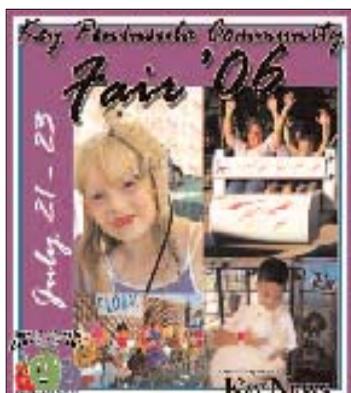




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Metro commissioners threatened with recall

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

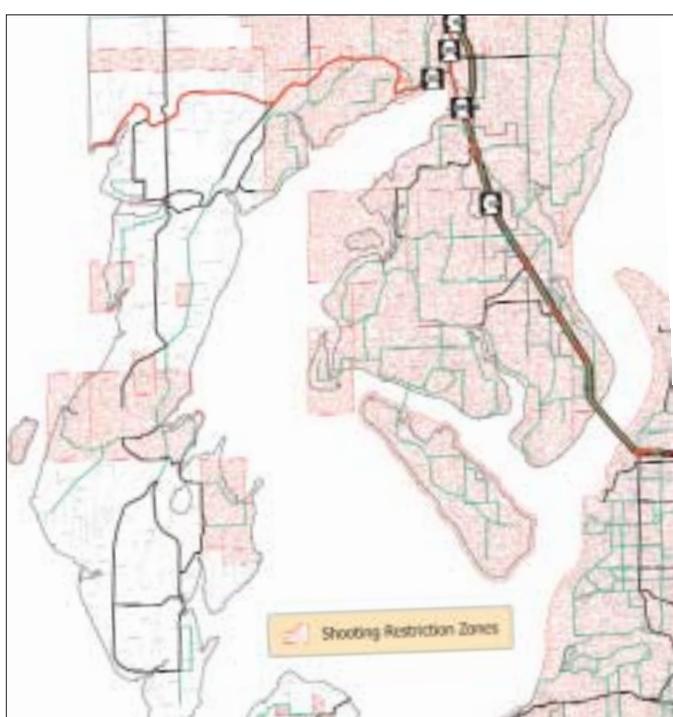
A group of citizens at the June 12 Key Peninsula Metro Parks District meeting filled the small Volunteer Park office. Among them were a business owner, a conservancy environmentalist, the 2006 Key Pen Citizen of the Year, and the Key

Peninsula Fair director. Most participants were there in support of metro park district creation committee members Ben Thompson and Mike Salatino, who attended to present an alternative resolution in opposition to a previously passed compensation resolution. On the meeting's agenda, half of the first page was occupied by rules for

citizen commentary, including a time limit, which was strictly enforced by board President Paula DeMoss.

The meeting format used by the parks board permits public input only at the beginning of the session, after roll call, and before discussion of business, old or new,

(See KPMPD, Page 24)



Map courtesy of Pierce County Sheriff's Department

Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area no-shoot zone (map also available online at www.keypennews.com) shows that in contrast with Gig Harbor, the majority of the Key Peninsula is open to shooting.

Shooting legal on most of Key Peninsula

By William C. Dietz
KP News

"I have one specific neighbor who wears guns strapped to him while gardening, playing ball with his kids, or just walking around the house," a reader wrote to the Key Peninsula News not long ago. "The police have arrested him, but he continues to shoot. There are eight homes on our road and they all either have pets or children or both. We as neighbors are concerned but feel our hands are tied."

It's legal to wear a gun while working in your yard, according to Lt. Larry Bauer, chief of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Peninsula Detachment, but you can't necessarily

fire it. That depends on where you live.

"We get a lot of people coming into the (Peninsula Detachment) office for information," Bauer says. Of course, it seems safe to assume that most, if not all, of the folks who come in to peer at the wall-mounted "Key Peninsula No-Shoot" map are responsible sports people, checking to see where they can legally discharge firearms, since reckless shooters aren't likely to bother.

According to the map (see left), the vast majority of Key Peninsula is open to shooting, which stands in marked contrast to the Gig Harbor area. A fact likely to please residents who

(See GUNS, Page 10)

Heroism on Everest

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Dan Mazur, who made international headlines last month after rescuing an Australian climber left for dead on Mount Everest, appears nonchalant about the dangerous job he has as a climbing guide. He's matter of fact about the decision he and his climbing team made when they encountered Lincoln Hall on their way to the peak — so close within their reach — while so many others would,

(See MAZUR, Page 20)



Dan Mazur with Lincoln Hall at Kathmandu, Nepal, a few days after Mazur helped rescue the Australian climber on Everest.

Photo courtesy
Murari Sharma

Planning Board completes discussion on parks

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

The Key Peninsula Community Planning Board finished up the Parks and Recreation element of the community plan at the meeting on June 21. The focus of the entire planning process has been to look at a 20-year scenario: What do the citizens of the Key Peninsula have now, what do they (and future citizens) want to have in place then — and how will it be accomplished.

Discussions among board members and audience participants have been heated at times during this portion of the plan, particularly when the topic of trails was raised. Everyone wants them, but almost everyone also wants them on “somebody else’s land — not mine.”

Mike Kruger, senior Pierce County planner, presented the third draft of the section at the June 21 meeting, and there were still minor changes made by board members. Two and a half pages of the eight-page document specifically discuss trails, sometimes in minute detail, down to suggestions about types of natural shrub barriers along trail corridors.

According to Kruger, the county permits trails in critical area buffers, regardless of the presence of wetlands and/or steep slopes; however, to clear for such a trail, permits “might” be needed, and could potentially be denied.

In response to a question from a previous meeting, Kruger provided information regarding liability of owners of land and water areas for injuries to recreational users. Citing a state law, he said, “RCW 4.24.210 appears to remove liability from property owners who permit the public to (cross) their lands (when entered upon for intended and authorized use).”

Several possible methods of acquisition for trails’ land have been proposed, including the use of rights-of-way, private land donations and easements, tax credits or development incentives, and funds from a conservation futures program to purchase land outright.

KP Fair seeks official recognition

By Colleen Slater
KP News

A fair is a fair is a fair, right?

Not exactly. There may be the standard attractions of carnival, stage shows, vendors, and more food choices than can be believed, but each fair should have some new things and

some shows, contests or displays that are unique to the area, according to Key Peninsula Community Fair Director Mary Graves. “We want demonstrations of what we have on the Key Peninsula,” she says.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture oversees the fairs in this state. To be officially recognized as a fair, an event must be approved by the WSDA fair commissioners — and this year, Graves is working on the official recognition.

Some 50 years ago, the WSDA was instructed by the Legislature to provide funding to support agricultural fairs to keep them going. It’s hard to make money on fairs, and some close for lack of funding. To qualify as an approved fair, the event has to meet certain standards. Fair commissioners, appointed by the governor, visit the fairs to see they are complying with the regulations.

An agricultural fair promotes agriculture with exhibits of livestock, agricultural products, related arts and manufactures, educational contests, displays, and demonstrations to train youth, promote welfare of farm people and rural living. Qualifications include

For details about this year’s fair events including a schedule, entertainers, and more, see this month’s KP News special pullout section



The petting zoo is one of the fair’s favorite attractions.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

displays of three or more animal categories, three or more of foods, clothing, horticulture, crops, floriculture, arts and crafts. There must be at least three exhibitors, and at least five exhibits in each category, with at least 25 exhibitors total. The fair must also have a written statement of aims and purposes available to the public, and provide special activities for youth development.

A community fair, such as Key Peninsula Fair, must have an organized board of directors, be nonprofit, and show evidence of community support, in order to be officially recognized. Each fair is considered on the basis of area and population served, youth participation, attendance, gate receipts, number and type of exhibits, premiums and prizes paid, community support, successful achievement of the aims and purposes of the fair, yearly improvements to and overall conditions and appearance of grounds and facilities. Monetary allocations made are for reimbursement for payment of premiums and prizes awarded to fair participants.

Donated labor, materials, and equipment for construction, repair, and maintenance of grounds, buildings, and facil-

ities receive a reasonable itemized monetary value in considering fund allocation. Community support is vital for smaller fairs with limited resources. Further criteria of community fairs includes support by service clubs, farm organizations, other groups, and attendance.

Commissioners will be there this year to judge if the KP Fair fits their requirements.

Graves already has plans for next year to include workshops for pets (such as livability of pets with distinct personalities), more demonstrations, and more competitions.

KP Fair 2006

Fair exhibitor entry forms for flowers, fruits, vegetables, etc., are available at the Key Center Library and online at www.keyfair.com. A copy of rules, regulations, score sheets and helpful hints will be at Sunnycrest Nursery as well as online. Items will be accepted only from 8 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 22. Hershey’s baking contest rules are available from Janice McMillan, 884-3319.

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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Continuing development drives Transportation Impact Fees

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

About \$620 million (in 2005 dollars) in Pierce County transportation-related shortfalls are expected to impact road maintenance and safety, stall creation of new corridors, and impact nonmotorized traffic resources countywide over the next 20 years. Hearings are now being held in various locations regarding a proposed countywide Traffic Impact Fee (TIF), through the Pierce County Department of Public Works and Utilities.

According to Gary Predoehl, Pierce County Transportation planning and programming manager, who presented the topic at a public meeting on June 13 at PHS, the TIF is designed to address three primary transportation areas. First, it anticipates future county roadway congestion deficiencies and improvements; second, proportionate costs to new residential developments will be assigned; third, fees will be collected to help fund future roadway improvements. All funds must be used for unincorporated county roads, and may not be used for existing deficiencies, regardless of existing safety-related issues,

unless they are "capacity related." (The road or intersection must have "failed," according to specific county road criteria, due to increased traffic demand.)

In an email to the KP News, Mike Galizio, transportation planner for the county, said the TIF program "will provide funding for transportation improvements which are needed to accommodate the higher traffic volumes generated by future development."

Information at the June meeting identified three Key Peninsula intersections slated for funding in the 2006-2011 time period, of the 180 projects identified countywide: 134th/KP Highway North, Herron Road/KP Highway North, and Olson Drive-Cramer Road/KP Highway North, as well as a culvert replacement at 72nd Street/Cliff Avenue.

In the 10-year period of 1995-2005, according to a Transportation Improvement Program chart furnished by the county, 12 constructed projects on the Key Peninsula totaled nearly \$4.4 million. In the same period, Gig Harbor/Fox Island received more than \$12.6 million in transportation improvements.

County participation in the four

projected improvements for the KP totals an estimated \$3.3 million, including \$150,000 for the recently completed traffic light at Elgin Clifton. In comparison, projected improvements for Gig Harbor/Fox Island equal \$19.5 million, excluding unknown construction costs for two projects in the preliminary phases.

The TIF will be a one-time charge levied on all new residential, commercial and industrial development to "provide capacity improvements needed to serve new growth," according to Predoehl. Only road projects that "require capacity improvements over the next 20 years to avoid failing transportation (adequacy) thresholds, or stand-alone intersection projects requiring capacity improvements" are considered.

Predoehl stated these new fees will virtually eliminate the traffic impact analysis now required of developers under SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act), "in most cases." Under the old rules, developments comprised of 24 lots or less were exempt from SEPA traffic analysis and improvements and/or payments; TIF levels the playing field and assesses every new lot, regardless of development size.

Designated as Transportation Service Area One (TSA 1), the Key Pen's TIF cost per lot would be \$1,600, based on national trip mileage charts indicating every new household generates on average 10 car trips/day, at a road maintenance and area resource (use) rate of \$160/trip. TSA unit (trip) costs are based on the individual area's economic development, affordable housing, and politics. Fire District 16 Division Chief Chuck West, an audience member, said about 6,000 homes exist at present on the peninsula, and approximately 1,200 lots remain for development. He speculated that, given the existing 250-300 building permits issued annually, the Key Peninsula might accumulate revenues needed for the projects within a few years. Although TIF revenues collected within a specific area must be used in that area, Predoehl said that "relatively speaking, very little growth (exists) in the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula areas relative to midcounty, where the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan focuses growth."

The Pierce County Council will hold public hearings on the TIF from July through October. The proposal is available at www.piercecountywa.org/tif.

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Commissioners' actions questionable

By Ben Thompson
Special to KP News

The June KP News article titled "Key Pen Metro Parks District commissioners approve compensation" was particularly disturbing for several reasons:

1. The action was taken unilaterally by the Board of Commissioners without any public hearings.

2. The action is in direct conflict with the commitments made by the Formation Committee wherein the Key Peninsula community was assured that they would have an opportunity to vote on any action concerning compensation to commissioners or the levying of taxes.

3. The action proposed for compensation is an affront to all volunteers who have struggled for years in a volunteer capacity (hence the name Volunteer Park) to provide the Key Peninsula with public recreational facilities.

In September 2003, the Board of Commissioners of the Key Peninsula Park and Recreation District were struggling to keep the park in operation on a budget of less than \$25,000/year. It was at that time that they asked the community to pass a levy that would provide about \$50,000 a

year to cover maintenance and operation expenses. The request was defeated at the polls and the park district was in danger of going bankrupt.

The state Legislature provided an opportunity for the Key Peninsula to create a Metropolitan Park District and in so doing to be eligible to receive a minimum of \$100,000 a year from the Zoo Trek Tax Fund. The recent defeat of the tax levy was still fresh in our minds and we were determined to do everything we could to insure passage of the Metropolitan Park District Plan.

At a public hearing the citizenry argued that if this plan were passed, the newly elected commissioners would immediately create a compensation package for themselves and most likely pass a resolution to levy a tax on the community. In response to that concern, the Formation Committee pledged that if the Metro Park Referendum was passed, there would be no compensation package and no taxes unless specifically approved by a vote of the people. With that commitment the Metro Park proposal was approved by a 60 percent margin and the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park district was created.

The new Board of Commissioners has

had to deal with some troublesome issues, but they all pale in comparison to the issues that faced our parks founders. I'm sure the original commissioners would have loved to have had the problems the present board has, i.e. trying to figure out how to operate our parks on a budget of over \$125,000/year, exclusive of any tax levy. It appears that the weightiest issue that the present board has had was the hiring of a park administrator and setting his salary.

There has been a lot of discussion about the proposed 360-acre park that the commissioners are working on but we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that that project was started, and substantially completed to the stage it is now at, by the previous park board. It is also somewhat disconcerting that while the commissioners are spending a great deal of time on the 360 Park, which under the best of estimates, according to Director Scott Gallacher, is five to 10 years away from any type of development, there are approximately 50 level acres of county property adjacent to Volunteer Park, and tentatively offered to the district by the county, lying dormant. The development of this property would almost triple the size of

Volunteer Park and create badly needed new park space at a fraction of the cost of other proposals, and doable in the life span of present citizens.

In the two years since the creation of the KPMPD, there has been no significant change in the operation of our park district. Volunteer Park, Home Park and Rocky Creek as well as the 360 Park were all in place under the previous park district. The present commissioners have not made any case, or even tried to justify compensation, and probably more importantly have not made any effort to talk to the community about any long-range plans that will undoubtedly involve a tax levy. Where is our park district going? How much will it cost? How will it be paid for? Will we finally be able to accommodate soccer and equestrian events? And, when will it happen? To quote Harrison Ford, "All good questions." Based on the behavior of the commissioners, it appears that commissioner compensation is their No. 1 issue.

Ben Thompson is a former KPPRD park commissioner and the chairman of the Formation Committee for the creation of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District.

Letters to the Editor

Neighbors' thoughtfulness appreciated

Thank you to the wonderful people of the Key Peninsula. I recently lost my beloved dog, Rosie, and the kindness and compassion I have seen is unbelievable. From flowers and cards to a beautiful rose bush and even food, I have been overwhelmed with everyone's good thoughts.

A special thank you to the staff at Minter Veterinary Hospital, who stopped everything when I brought Rosie in after she passed. Dr. Irwin rushed out and the entire staff was wonderful. They treated me with care and concern and Rosie like the true princess that I always knew she was.

Thank you, neighbors, for all your love and support. Losing my best friend will take a while to recover from but I will never forget how awesome the people of the Peninsula are.

*Robert McCrossin
Bayside Animal Lodge, Ltd.*

Parks district questioned

I have been actively involved as a community volunteer for over 40 years, mostly as a member of a Lions Club but also as a planning commissioner and legal services volunteer. We give our time and pay our own expenses.

The Key Peninsula Lions Club has worked on Volunteer Park, is awaiting the go-ahead to do additional work there and is awaiting a county building permit to build the picnic shelter at Home Park. None of this activity has required a monetary outlay from the KP Metro Parks District.

In seeking grants, consideration is given to both donated labor and donated money. Grant applications do not have to have tax money even if community participation is a requirement. KP community members have been very generous and will continue that generosity if someone will prepare the grant applications.

I question whether it is a good idea to pay park commissioners or levy a park tax.

*George Robison
Gig Harbor*

Commissioners should be tossed out of office

In early 2003, I had the honor of being the chairman of the Key Peninsula Park and Recreation District (KPPRD), predecessor to the Key Peninsula Metro Park District (KPMPD). With a levy failure, the KPPRD was about to go broke. I enlisted the help of Ben Thompson and we created the formation committee which is now the Metro Park District.

A special thanks goes out to Terry Lee, who pushed the ballot cost through to the county. The big step still remained: to pass the park district.

While campaigning for the new district, we ran into a tremendous amount of opposition and fears as to how the commissioners would react to their newfound powers, latitudes, and the effect of paying themselves. With that, the formation committee discussed first with the committee and then the commissioners about the public fears of per diem and non-voted levies being imposed. There was unanimous agreement among the KPPRD Board not to

accept per diem, which was later ratified at a joint meeting with KPMPD for a period of years to get the new park district off the ground. At a forum for re-election at the Civic Center, Paula DeMoss was asked directly as to her position on taking money. She replied that volunteering is something you need not be paid for.

The KPMPD reversed their official positions without a public hearing. They can't be trusted and should be thrown out of office.

*Mike Salatino
KPPRD Past Chairman*

Union clarifies agreement on drug testing

The topic of randomized drug testing is a very contentious subject. Although the Local does not support randomized drug testing (i.e., without probable cause), we are interested in submitting this subject to the Labor Management Committee (LMC). Understanding that

(See LETTERS, Page 5)

Letters to the Editor

(From LETTERS, Page 5)

there are vast differences in opinion on the necessity of drug testing, Local 3152 is committed to the health and safety of firefighters. This includes the passage of a lid lift levy that proposes hiring firefighters to improve staffing levels.

While no formalized agreement between Commissioner (Al) Yanity and the Local is appropriate, it must be clearly understood that Commissioner Yanity has agreed to support and endorse the lid lift levy in consideration of the Local allowing the subject of drug testing to LMC. However, this subject's consideration in LMC does not propose or imply any specific drug testing policy or protocol, nor does it provide any timeline (real or perceived) or completion date. The inclusion in LMC does not exonerate the fire district's legal obligation to collectively bargain any changes in a working condition. As a condition of this arrangement, should Commissioner Yanity publicly oppose or campaign against the Lid Lift Levy, the Local will not support further drug testing discus-

sions in LMC.

We understand the complexity of this issue and the ramifications of such a dramatic policy change. According to our resources at the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, there is only one career fire department with randomized drug testing and no records exist of any volunteer fire service with randomized testing. There are numerous departments (including our own) that do provide "just cause" and "due process" drug testing criteria.

We do look forward to using the systems and processes (LMC) in place to investigate the feasibility of this program. We further encourage the Future Planning Committee to research the feasibility of this program as well.

Robert J. Bosch

Local 3152 President, Fire District 16

Letters policy

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Fire district levy to add staff

By Irene Torres
KP News

As the population density increases on the Key Peninsula, the need for fire suppression and prevention will continue to grow. To address those needs, Key Peninsula's Fire District No. 16 will ask voters for support to collect more property tax money than currently allowed by Initiative 747, or a "levy lid lift," on this fall's ballot. The district sees the operating costs outpacing the property tax revenues. When the levy lid is lifted — if the measure passes — the fire district will add as many as 10 firefighters including paramedics. This would bring to 27 the number of shift personnel, supported by about 30 community volunteers, to serve the entire Key Peninsula population. The new staffing level would increase the minimum number of paid career staff per shift from five to at least seven.

In the June KP News, Chief Tom Lique discussed the purchase of nearly \$2 million in equipment after the 2004 levy passed. Lique said, "Because of initiative 747...a 1 percent cap (or lid) makes it very difficult for the department to meet the increases in the cost of providing services."

He explained, "If this lid lift fails, a 2007 increase of 1 percent allows our \$3.9 million budget to increase \$39,000. This amount does not keep up with the increased financial demands on the department. The downward trending in the rate of collection continues until the voters' approval to 'lift the lid' brings the collection rates back to their \$1.50 and \$0.50 levels. An approval on a lid lift in 2006 would mean an approximate \$490,000 increase in suppression and \$190,000 increase in EMS for the 2007 budget. In 2008 because of the 1 percent cap, our collection rate begins the down-

ward trend again."

The taxing authority is a complicated process, but the result is this: As communities grow and property values increase at unprecedented rates, the individual homeowner's tax obligation to the fire district actually decreases.

Christina Bosch, administrative manager and district secretary, gave this example: "...In 2002, the district could only call for an additional 1 percent, (\$64,154) in levied taxes. This amount may seem significant... but salaries and benefits increased by \$75,000 and other operating costs increased by another 3 percent to 5 percent... It didn't take long before the district was in a position that required us to approach the voters for lid lift levy. In September 2004...the district chose not to place an EMS lid lift levy before the voters...so (it) was held to the language of I-747 for the EMS portion of our budget. ...The lid lift levy is good for one year only."

When asked about the impact of a recent ruling of a King County Superior Court against I-747, she said, "Well, it's not going to mean much....at least not in the near future. We are expecting this decision to be taken to the (state) Supreme Court, so we don't expect final action to be taken in time to mean much of anything for the 2007 budget year."

To keep pace, fire districts face requesting a lift on the tax lid every year or so, an action that brings the tax rate back to the maximum 1 percent level of assessed value, as allowed by law. Voters must be educated about the process each time, and somehow be convinced that their tax dollars are being used wisely.

During a recent FD-16 Board of Commissioners meeting, a resolution to place the lid lift measure on the ballot for the voters to decide passed 2 to 1, with recently elected Commissioner Allan

Yanity voting against. He said he would not support a levy as long as the district was unwilling to examine its drug testing and fitness for duty policy, which he calls inadequate (see related story, page 7).

Intent to pursue a vote on the levy lid lift, a committee was formed to promote the passing of the measure. The Firefighters' Local has requested to lead the effort, with paid and volunteer firefighters, paid administrative staff and one citizen currently serving on the committee, which invites interested members of the community to join them (the committee may be contacted via email to local3152@aol.com.)

State legislators have been asked to consider a bill to allow taxing districts to remove the levy lid up to six consecutive years without conducting such frequent elections, and have debated the measure during the past two sessions without passing a law. The fire district must pay for each election, a cost that approaches \$60,000. Key Peninsula Fire District may be the only Pierce County district to ask for a lid lift in 2006, but other districts are planning a vote in 2007. Firefighters will

ask for this consideration again during next year's legislative session.

Previous Fire District No. 16 Commissioner Ed Taylor told the KP News, "I do support the levy lid lift and see a real need for additional personnel. If you obtain data about the number of calls each year and chart that for several years, you will see the increased demand for service. The district needs to add manpower to cover these calls."

According to Christina Bosch, the district's call volume has increased as much as 5 percent to 6 percent per year for the last three to four years and Gig Harbor Fire & Rescue needs to respond to FD-16 calls for "mutual aid" more and more. "It is our district personnel that our ... citizens expect to see when they dial 911, not other districts," she said.

Lique acknowledged that tensions among the commissioners could impact the levy outcome and said, "If the lid lift were not passed, the department would continue to function. However, the continued increase in expenses would create a situation where a future lid lift would be placed on the ballot for voter approval. Each ballot measure costs the department, so at some point, continued failures of a lid lift, with increases in expenses, would force decisions that could impact service delivery."

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Tensions grow within fire commission

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

As the Key Peninsula's Fire District 16 prepares to promote a "levy lid lift" to the voters for the fall ballot (see related story, page 6), tensions have been growing inside the district involving commissioners. The conflict, which has culminated around the issue of the district's drug testing and fitness for duty policies, is not only creating frequent heated moments during commissioners' meetings, but also threatens to impact the district's levy election.

During the meetings, it is not unusual to hear phrases like, "Chairman, I protest!" from a commissioner, or hear the chairman say, "OK, that's enough!" and even witness some shouting. Accusations of personal vendettas, misrepresenting the district, secret tape recordings of meetings and other wrongdoings come up frequently, both from commissioners and the general public.

"Sometimes I think I should wear the referee shirt," said Board of Commissioners Chairman Rick Stout, when asked about the tense conversations on various subjects and the personal mudslinging between Commissioners Jim Bosch and Allen Yanity.

Yanity, whose term started on Jan. 1, has taken issue with the district's physical fitness policy, as well as lack of randomized drug testing. He claims the fire district is known to outsiders as "the Doughboy department," and that in addition to the reported substance abuse problems related to the former fire chief, he knows of two others. However, the fire district administrators said they are yet to receive any names of the alleged violators.

Yanity, who told the KP News he supports the need for more funding,



The new rescue truck is getting ready to be in service, and Chief Tom Lique uses it as an example of how the district is moving forward. Pictured with the truck are Lt. Dale Heidal and firefighters Rich White, Greg Glassie and Tony Carr. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

voted no on a resolution by the commissioners to place a levy lid lift on the ballot. He gave no indication about that move during the three work sessions preceding the vote. He had also announced he planned to spearhead a campaign against the levy, saying his constituents are demanding a better physical fitness and drug testing policy.

"I think it's poor decision-making to hold citizens hostage like this," Robert Bosch, president of the firefighters' union, Local 3152 IAFF, said during the public comment period at a recent board meeting, referring to Yanity's comments to reporters that he would not support a levy until the policies are changed. "I would appreciate if Mr. Yanity wouldn't screw with the firefighters and this community. It should be addressed in a formal matter, not in the media."

The current policy, which was implemented in 2005 after several years of fine-tuning, addresses drug and alcohol screenings, and physical as well as psychological examinations. "I would argue those policies work," Fire Chief Tom Lique said. "If an issue is identified, the policy will do

what is supposed to."

In addition, a physical fitness program requirement is part of the district's three-year labor contract. The agreement requires one hour of physical fitness activities during every 24-hour shift, and an additional hour twice a week for day shift personnel. Firefighters point out the district cannot single out anyone based on physical appearance, and that just because they "don't look like models" does not mean they cannot perform their jobs.

Commissioner Bosch contends Yanity came on board "with his own agenda," including looking for ways to fire Bosch's two sons, who are longtime district firefighters. Bosch had helped Yanity campaign against Fred Ramsdell in 1999 (Ramsdell was elected), and they both acknowledge they had been good friends for a long time until now.

Bosch says Yanity's decision against a levy election is "like standing at the polls and not letting people get into the door and saying, 'I've already taken care of you.'" "Why don't you want the people to take that vote?" he said.

Yanity said he's heard "everybody" saying he has a vendetta, and denies that allegation. "What I'm out to do is get the best firefighting crew I can," he said. "I don't want to fire anybody, I want to fix them." He said he voted against the levy resolution because "it's the only weapon I had" to try to get the district to change its fitness for duty policy.

Their disagreements have often caused the two commissioners to cast opposing votes on various motions, and the district administration admits the meetings can be unproductive. But Lique points to the new rescue truck, recently purchased with voter-approved funding, as proof that the district is moving forward. He agrees that the rift among the commissioners could

have a "huge impact" on the district's ability to pass the levy, but encourages the public to think about their experiences with the rescue service and the growing needs when casting their votes. He says the citizens should be involved in what the district does, and should contact him with any questions.

"As a fire department, we have to remember it's the citizens telling us what to do," he said. "The citizens have to remember they put the commissioners here and they work for the community."

Rumors have been circulating regarding a potential recall, but no one has come forward with an official campaign. Talks about a recall are not new for the fire district, nor are heated disagreements between commissioners—some old timers recall screaming and shouting matches at meetings years back.

"We've got some good guys (firefighters) who've been through some ups and downs," said Ruth Bramhall, a former commissioner who continues to be involved with the district. "It's hurtful to know we've made a lot of progress ...and see it torn down like that."

Yanity told the KP News in late June that he and Local President Robert Bosch had just attended a health and safety symposium in Phoenix and had a chance to work out their differences. In exchange for his support of the levy election, he said Bosch agreed to entertain his request of asking the Labor Management Committee to "work out the issue." The committee, comprised of district and union representatives, does not replace collective bargaining, however, and a policy change would still have to be part of labor negotiations.

Robert Bosch confirmed the agreement, but said the union's position has not changed. In an interview preceding this development, he characterized the issue as "getting extremely out of hand" and as "being destructive to the labor and management relationships that have been built over the past few years."

He said regarding his agreement with Yanity, "That has nothing to do with negotiations, it's simply saying we'll talk about the subject in labor management... If he opposes the levy, we would withdraw support of discussions about drug testing."

Yanity said the June 26 commissioners' meeting would be the deciding factor on how things proceed. The meeting occurred after the KP News press deadline.

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Peninsula Market vandalized

The Peninsula Market grocery store, located in Lake Kathryn Village in Wauna, had a break-in on Friday, June 16, at approximately 2:30 a.m. Thieves smashed the bottom of the sliding door, and stole cigarettes and beer, according to store staff. Total estimated damages are \$700. No arrests have been made as of press time. *Photo by Karen Hale*

News briefs

Survey seeks to assess needs of seniors

The realities of “aging in place” on the Key Peninsula are that needed services, programs and facilities are often difficult to locate or do not exist at all. Elders are often forced to move away to find the services they require for daily living. A group of residents are working to change that, to build an elder-friendly community that will meet the changing needs of older adults on the Key Peninsula. The group seeks to gather information on the priorities of the community, which will help direct a plan of action.

KP residents ages 50 and over are asked to fill out an Elder Needs Assessment survey form before July 15. The forms are available at Cost Less Pharmacy in Wauna, the New Brookside Restaurant, the Key Center Library, Sunnycrest Nursery, Sound Credit Union, the Angel Guild, Key Peninsula Health Center, the Historical Society Museum in Vaughn, Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Lakebay Community Church, Key Peninsula Community Services in Home, and Longbranch Community Church. A minimum of 300 surveys is necessary to give insight on the priorities of the community. For information, call Edie Morgan at 884-3920.

Lakebay woman elected to state PTA

Kari Wilkinson of Lakebay was recently elected Washington State PTA Region 10 director, which covers a portion of Pierce County and consists of Clover Park, Peninsula, Steilacoom Historical, Tacoma and University Place school districts.

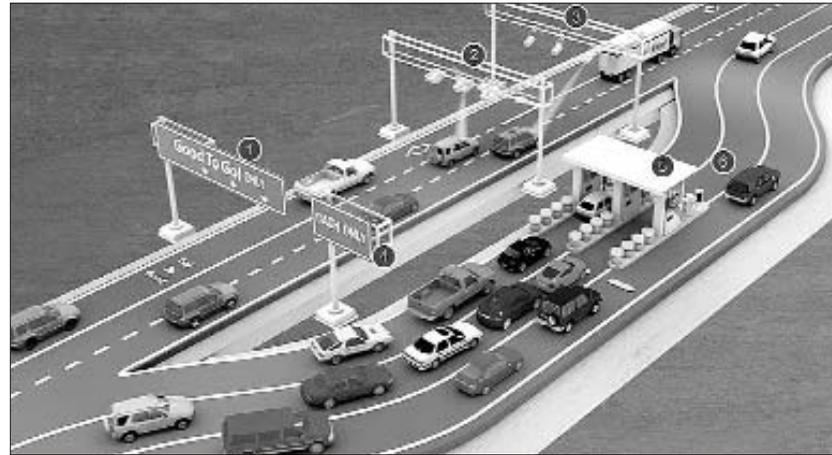
She has served as president of Evergreen Elementary PTA and Key Peninsula Middle School PTA, among others. At the state PTA level, she served on the Washington State PTA Region 10 Service Delivery Team, the Washington State PTA convention committee for the past three years, and was the co-chair of the convention committee for the annual convention in May.

Instructor receives award

Charles Cowan, an instructor in Lakebay, received the Regional Black Belt of the Year award at the sixth annual Pursuit of Excellence tournament in Lakewood. He has been teaching classes on the peninsula for two years and has several students approaching their black belt. He and his seven students took home a variety of trophies at the tournament.

Cowan is an instructor with the American Taekwondo Association. His ATA Black Belt Academy can be reached at 884-3669.

Good To Go! toll system for bridge gains momentum



An illustration of how the toll system will work.

Courtesy of WSDOT

By Christopher Britton
Special to KP News

The Washington State Department of Transportation recently launched its campaign to publicize the new electronic toll collection system, “Good To Go!,” for the second Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

According to Customer Service and Marketing Manager Jessica Yasenchak, the Good To Go! information campaign is gaining momentum, with over 3,500 people responding since its April launch.

While the toll system will not officially become operational until the opening of the new bridge in July 2007, WSDOT is already promoting the early adoption of the system. Specifically, the special electronic e-sticker, which would be affixed to each commuter’s windshield.

This sticker — about the size of a library card — contains a microchip with the driver’s account information, which will be linked to the account by an antennae in the gantries overhead as the driver passes through the toll collection area. The toll will be automatically deducted from the driver’s prepaid account. These accounts may be set up by the driver as needed, or the Good To Go! customer service department can help users establish an automatic replenishment, in which additional funds are added to their prepaid account whenever the equivalent of three trips are left on the balance.

According to WSDOT’s Website, the actual toll amount — which is intended to pay off the bonds used for the construction of the bridge and its subsequent operation and maintenance — will not be determined by the Washington State Transportation Commission until later this year. While initial assumptions are that it is expected to be \$3 for the first

year, the commission is considering a possible provision for a reduced toll for Good To Go! users, officials said.

Those who elect not to use the e-sticker must pay at one of the cash-only booths in the toll plaza. Violators who attempt to cross the bridge without paying the toll or without an e-sticker face stiff penalties.

While WSDOT is still ironing out the details of the new system, officials said it is designed to save commuters time. Just how much is still uncertain, but based on a 2002 Traffic and Revenue study compiled by Wilber Smith & Associates, the projected amount of east-bound traffic over the second Narrows bridge will be approximately 42,000 commuters per day.

“WSDOT hopes to have at least 50 percent of that made up of Good To Go! commuters,” Yasenchak said. “The reason being that the more people we have paying manually, the greater risk for traffic congestion on SR-16.”

In addition to the time savings gained by not having to stop to pay the toll, other benefits touted by the WSDOT include less stress, more convenience and safer travel.

Yasenchak states that there is another reason for commuters to adopt the Good To Go! e-sticker early: As an added incentive, the e-stickers will initially be distributed at no charge. The e-stickers cost WSDOT \$10 each. After an undisclosed date, WSDOT may pass the \$10 cost to Good To Go! customers.

For more information or to apply for the Good To Go! e-stickers, visit wsdot.wa.gov/goodtogo, call 1-866-936-8246, or mail a request for more information to: Good To Go! Washington State Department of Transportation, 3214 50th Street Ct. NW, Suite 302, Gig Harbor, WA 98335-8589.

(From GUNS, Page 1)

want to preserve the Key Peninsula's rural character, and likely to trouble those who feel the area is too populated for activities like hunting or target shooting.

Of course there's responsible shooting, as practiced by thousands of hunters and target shooters, and then there's the other stuff. Like firing weapons towards houses and barns. And that's illegal regardless of where you do it. Bauer says: "We'll get a complaint of someone shooting in an area. If we can see evidence that someone is shooting from one house toward another house, we'll go talk to them. And if we determine that it's reckless, we can arrest them."

Which is to say that Bauer and his deputies want to help — but it's difficult, if not impossible, for them to do anything without some sort of proof. That can be difficult to collect where shooting incidents are concerned.

So how bad is the overall problem? Given the fact that most of the Key Peninsula is open to shooting, and that only 43 "Shots Fired" complaints were received during a 13-month period of time (see chart), that averages out to about three reported incidents per month.

Why are some areas closed to shooting while others aren't? The process to close an area works like this: First, those favoring such a ban have to get 60 percent of the property owners in the area they envision as a no-shooting zone to sign a petition in favor of the proposal. And, because the property owners must be registered voters too, that makes the process of gathering signatures that much more demanding. It also means that residents who rent their homes can't participate in the petition process.

Then, assuming that the necessary number of qualified signatures is gathered, the petition would be turned over to the Pierce County Firearms Advisory Commission. It's a group which, according

Disposition	Month													Grand Total
	05/2005	06/2005	07/2005	08/2005	09/2005	10/2005	11/2005	12/2005	01/2006	02/2006	03/2006	04/2006	05/2006	
Felony Arrest									1					1
Formal Report	1													1
Gone on Arrival	1	1			1	2	2	1		1		2	1	12
No Formal Report			1	5	3	3					1	5	1	20
Patrol Check Info					2		1					2	1	6
Unable to Contact					1								1	2
Unfounded Complaint											1			1
Grand Total	2	2	5	7	5	3	1	0	2	2	9	4	1	43

The chart, provided by the Sheriff's Department, shows all of the "Shots Fired" complaints reported over the last 13 months. The disposition for each call can be seen to the right. "Gone on Arrival" means that there was some information given to the Sheriff's Department at the time of the call regarding a perpetrator but the perpetrator was gone when deputies arrived. "No Formal Report" means that the deputy was able to resolve the situation without the need for a police report. "Patrol Check Info" is a kind of "Attention All Cars" call, where shots were fired, but no specific location could be determined, so a deputy watched the area for awhile but was unable to locate a shooter. "Unable to Contact" refers to a situation in which a deputy goes out on foot looking for a shooter but was unable to locate one.

to Sean Gaffney, senior planner for the department of Planning and Land Services, consists of four members who represent gun clubs, three members who don't represent gun clubs, and two nonvoting members.

Having reviewed the petition, and the detailed documentation submitted along with it, the Firearms Advisory Commission makes a recommendation that is forwarded to the Pierce County Council for a final decision. Up until this point the council has never gone against such a recommendation but it theoretically could.

A proposal that would restrict shooting in the Palmer Lake area was submitted to the council in November 2005 but the petitioners are still awaiting a decision.

For detailed information regarding the petition process, direct your browser to the Pierce County Council Website (www.co.pierce.wa.us), choose "Pierce County Code and Charter" on the right side of the page, and choose "Title 9 Criminal Code." Once you arrive there, page down to 9.32.070, which is titled "Discharge of Firearms Prohibited or Restricted."

Legal shooting areas also have restrictions — including those listed in a county ordinance that states, "...it shall be unlawful to discharge a firearm within

Is your home in a legal shooting zone?

For a personalized view of the map go online to: <http://triton.co.pierce.wa.us/council/address/index.cfm>. Once there, enter your house number plus street, click "Find Address," select "Map Link," and you'll arrive at a page called "Info By Address." You'll see all sorts of interesting information there, including a blue box that allows you to select a "Map Layer." Click on "Firearms Restrictions" and zoom in to see whether you live in a restricted area.

500 feet toward any building occupied by people or domestic animals or used for storage of flammable or noncombustible materials. It shall be unlawful to discharge a firearm within 1,000 feet toward any K-12 school within the

county." Anyone not familiar with the rules of gun safety, or in need of a quick refresher, may find useful to review the National Rifle Association gun safety rules posted at www.nrahq.org/education/guide.asp.

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Wauna traffic light project slowly progresses

By Irene Torres
KP News

Planning continues behind the scenes for development in the Lake Kathryn Village Shopping Center. Movement seems slow, as so many agencies are involved.

Dale Severson, who heads the Washington State Department of Transportation Olympic Region Development Services, told the KP News, "We have been working with the proponent of the Lake Kathryn Village Shopping Center, a Mr. Joe Rhea, since about 2000 and more recently we were contacted by his design consultant, Bob Jewell, of PacLand here in Olympia."

Severson explained, "The Lake Kathryn Village Shopping Center was originally SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) conditioned back in the 1980s. I believe it was to install a traffic signal at their center's private road entrance (92nd Avenue) when they reached a certain square footage. That total was basically a level that would be reached if they installed a grocery store."

At that time, rumors swelled about some major grocery outlet, such as Safeway, moving onto the Key Peninsula. Around 2000, it looked like that threshold was about to be met, and the developer hired a design consultant to prepare "channelization and traffic signal plans for that signal at 92nd," Severson said.

"We then took a close look at that requirement and decided all parties (developer, WSDOT, and traveling public) would be better served if that traffic signal could instead be installed at the existing public road T-intersection at 94th Avenue NW by having them make a new south leg to serve the center and adjacent vacant lot to the west of the center (see the KP News Website at www.keypennews.com for the Plan for Approval).

Property manager Joe Rhea spoke to the KP News on behalf of Don Zimmerman, majority owner of the Lake Kathryn property. "We acquired more property to develop — now about 40 acres — and later discovered that 7 acres of it were designated as wetlands. We can't develop wetlands," Rhea said.

"I support the idea of a traffic light there. Currently it's not in the budget, but it's something I've been working for."

-Rep. Derek Kilmer

The developer designs, engineers, and builds the project, usually paying the entire cost, with the exception in this case of a \$55,000 contribution in "goods and services" by the WSDOT toward the project. The state must approve all design plans and oversees the construction, which is constructed by the developer's contractor.

"WSDOT will 100 percent own and operate the completed signal that is on WSDOT right-of-way after completion and acceptance of the project," Severson said.

A new traffic signal may be needed "if an engineering study shows that traffic signal warrants are met and it is the right thing to do." Signal warrants are usually based on the amount of traffic volumes at an intersection, but can also include pedestrian and accident warrants.

Severson said, "If this was to be a 100 percent WSDOT funded signal, it would have to prioritize high enough to be one of the two or three signals this region typically funds and builds within a typical biennium. In this case, the intersection does meet signal warrants, but does not prioritize very high."

With the concurrence of the property owner, the state is "nearly finished reviewing the traffic signal engineering plans."

"It normally only takes a year or less to work through our WSDOT design

review process, but because the schedule is developer-driven, it is only now nearing completion of the design phase," he said.

PacLand representatives declined to contribute to this story. Rhea said, "We want to make it grow. We have done a lot of work, developing statistics and doing the engineering, but we are stifled. We have been working with (Rep.) Derek Kilmer, who is on the state Transportation Committee, and with (Pierce County Councilman) Terry Lee to get the state to contribute funds that will go a long way toward the safety of Highway 302. As the (second Tacoma Narrows) Bridge is completed, people are expecting a lot of growth, all the way to Poulsbo. Safety along 302 is a big issue."

Kilmer told the KP News, "I support the idea of a traffic light there. Currently it's not in the budget, but it's something I've been working for. There is a grant program for these sorts of intersections, and I've been working with the county to try to get them to apply for a grant (it's a bit of a peculiar intersection because it's a county road coming up to a state highway)."

Rhea said that any increase in businesses would require the installation of a traffic light, "which will hinge on being able to borrow half a million to a million or more dollars for a light and roadway changes."

While Rhea, Zimmerman and their engineering consultant are reluctant to disclose their negotiations, they reportedly may happen during next construction season in 2007. Progress — when the signal and associated channelization are to be built — is controlled by the developers and their ability to raise the funds needed to complete the project.

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Group goes 'splish-splash' to raise some cash

By Kristen Pierce
KP News

Liz Hoepfner really enjoys helping out Peninsula High School students. She has been volunteering for the PHS Track Team as the S.A.V.E. thrift store volunteer coordinator since 2005 while her children attended the school. Her daughter, Jenny, graduated in 2004, while her son, Greyson, will graduate in 2007.

S.A.V.E. is located on Purdy Lane, just below the high school. The name is abbreviated for Seahawk Academic and Vocational Education. PHS actually owns the property so overhead costs are low, enabling most of the profit to go to a scholarship committee that oversees a scholarship program for seniors. Volunteers, including students, parents and friends, provide most of the manpower in the store. Over the years, the profits have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to PHS students seeking higher education. The students must participate for 10 or more hours for approximately one

month to acquire their certificate of participation. In addition to receiving a scholarship reward, they learn retail sales skills and gather community service credit. Every senior who has a scholarship notebook receives some type of scholarship reward.

"I think it's a fantastic program for the children," said Gloria Bowman, one of the assistant managers of the store. Bowman has been involved with the store for many years. Although her daughter graduated in 2001, she is compelled to remain working in the store.

S.A.V.E. will celebrate its 20th anniversary this summer. Manager Kris Hohensee plans to have various special sales throughout the month of July. The highlight of the celebration will be on Saturday, July 15, with a special sale offering hundreds of books at very low prices. Everything in the store will be discounted, and complimentary refreshments will be offered to shoppers.

Besides the profits from the thrift store, Hoepfner plans to try a new approach for raising funds for the track



Alleana Simon (left), a PHS freshman who volunteers at the store, with her younger sister, Elleashea, a KPMS student.

Photo by
Kristen Pierce

team. With weather warming up, she is organizing a car wash. The perfect place seemed to be at the Harvest Time Country Store in Wauna, which allows people to hold fund-raising car washes in the parking lot. Many churches, schools, and other organizations have benefited from their generosity.

Students, family, and friends are welcome to participate in the fundraiser, which will be held on two Saturdays, July 22 and 29. The profits will go to the graduating seniors of 2007.

"It's very rewarding to work with other volunteers because they are very caring and generous people," Hoepfner said. She plans to continue to volunteer her time for PHS throughout the following school year and most likely even after her son graduates in 2007.

Based on Hoepfner's plans, it seems that July will be a great month to thrift shop, save money, and get the car washed, all for the great cause of helping out with the futures of young adults.

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July 6 – Key Seniors celebrate

The Key Peninsula Senior Society celebrates Independence Day at the regular noon weekly meeting at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Red, white, and blue decorations will greet members and guests. Hot dogs are on the menu. All seniors are welcome to attend and get acquainted. An Aug. 10 picnic is planned at one of the local state parks. For information, call 884-5052.

July 8 – Hike Penrose State Park

Hikers will converge at Penrose State Park between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. to experience one of the joys Key Peninsula offers visitors and residents alike.

The Key Peninsula Lions Volkssport Club, in coordination with The Key Peninsula Trails Committee, is once again offering Pacific Northwest hikers an opportunity to explore the many trails of Penrose State Park. The hike through verdant forests and along pristine coastal beaches begins at the unusually interesting property of Bud and Delores Ulsh, kicking off a six-mile woodland journey. Last year nearly two hundred hikers from across Washington and Oregon were met with the Ulsh family vision of mythic treasures. Hiking Penrose Trails also offers the majesty of nature — including a towering eagle's nest, grand forests and pebbled beaches. Hikers also have the prospect of camping or picnicking at Penrose State Park. Reasonably good boots or hiking shoes suitable for uneven ground and a will to experience the wilderness are a must.

Call Caril Ridley at 253-370-2852 or e-mail her at carilridley@hotmail.com for directions.

July 11 – Blood Drive

A blood drive will be at Peninsula Light Company (13315 Goodnough Drive NW) from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Go to the second floor meeting room.

July 13 – Puppet Theater at library

"The Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "Little Red Riding Hood" will be presented at the Key Center Library at 10:30 a.m. Children must be 5 and older. (Please bring a can of dog or cat food for a senior's pet.)

July 15 – 20 years for SAVE

The SAVE Thrift Store in Purdy is celebrating its 20 year anniversary with a huge sale on Saturday. Shoppers will be treated to refreshments. Everything in the store will be marked down and hundreds of books will be at incredibly low prices.

The thrift store was founded to raise funds for the scholarship program at Peninsula High School. Originally the store was located in an old portable classroom building on the site of the

PHS swimming pool parking lot. When that facility burned, the store moved into its current location in the former fire station on Purdy Lane just below the high school. The members of the scholarship committee, their spouses and community volunteers turned the station into a retail outlet with carpeting, lighting, shelves and other amenities. The original building has since been expanded to create receiving and sorting areas.

Most of the manpower at SAVE is provided by volunteer students and parents from sport and activity groups at Peninsula High. Over the years, students have put in thousands of hours at the store where they have learned retail sales skills and gathered community service credit. In return, the student activity groups share in the profits of the store. The profits of the thrift store have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to PHS students seeking higher education.

The anniversary celebration at SAVE Thrift Store is intended as a recognition and thank you to the community, which has made the program such a success, including the founders of the store, shoppers, donors and volunteers. Visit SAVE on July 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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SAVE is seeking volunteers for a number of jobs in the store: sorting, pricing, restocking, displaying, or running the cash register. All folks — teens and older — make great volunteers. Chances to serve the community, meet new people, learn new skills, purchase high quality merchandise at low prices, and being part of a great team are great rewards.

For more information, drop by the store or call 857-2800.

July 15 – Longbranch Community Church Salmon Bake

The Longbranch Improvement Club will host the annual LCC fund-raiser from 2-6 p.m.

The usual delicious Copper River salmon grilled by Chef Oliver Coldeen, with all the sides and dessert, will be served along with entertainment. Tickets are \$12 pre-event, \$14 day of bake, and \$5 for children.

Call Ruth Bramhall at 857-5184 for tickets, or visit Sunnycrest Nursery, Charboneau's, Longbranch Marina, Home Store, Coast Hardware or go to www.LCCworship.org.

July 15-16 – Allyn Days Festival & Salmon Bake

The Allyn Community Association sponsors the two-day event at the Allyn Waterfront Park. The Salmon Bake will be Saturday from noon to 6 p.m.; cost is \$12. Hoodspout wines and local microbrews are featured in the beer garden. There will be over 60 vendors, games, arts & crafts, demonstrations, music and entertainment and a dance

Saturday night in the gazebo. The local fire department and Lions Club sponsor a pancake feed Saturday and Sunday morning in the fire hall in Allyn. Hours are 10-6 Saturday and 10-4 Sunday.

For more information, see www.AlynACA.com or call Bonnie Knight at 360-275-8436.

July 20 – Mother Goose lands at library

"Mother Goose and More," a variety show with stories, songs, rhymes, and fun for children aged 3 and 5 (accompanied by an adult), will be held at the Key Center Library at 10:30 a.m. (Please bring a can of dog or cat food for a senior's pet.)

July 22 – ASHES rummage sale

ASHES (Key Peninsula Firefighters Auxiliary) will hold its annual rummage sale at the Key Center Fire Station on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Key Pen Firefighters will serve a pancake breakfast from 7:30 to 11 a.m.

The rummage sale will include clothing, shoes, kitchenware and accessories, knick-knacks, etc. Donations accepted at the station beginning Thursday. More information at 884-3771 or 884-2222.

July 31-Aug. 4 — Vacation Bible School

An interactive vacation Bible school, the Time-Stone Travelers, will be held July 31 through Aug. 4 from 9 to noon. Travelers is for children ages 4 years old

to sixth grade. Students will learn about living for Jesus in five different discovery sites at Lakebay Christian Assembly at 2406 McEwan Road. For more information contact Gail Wood at 884-9155.

TOPS meets on Tuesdays

TOPS #1325 Lakebay meets on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in McColley Hall (next to KP Lutheran Church) on the corner of Lackey Rd and Key Pen Hwy. TOPS is open to all, 7 years and older. Join and win cash prizes, hear speakers and find many incentives to lose weight. Free childcare is provided. For more information, call Gloria, 884-2554, or Jonda, 884-1335.

Community Council seeks director

Three new directors were appointed to fill the vacancies on the board at the Key Peninsula Community Council's regular meeting on June 14. Appointed to Area One was David Figuracion, Tim Calhoun to Area Two, and Dexter Reuhl to Area Four. President Jeff Harris indicated one open position still exists in Area Two, (north and west end of the Key Peninsula). For more information, call the KPCC Office at 884-0557.

Jeff Harris stated that persons interested in running for any of seven council positions open for election in September should contact the KPCC Office at 884-0577. Any person intending to run must inform the council by Aug. 11. Director candidates must be 18 years or older and live or own property on the Key Peninsula. Responsibilities include participation in

council activities and committee(s).

The Key Peninsula Community Council is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that seeks to improve the quality of life on the Key Peninsula.

The next meeting of the KPCC will be on July 9, 2006 at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. For more information, contact Jeff Harris at 884-4697.

The council adopted a motion to help sponsor a series of forums to help community residents respond to emergencies. The Council's Safety Committee will develop the details. This effort will partner with Fire District 16, the American Red Cross, the Peninsula School District and other key agencies.

The council also approved a motion to develop a Website, which will include a community calendar for use by all agencies and organizations serving Key Peninsula residents.

Angel Guild News

Last month Angel Guild members made donations to the Key Peninsula Fair and Minter Creek Elementary School (toward field trip gas). Holes in the back lot will be leveled and new gravel put down, which will make coming in to donate so much easier. Patience with the current situation is appreciated.

Gently used merchandise at the Angel Guild includes clothing of all sizes, clean linens, dishes, pots and pans, small appliances, lamps and end tables, and a variety of pictures and picture frames.

Volunteers are needed and welcome. Stop by or call Bonnie at 884-3983 for information.

Volunteer spotlight: Marguerite Bussard

Photo and story by Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Marguerite Bussard vividly remembers when Gig Harbor firefighters served Key Peninsula residents. Her family has been passionately engaged with fire services since she was a young woman, when her mother gifted 2.5 acres and water rights to establish the fire station in Longbranch.

Bussard, a longtime garden club member, appreciates the beauty of her surroundings, and still lives in the same house she and her husband began

building 46 years ago. It sits amid immaculate lawns on 10 wooded acres they bought over 50 years ago. Although her husband, Ramon (Pete), who was battalion chief of Station 4 in Longbranch for 25 years, has been gone for nearly 20 years, she says easily, "This September 4, we will have been married for 53 years," as though he were just steps away.

Bussard's late brother was also in the fire service, and she was one of the first



BUSSARD

to join ASHES, the fire service auxiliary. ASHES was established nearly 40 years ago with a \$20 gift from the fire chief. Its primary purpose was to raise funds for an ambulance; its members went door to door communitywide until they accomplished this goal. After that, the auxiliary, with Bussard as frequent president, continues to be a resource to firefighters and their families.

Recently, ASHES' bylaws changed, permitting contributions to the food bank and other local services. Membership is getting older, Bussard notes, and firefighters' wives seem too busy to participate. "We welcome anyone who would like to join. You don't have to be related to a firefighter to serve the community," she says.

If Bussard's parakeet, Sweet Pea,

could talk, she might ask her mistress how she puts so much volunteer work for so many organizations, from the Longbranch Community Church and Key Singers, to booking tables for Old Timers' Day, into every short day. To which Bussard would pleasantly reply, "Well, I'm pretty good at organizing. The trick to getting a lot done is putting the things you want to do on a schedule."

Prospective members can call Bussard at 884-3771. ASHES holds its annual pancake breakfast and rummage sale at the fire station in Key Center on Saturday, July 22.

Items to be sold can be brought to the station as early as Thursday afternoon. All proceeds benefit charities associated with ASHES.

Allyn wood carving store undergoes changes

By Danna Webster
KP News

Changes are being made at a favorite destination in Allyn. The Northwest Experience gallery and gift shop, which once offered 270 lines of gift items and many flavors of ice cream cones and espresso drinks, is narrowing its focus and getting a new name.

After 12 years, owner George Kenny has chosen to downsize to only one location — the downtown Allyn site where the business started — and to eliminate anything that doesn't have to do with chainsaw wood carving or the chainsaw carving school.

A couple of favorite sayings have helped Kenny with his decision. Downsizing from four stores (which included Poulsbo and Snoqualmie locations) to one is based on lessons learned from a "big boat creates a lot of leaks." And, changing the inventory at the old, original, "steady Eddie store" is a result of believing that "if you try to stay the same, you are always going backwards," he says.

Kenny says he is looking forward to coming back to Allyn where he and his carvers have created some popular attractions. One of the first was the totem pole at the Port of Allyn featuring a fisherman, an orca and a canoe. Kenny and Charlie Hubbard carved the 30-foot totem about 10 years ago and donated it to the park.

The carving school will now become the focal point for the business. Kenny says the people taking his classes provide him with a broad selection of carvings to sell. He says he has about 600 carvings to offer and a very diverse selection of works.

Of the students who attend classes, about half are from out of state. This year's students range from Vermont and New York, to Colorado and Texas. Some students make the carving school their working vacation. Even the store manager, Shari Stormo, took a carving class a couple of years ago. So along with continuing to run the shop and gallery, she can be found making finishing touches to carvings and creating some of her own.



Photo by Danna Webster

George Kenny stands near the carving area at the chainsaw wood carving gallery in Allyn.

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- Beer Garden & Live Entertainment
- 2 stages with local and regional talent

Be watching for the Schedule of Events in this local Newspaper's "Fair Special Section" for more details!



Sportsmen's Club not just for fishing enthusiasts

By Linda L. Anderson
KP News

Navigate the challenging intersection of Lackey Road and the Key Peninsula Highway to turn onto Jackson Lake Road. This avenue leads down a quiet street, past a few homes nestled in among the trees, to the 45-acre property of the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club.

This choice piece of property was purchased in 1947, when 10 members each loaned the club \$250 to make up the down payment. Through the fundraising efforts of the women's group known as the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Auxiliary and the income from their Skeet Shooting range, the property was paid off in six years. This acreage was painstakingly surveyed and cleared by its members. After the foundation was set in 1956, the members had the timber from the cleared property milled for the construction of the clubhouse. The project began in 1957, and the first meeting was held in the new structure on Dec. 12, 1957.

It wasn't until 1963 that the first trailer was moved on the property. As sites were cleared and the utilities put in, more members moved in. Today there are 11 mobile and manufactured homes on the club property, occupied by club members. The neat row of homes and a sprawling lawn point the way to Jackson Lake, where small boats, fishing poles and swimmers are a familiar sight. No motor boats are allowed.

Despite the group's name, not everyone who joins is a fisherman. The members of the Sportsmen's Club are interested in promoting people, social events and community service. The Preamble to the Articles of Incorporation for the nonprofit organization explains



Club members assist visitors to the 2006 annual Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club Opening Day of fresh-water fishing breakfast and rummage sale. Jackson Lake is in the background.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

its purpose: "Whereas: we sportsmen of the State of Washington, realizing the need and advantage of organized effort, do endeavor to improve conditions for hunters, fishermen and outdoorsmen, to help in the conservation of natural resources and to promote good fellowship." Part of the club property includes several acres of protected wetlands, which the members care for diligently.

Annual events on the club calendar include the widely-known annual Fishermen's Breakfast and Yard Sale (their primary fund-raiser) held every April, the annual meeting of the VFW Honor Guard, hosting of the Pierce County Sportsmen's Council annual banquet, and the club's annual picnic, which is held on the last Sunday in July.

Other activities include monthly busi-

ness meetings and dinners, monthly breakfasts for members and their guests, bingo, bocce ball and various holiday events. Every Monday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. musicians gather for a jam session. Anyone who plays an instrument is welcome to attend this casual and fun event.

In addition to the regular schedule of events, the organization is part of the Pierce County Sportsmen's Council and supervises the familiar "Fish Not Drugs" fish tank at the Key Peninsula Fair and other local events. The fish tank allows children of all ages to catch a real fish, which they can take home. After each event, the fish left in the tank are taken to Jackson Lake and released. Plans are underway to set up the fish tank this year at the Old Timers' Day for the first time.

Interested in joining?

If you'd like to join but don't know one of the 44 members, contact club President Vern Luedke at 884-6521, or past president Larry Hagen at 884-9647. Prospective members who are invited to check out the club are asked to attend two business meetings and two social events as an "initiation" process. Fishing experience is not required. The organization's board of directors holds monthly meetings.

Members are proud to contribute to the local Little League, the library and the Key Peninsula Community Center, as well as scholarships to send two kids to summer camp. During the holidays, the club works through the local schools to provide food baskets to families in need.

Who are the members of this club? Men and women age 45 and up are welcome, with special dispensation given to some as young as 40. Potential new members must be sponsored by a club member. Not all members are retired and, of those who live on the grounds, all the men and one woman are veterans.

At their recent breakfast, where guests were greeted warmly, the members were proud to introduce Nat Knox. While she is not the oldest club member, she is the longest surviving member, having joined the club in 1972.

When asked why they became Sportsmen's Club members, Marvin and Barbara Rowland of Sunny Key Farm said, "When we first moved to the Peninsula, we read about the club and its annual Fishermen's Breakfast in the KP News and decided that would be a good place to start meeting people and getting involved. The rest is history."

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Last year: January 1, 2005 – June 15, 2005
There were 215 residential sales on the Key Peninsula with an average sale price of \$292,016.

This year: January 1, 2006 – June 15, 2006
There were 184 residential sales with an average sale price of \$271,329

That means the number of sales is down by 15%, but the prices are up by 15% so far this year over last year during the same time period.

What the rest of the year will bring is still debatable. Our prices seem to be leveling off as is our activity — which means, at the very least, a less frenzied market this year, but still a strong one: a good year to buy or sell with Windermere / Key Realty.

Community Service Day

Once again the Realtors of Windermere/Key Realty celebrated Community Service Day by working at a service organization in our community. This year we chose Key Peninsula Community Service Center near the Home bridge which is the Senior Center and Food Bank for the community. We painted several areas throughout the huge building a light, bright color to welcome the seniors who come for meals and the food bank recipients, and, as always the Realtors at Windermere/Key Realty enjoyed giving back to the community in which we live and work.



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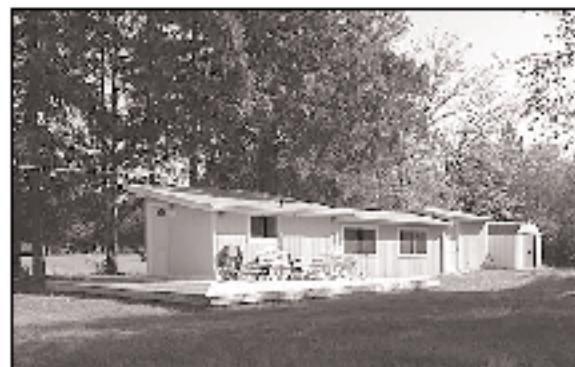
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From Pioneer Stock

Bob Tachell and Marthann Tachell Swanson: Fourth generation on family property

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Ralph (Bob) Tachell and his sister, Marthann Tachell Swanson, live on the Key Peninsula, where they grew up.

The Tachell family arrived in America from England in 1863, settled in Michigan, but some eventually headed west.

Roy, father of the Key Peninsula clan, rafted from Spokane to Kennewick in 1920 with a brother, parents and grandparents. He arrived in Kennewick in time to meet and marry Clara Mae McCurdy. Her family had just moved from Seattle.

McCurdy family history dates back to the mid-1400s on the Isle of Bute, Scotland, and claims lineage with Robert the Bruce and other kings and queens of Scotland and France.

A father and four sons came to America in 1752 to escape religious persecution. Some moved to Washington in the early 1900s.

Clara (always called Mae) McCurdy's parents, John and Lulu McCurdy, bought

**"He painted most of
Key Center."**

-Marthann Tachell Swanson

a section of land on the Key Peninsula in 1925, near Glencove. When Mae and family arrived a few years later, they were given seven acres. Mae's uncle, Ace McCurdy, a Gig Harbor barber, bought the Elgin school and converted it into a home.

Roy, along with his five brothers and dad, was a house painter and paper hanger.

"He painted most of Key Center," said Marthann. "Hipp's, Visell's...and he did the first coat of paint on the antique store." He painted government houses at the Bremerton Navy Yard, and later the interior of Grand Coulee Dam and government houses there. He painted for people around the Key Center area, in



Marthann and Bill Swanson in front of Mae Tachell's Bow & Arrow Cafe, 1967.

Photo courtesy of
Marthann Swanson

exchange for garden plowing, meat, and produce.

Roy and Mae had 10 children — Mary Mae, Roy (Bud), Lloyd, Geneva, Kenneth, Bob, Jessie, Betty, Elmer, and Marthann.

Bob did his first painting job as a teen, with his dad. "I made up my mind I wasn't going to be a painter," he said.

The Tachell children dug clams, picked berries, fished, and also did exchange work. Oscar Boquist cut his hay with a scythe, and the Tachell boys helped load it in the wagon. Their pay was in apples and Bing cherries.

Mae Tachell always had a big garden. "Mom canned 100 quarts of everything," said Marthann. Fruits, vegetables, meat. She smoked salmon, too.

"If I had 25 cents," said Bob, "I'd go to the Sunday afternoon matinee in the Gig Harbor Theatre.... Bon-Bons were a nickel, popcorn another nickel. The movie was 10 cents." They usually walked, although if a driver knew them, he'd pick them up.

Bob often hiked with a friend to fish at Rocky and Coulter creeks. "We always went to Horseshoe Lake on the first of April to start swimming," Marthann said.

Bob spent four years in the Army, then was a traveling license examiner in Eastern Washington. He drove a '52 Ford with "Happy Birthday!" painted on the side.

Later, he cooked at and managed three fish and chips shops at Fort Lewis, the Gig Harbor Broiler for seven years, and was at the Boat House, Point Defiance,

until it burned. Other jobs included Yukon Jack's in Seattle and San Clemente, Calif., and Metropolitan Park Concessions in Tacoma. He enjoyed the Point Defiance jobs the most, working mostly with young people.

"It was a fun place to work," he said. "A rib-eye was \$1.45, fish and chips, 35 cents, a burger 30 cents, and piece of pie, 25 cents."

Marthann became a cosmetologist. Later she helped her mom in the Bow and Arrow Café, did food service and catering for Eagles, worked in the Peninsula High School café when her kids attended there, at a Shell deli and Kentucky Fried Chicken. She now manages the Huckleberry Inn restaurant in Key Center, which she's owned for about 13 years.

She and her husband, Bill Swanson, a commercial fisherman, had their own beef, went hunting, fishing, and like her mom, had a big garden. "I canned thousands of cans" every year, she said.

Bob, Marthann and Lloyd are all who remain of the 10 siblings. Lloyd, 82, recently drove from his Oklahoma home to the Vaughn Union High School reunion and back again.

Marthann was born in the family home north of Glencove. "Mom was supposed to have a card party the day I was born," she said. "Nobody knew she was pregnant."

Marthann's daughter, Teresa, now lives in that house, built by her Tachell grandparents, on land once owned by her McCurdy great-grandparents.

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(From MAZUR, Page 1)

and did, simply pass him by.

"All of us have the ability to stop (to help) inside us, and maybe we all have the ability to not stop," he said. "There's a very fatalistic mentality (on the mountain). That wasn't what I was taught."

Mazur, whose legal residence and business address are in Lakebay — he even votes here — lives in Olympia, where he owns an expedition guide business, SummitClimb. He has found himself in the international media spotlight after giving up his group's attempt to the summit to save Hall's life. The feat was featured by media outlets ranging from People Magazine to Dateline NBC and the Today show.

"I'm really surprised that people are into the story. I had no idea," he said in an interview less than a week after his return home.

Even his mother, Longbranch resident Mary Mazur, started fielding media phone calls as early as the next day after the May 26 rescue. "I'm very interested to find out how they found me," she said.

What makes the story so compelling is perhaps the fact that Everest has been criticized as a place where it's no longer en vogue to help a fellow climber in trouble. Even Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to summit the peak and live to tell about it, has criticized Everest for its commercialized culture. The ascent is quite expensive, and it could take years to prepare for it. One or two hundred people have lost their lives trying to reach the peak.

For Mazur and his two paying clients, May 26 was a perfect day. The weather was great, there was no wind, and they were feeling pretty good as they climbed toward the peak, just two or three hours away. Then they encountered Hall — with no oxygen mask, sleeping bag or other gear — perched up on a peak at 28,000 feet, not tied to any ropes. His

gloves were off, and he had started to take off his suit. It was 20 or 30 degrees below.

As they moved quickly to give him oxygen and some food, they tried to convince Hall's own team, at base camp, that he was alive. The night before, his Sherpas left him up there for dead, after trying to rescue him themselves. Hall was suffering from cerebral edema, a common effect of the high altitude. His wife had been told he was dead.

"We had to do like a sales job to convince them he was alive," Mazur said.

Mazur is familiar with such close calls himself. An experienced climber who has scaled some of the world's tallest peaks—including Everest in 1991 — he had altitude sickness similar to Hall's during one of his climbs. He had fallen off a cliff in loose snow, and his team could not go down so they had to go over the top with him. "Those guys saved my life," he said.

By the time rescuers showed up to help take Hall to base camp, Mazur had to scratch his team's summit attempt. The weather had worsened, and he knows "when to turn around."

"You have to have respect for the mountain," he said. "I'm very careful."

The two clients, who spent years of fund-raising and physical preparedness, didn't hide their disappointment in missing their opportunity, after spending several weeks on Everest (so the body can adjust to the altitude). For Mazur, the heroism could be bad for business.

"People want to know your success rate, that's all they care about," he said. "Climbers want to go with someone who will get them up."

Still, asked by Matt Lauer in an interview in New York if he ever questioned whether he should stop to help Hall, he said: "How could you sleep a good sleep at night thinking that you passed somebody who needed your help? I mean, that's just the way I was raised..."

Rescue photos

To see more photos of the rescue on Everett, visit our Website at www.keypennews.com.

To learn more about SummitClimb, including the nonprofit foundation that helps villages off the tourist track in Nepal, visit www.summitclimb.com.

Mazur, who is 45, says human bodies have limited mileage and it's not as easy to make the climbs for him as it was 20 years ago, but he plans to keep it up as long as he can. He goes on expeditions twice a year to Tibet, the Himalayas, Africa or South America. The business, which is owned by nine people, started out as "a group of friends who climbed together" 15 years ago and slowly evolved.

Mazur, a Boy Scout who's been climbing since age 17, has organized and led overland, trekking and mountaineering expeditions for nearly two decades, and was named "the most successful American to ever launch an expedition" by Climbing Magazine. He is also actively raising funds through a nonprofit foundation for a village near Everest, to build a hospital and school and provide clinics.

Mazur finds the local area a great place for climbers, with its proximity to Adams, St. Helens, and Rainier. When home, he tries to visit the local peaks every two weeks. Mount Rainier, covered with glaciers and snow, is where he first learned to climb. "It's like Mount Everest, only small," he said.

To visit his parents in Longbranch and to get his mail, Mazur often "commutes" by boat — the 12-mile, half-hour scenic trip sure beats Interstate 5. Devil's Head at Dana's Passage is his most favorite place.

Mary Mazur used to stay awake at night during Dan's startup days, but has gotten used to her son's dangerous line of work and "doesn't do that anymore." She says one thing she learned about this rescue is how much media scripts stories. Seattle news station reporters who came to her home "asked lots of questions" about Dan's life, but "when they got back to their editors, all they wanted was 'mom.'"

"I was very disappointed, as I don't see myself as 'the mom,'" she said. "Dan is my colleague."

She added, "I'm proud of him as a climber and leading (other) climbers... someone who's extremely involved and concerned about the Nepalese back-country people."

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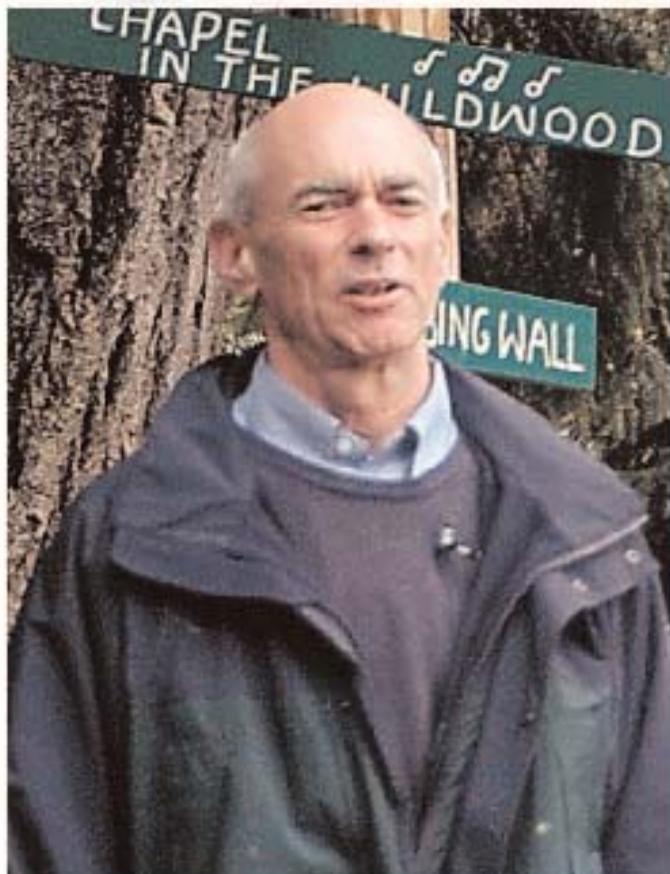
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Religion brief

Vaughn church youth plan mission trip

Ten teens, five adults, including Rory Adams and wife Jenn, head for San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, on July 10 for a two-week mission trip.

"These teens are really mature," says Rory Adams, Vaughn Community Church youth pastor, of the mostly 15- and 16-year-olds. "They have all taught vacation Bible school and experienced mission work feeding the homeless in Tacoma."

They plan to hold Bible schools in the mornings, perhaps do a little construction work, and hang out with local kids at the youth center in the afternoons, playing games and getting acquainted.

The youth center is under the direction of Jeremy and Marjorie Meeks, from Port Orchard, who have been in Nicaragua for four years. Jeremy Meeks pastors a church and operates a computer center as well as the youth center. One of their goals is to get the youth of that area "off the streets" and doing constructive things.

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Vaughn Bay Cemetery exemplifies pride of place

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

A source of civic pride and a place of peaceful beauty, the historic cemetery at Vaughn occupies some of the most spectacular Key Peninsula view property overlooking Vaughn Bay.

This gently-sloped hillside and the well-cared-for grounds behind and just below, where a white flagpole stands at center, are privately maintained by families who trace their heritage back to the first settlements on the Key Peninsula. Since the cemetery's existence for more than 100 years, over 730 family members, friends, war heroes, and ancestors have found their final resting place at Vaughn Bay Cemetery.

Land for the cemetery was donated in the late 1880s by the Maxwell and Irwin families. The Van Slyke family contributed the land upon which the Vaughn Community Church currently stands. The church has often been used for services prior to procession to the burial grounds a few miles away — in the old days, horses and buggies were used. According to current cemetery caretakers, Mary



A granite monument recently dedicated at the Vaughn Bay Cemetery during the annual Aisle of Honor celebration organized by the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute.

Photo courtesy of KPVI

Harriman was the first person interred, in 1886. Walking through the cemetery is like history revisited; Civil War veterans lie here, and the fallen of all branches of the military from the conflicts that followed.

The cemetery is owned and managed by a nonprofit association. People on the board of directors for the association have maiden or surnames of Van Slyke, Niemann, Davidson, Olson — pioneer

families who, for generations, have refused to allow the site to languish, as so many historic cemeteries have.

The cemetery hosts the traditional flag raising and memorial ceremonies each year on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Board members, aided by volunteer association members, spend a half-day to prepare the grounds for the special occasions.

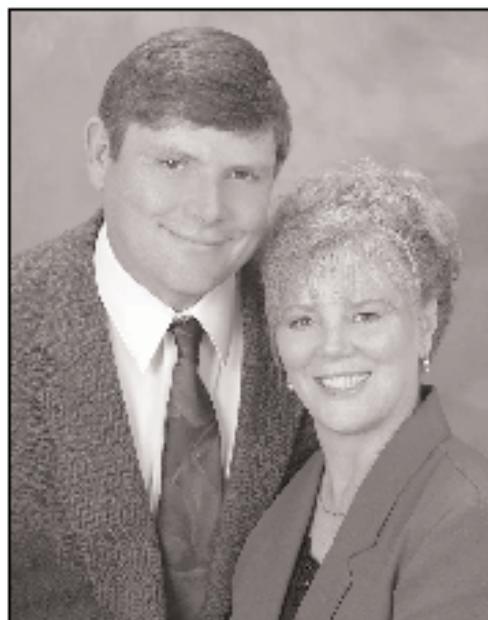
Maintaining the grounds and meeting with peninsula families to arrange burials or reserve individual/family plots "is a homesteading family tradition," says Joe Dervaes, board president.

Joyce Niemann, treasurer of the board, remembers her grandfather being treasurer. Later, her parents became involved with the board, and finally, as they retired and traveled more, Niemann took up her grandfather's old post. It was common for cemetery business to be discussed at home, she recalls. "It was just something we did," she says. "There was never anything (morose) thought about it."

This duty to place, a working respect for those who have gone before, is passed along from elders to youngsters. It is part of the tradition of rural life that continues today, over a full century later, because Vaughn Bay Cemetery provides community members a comfort worth preserving.

If you'd like to help

Contributions for cemetery upkeep are welcome. Send to Joyce Niemann, 15820 Olson Rd KPN, Lakebay WA 98349.



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"Keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills." (author unknown)

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Union High reunion: Vaughn Eagle grads celebrate

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Over 160 Vaughn Union High School graduates, spouses, and guests descended on the Key Peninsula Civic Center in June for an all-school reunion. This school, opened in 1903, was No. 1, the first Union High School in Pierce County, but soon changed to No. 201 to designate it as a secondary school.

The first few years were spent in the parsonage of Vaughn Church, with 14 or 15 students including eighth graders. The first high school building was constructed in 1907. The high school operated until June 1947, when the last class graduated from Vaughn. Peninsula High School started that fall, combining Vaughn and Gig Harbor Union high schools.

Dorothy Bouvia Lusby, who arrived at Vaughn in 1945 to teach English, moved on to Peninsula, and retired from there. Lusby, at 95, was the only former teacher in attendance at this reunion.

The earliest class represented at the reunion was 1932, with Frances Metzler Kincaid the sole attendee. Esther (Anderson) Lovstrom and Jeanette (Ing) Anderson, '34, were the only ones from their class.

Former students and guests scanned old issues of Tattlers, the school newspaper, annuals, photos, and other memorabilia. Some took pictures, but mostly they reminisced.

Earl Summerfelt and Russell White discussed a Vaughn/Longbranch baseball game they remembered. "I pitched the first inning," Summerfelt said, "then Hank Niemann pitched the rest of the game." Finally, in the last inning, Longbranch scored and won the game 1:0.

Audrey (Whitfield) Paul and Clint Buckell noted they were the only two kids in their class who went through all 12 grades together. Some students arrived later, and the earlier ones either moved away or dropped out.

Shirl (Rickert) Olson, her sister Marge (Rickert) Radonich, and sister-in-law



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Vaughn Union High cheerleaders, left to right, Shirl Olson, Marge Radonich, and Joyce Niemann, at the reunion held at their old school, now known as the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Joyce (Olson) Niemann, all former cheerleaders at Vaughn, led their schoolmates in cheers and the Vaughn fight song: "We're loyal to you, Vaughn High, To our colors we're true, Vaughn High... We expect a victory from you, Vaughn High!"

Harmon Van Slyke, class of '37, ended the brief program with an a cappella rendition of "Look for the Silver Lining."

Most of the grads came from Washington, with more than a fourth from the Key Peninsula and surrounding area, but Alice (Wilson) Rudd came from Billings, Mont., and Lloyd Tachell from Vinita, Okla.

The planning committee who assured the success of the gathering included Chet and Muriel Dadisman, Bill and Jane Hipp, Hazel (Glasson) Kingsbury, Don and Linnea (Summerfelt) Lind, Joyce Niemann, Shirl Olson, Russ Stock, Harm and Jane (Bradley) Van Slyke.

Correction

A photo caption in the June issue of the Key Peninsula News incorrectly spelled the name of Elise Campello. We regret the error.

(From KPMPD, Page 1)

committee reports, presentations, etc. At no other time are public questions or statements entertained. It was during this portion of the meeting that Thompson addressed the board, after Salatino distributed the alternate resolution to the commissioners.

"I am shocked and appalled at the action you've taken," Thompson said regarding the resolution to allow compensation. He reminded the commissioners that, as a member of the formation committee for the metro parks district in 2004, he assured nervous residents that what they feared most would not come to pass; he assured them that the first thing a new district would do would not be to vote for compensation, or pass a levy.

"Read our lips," Thompson sternly advised the five board members, who sat silent at their table, not looking at him. "Either issue should go to voters, with (the end result) being whatever they choose. We find we have betrayed the people who voted for the metro parks district. With no advisory board to advise you, greed and opportunity have combined. We strongly advise you to retract this amendment, or you may face recall." Thompson was then told by DeMoss that his three minutes were up.

Salatino, also a member of the metro district formation committee, stood and angrily stated that after all the energy and expenditure spent in campaigning and candidates, as soon as everyone was relaxed and their backs turned, the board had created "a black eye for us and for the district." He accused the commissioners of "sucking the blood of the zoo/trek tax money to death," and noted that they (the commissioners) now have the authority — with no notice — to pass a levy.

Both Thompson and Salatino reminded commissioners of a maintenance levy the former Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District attempted to pass in 2003 without success at the polls. Separately, they both concluded their statements with warnings that should the commissioners attempt to pass a levy, "in all probability it will fail; there will be no money (provided) to duplicitous people." And they each urged the board to accept their alternate resolution, which reads, in part, "...Resolution #R2006-03 is hereby retracted until such time as it is approved by a vote of the citizenship in either a special or general election." The alternate resolution also notes there are no funds budgeted for park

commissioner compensation.

After the meeting, audience member Bruce Macdonald of the Great Peninsula Conservancy commented that compensation might be more appropriate sometime in the future. "It's premature," he said. "The district is still in the formative stages and needs its resources directed toward its ends." He recalled that during the campaign it appeared unanimous that no compensation would be taken, an important issue.

On May 22, four of the five commissioners signed varying annual compensation waivers. President Paula DeMoss' and Clerk Kip Clinton's waivers run through December 2006. Vice-President Jerry Schick's and Member-at-Large Ross Bischoff's waivers state they "are to be effective beginning the month of May and ending the month of June of the year 2006." Schick and Bischoff serve until Dec. 31, 2009.

Member-at-Large Caril Ridley has not signed a waiver as of press time,

"If they fail to act on our resolution, we will go to the auditor and do our best to get them impeached."

-Mike Salatino

according to metro parks Director Scott Gallacher, Clinton, and Salatino. Sources believe she does not intend to accept compensation; however, she has been unavailable for direct comment. Ridley's term expires Dec. 31, 2007.

In a motion carried during a business meeting in 2005, and confirmed by Gallacher and Clinton, DeMoss was designated the official spokesperson for the metro parks board. On June 13, in an attempt to obtain an official response from DeMoss to the Thompson/Salatino presentation, Gallacher was asked by the KP News to provide contact information; a parks board roster offered an incorrect address and disconnected telephone number for DeMoss. In a previous interview, DeMoss stated she did not give phone interviews, and complained to fellow commissioners about a request from KP News for information previously left at her employment. She declined to permit Gallacher to disclose her mobile phone number, effectively refusing any method of contact other than email.

On June 15, DeMoss, whose term expires Dec. 31, 2007, supplied replies to two inquiries emailed from KP News the day before. Inquiry 1: We would like "a statement from the board in response

to the suggested alternative resolution presented by Thompson and Salatino." Response: "The board takes all citizen comments into consideration." Inquiry 2: "Clarification on the decision to approve a compensation resolution with no public input, notice, or discussion, knowing the overall public view on the subject. In the 12/04 KP News issue, you said you were elected to represent the people. You said [regarding a decision on the old Wauna post office], 'We are not going to make a decision without public input. I know it's been done in the past but it's not going to be anymore.' We are interested to know what makes this issue unique." Response: "No comment."

In a letter to the editor of the Peninsula Gateway on June 14, Commissioner Schick wrote, "The considerable constraints imposed by a grossly insufficient budget forces several commissioners to function as part-time employees, which is atypically above and beyond the normal duties of unpaid elected officials. As a result, our park district is saving many thousands of dollars per year, far in excess of the estimated potential compensation payments of \$9,800 per year per park board, which would otherwise be spent on sorely needed additional employees, contractors or consultants." During pre-election campaigns, according to Clinton and Salatino (who assisted Schick's efforts to run), Schick supported a "no compensation" platform.

In a recent telephone interview, Clinton, who was reelected in 2005 to a full six-year term (the only commissioner whose term had expired thus far, based on established staggered terms), indicated she did not expect the board to revisit the compensation resolution. She said, "We needed to address the issue one way or another and restrict the compensation (future commissioners) could take." Clinton said she did not expect anyone on the present board to take compensation, and had no explanation for the June end date on Bischoff's and Schick's waivers. Bischoff and Schick could not be reached for comment.

Salatino said he and Thompson are fully aware that a special recall election will incur expenses for the metro district in excess of any compensation potentially collected during the remainder of 2006. "Ben and I put in work and effort — it was the right thing to do — to get the compromises that made the district work. This is not sour grapes; it's just not honest. Their

integrity is worth far more than any money they could take," Salatino said in an interview. Both he and Thompson would like to bring in new commissioners if their alternate resolution is not accepted.

After the June 13 meeting, Thompson was incredulous that the board did not "utter one word, nothing" at the conclusion of his and Salatino's commentary. The only reference to the compensation issue made later at that meeting was by DeMoss. In the president's report, she stated she would not object to compensation for approved events. She also suggested the board scale back to one meeting a month, rather than two. "With the public concern for compensation, I thought it might put the public at ease. If everyone got here (at the designated time) — it's a matter of managing your time," she said. The consensus of the commissioners was that twice monthly meetings would continue for the present time.

Salatino said he is outraged and insulted that comments of concerned citizens were met with "complete disregard." He acknowledges a recall is a legal matter, but says, "If they fail to act on our resolution, we will go to the auditor and do our best to get them impeached. If not, we'll get rid of them

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Have you "Spotted Out" someone recently around the Key Peninsula? Send us your observation to: news@keypennews.com, fax it to 253-884-4053 (attn: KP News), mail to PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394, or leave your tip at 253-884-4699. Please include your name and phone number for verification purposes.



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Texas Hold'em corrals poker players to KC

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

O'Callahan's and the Huckleberry Inn became "saloons" to reckon with when they hosted a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament in Key Center on June 10. League organizers and owners Donald and Bernadette Bly said about 80 of the league's 763 members arrived to play throughout the day for high points leading to the award of an all-expenses-paid Las Vegas trip for two to play for cash stakes at a satellite tournament there.

The league is less than one year old, and pulls members from Mason, Pierce, and Kitsap counties. No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker began in Texas, has had leagues in Washington state for several years, and is now the largest ongoing poker game in the world. It is "World Series Poker" played for hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars, and anyone can take their chances at the table locally and "win their way up" to the "bigtime."

An entrepreneurial couple, and avid nongambling and nondrinking poker players, the Blys provide all the equipment, make their own poker felts, and employ eight people, who work throughout the league. Players pay no fees to either join the league or play. Unless a player orders food or beverage during the event, it is free recreation

involving skill, patience, strategy, and humor.

On that June day and on into the evening, men and women of all ages sat together, eight at a table, and attempted to best each other, fair and square, and had a good time in the trying. Throughout the event, shouts of victory and groans of defeat bounced from table to table, across the street between the two "saloons," and back again.

This "new" poker is very similar in style to darts or bowling leagues. It's not classified as gambling, which is defined by the state as a player's out-of-pocket cash on the table. According to Bly, the game totally changes when money is involved.

"Serious gamblers can become bullies; we are about socializing and networking," he said.

He sees poker as an alternative to casinos, an event people can visit alone or with others, to gamble for points, or just to play cards.

In this league, which plays twice weekly at both O'Callahan's and the Huckleberry, newcomers are welcome.

"Players are always willing to explain the rules, but the best time to learn is not during the end-of-quarter tournament," said Bly.

It's during those games that a newbie's distracting question can cost a player his or her spot at the next leg-up table, and the ultimate win for Las Vegas.

Little League fun



Photo by Hugh McMillan

During the area playoffs for Little League Baseball in mid-June at Key Peninsula's Volunteer Park, Key Peninsula Angels Guild's Juniors pitcher Eric Goulart fires a fast ball at an unidentified Jefferson East's Juniors player. Jefferson won the game 10 to 6.

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Out & About

KPMS science teacher Karen Borders at the Kitt Peak Observatory in Arizona, which has some of the biggest telescopes in the world, in June. Borders was one of 18 teachers selected nationwide from nearly 90 applicants to participate in the National Optical Astronomy Observatory 2006 Teacher Leaders in Research Based Science Education program.

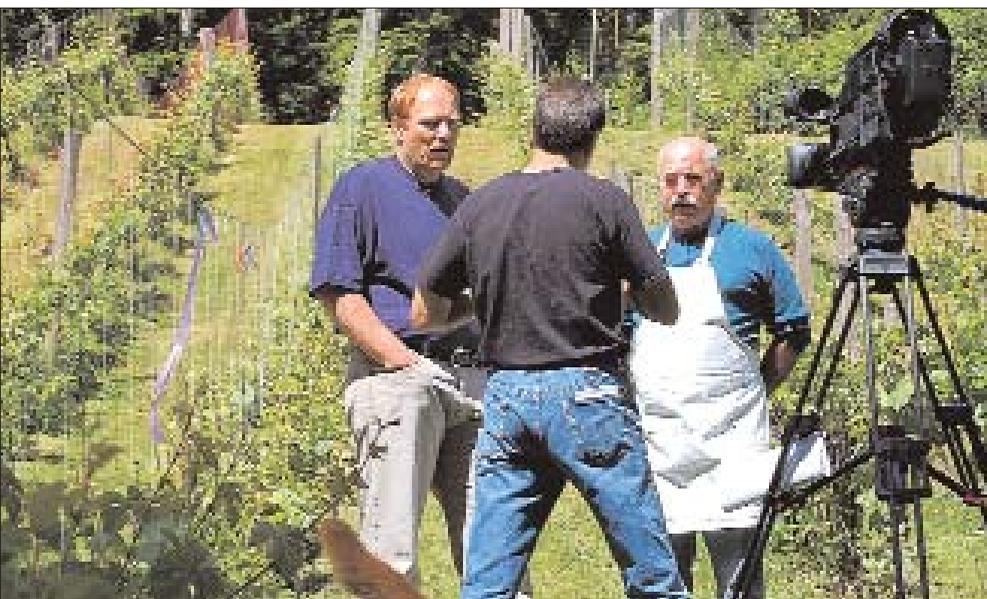


Photo courtesy Karen Borders



PHS teacher Nancy Wilkinson introduces her drama class (standing behind her) in their "interactive storytelling" skits performed at The Glass Museum in Tacoma in May. Wilkinson is retiring after this year.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Trillium Creek Winery owner Claude Gahard is filmed for the June edition of "Around Here" on Comcast TV Channel 76. The winery show was featured seven days a week in June and is available at Comcast's On Demand channel. Executive Producer Ed Hauge said he got the idea to feature the winery after reading articles in the KP News. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



PHS girls and boys get ready to head out to the senior prom at the end of May.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Above, Lots of parents with sons and daughters in tow came to the Bulldog football team picnic, held in Volunteer Park on June 17. Sign-ups were held for football players as well as cheerleaders, and there were many opportunities to check out equipment and talk to coaches, including Coach Nix.

Photo by Karen Hale

Left, Tommy Perron, 7, and Alexis Perron, 5, wait to take their place at the starting line in this year's Sound-to-Narrows. They participated in the Mary Bridge Children's Challenge in June, each earning over \$100 for the MultiCare Stroke Programs for their participation. Tommy and Alexis live in Wauna with their parents, Jami and Jason Perron. *Photo courtesy of Jami Hoffman-Perron*



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