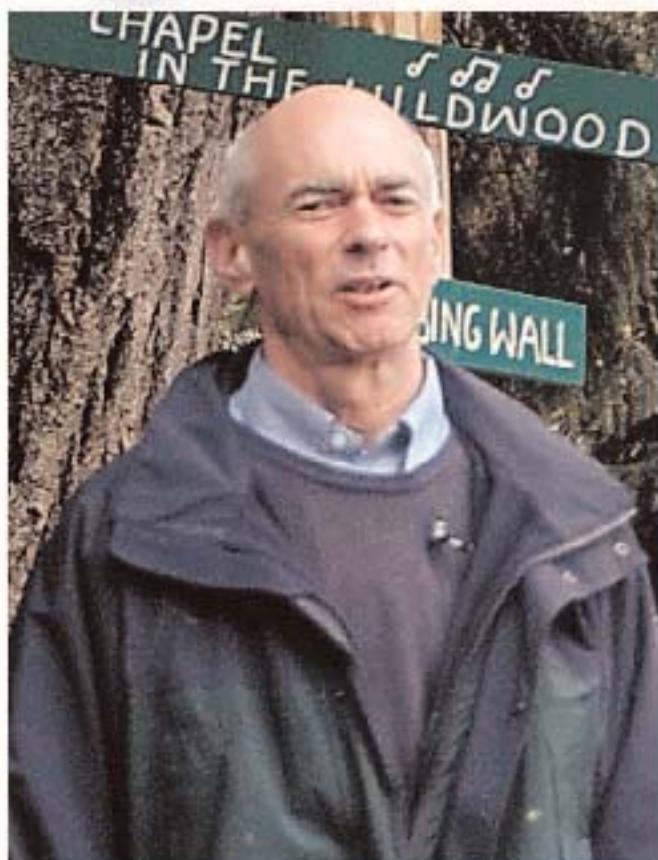


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## Obituary

### Arthur Robinson

*March 2, 1991 - Dec. 8, 2005*

Arthur Robinson was born on March 2, 1991 to Bobby and Tasia Robinson in Sacramento, Calif. He was an honest and gentle loving young man who was always helping others regardless of their background. He had a beautiful and contagious smile. He was loved and adored by his family and friends. He was extremely talented.

Arthur played the trumpet, guitar and drums. He wanted to become a musician like his father and had high potential to become a recognized artist and actor. He died Dec. 8, 2005 at home. Arthur is survived by his parents, Bobby and Tasia and two brothers, Blue and Reuben of Lakebay. He is also survived by his grandparents, Paul and Polina Dragu of Sacramento, Calif., and a grandmother, Joan Robinson of Pennsylvania.

A fund was established for the Robinson family to use as needed (separate from funeral expenses). Donations can be made to: Arthur Robinson Memorial Fund, at any Sound Credit Union branch. A funeral was held at Miracle Ranch on Dec. 13, 2005.

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**- Mike Fay**



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# Thursdays with Sherlie is a popular KP pastime

By Danna Webster  
KP News



Photo by Danna Webster

Sherlie Marietta shares recipes, Key Peninsula History, laughs and good times from behind the counter of the Key Center Liquor store, now owned by her daughter Libby Rittenhouse.

friend and attorney to help her.

"George, I lost Dominic. ... What do I do?" she said.

At the news, the attorney started to cry. "Call me later," he managed and hung up.

"Italian," Sherlie explains.

It was the second time in Sherlie's life to know widowhood, to stand strong, run the

family business and keep life together. Her first husband was killed in 1945 when the plane he was flying hung a gear on a cable during a low survey flight for an oil company. Sherlie was left with three children under the age of 10, her Morgan horses, and a pipeline survey company with two pilots where three were required.

"I flew a couple of times," she says, "across the great desert down to L.A." She explains that the company was granted a "special waiver from the Legislature to fly low."

Sherlie gave up flying but ran the business, raised the family, and kept the horses in California until her firstborn child determined he needed to attend Washington State University for veterinarian school.

Today, Sherlie's home on the Key Peninsula sits in the middle of 25 acres. "I used to have cattle, until hay went to 130 bucks a ton," she says. "Now I have two head of dogs, two head of cats, and about 20 head of moles."

She's devoted to the Peninsula and especially her Longbranch community. "Lovely area. The people are really nice, neighborly, a country attitude. Something happens — they are right there," she says.

The liquor store moved to its present location, in 1970, shortly before Dominic's death, after the business suffered a major disaster. There was a robbery. The thief broke into the hardware store, which shared half of the building with Dominic's stores. The thief used a chainsaw from the hardware inventory to cut a hole into Dominic's, robbed the liquor store and set fire to the place.

In order to keep the liquor license, the state required the facility to remain in the same area. The only place that was empty in Key Center was the building where the store is today.

## Sherlie Marietta recipe

Bagna caulda dip for al dente vegetables and bread. Dip must be kept warm.

- 1 pound butter
- 1 quart olive oil
- 1 cup of anchovy filets
- 1 cup minced garlic

Dominic "slapped up a bunch of shelves and we moved in," Sherlie said.

Customers drop in on Thursdays to share recipes and hope to gain a new culinary secret. Many recipes are from Sherlie's sister-in-law, Minnie Juistno, who loved to stand over the stove and cook. Tips on olive oil, lemon liqueur, apple butter and pesto are readily available but for a Sunday afternoon party, Sherlie recommends bagna caulda.

Bagna caulda requires a platter heaped with bite-sized (al dente) pickled beets, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, green and red peppers, kohlrabi — "good veggies" — and slices of French bread, "any old French bread will do." And, of course the bagna caulda dip that must be kept warm (see recipe in sidebar).

"I love to cook," Sherlie says. She reckons she has baked enough pies for fund-raisers to go around the world at least once. Peanut butter pie is her specialty. She has served up spaghetti dinners from both the Civic Center and LIC kitchens.

But some recipe secrets remain confidential. The ingredients listed for a spaghetti sauce she made at LIC for 150 people a couple of years ago were "14 pounds of beef; 15 pounds of hot Italian sausage." However, when pressed for more details and asked if any liquor is used in her sauce, the answer is, "Liquor in it? That's why it tastes Italian."

## arts alive on Key Peninsula

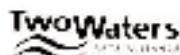
Join the fun in classes and events. Call 253-884-2029 and register now.

Two Waters Arts Alliance - May 2006

**Kumihimo:** with Jan Buday - You will learn a simple round braid and a more complex flat braid with many applications. All materials will be provided, but please bring a measuring tape and sharp scissors. This class is for adults and teens. \$45 per person. Sat. May 20th 9:30 - Noon. At Key Peninsula Civic Center.

**Get Out...Go to the Beach:** with Robin Peterson - Discover life on low tides. This is a guided instruction and field pool adventure at Pinnac Point Park, geared for parents and child. But don't let that stop you if you are interested in learning about life on our beaches. Kids bring a parent or smaller adult with you and show them how "beach" work! Dress for the weather and beach, wear a hat. Consider packing a change of clothes and bring water. This is a mini 3.0 hike. \$25 per parent/child; \$35 for larger family. Sat. May 27th Noon - 2pm at Pinnac Point Park.

Call Brynn Rydell 884-2029 or email brynnrydell@twowaters.com for information and registration. FAMILY DISCOUNT AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE. CALL 884-2029 NOW!



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Spring is a good time to buy a home and this year could be an especially good time since it looks like interest rates are going up.

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Your absolute first step is to contact a lender and get prequalified to see how much home you can afford. In most cases, this preliminary qualification is done over the phone or even online. A Realtor can give you recommendations for loan officers they know who will do a good job for you. If you think you may have credit problems, it may be wise to have the loan officer do a credit check - sometimes the problem can be dealt with immediately - sometimes a good loan officer will have to work out a longer term plan with you to correct the problems. At Windermere / Key Realty we recommend local loan officers we know can do a good job by being responsive and giving you correct information about your ability to buy a home. If you don't have a good recommended local loan officer, call our office and we will give you some names.

Your next step in buying a home, is to contact a Realtor in the area where you want to buy and give them the parameters for your new home. Through the Multiple Listing Service, a Realtor can research all the properties which meet your criteria in the area where you want to be. This time of year, new properties are being listed daily and, if you are online, Realtors can set you up with an e-mail program where you can receive updates of all the new properties as they become available. In many cases, homes are sold before the print advertising comes out so e-mail is becoming one of our most important tools to keep you as a buyer updated. Once you have determined what you can afford and found a Realtor to work with who will keep you informed, you can start really looking for homes to buy.

In today's market where there seem to be fewer listings than buyers, it is important that you know what you can afford, can your credit qualify you to buy and what is becoming available on the market every day. Then you need to have looked at enough homes to know when you see your 'new home', and be ready to act quickly.



**LONGBRANCH** \$600,000  
This beautiful 20 acre Equestrian parcel features seasonal ponds, fenced horse pasture and outbuildings. The 2004 Craftsman style high end triple wide has all the amenities, skylight, hot tub, great deck for entertaining and a lovely lush lawn. The outbuildings include a detached garage, a shop that is 40 x 72 x 14 (partially heated) and a three stall horse barn in progress. In addition to all this, you can enjoy the salt water beaches and parks near by. MLS 20040827



**LONGBRANCH** \$125,000  
Here is your chance - build your dream home on this gently sloped nine acres with territorial view. The building site is already cleared and there is electricity to the property. Don't hesitate - call now and enjoy living in the country! MLS 20047402



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**LAKEBAY** \$92,500  
Level building area, large lot of 1.1 ac with partial slope. You will enjoy the nice trees along the roadside for privacy. Adjoining lot next door is available and has an older, single wide on it. Live in comfort while you build your dream home. Could be a nice 2 plus acre mini-farm. Owner will install septic. MLS 20028395



**JOEMMA BEACH FARMS** \$190,000  
Don't miss out on this 2.5 acres, level with trees and brush, quiet cul-de-sac location and the easy access to state park salt water beach. This bright and cheerful, immaculate home, has 2 bdrms, w/vaulted ceilings, walk-in closet and w/w/ carpeting, deck and detached garage. MLS 20042032



**PALMER LAKE** \$179,900  
Enjoy lake living this summer - swimming, fishing and paddle boating! This home has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, skylight, vaulted ceilings and walk-in closet in master. The large yard provides lots of potential for a garden, room for a large patio and is bordered on two sides by a green belt so you can enjoy eagles flying overhead and country living! MLS 20055740



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# Seasoned artist shares gift of art with the Key Peninsula

By Jerry Libstaff  
Special to KP News

Laura Mosely is an artist/citizen of the world. She landed on the Key Peninsula for two distinct reasons: Her son and his family settled in this area and she said "there is so much more to paint here. There's something new around every corner."

Mosely can't remember a time when art was not part of her consciousness. She says, "I've been captivated by art as far back as I can remember." As a child in Pennsylvania, at farm auctions, she studied people who attended. "I was too shy to sketch people in person so I committed them to memory and drew them when I got home," she says.

Mosely received her first formal training during her last year of high school when the district hired an art teacher. She says,



The Genuine  
ARTicle



Photo by Jerry Libstaff

Laura Mosely is a Chinese brush painting, pastels and water colors artist.

"I ditched study halls, band practice and whatever I could, to attend art classes." When she graduated, she says, "I tucked a portfolio under my arm and headed to Philadelphia to become an artist." She studied at the Stella Elkins Tyler School of Art at Temple University. The dean had studied with Rodin and had gathered international art instructors.

Mosely wanted to work as an artist and found the field rather sparse so she took a commercial art course to strengthen her portfolio. She was offered a position as an illustrator with a company that was to become Merck Pharmaceuticals. There she created drawings from research, worked in the darkroom, and often sketched in the operating room to capture the reality of her work. Her illustrations gained international exposure.

Several years later, she had an opportunity to journey to Alaska. She drove her blue Triumph TR3 across country and north to Fairbanks to join her new husband. She found clerical work there but on her second day of employment, her husband died of a heart attack. Alone, thousands of miles from home, Mosely decided to live out their dream and remained in Alaska.

She joined the local newspaper as an illustrator where she was hired to do ad layout in addition to ad sales.

In time, Mosely married again and moved to Anchorage where she worked for an Anchorage newspaper. Mosely taught art classes to youngsters to share her love with others.

After 10 years, her husband was offered a position in Saudi Arabia and Mosely moved on to her next adventure. While in Saudi, she taught art classes to Saudi women. Every six months she and her husband had a two week vacation and traveled everywhere. At 18 months, they were given a 30 day pass to return to the States.

They took the scenic route home, seeing New Delhi, Hong Kong and Hawaii before coming to Seattle to see their son, who was stationed at Fort Lewis.

At the end of their three year commitment in Saudi, Mosely and her husband went to Amsterdam, rented a camper and traveled throughout Europe for two months.

When time came to return to the United States and work, they wanted someplace warm and ended in Los Angeles. There, Mosely studied Chinese brush painting with Phillis Case Bennett, who had studied at the hand of Dr. Ning Yea, an acclaimed master of the method. She also moved from advertising into real estate, "to support my painting habit." Mosely took every class available and studied watercolor as well. After a time she was encouraged to start teaching.

As the L.A. area grew more overcrowded and polluted, Mosely and her husband decided to join their son and grandkids in Washington, but wanted the inspiration of a country setting. They found acreage on the Peninsula and settled here.

Two Waters Arts Alliance was looking for artists to provide classes for the community and Mosely volunteered. She now presents several classes each year. Mosely is versed in Chinese brush painting, pastels and watercolors. She's won several awards for her work here and in California and her work adorns many collections. Her paintings are included in TWAA calendars.

## KP Parks announces ball programs and summer camps

By Scott Gallacher  
Special to KP News

Key Peninsula Metro Park District and Key Peninsula Little League hosted a free Pepsi major league baseball competition for area youth on April 30. Competitors had the chance to advance through four levels of competition, including team championships at major league ballparks and the national finals at the 2006 MLB All-Star game.

Adult men's and women's softball registration started in mid-April.

### Summer sport camps

This summer, Key Peninsula Metro Park District will be partnering with

Skyhawks Sports to offer a variety of recreational Sport Camps at various locations on the KP for ages 4-14. Here is the camp schedule:

- Baseball Camp June 26-30, Volunteer Park, 9 a.m. -noon
- Basketball Camp July 10-14, Key Peninsula Civic Center 9 a.m. -noon
- Cheer Camp July 10-14, Key Peninsula Civic Center 1 p.m. -3 p.m.
- Soccer Camp July 17-21, Minter Creek Elementary 9 a.m. -noon
- Mini Hawks Aug. 14-18 Key Peninsula Civic Center 9 a.m. -noon
- Soccer Camp Aug. 14-18, Volunteer Park 9 a.m. -noon

For details, go online to [www.keypeninsula.com](http://www.keypeninsula.com) or call 253-884-9240.

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## Arts &amp; Recreation briefs

## Key Singers Present Spring Concert

Want to "Get Happy?" Join the Key Singers for their annual spring concert, May 21, 3 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. The "Get Happy" concert theme will be carried through with some of the happiest songs ever written. The group promises to thoroughly enjoy singing them. Some individual solos and duets will add color, and special guests will be the Soundsations, a new community choral group from Gig Harbor with some Key Peninsula members. CDs of the whole performance can be ordered after the concert. Refreshments will be provided, and



Photo by Frank Slater

Conchord, women's vocal group from Key Singers.

several items will be raffled. The spring concert is the only program the group charges for during the year; all other presentations are their gifts to the community. Tickets at the door are \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and teens, 12 and under, free.

— By Barbara Bence

## Jazz in June returns

'Jazz In June' returns to the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Saturday, June 3, with a new twist. This year in addition to featuring a great jazz band — No Inhibitions Jazz Band — for your dancing and listening pleasure, we will be offering dinner beforehand.

The No Inhibitions Jazz Band is a premiere northwest, seven-piece, jazz band that has been entertaining audiences for over a decade. In the front line is Willy Petersen on trumpet; Terry Strong on trombone; and Jeff Winslow on sax and clarinet. Mike and Julie Ernesti are on piano and drums; Hal Champ is on bass and vocals; and Dale Brown on



banjo.

The Band specializes in the performance of Dixieland, "Hot Swing" of the 1930s and the Big Band Hits of the 1940s and beyond. Their special blend of jazz played in the "Chicago" small ensemble style, is designed for dancing and of course listening enjoyment, combined with superb showmanship makes each show an event. For information about the band, go to [www.noinhibitionsjazz.com](http://www.noinhibitionsjazz.com).

The Civic Center doors will open for Jazz in June dinner from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The no-host bar will be open all evening.

The dance will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Sunnycrest, Key Fitness and the Civic Center office for \$20 per person for dinner and dance; or \$15 for dance only. No minors please. For more information, call 884-3456.

—By Ann Waldo

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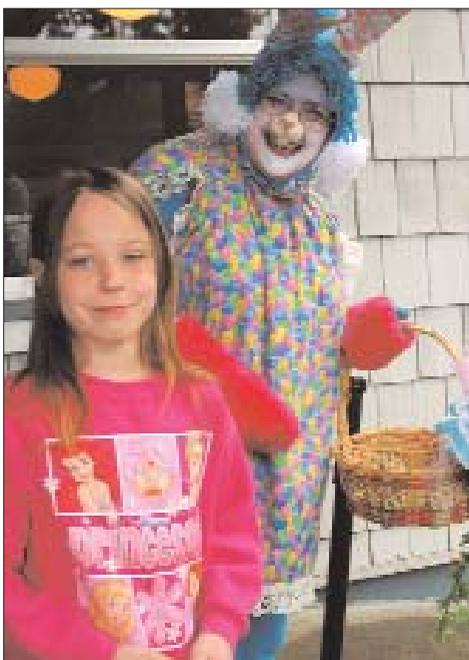


Above, KPMS eighth grader Darrian Creamer impresses fellow students on the high jump during a track and field practice at the school in April. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*

Right, at the Easter egg hunt sponsored annually by Boy Scout Troop 220, the Easter Bunny (a.k.a. Kathy Best) doles out greetings and goodies to each youngster escaping the soggy weather by proceeding to the indoor hunt at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. An estimated 250 kids attended. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Volunteers Marguerite Bussard and Warren Ensor serve ham, potatoes, mixed veggies and a biscuit at the senior lunch celebrating Easter at the Key Peninsula Community Services and Food Bank.

*Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Right, David Starkweather, artistic director for the KP Community Theater, Phil Bauer, president of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, Cheryl Archer, a mom with the Boy Scouts of America's Venture Crew 220, and Billie Hanson, a mom with BSA Troop 220, check out the stage, sound system, and lighting at the KPCC in anticipation of the creation of the all-KP Community Theater, which is now being formed.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*



*Photo by Danna Webster*

Civic Center's board members gather around President Phil Bauer (center) at the April meeting to celebrate 50 years of community service. The Civic Center is the site of many local events. It was built in 1906 and served as the Vaughn Union High School. It was purchased in 1956 by community members and is used by many local clubs and organizations, as well as rented out for private gatherings.



Peninsula School District outgoing Superintendent Jim Coolican and newly hired Superintendent Terry Bouck, a Key Pen resident, visit at the Civic Center during an April ceremony honoring Hugh McMillan.

*Photo by Mindi LaRose*

