

Three charter members
celebrate a score for CAC,
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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
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patch listing,
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OCTOBER 2008

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market
closes
until next
season,
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Photo by Hugh McMillan

Vaughn Elementary pre-schooler Austin DeWitte prepares to step away from a covey of his new found friends on the fire engine provided the park by the Zech and Adi West Foundation.

Community enjoys new Home Park as a gathering place

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Children were running and climbing, swinging and sliding as the Home Park and picnic shelter officially opened Sept. 16. Parents and children were already enjoying the new play equipment and picnic tables when the group from the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District arrived to set up for the opening ceremony event at 6 p.m.

"This is the first park we've built," said Scott Gallacher, executive director of the Key Pen Metro Park District. Kids ran around and played on the new equipment, or sat at the new picnic tables to eat their hotdogs and cake provided by the park district, as the

adults mingled and enjoyed the nice weather. Families continued arriving throughout the evening, and the children were still playing when there were no pieces of cake left, and the cleanup began.

"This is great," said Jessica Blount of Joemma Beach. Her two oldest children were busy playing on the slide and climbing wall while her youngest watched from the baby pouch strapped to the front of his mom. "Now we don't have to go all the way to Gig Harbor to find something to play on. We drive by here all the time."

In addition to being closer to home, Blount is hopeful that the park will

(See **PARK**, Page 26)

HarvestFest farm tour overview

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The HarvestFEST Farm Tour scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 4, showcases nine unique farms, with specialty local food available at four locations, a Fiber Arts Show, a dinner/dance, and much more. The tour begins at 10 a.m., and the sites are open until 4 p.m. According to Holly Hendrick, Pierce County Tour Chairman, and KP tour board member, there are plans for "passports" for children who attend. They will be stamped at the places the children visit. The Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn opens at 5 p.m. for music, dinner, and dance.

(See **TOUR**, Page 25)

Gas thieves steal from the KP food bank

By Marilyn Newton and Danna Webster,
KP News

When KING5 News learned the Key Peninsula's only food bank was the victim of gas thief vandals, they sent a crew to film the story. Cameras shot footage of the large box van belonging to the Key Peninsula Community Services. The van is the food bank's main source of

(See **KPCC**, Page 22)

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How to find a great pumpkin

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Crisp air, autumn colors, and the pumpkin patch are all part of what make fall so much fun on the Key Peninsula. Whether you're looking for the whopping 500-pound pumpkin to include in your family photos or post on your blog, the tiny pumpkin to decorate your dining room table, a tasty pie-making pumpkin, or that perfect jack-o-lantern pumpkin, you can find it all right here in your community. Several farms on the HarvestFEST tour will have either pumpkin patches, or pumpkins for photograph opportunities.

Pumpkins on the Farm Tour:

Boll Heritage Farm will have some pumpkins for photo opportunities. A photographer will be on site the day of HarvestFEST, and photos are \$5 per shot. Call 884-4412 for more information.



Creviston Valley has a full pumpkin patch, and will be open Oct. 4 through

the end of the pumpkin season. The farm is open daily. Call 857-8777 for more information.

Pumpkins not on the tour

Shiloh Farms in Lakebay is the home of the 500-pound pumpkin, and has a big pumpkin patch. Call 884-4544 for more information.

The Farm in Wauna is open daily, and will have pumpkins for sale. Call 851-4556 for more information.

Key Pen to star in television production

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

Dorothea Wilhelm, producer and host of the TV show "My Home Town" will return to the Key Peninsula area Oct. 7 and 9. Five years ago, Wilhelm and her camera crew filmed a Key Peninsula episode. This filming will take place over a two-day period and will encompass areas new to the peninsula since 2003 when Wilhelm and her show last featured our community. The program will air on Comcast Channel 76 Nov. 1 and run nightly except for Sundays. A time schedule will be available the first day of filming for Pierce County residents.

Participants and residents will be able to follow the filming crew to the different shooting places. Specific times and places to be filmed are still being decided and will be disclosed Oct. 7. This will be a story about the Key Peninsula community and the people who live and work here. Wilhelm plans to feature a KP farm, the facelift on the Civic Center entrance, the Trillium Creek Winery, and the Mustard Seed Project. The program will also focus on Colleen Slater's "A History of the Key Peninsula," the creation of the Sunday Farmers' Market, the Beyond the Borders



KPNews archive photo

Dorothea Wilhelm directing the local crowd for the opening scene in the 2003 production of "My Home Town."

free public concerts, the clean water status of Vaughn Bay, and the establishment of the KP Community Council.

Wilhelm has produced 90 (give or take) "My Home Town" shows in the past 10 years which have reached over one million homes. She has written for the Tacoma News Tribune for 19 years and previously hosted her own show for KIRO-TV and radio. She throws her

hands in the air and laughs as she describes her hopes that many people from Longbranch to Wauna will gather in the Civic Center parking lot on Oct. 9 at 3:30 p.m. to wave a big welcome to the audience that will watch the Key Peninsula "My Home Town" show. Wilhelm is always looking for new story ideas, so if you have one please contact her at 253-582-4565.

BRIEF news

New traffic signal coming to SR 302

Intersection work is in full swing near the Lake Kathryn Shopping Center. "We hope to be completed by the end of

year," said Joe Rhea, manager of the Lake Kathryn center. Work to establish turn lanes and a four-way light at the intersection of 94th Street and SR 302 is in full progress. The state highway road work is moving right ahead under state supervision and contracts.

Other contracts, such as lighting which is with Tacoma Electric, are dependent upon delivery of poles, wiring and lights.

Rhea said the estimated cost for this

project is about \$1.75 million. Once the intersection is complete, "we still need a road into the shopping center from the light," Rhea said.

In the meantime, the new light will be a three-way signal until completion of the new entrance road, which still has to go out for bids.

Rhea is considering a commemorative celebration to initiate the new traffic signal.

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

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Shellfish permits issued for nearly 40 companies neighboring the Key Peninsula

By Irene Torres, KP News

License renewals for commercial shellfish permits are due each year in September. In the waters surrounding the Key Peninsula, there are no less than 42 commercial shellfish operations, including the Nisqually, Puyallup and Squaxin Island Indian Tribes. At press time, only five of these companies had not renewed their annual licenses.

Commercial harvest in Washington's Puget Sound and coastal regions includes oysters, clams, mussels, geoduck, and scallops. All of these species are filter feeders capable of concentrating chemicals, bacteria, viruses, or marine biotoxins. They require an ongoing evaluation of commercial shellfish growing areas, certified harvest sites, and licensed facilities, which is essential to protect the shellfish-consuming public, according to information from the

Department of Health's website.

All shellfish operations must meet stringent state and federal sanitation standards, and are regularly inspected by the Department of Health. The State of Washington administers the licenses through the Department of Health, RCW Chapter 69.30, Sanitary Control of Shellfish and Chapter 246 -282 WAC, Sanitary Control of Shellfish. The Division of Environmental Health houses the Office of Shellfish and Water Protection.

The Department of Health's website www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/commercial.htm states: "The Commercial Shellfish Licensing & Certification Program is responsible for issuing licenses to Washington state commercial shellfish operations and certifying the sites from which they harvest."

Three major types of commercial shellfish operations are state-regulated. Those are shellstock harvesters (live, unshucked shellfish), who sell only to

To find out more

Information regarding shellfishing is available online at the Department of Health's website www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/commercial.htm

other licensed Washington state shellfish dealers; shellstock shippers, who grow and harvest shellstock, and buy and sell in or outside Washington; and shucker-packers. The shucker-packer activities include those of harvesters and shellstock shippers, plus shucking shellfish for packing in jars or similar containers.

The Federal Food and Drug Administration certifies commercial shellfish shippers, some of whom are located on or near the Key Pen, like Elston's Clam & Oyster Co. in Vaughn, and Tom Farmer Oyster Co. LLC in Allyn.

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EDITORIAL

FROM THE EDITOR

Beautiful green fir trees towered above the road to Key Center. I pressed my face to the car window, eyes looking up as we zoomed along, and it seemed as if the tree limbs were outstretched arms, and the trees were holding hands across the roadway.

Several times during my childhood in the 1970s, my family made our way from our home in rural Tennessee, in various vehicles, including a blue VW bug, to visit my grandparents in Vaughn.

My mother grew up in Vaughn, and met and married my father here. They moved to Tennessee where my brother and I were born and raised. My life has been filled with lessons and experiences, and now I am taking on a new challenge as Executive Editor of the Key Peninsula News.

I earned my degrees in mass communications (with a concentration in journalism) and psychology from East Tennessee State University. I moved to Washington in 2002, and moved to Wauna in 2004. I love living here.

I have experience from several publications, and a keen sense of community journalism. As a reporter for the Sacramento Bee, I reported on two small communities of Sacramento County.

I believe very strongly in freedom of the press, and I believe it is as important to small communities as to

the people of a large city, or a township. I will do everything in my power to ensure that the KP News informs, entertains, and enhances the lives of the residents of the Key Peninsula.

My education, training, and experience have helped me to establish a firm set of journalistic ethics. I know in some circles those words don't even go together, but I will make certain they remain the focus of the KP News as long as I am at the helm.

We will also strive to print the good news from the community, and the fun stories about what our neighbors and our youth are doing. At the same time, expect us to continue to ask hard questions, and dig for the truth. We will do this from a balanced, journalistic approach.

My predecessor, Rodika Tollefson, grew this newspaper to what it is today. I will do my very best to take what she has done and move the newspaper forward. Danna Webster stepped in as interim editor while I got up to speed. This issue you hold in your hands is the product of her leadership, and I thank her. With that said, I ask you to join with me in striving to make this the best paper of its size. Let us know how we're doing. Write a letter to the editor, email or call us with a story idea or news tip.

And please, if you run into one of our wonderful volunteers, thank them. Every ship needs a captain, but one person cannot do everything that it takes to make the Key Peninsula News what it is. Each month the volunteers give their talents, time, and dedication to this newspaper, and without them this paper would never leave its port.

— Marsha Hart

2008 ballot issues

The list of "issues" (besides people running for office) is short this year, but still confusing. Let's look at the three State Initiatives and one County Charter Amendment on the November ballot:

I-985: Forces the State to reduce traffic congestion and synchronize traffic signals. Allows drivers without passengers to use HOV lanes for a fee during off-peak hours. Creates a fund dedicated to reducing traffic congestion.

PRO: Forces State to act. Relieves congestion. Raises money for congestion relief.

CON: May trigger new taxes. Violates sanctity of HOV lane concept.

VOTE: Coin toss. Applies only to State roads. Interesting twist is that King County HOV users may end up funding congestion relief in Pierce County.

I-1000: Allows terminally ill adults to commit suicide under doctor's supervision.

PRO: The ultimate freedom is control over your own life. Government should not control your very existence.

CON: Slippery slope. Will death become a new medical specialty? Will the value of life be degraded to just another commodity for HMOs to manipulate for profits? Will greedy heirs influence?

VOTE: Existential personal choice, based upon individual philosophies and religions. Hot potato.

I-1029: Establishes minimum training and experience standards for long term

RICK SORRELS
THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



care workers. Sets the stage for eventual licensing of caregivers.

PRO: Higher professional standards for those caring for our elderly and disabled are always desired.

CON: Will drive up hourly wages, making caregivers unaffordable, resulting in private pay clients going without, and higher taxes to cover increased costs for government programs.

VOTE: NO. Other means already exist to ensure high quality caregivers.

COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT: Provides detailed procedures for appointments to County Boards and Commissions.

PRO: Hopefully resolves a perennial political problem between Exec and Council.

CON: Voters couldn't care less. Political head butting will always exist.

VOTE: YES. Both Exec and Council want this to solve an internal problem, but Charter changes must be made by the voters.

RANDOM THOUGHTS:

- Rank Choice Voting will be causing mass confusion on Pierce County's ballot this fall. Take great care if you want your ballot to avoid the trash bin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reopening Vaughn shell fishing is bad news

I was unpleasantly surprised to read about the shellfish industry ready to set up shop inside Vaughn Bay, and confused about why you wrote the article as if the residents of the bay could hardly wait for it to get started. This is not good news for those of us living in and around Vaughn Bay. Is it a

done deal? I think a bad deal has been done to us, the residents!

*Judith Watt
Vaughn*

Political yard signs allowed

When asking people for permission to place a political sign in their front yard, I am often told that the CC&R's prohibit such signs and that the homeowners' association enforces the prohibition.

In 2005, the state legislature made such prohibition illegal except as to reasonable rules and regulations regarding the placement and manner of display of political yard signs. The U.S.

Supreme Court has set forth some guidelines. I urge associations to stop telling owners that political signs are prohibited and I urge owners to avail themselves of their first amendment right to freedom of expression and association.

*George Robison
Gig Harbor KPN*

Thank you for Home Park

I took my toddler to the new Home Park playground this week. I was so impressed with the playground equipment! In full disclosure, I was on the playground citizen committee but I

had no idea how nice the setup would actually be. There were about a dozen kids and adults there when we last went, its great to see it being used and enjoyed.

The picnic area is also top notch. Large and covered perfect for a group or reunion get together. There is still work in progress including a fence to be installed around the park but it is ready to be enjoyed by your kids and family.

Kudos to the Key Pen Parks staff, commissioners and all who worked on planning it, building it and seeing it through to completion!

*Susan Reed
Lakebay*

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Staying on the Key a little more

The farther you live down the Key, the more you have to plan your daily life around all the stuff you need to do, or buy, or see, or whatever. More and more, however, I find myself trying to find ways to stay on the Key as much as possible. It may be second nature for you long-time residents, but for newer folks like me, it takes a bit of conscious thought and planning.

Say, for example, you're building a fence, and partway through your work day you find you need a new drill bit or some screws. My first impulse for a long time was to drive all the way up to Home Depot, because on some level the imprinting done on my brain by corporate goons has worked. Here's a huge store, and dang it if it ain't got 1,000 times more stuff than I need! Heck why not just go there? I'll just drive 30 minutes up and 30 minutes back - it's so easy! So for a while, I'd find myself driving up there, until I dimly realized that I was driving right past Capital Lumber with each trip (I'm not terribly bright, and rather habitual on top of that). So then I start going into Capital Lumber thinking, oh they won't have a new lawnmower blade, or whatever, and they always do. The one time they didn't have something they sent me up to Coast to Coast hardware, and sure enough, those guys had it. Didn't need to go to Home Depot at all. Obviously I go to Costco (for 3.5 pound-bags of M&Ms), different grocery stores, and Target for snazzy clothes and whatever else that I need to, but all things being equal, I'm trying to buy what I can out here.

Besides gas and time, an added benefit of spending on the Key is that it keeps our money local and helps prevent it from getting sucked out by some large store chain. But it also means we're supporting each other out here, and as long as the prices are comparable, then it's a win/win for stores and purchasers both.

For a while the restaurant scene was a bit challenging out here just because there were so few, but that's changing, and I think between all of our restaurants, coffee shops, delis, and

KEVIN REED
HERE'S SOMETHING



bakeries, our food scene is actually getting slicker than Gig Harbor's. That's right, you heard me. Slicker than Gig Harbor's. We have a growing variety and excellent quality, mixed with different atmospheres at each place. The Key is starting to rock, baby. Heck, we even have outdoor beer gardens. A better selection is even more reason to stay local and spend local. All we need now is a good seafood shack on the water someplace, to capitalize on the views. Something with a large deck, great local seafood, and generous drinks would work just fine. Of course, nothing beats a trip to Seattle or wherever you go for specialty food, events, and activities, but I'm just talking day to day here.

People with young kids can relate to the challenges of staying out on the Key day after day as well, though it's getting better all the time. We are looking forward to the new playground equipment at Home Park like a dog seething drool over a hot steak.

I'm giddy with the possibilities of grabbing a bite in Home someplace, and using the playground, instead of driving to Gig Harbor and eating sheepishly at the Golden Arches. With play equipment available all the time, and all the great school and Civic center programs for young kids, it's easier to stay here, unless we're going to swim at the YMCA or going to the zoo or whatever.

Our challenge moving forward as Devoted Key Peninsula Residents seems to be how we can offer the right amount of products and services locally without getting all the junk, crime, chain stores and everything else that typically goes along with standard urban sprawl. But there's hope.

Key residents are informed and involved, and if we stay that way we'll have a fighting chance at keeping this place what has to be one of the best places in the state to live.

First crime of 2008 on Herron Island reported

By Irene Torres, KP News

Herron Island is a short ferry ride west of the Key Peninsula. The private Case Inlet island is usually peaceful. Its residents enjoy their lifestyle in a crime-free environment, just minutes from the mainland.

No crimes on Herron Island were reported for the entire year of 2007, but in late August 2008, the Pierce County Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment received two reports of marine thefts near the

island and near the ferry dock off Herron Road:

On Aug. 29, a call was placed to 9-1-1 dispatch when a boat owner found that his boat was burglarized. No alarm was activated, and the boat remained securely moored. The vessel's canvas top was damaged and two cigar lighters and sandals were taken. A beer can found at the scene was tested for fingerprints.

On Aug. 31, a man called deputies to report that a marine CD player, down-rigger weights, and sandals were taken from his boat. At press time, no suspects have been identified in either of these incidents.

The only other crimes reported in the Herron Island neighborhood for 2008, as listed on the Pierce County website, were one charge of intimidation, and one person living on the island had failed to register as a sex offender.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Herron Island ferry leaves the Herron Dock on a routine run between the island and the peninsula.

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Megan's Day a 'smashing success'

By Jeanette Brown
Special to the KP News



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh.

Nineteen-year-old Megan Blunk is calling on her courage, determination and strong will for recovery from a motorcycle accident.

Megan's Day was a "smashing success," according to the event's main coordinator, Xochi Madera. Two days prior to turning 19, Megan Blunk enjoyed her favorite band playing at a celebration in her honor. Roger Enders & The Road to Ruin performed at the event in order to help raise funds for medical expenses Megan incurred due to a recent and very devastating motorcycle accident this past July (see story in KPNews Sept. issue). Megan is a resident of Home and a 2008 Peninsula High School graduate. "I just love that band," said Megan.

to her motorcycle accident, serve to make her a great role model.

Two days after the fundraising event, Megan transferred from Manor Care of Gig Harbor to Harborview Medical Center in order to start an intensive in-patient physical therapy program. In addition, she will receive occupational and speech therapy during her temporary stay at Harborview. She is making impressive and remarkable progress toward walking again and believes that she will achieve this goal. Unfortunately, Megan is still partially paralyzed from the knees down. "I will walk again," Megan says. "I could be here two weeks or more and my plans are to move back home to the Key Peninsula and then go back to Tacoma Community College to finish my Associate Degree this coming spring or summer session." Her determination to walk again and go on with her education, and to achieve all the goals she had prior

Megan's father, David Blunk said, "The fundraiser really helped; there are so many people to thank... it is just overwhelming. As of right now, Megan should be coming home to the Key Peninsula by the end of the month and she will continue on with her outpatient therapy."

Because of all the help from different members of the greater Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula community and others, the Megan's Day event raised \$15,000, according to Madera. When the Megan's Day and Ashmead College donation funds were added to deposits made to her bank fund, the total is approximately \$22,000.

The Megan's Day event served to let Megan know she is loved, in addition to addressing her monetary needs. People who know Megan agree she is one courageous, determined, and very strong willed young woman.

After the farm tour, come have a ball at the Cornucopia Dinner & Dance

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The **Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCGA)**

serves as a central meeting place for many of the non-profit organizations on the Key Peninsula. Community participation from any of these groups, and the general public living on the peninsula, is needed.

Next month on **November 13**, elections will be held by the KPCGA to select officers and general board members. By October 9, the nominating committee will report to the present board a list of interested parties who are ready to join the ranks of the board.

If you wish to serve as a KPCGA board member or officer, or want to work with the nominating committee to recruit new active members to run for a position on the civic center board, please contact **Debbie Salatiello, Chair**, 253-851-4556. *Call and get involved!*

GET INVOLVED!

Time for flu shots

By Dr. William F. Roes, MD
Special to KP News

Adult flu shots will be given beginning Saturday, Oct 18, from 9 a.m.-noon at the Key Medical Center, 15610 89th St., downtown Key Center. The flu shot is available to all adult residents of Key Center not just Dr. Roes' patients. The vaccine is

recommended for all folks over 65 and younger residents with chronic health problems such as diabetes or lung disease.

Flu shots will be available for community children at the Tuesday morning well child clinics after Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. No appointments are necessary. We will not have the nasal flu vaccine available.

Flu shots will also be provided at the senior center luncheon at the Key Pen Community Services in Lakebay at noon on Oct. 22. The shots are also available at the fire station on Herron Island on the afternoon of Oct. 20.

The CDC determines which three strains of virus they feel will cause the most flu.

The vaccines take several weeks to take effect and the protection lasts for 4 to 5 months.

For more information, there is a sign in front of the Key Center Library listing the shot dates and locations or call 884-9221.



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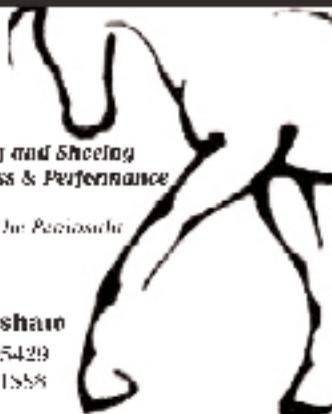
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Trial set for Key Pen attempted murder

By Irene Torres, KP News

A 37-year-old man is scheduled for a jury trial in Superior Court's criminal division Oct. 14.

Scott M. Hill has been held in Pierce County Jail since August 2007. Hill is charged with nine counts, including burglary in the first degree, attempted murder in the first degree, assault in the second degree, felony harassment, assault in the fourth degree, violation of a no contact order, and malicious mischief in the first degree. The day following his arrest, in August 2007, Hill attempted suicide by jumping from a second-level railing in a common area of the jail, according to reports. His bed sheet noose failed, and he was treated in a hospital with minor injuries prior to his arraignment.

In September 2007, the KP News published the original account of his arrest. He was held in lieu of \$1 million

bail after he allegedly attacked a Key Peninsula woman identified as his ex-girlfriend. The attack occurred early on the morning of Aug. 13, 2007 at a residence on 118th Avenue NW. According to reports, Hill brutally assaulted the woman while she slept, violently punching, kicking and choking her. The family dog, whose barking woke the family, was also attacked.

The suspect allegedly assaulted the woman's parents and sister as they tried to defend the woman. Her father was able to confront Hill with a knife and chase him from the home. The victim was hospitalized, and her family received medical treatment for injuries sustained in the attack.

In February 2008, Pierce County held a hearing on Hill's competency to stand trial. The case has been continued for a year, and is now scheduled to go to jury trial.

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Vaughn Bay reopens shellfish harvesting

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

After being closed for the past 30 years to commercial shellfish harvesting, the State Health Department opened Vaughn Bay on July 14. Pierce County News, C-RCC cable TV, channel 22, filmed a program about the opening on Sept. 9.

According to Barbara Ann Smolko of the Pierce County Shellfish Partners program, a division of the Pierce County Public Works and Utilities, the bay has been undergoing special water sampling for two and a half years, requiring a test once a month, and has been declared safe for shellfish consumption. The State Department of Health warns that the only way to be safe when digging shellfish is to "Know before you dig."

Vaughn Bay is one mile long and about a quarter mile across. The whole western half and a portion of the northeast bay are open while the rest will remain closed until sources of contamination are corrected.



Photo by Sharon Hicks

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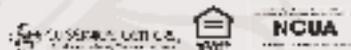
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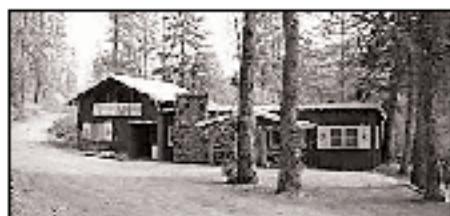
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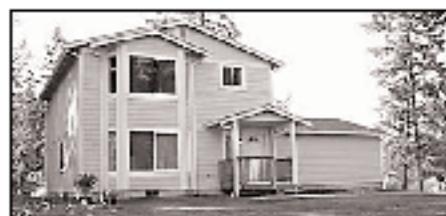
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Key Pen Farmers' Market a success

By Holly Hendrick, Special to KP News

What started out as a long-term goal of the Key Peninsula Community Council last year (KP News, Volunteer group tackles growth issues, Dec. 2007) became a full-fledged farmers market thanks to the hard work of a few volunteers, a leap of faith from the vendors, and the overwhelming support of the shoppers. On opening day June 22, the Farmers Market offered 382 shoppers 12 vendors, including six Key Peninsula farmers.

"For a first year market, the KPFBM was off and running from the get go," stated Washington State Farmers Market Association (WSFMA) Director, Jackie Aitchison. "The community support, seen in the quality of vendors and the number of faithful shoppers, reflects the work and forethought expended before the market opened," she said.

Within a few weeks the market was seeing a consistent number of repeat shoppers. One such Longbranch customer, Vicki Biggs said, "Not only have I been able to buy fresh, local produce and

order some wonderful lamb, but also I connect with friends and neighbors while I am [at the market]. There is a happy sense of community at the market that is hard to find and hard to beat."

The figures, as of the middle of September, indicate more than 3,000 shoppers spent an average \$9.44 at the market; by comparison the average sale at Seattle farmers' markets is \$10. Morgan Creek Farm, Rolf's Choice Salmon, and The Bee Lady, all considered farmers by WSFMA guidelines, were the top three vendors for sales.

Part of the reason for the success of the market, noted Key Pen resident and regular shopper, Jan Piercy, is the existence of peninsula farmers. Piercy managed a farmers' market in Volunteer Park several years ago.

"The participation of the local farmers will probably be the key to its [KPFBM's] success," Piercy said. "Past markets have relied on farmers from other areas of Washington; with transportation costs the [previous] market was not sustainable."

Aitchison agrees, "For a new market to

succeed, the community needs to be involved and wholeheartedly behind it. This has happened with the lovely, vibrant and vital Key Peninsula Farmers Market."

Del Tierra farmer Lyn Apodaca, commented, "As a seller, KPFBM was a great experience. It was very satisfying to provide healthy, local produce to the community. We are already making plans for next year and anticipating another great season."

There is no doubt KPFBM will be back for a second season. Already in the planning stages for next year are market bags created by local artists, a website featuring recipes and information about farming on the peninsula, and the ability to accept WIC, food stamps and senior vouchers.

The public is invited to attend the KPFBM's first meeting at 4 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Key Center Library. For information, contact the Market Manager at: manager@kpfarmersmarket.org.

Holly Hendrick is the market manager for the Key Peninsula Farmers Market and event coordinator for the Pierce County WSU 2008 HarvestFEST.

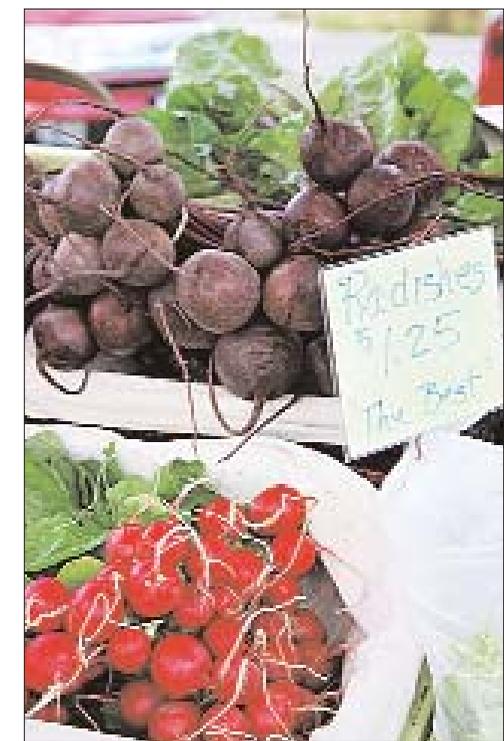


Photo by Holly Hendrick

Del Tierra's beets and radishes. The cold spring weather did not defeat Key Peninsula farmers. Fresh produce was on the stands every Sunday afternoon this summer. The public is invited to the end of the season meeting at 4 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Key Center Library.

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Crazy cousins open shop

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Cousins Becky Olsen and Darcie Long teamed up to open a specialty shop on 134th Ave. in early October. History is of interest to both women, especially local history. They are fourth generation descendants of the Rickert family of Longbranch.

Their stock items emphasize nostalgia and collectibles, including some of their own favorites they call "funky junky." One section of the shop is vintage '60s dishes and décor. Another is dedicated to a nautical theme. Some of the special items on display include books, vintage linens and modern copies, dishes, jewelry, records, signs, dolls, model boats and toys. New items such as Edwardian art candles and specialty greeting cards will be in stock along with those items bordering on antiques.

Olsen, a long-time caregiver, and Long, a nurse, plan to keep their other jobs part-time, but the shop is a dream they've shared for many years.

"We hope to hear lots of stories about our pieces," says Long. Customers may



Photo by Colleen Slater

Darcie Long, left, holds a vintage thermal container, and Becky Olsen shows a model ship in their new shop.

recall certain items in their own homes or those of their grandparents.

The women struggled for the right name for the shop, and recently decided on Crazy Cousins. They say the name fits them, and both are excited about this new joint venture.

They plan to be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, but definitely open on the weekends.

Watch for their signs and announcement of their grand opening the first week of October.

Upcoming entrepreneur

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

The Key Peninsula has young upcoming entrepreneur, Christina Moore who was born in Des Moines and moved to the peninsula 11 years ago. In high school she wrote for the Key Peninsula News and held several other jobs in the area. One of them was at Art Beads that was across from the library. It was there that Christina met a customer wearing a black crystal necklace with a black filigree flower pendant. The necklace intensely inspired Moore and she felt compelled to pursue jewelry making of all kinds.

Her goal is "to have a business full time," she says.

In September of last year Moore received her business license and currently has two websites with another one in the process. Her business is called CM Designs, also known as 1337 Art. The name 1337 is a modern play on the word elite and means that it's a work of art. Her website is 1337art.etsy.com and on it there are over 100 variable and personal pieces to offer. Her business sells affordable quality items. She uses many unusual materials and jewels including pennies and coffee mug chains.

Moore enjoys photography, writing, reading, video games and has a large collage of random art work. She has



Photo by Danna Webster

New business owner Christina Moore started CM Designs one year ago.

worked the past 18 months for a local wholesale crystal and bead company that designs for large corporate stores, and has had her personal work on display at the Key Peninsula Farmer's Market this year.

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KGHP marks 21 years of service

By Keith Stiles, Special to KP News

KGHP, the community service radio station serving the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula areas, began its twenty-first year of broadcasting in September. It is owned and operated by Peninsula School District No. 401, and managed by Spencer Abersold. Leland Smith is the instructor in Radio and Electronic Media Arts. The station is heard on the FM frequencies of 89.9, 89.3, and 93.7.

KGHP first went "on the air" at the start of the 1988 school year on a limited broadcast schedule. The station shifted to full time operation as more specialized equipment became available. Student broadcasters are heard on the station during weekday school hours, while the evening shifts and weekend shifts are handled by a group of dedicated volunteers, many of whom have been with the station for 10 years or longer.

The station was founded by the late Max Bice and the late Milton S. Boyd. Max Bice was a broadcast engineer with

many Northwest radio and TV projects, and Milt Boyd was both an experienced broadcaster and a drama teacher at Peninsula High School. Original funding for the station was provided through a large committee of business leaders and other citizens, headed by retired Col. Arch Carpenter of Gig Harbor. The Peninsula Light Company, Centurytel, The Angel Guild, and a host of local Underwriters have provided substantial assistance over the years.

The station, which currently operates a main transmitter and two translators, now runs on a 24-hour, 365-day schedule, broadcasting local news, music, athletic events, and other special programs.

As the only radio station in Pierce County north of the Narrows Bridges, KGHP is associated in emergency services with Fire Districts 5 and 16, the Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee ("PEP-C"), Pierce County Emergency Services (including the Amateur Radio Network), and through Pierce County with the overall government Emergency service "FEMA."

Apple Health for Kids bus visits Civic Center

By PJ Callahan, KP News

The state of Washington's Apple Health for Kids took their show on the road in September to get the word out about free or low-cost medical coverage for kids.

A brightly bannered school bus paid a visit to the Key Peninsula Civic Center parking lot on Sept. 2 to promote the new initiative to increase enrollment in children's medical assistance programs offered by the Department of Social and Health Services. Speakers included Jud Morris, program manager of the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center; 26th District Rep. Pat Lantz; Dianna Kielian, senior vice president of mission and ethics for Franciscan Health Systems; and Roger Gantz, director of policy and legislation for DSHS.

"The purpose of the Apple Health program and campaign was to ensure children on the Key Peninsula have

adequate health care and the immunizations necessary to protect themselves and their classmates," Jud Morris said.

The health tour was kicked off at the end of July in Seattle by Gov. Christine Gregoire as part of the state's effort to ensure all Washington children have access to health insurance.

For 2008, any child in a family with an income at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level is eligible for DSHS coverage.

In 2009, the eligibility limits will increase to 300 percent.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's Access to Care Client Outreach and the local DSHS Community Services Office are promoting the program.

The program is available for KP residents. For more information, call 877-543-7669 or go online to www.applehealthforkids.wa.gov.

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PenLight Initiates New Reliability Strategy.

Since 1998 Peninsula Light Company has been actively working to improve system reliability.

Today we have a renewed focus. By thoroughly examining our entire system Peninsula Light has identified the most vulnerable areas for experiencing a power outage. We are now in the process of undergrounding those areas to improve our service.

"Peninsula Light has set a goal of being in the top 25 percent of all utilities in the nation that have the best reliability performance. This plan puts us on track to achieve our goal," states Jafar Taghavi, Peninsula Light CEO.

As an example of our commitment to improving reliability, Peninsula Light is in the final stages of undergrounding the main line from the Vaughn substation to the Key Center business district. This project will reduce future potential problems that have been associated with the existing line that travels through a heavily wooded corridor. The new line

will be undergrounded along 92nd Ave. a shorter and more direct route from the substation to Key Center.

"This \$500,000 investment demonstrates our commitment to improve power reliability and to help the business community of Key Center provide essential services," according to Joe Wilson, Peninsula Light Engineering Manager.

What's Next?

You may have also noticed our civil contractor, ACI and Peninsula Light crews working in other neighborhoods of your community. Over the next two years we'll be continuing our commitment to power reliability by undergrounding in the Ardendale, Fox Island, Lakeway, Heron Road and Crescent Valley areas.

"We anticipate these undergrounding projects will be completed by year-end 2010," indicated Wilson.

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Pulling on utility lines

underground serves many purposes that reduce response and outage time as well as the number of outages.

Reliability: Multiple studies have concluded that underground power lines experience fewer outages — sometimes with as few as one-third the number as are experienced with overhead lines on poles. An overhead system is more vulnerable to storm related outages, having poles downed by vehicles, and lines downed by trees. Overhead lines are also subject to outages caused by animals, such as squirrels and birds.

Reliable power: Reliable people.

Our goal is to become one of the best member owned utilities in the nation. To that end, Peninsula Light Company employees are working harder and smarter to deliver reliable power that is essential for the quality of life we all enjoy in our community.



Joe Wilson, Engineering Manager, discussing the Key Center undergrounding project with ACI contractor along 92nd Ave KPN.

If any member has a question or would like additional information on our construction schedule, please give the Peninsula Light Engineering Department a call. They can be reached directly at 253-857-1547.

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Amazing start for Key Peninsula schools

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Schools on the Key Peninsula have an interesting history, from the log cabin at Little Palmer Lake where Sarah Creviston taught her children and neighbors, to the first school in Home that held classes in a tent for children of three families, to classes beginning in churches or community halls.

By 1900, each community contained a schoolhouse, usually one room and one teacher. Students considered it a privilege to carry drinking water to the classroom, raise the flag, or lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Education was important to our early pioneers, and the fact that nine former school buildings still stand is a testament to those who built them.

Can you identify them all?

Five are private residences that show no outward sign of their original use.

Perhaps the best known is the Key Peninsula Civic Center at Vaughn. The first rural Pierce County high school was Vaughn Union High School #1, organized in 1903. The original building, constructed in 1907, was remodeled and expanded in several steps. The Annex was added in the 1920s. Baskets and poles set up on the dirt road preceded an outdoor gym with a dirt floor. Later a rough board floor was put in, bleachers built on the east side, and a room added for a Domestic Science room and to make coffee for neighborhood picnics. A dirt tennis court was constructed near this first gym, without barriers around the court, so many balls were chased out of bounds. Local folks converged on the courts to play on good weather weekends. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed the gymnasium in 1937. The original floor is still in use.

In 1947, Peninsula High School opened to combine Vaughn and Gig Harbor high schools. The grade school, once across the current parking lot, moved into the high school building until their new school was built in the mid-1950s, and a community group bought the property.

Another familiar former schoolhouse is now KP Community Services, home to the food bank and senior services. Built in 1924 as School District #315, it housed Home, Lakebay, and Herron students.

Across the bridge from Home, it couldn't be called either the Home or Lakebay school without angering someone from the other community, so was simply called by its number. It served as a school until Evergreen Elementary was constructed.

The Longbranch Improvement Club donated the south three acres of its property to the Pierce County School District in 1922 to build the two-room consolidated school #328. The school district bought additional land for the gymnasium built by the WPA in 1936. When those students moved to #315 in 1941, the LIC bought the school property and gym.

A log schoolhouse in Vaughn was built in 1885 on land donated by the Alverson family. The Wright family contributed logs, and the men and boys of the community built it. Three Vaughn elementary schools combined in one building, near the high school in the 1920s, and the log building became a home. Heavy log joists still support wide board floors.

Home's first schoolrooms, after the Allen tent, were in the community halls. The second school building, where music teachers Anton and Akka Van Tuyl lived when they arrived in the community, is now a private residence.

The oldest grade school building still in existence is Elgin, within walking distance of the current Minter Elementary. As #31, it preceded the Vaughn and Longbranch schools but only by a few months. In 1925, Ace McCurdy bought it, and it's been a private residence since then.

The third Wauna school, built in 1905 on the hill above the bay, changed functions in the 1940s to become a residence, after Wauna and Purdy schools became part of the Peninsula School District.

The second Glencove school, also on a hill above the bay, is now a private residence. A few years ago, when former students were invited to visit the building revamped by Chuck and Sharon West, they couldn't believe how low the ceiling seemed.

There are still many Key Pen residents who attended these former schools, and can tell all sorts of stories about the students, teachers, and buildings they knew.

ANNOUNCING TWO CANDIDATES FORUMS

for Voters on the Key Peninsula



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

26th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT & STATE CANDIDATES

7:00 – 9:00pm Key Peninsula Civic Center



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

PIERCE COUNTY OFFICES • Executive, Assessor, Sheriff

7:00 – 9:00pm Key Peninsula Civic Center

Bring your questions and ask the candidates
to address the issues that affect the Key Peninsula.

Make an informed decision before
you cast your ballot on November 4, 2008.



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Show & Tell



Key Peninsula Middle School has new administrators. Principal Jeri Goebel (pronounced Gable) and assistant principal, Scott McDaniel. *Photos by Hugh McMillan*



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Key Peninsula Middle School sixth-graders and mentors from eighth grade are welcomed at the beginning of an orientation event through a program called WEB (Where Everybody Belongs). WEB, introduced at many local school districts this school year, matches eighth-grade mentors with groups of sixth-graders for the entire school year.



At Peninsula High School's open house last week, counselors Linda Martin, holding the Seahawks new window sticker, and Colleen Blauvelt ham it up with new administrative intern, Brian Tovey. *Photo by Sheri Alheim*

Callahan's
Dub & Grill

Daily Lunch & Dinner Specials
Breakfast Every Day
8 am-1 pm

Live Music
Every Friday & Saturday Night! 8 pm-12:30 am

Karaoke Contest with Gary
Every Sunday 7-11 pm
Join the Fun and Win Big Bucks
\$6 PBR Pickers & \$2 Wells 7-9 pm

Country Jam with Joe Faker Band
Every Tuesday 7-11 pm

\$1 PBR Pounders & \$2 Wells
Every Wednesday 7-9 pm All Month Long

Harvest Fest Farm Tour
Join us on October 3, from 10 am-4 pm. Loads of
Oysters and Music by 2 Scoops More

Thursday Poetry Beat Night
Oct. 30th @ 6 pm-?

Beergarden Open
Open Sunday-Thursday 8 am-11 pm
Friday & Saturday 8 am-1:30 am
884-9766

Longbranch Improvement Club

Autumn in Longbranch

FREE Fall Fun Event
Fiber Arts Exhibition
Experience the rich traditions and skills of textile arts in our community. From crocheted to woven, spinning to weaving, it's all here - plus a chance to see the machinery for the "needles of challenged." **Saturday, October 4, 10 am to 5 pm.**

Get to Know the LIC - All Welcome LIC General Meeting
Join your neighbors and friends at the monthly LIC meeting, 7 pm Wednesday, October 15.

Free for Peninsular Kids Trunk or Treat Halloween
A little bit scary, a whole lot of fun. Decorate your car trunk and fill with goodies for the trick or treaters. Plus games, food and hot drinks inside. Evergreen Elementary PTA co-sponsors. 6 to 8 pm Friday, October 31.

Harbor Inn Furnish and Furnish Historic Building for Rent
253 884-6022 for LIC information
253 884-9157 for event info or tickets
LIC clubhouse at 4312 Key Pen Hwy S, 5 miles south of the Home Range
www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

Special 2 for 1 Deal

Beautiful and level 5+ acre parcel with **TWO HOMES**. The primary home is a daylight rambler, built in 2006 and has 2300+ s.f. of living space on the main level, plus an unfinished daylight basement of approx. 1200 sq.ft. Main floor features include 4 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, vaulted ceilings & skylights. Cedar fencing separates it from an ADU (additional dwelling): A 3-bdrm, 2-bath rental home (manuf.), rented out month to month. 3 R.V. sites. Located near Jackson Lake.
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\$139,000 **MLS# 28112756**

Picture Perfect!

COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to news@keypennews.com • Deadline 15th of the month

Oct. 1 – Candidate speaks

The Key Peninsula Lions Club hosts Sheriff Paul Pastor at 7 p.m. in the Veterans Room of the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The public is welcome. Sheriff Pastor will speak and answer questions. George, 853-2721

Oct. 4 – HarvestFEST farm tour

The Key Peninsula Farm Tour happens 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eight farms will host visitors throughout the day, four area restaurants have special menus featuring fresh, locally grown KP food products, and all of the community services buildings are hosting special events. Please see HarvestFEST stories in the KP News for details. 798-4119 or hhendrick@wsu.edu

Oct. 4 – Community dinner and dance

The Cornucopia Dinner/Dance includes dinner, a complimentary glass of wine, music by Little Bill and the Blue Notes and dancing from 8-10:30 p.m. The Civic Center doors open at 5 p.m. with a serenade by Dr. Roes' Down Home Band. The museum is open and a cash bar will be available. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and features fresh foods from local farms. Tickets are \$35 and attendees must be 21 or older.

Cornucopia night is a fundraising benefit for the Farm Tour Board, Mustard Seed Project and the Civic Center. Tickets available at Sunnycrest Nursery, Trillium Creek Winery, the Mustard Seed Project office and the Civic Center. 884-1205

Oct. 4 & 18 – Mushroom identification workshops

Key Pen Parks is offering free mushroom identification workshops at Penrose Park from 1-3 p.m. A short walk may be involved if conditions merit it. The first 15 people who call to register will be taken in the limited group. Meet at the bulletin board in the big parking lot. Dan, 884-2514

Oct. 6, 13, 20, & 27 – Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at Albertsons, 11330 51st Ave. NW, on Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Oct. 7 & 14 – Candidate forums

The Key Peninsula Community Council, the Key Peninsula Business Association and the Key Peninsula Civic Center sponsor two Candidate Forums, which are free and open to the public. Candidates for legislative seats: Kim Abel, Jan Angel, Larry Seaquist and Marlyn Jensen will be present on Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Also attending will be candidates for Commissioner of Public Lands: Doug Sutherland and Peter Goldmark.

Candidates for Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer: Terry Lee, Jan Shabro, Bernardo Tuma, Barbara Gelman and Beverly Davidson will be present on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Pierce County Executive candidate Shawn Bunney is scheduled, Connor McCarthy representing Pat McCarthy, Larry Wingard representing Mike Lonergan and Hugh McMillan representing Calvin Goings will be present. Paul Pastor will attend as a candidate for Pierce County Sheriff.

Oct. 11 – Youth indoor soccer begins

Key Pen Parks is offering an Indoor Soccer program on Saturdays at Key Peninsula Middle School for youth ages 4-7. Classes provide the opportunity to learn the fundamental skills using scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games. Parent/adult involvement is strongly encouraged. Classes will run six weeks and cost \$39, which includes a shirt, certificate and celebration at the end. A minimum of 10 kids and a maximum of 30 per group are allowed.

Practice times for 7 year olds (2nd grade): 9-9:50 a.m., 6 year olds (1st grade): 10-10:50 a.m., 5 year olds (kindergarten): 11-11:50 a.m., and 4 year

olds (pre-kindergarten): noon-12:50 p.m. Register at: 884-9240 or info@keypeninsulaparks.com.

October 13 – Scholarship meeting scheduled

The Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund committee has moved its meeting to 6 p.m. the second Monday of the month in the Peninsula High School faculty room. PHS parents and community members are invited to join the group, which coordinates the scholarship program for PHS graduates. President Jill Adams, 884-6606.

Oct. 15 & 16 – AARP 55 class

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club hosts an AARP 55-Alive Driving Review Course on Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person for participants age 55 and older, who may receive a discount on their car insurance for attending. The deadline for reservations is Oct. 10. Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club is at 3503 Jackson Lake Road KPN, Lakebay. Contact A.E. "Lefty" Dolfin at 884-5767.

Oct. 16 – Real Estate Seminar

"How to Buy or Sell a Home in this Market" will be held at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Key Peninsula Library. The seminar will include valuable information from Windermere Mortgage Services and helpful tips from Laura Ritter, Chicago Title Co. To reserve your space please call Windermere Key Realty at 857-3304.

October 23 – Make a bat happy

The Friends of the Key Center Library celebrate Halloween by hosting a free fun family workshop which begins at 7 p.m. Wear old clothes and assemble/decorate a bat house to take home and hang for these beneficial night-flying friends. Spooky

refreshments served. Please bring a contribution for the local food bank. 884-2242.

Oct. 25 – PHS Boosters dinner

The PHS Boosters annual dinner and auction will be held at the Key Peninsula Civic Center with the silent auction starting at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20. The proceeds from the dinner and auction go to academics, arts and athletics and also to help students with limited resources pay for pay-to-participate classes and AP tests. Contact Bonnie at 858-8245 to make donations of gift certificates, goods, services, or cash. For tickets, call Ronda at 857-4552 or www.phs.psd401.net

Oct. 29 – Crime summit held

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department will hold a Crime Summit from 7-8:30 p.m. at Peninsula High School. Panel members will speak, followed by a question-and-answer session, about crime issues and challenges facing law enforcement on the peninsulas.

Oct. 30 – Beat night

Poets' Beat Night held at 6 p.m. at O'Callahan's Pub and Grill in Key Center. All are welcome to participate or listen.

Oct. 31 - Trunk-or-treat

Longbranch Improvement Club hosts Trunk-or-treat from 6 to 8 p.m. Join us for a safe way to trick or treat. Debbie at 884-6382.

Now – Artists wanted

Artists are encouraged to participate in the KPCCA Craft Fair planned for Saturday, Nov. 15. Artists who make their own products — no second-hand products or re-sales — and live on the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area may sell their wares at the craft fair. Holly at kpcca.holidaycraftfair@gmail.com or KPCCA office 884-3456.



KEY PENINSULA NEWS

District 26 Candidates, **INSIDE** ELECTION SPECIAL

To register to vote on-line visit www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx

County candidates speak out on Key Peninsula issues

On Nov. 4, Key Peninsula residents will vote to elect the next President of the United States and various offices at the Washington State and Pierce County levels.

The candidates running for the 26th Washington State Legislative District Representative Position 1 and Position 2, and the candidates running for the Pierce County offices of County Executive, Assessor-Treasurer and Sheriff were asked to answer an email questionnaire.

During your campaign in 2008, what single item stands out as the biggest challenge for the Key Peninsula over the next two years, and how will you address it?"

County Executive Candidates (4)

Shawn Bunney: One of the biggest challenges facing the Key Peninsula is finding a solution to the growing traffic and congestion on State Route 302.

For years, Pierce County residents have been paying taxes to fund transportation projects in other counties, while our own roads and highways projects face delays and funding shortages. I will work to make sure our transportation dollars stay in Pierce County so we can create new jobs in Pierce County.

When I was chair of the Regional Transportation Investment District that was responsible for creating a regional transportation plan, I made State Route 302 one of Pierce County's transportation funding priorities. As County Executive, I will continue my commitment to finding ways to improve SR 302.

Calvin Goings: The biggest challenge facing the Key Peninsula area and the rest of unincorporated Pierce County is the lack of public safety services. I am dedicated to fully staffing the Sheriff's Department to ensure that local residents have the services they are already paying for and deserve. It is unacceptable that after having your home burglarized, that due to under staffing, the only service residents usually receive is a form in the mail from the Sheriff's Department.

I believe the residents in Key Peninsula already pay enough in taxes to Pierce

County. It is time for county government to set priorities for spending and learn to live within its means. That is why I have laid out two specific plans to deal with these issues. First, we need to reprioritize spending. Today, there are over 20 different departments of county government each with a director making over \$120K a year, and multiple layers of unnecessary management. My County Accountability Plan (CAP) calls for consolidating those 20 departments down to 12, and using the saved overhead costs to put more front line sheriff's deputies on the street.

Second, we need to be strategic about law enforcement and crime prevention efforts. My Safe Pierce Plan will better utilize existing resources by forming a regional task force with the City of Gig Harbor to deal proactively with drugs, gangs, and prostitution. I will also increase support of prevention programs that keep kids off drugs and out of gangs. Finally, I will lead the effort to improve our failing 911-dispatch system.

Mike Lonergan: Key Peninsula deserves more respect and serious consideration in allocations of Pierce County resources. The Key Peninsula area has a taxable property value of two billion dollars, and should receive a proportionate share of law enforcement, road improvements and public services. Making sure that formerly neglected neighborhoods received their fair share has been a hallmark of my work on the Tacoma City Council, and I will be actively engaged with Key Peninsula citizens as your county executive. I look forward to exploring the concerns of Chuck West and others to find the right mechanism to voice the Key Peninsula's concerns and make sure they are addressed.

Pat McCarthy: The fair delivery of county services to Key Peninsula taxpayers is the biggest issue facing the area. The next county executive needs to ensure the people who live on the Peninsula are well served by the county. This includes a wide range of county services, working closely with the newly elected Sheriff to provide enough deputies and making sure we don't sacrifice quality of life for the county's expected growth.

Our county is rapidly growing. We're

expecting 393,000 more people and 212,000 more jobs in this county by 2040.

Maintaining our Pacific Northwest way of life and supporting livable communities is one of the reasons I am running for executive. I take a two-pronged approach to a livable community. On a micro level, it is safe streets and neighborhoods, in addition to preserved parks and open spaces. We absolutely do not want urban sprawl. On a macro level, it's clean air and water and strong infrastructure with a balanced eye on that expected growth.

It will be the executive's job to help support the sheriff's Peninsula Division, encourage balanced urban growth policies and promote responsible roads and transit projects to get people to major arterials like Highway 16, while maintaining an effective and efficient county government.

Assessor-Treasurer Candidates (6)

Beverly Davidson: I think one of the biggest challenges for KP is transportation and the cost of getting back and forth over the Narrows Bridge. I would like to explore setting up a satellite office on the KP side of the bridge for the residents. This satellite office could be shared by several Pierce County offices, such as Assessor-Treasurer, Auditor, Planning, etc. A schedule could be set up with different departments having the office part time on certain days.

Barbara Gelman: There are many challenges facing Key Peninsula over the next several years that relate to growth — proper land-use planning, the protection of our natural resources and shorelines and associated traffic.

These challenges are out of the purview of the Assessor-Treasurer's Office. However, I will continue to inform the citizens of the Key Peninsula of their taxpayer rights and exemptions programs that are available. I will make customer service my number one priority. I will also seek out ways to provide information to the taxpayer in multiple formats to make it easy for citizens to get the information they need.

Terry Lee: The biggest tax challenge for Key Peninsula residents will be to receive true and fair market value for their property tax assessments. I support hiring

a property tax advisor to help citizens who are petitioning the Board of Equalization for reassessment of their property, for reduced property taxes for citizens with critical areas, like steep slopes, wetlands, or streams, and property tax reductions for citizens who are willing to implement best farming practices to help clean up our bays and estuaries. All of these programs would improve the quality of life on the Key Peninsula and help reduce the burden of increasing property tax.

Jan Shabro: From the perspective of the Assessor-Treasurer's office, I think the biggest problem facing Key Peninsula residents in the next two years will be property taxes. Despite the lower property assessments that most Pierce County citizens have experienced this past year, taxes are still high. Consequently, I will be a strong advocate in Olympia for legislation to lower property taxes. As a former state legislator, I have successfully sponsored legislation and know both the process and people in Olympia to be an effective advocate for lower property taxes.

Bernardo Tuma: One of the toughest challenges that KP residents, and almost every resident in Pierce County, will face in 2009 is the lack of available residential loans to buy or sell their properties. This lack of liquidity in the real estate market is going to pose a serious threat to the finances of many residents.

The Pierce County Assessor can help in several ways. One of them is by imposing a three-year moratorium to yearly property valuations to help maintain some degree of stability in the market.

Tax incentives can also be utilized to lure out of county and first-time property buyers to buy existing homes in Pierce County.

Dale Washam: I believe the biggest challenge for all Pierce County taxpayers is the out-of-state control and unfair yearly increases in the taxpayer's real property tax statements. I intend to correct that kind of oppressive taxing by being an assessor who will, at all times, interpret the taxing laws in favor of the taxpayers.

State Law states that evaluation of real

See Back Page

Questions for the District 26 Candidates

The candidates running for the **26th Washington State Legislative District Representative Positions 1 and 2**, were asked by **Key Peninsula News** to answer an email questionnaire. Those elected will have an immense impact on the future and growth of the *Key Peninsula.*

Legislative District 26 State Representative Position 1



There are two candidates for Position 1. Kim Abel, a Democrat and former mayor of Port Orchard, is running against Jan Angel, a Republican and Kitsap County Commissioner. They are both residents of Port Orchard. For more information on the candidates' respective campaigns, visit www.kimabel.com and www.janangel.com

Legislative District 26 State Representative Position 2



The candidates for Position 2 are State Representative Larry Seaquist, a Democrat who currently holds the position. He is seeking re-election and running against Republican Marlyn Jensen, a business owner and long time Republican activist. They are both residents of Gig Harbor. For more information on the candidate's respective campaigns, visit www.electlarryseaquist.com and www.unitedformarlyn.com

Below are the email responses from the state legislative candidates to questions submitted by the Key Peninsula News

During your campaign in 2008, what single item stands out as the biggest challenge for the KP over the next two years, and how will you address it?

Legislative District 26 State Representative Position 1 candidate answers

Kim Abel, (prefers Democratic Party): As I've door belled out on the Key Peninsula, the biggest concern I've heard is growth and transportation. I will work to put community character and quality of life at the top of the list. We should require appropriate infrastructure for new growth and adequate infrastructure for the growth that has occurred. The KP citizens have already developed their vision for the future by working together on the Key Peninsula Community Plan. Roads and public safety are part of this equation, and I'll fight for funding to improve access to the Peninsula from Highway 16, and make Highway 302 safer.

Jan Angel, (prefers Republican Party): Transportation congestion and safety are the largest challenges that I see for the Key Peninsula area that must be addressed immediately. We have roads in the area that people are being killed on. Projects currently underway are moving at a snails pace and need the continual push from the 26th Legislators to get the jobs done. A representative of WSDOT has stated that the Purdy Bridge itself is "structurally deficient and functionally obsolete". Continuing to fix the broken guardrails isn't going to get it. Traffic back ups continue further and further on Highway 16. It amazes me that "road rage" is not to a new all time high. I look forward to next month's community meetings to hear what they have planned to resolve these issues.

affordable place to live. As the population grows in KP so does the transportation problem. The biggest challenge will be the Purdy Bridge, Purdy off ramp from highway 16 and highway 302. As Key Peninsula grows, so will these problems.

Larry Seaquist, incumbent (prefers Democratic Party): We have several big challenges: we have to manage our growth so that Key Peninsula keeps its special, rural qualities as up to 10,000 people move here in the next decade or so. We all have to help our neighbors as many KP families struggle through this economic downturn. We have to push to get Highway 302 and the Purdy Spit bridge problem fixed with a new highway. And throughout we have to keep protecting Key Peninsula's woods and waters. For me, the biggest problem in the middle of all of that is the cost of health care. More and more families are going without the health care they need, more and more kids are going to school with serious dental problems. My main focus right now is on developing a comprehensive set of reforms that will attack this health care cost problem and get us back to where we should be: a family doctor for every family at a price every family can afford. We have to do this on a bi-partisan basis. I'm working now every day with health care professionals and my Republican friends to try to turn this health care crisis around. If voters decide to send me back to the legislature, they can expect that I will spend a great deal of time on health care cost control.

KP News question: What will you do to help people keep their houses?

Position 1 candidate answers

Kim Abel: This must be tackled at both the Federal and State levels. On the Federal level, there must be an effort to help families whose home value has undergone drastic change. This support is vital; the many "for sale" signs I see when

Legislative District 26 State Representative Position 2 candidate answers

Marlyn Jensen, (prefers Republican Party): Key Peninsula is a desirable and

Exclusive by Jeanette Brown,
Special to the KP News

I'm out doorbelling could drastically affect the character of the KP community. On a State level, we must step up to the issue regarding property tax relief. No one should be taxed out of their homes. I will fight to add protections and relief valves for seniors, families and those in the service of our country.

Jan Angel: I would and will continue to work for a strong state and local economy that will keep folks employed with good, living wage jobs so they can afford to pay their bills and provide for their families. For senior citizens, I would like to explore options that would allow those on fixed incomes to have a means to stabilize or freeze their property taxes. This could take a number of different forms that I want to investigate.

Position 2 candidate answers

Marlyn Jensen: We need to be focused on a sound job base in our state. Presently we have major issues obtaining and retaining businesses. Without businesses we do not have jobs. Without jobs people can't make money. The taxes, failure rate, mandates, and fees this state places on businesses are astronomical. Therefore it is important to bring businesses into this state not keep them out.

Larry Seaquist: I'm really concerned about this problem. I'm trying to help in three ways, first with property tax cuts. I've twice sponsored bills to increase the exemption limits for seniors. Second, health care reform. Many people are losing their homes to medical bankruptcy – the result of not being able to afford insurance that covers serious problems. So I'm developing legislation for the next session that will attack health care costs across the board and provide every Washington family with catastrophic protection so that no one will go broke from a medical emergency. And thirdly, I'm working with the legislative leadership to create new, tougher budget procedures for the legislature. I want to see much better strategic budget planning and much tougher oversight of our state agencies. One example: I'm determined to cut the headquarters staff of the ferry system in half immediately. Our ferry system has many too many people driving desks in Seattle. We can save \$25 million or more a year by cutting that staff back to a reasonable size.

What will you do to help schools, police, and fire departments cope with rising fuel costs?

Position 1 candidate answers

Kim Abel: The biggest issue for school districts is student transportation costs – which is a huge problem because the state reimburses school districts on an 'as the crow flies' mileage basis. There is a school funding task force at work and I am watching for their recommendations, which must include maintenance and fuel costs. The emergency response agencies are funded by local jurisdictions and, as the former Mayor of Port Orchard, I will work to keep unfunded requirements from being passed on to local districts, leaving them better able to deal with increased costs.

I will also support and fund new modern technology that can reduce public safety vehicle fuel costs, such as automated ticket and incident report-writing systems.

Jan Angel: I would suggest policies such as a vehicle "no idling" policy, like the one that we have just passed in Kitsap County. We should also review use of vehicles to make sure they are being used as efficiently as possible. In Kitsap as a Board member of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, I worked with school districts and public transit to retrofit the buses for alternative fuel consumption. I would like to review the gas tax to see how and what it is being used on and to see if it should be reduced or repealed to help all our citizens and our businesses.

Position 2 candidate answers

Marlyn Jensen: We know as a nation we can no longer depend on our present resources. Each entity; schools, police and fire, need to evaluate what they do today and look outside those boundaries to what other possibilities exists. As your state legislator I will look beyond present government practices and more towards what the private sector has done. As your representative I will identify and take action on appropriate fuel alternatives.

Larry Seaquist: I start with the school problem. Increased fuel costs are really hurting our school district. The state is not paying for the actual cost of getting our kids to school. We have a task force on school funding working now to make sure we are fully funding school

transportation. I will vote to get that money to the schools. We need to add the ferry system to the list of people with fuel cost problems. I have helped charter a special study of ways the ferry system can cut costs with smarter operations. And by cutting the ferry system headquarters staff back to size as I propose, we can save \$25 million or more each year – money that can be used to keep fares under control and to build new ferries. Of course, the main problem goes beyond fuel prices. Our whole national economy is in a serious tailspin. This is more than a downturn – it appears that we are starting into a fairly long period of economic adjustment where our whole economy is restructuring itself. I'm pushing the state's leaders to join me in thinking through how we keep state budgets low while we help the state come out the other side of this downturn stronger than ever.

KP News question to candidates who prefer the Democratic Party: How would an Obama win impact Washington State and the Key Peninsula respectively?

Kim Abel, LD 26, Position 1: Overall, an Obama victory will protect tax cuts for poor and middle class families, which will help in these uncertain times.

Other assistance will come in the form of a windfall profits tax on excessive oil company profits, giving American families an immediate \$1,000 emergency energy rebate to help with rising bills. This relief would be a down payment on Obama's long-term plan to provide middle-class families with at least \$1,000 per year in permanent tax relief. For a State always on the cutting edge of technology, Obama will help Washington citizens and companies catch the next industrial wave by providing green jobs and investment credits for renewable energy, boosting our economy while weaning us from foreign oil dependence. For the Key Peninsula, Obama's plans for expanding public service would support and expand the excellent work community groups on the Key Peninsula are doing today. Imagine how Obama's call for junior and senior high school students to do 50 hours of service to their communities each year would impact the efforts being made at the Key Peninsula Community Services, the Mustard Seed Project, and the Children's Home Society! And that is

just the beginning of his call for each of us to help change America. His environmental emphasis will make him a great partner as our State moves forward in cleaning up the Puget Sound and Hood Canal, something of vital importance to the Key Peninsula and the 26th District in general, because of our wonderful shorelines and small streams.

Larry Seaquist, LD 26, Position 2: An Obama-Biden presidency would immediately change our national economic situation. As they work to balance the federal budget, get us on the path to oil independence, and get us out of the \$3 billion-a-week war in Iraq, we should see two kinds of direct impact here: First, we should see our local economy turn around. More people will be driving across Purdy spit every morning on their way to a good-paying job. Those commuters will feel like we are finally on the way to lower driving costs. Second, we should see the Federal government begin to meet its core obligations. An Obama administration can be counted on to fully fund veterans health needs, to fund children's health, and highway maintenance. We should see fewer people at the food banks and fewer people with no health care. This will help keep taxes low and free up money for education.

KP News question to candidates who prefer the Republican Party: How would a McCain win impact Washington State and the Key Peninsula respectively?

Jan Angel, LD 26, Position 1: As I am currently a Kitsap County Commissioner and a Candidate for State Representative, I am very busy and have not had the time to analyze the McCain-Palin ticket as to how it specifically applies to Washington and the Key Peninsula. As a Candidate for the Key Peninsula area, I have concentrated on the issues facing the 26th District.

Marlyn Jensen, LD 26, and Position 2: All too often, focus is placed on the national level when in fact government begins at the local level. My job as a state representative is to serve the people of this state. McCain states there will be no more taxes. This is positive. Additionally, it is important for states to maintain their autonomy. Spending is out of hand in our state. As your state representative it is a priority to get the spending under control.



(From Cover Page)

property in Pierce County, is only required "once each four years," not every year as present revaluation of real property every year.

My new revaluation schedule will result in reducing the revaluation of all real property in Pierce County for taxing purposes to once every four years, thereby, stabilizing lower property tax payments three out of every four years.

Sheriff candidates (3)

Jesse Hill: No response

R.P. Kollu: No response

Paul A. Pastor: The single biggest item that stands out for the Key Peninsula over the next two years is the balancing of demand for Sheriff's services with available resources. This is the item that applies throughout unincorporated county, but I believe that it applies especially seriously in the Key Peninsula because even more than other parts of the county, the KP is about to experience tremendous growth.

In the last three years, I have worked to increase staffing in our Peninsula detachment. But I believe that the KP still does not have enough Sheriff's deputies. This is a problem that plagues the rest of the unincorporated county as well, but again, it is likely to be felt more intensely in the next two years where you live.

I intend to press forward to get more staffing for the KP but also for the rest of unincorporated county. I have developed a five-year plan for Sheriff's Department staffing, which would substantially increase staffing in unincorporated areas.

I do not accept the idea that residents of unincorporated areas should get significantly less law enforcement than cities. I intend to work with you and with people in other areas of the county to see that county government steps up to its responsibility to provide adequate levels of essential law enforcement services.

County Executive candidates (4)

Do you support the idea of an overall county ombudsman who works for the citizens and helps them with county government problems?

Shawn Bunney: Yes, I support the idea of an overall county ombudsman.

Additionally, I think all county employees should act as ombudsmen for Pierce County residents.

County government should be user-friendly, open and accountable. That is a top priority for me in how Pierce County does business.

I am proud to say I recently received the Washington Coalition for Open Government's Key Award and will continue

to work to make Pierce County government more accessible and efficient for everyone living and working in Pierce County.

Calvin Goings: I do support a county ombudsman who works for the citizens to resolve issues — the existing position of county executive. County government has failed at its core mission, to serve the public, if we have to resort to more layers of bureaucracy to deal with the issues that the council and executive are elected to resolve.

As executive, I will serve as the citizens' advocate. My record as a county councilmember proves this out. I understand that I work for the citizens, not the special interest groups or the big bureaucracy. That is why on financing the luxury golf course in University Place, I voted no; on raising my own salary by 21 percent, I voted no; and, I have even called for firing the county's inept planning director. I will never forget whom I work for.

However, I also want to re-engage and reconnect citizens to county government. That is why as executive, I will call for a new emphasis on citizen participation. First, I will work to decentralize county operations. Why should you have to drive all the way into downtown Tacoma for a building permit? Second, I will ask local organizations like the community councils to provide meaningful recommendations on land use decisions and county spending priorities. Finally, I will hold monthly evening town hall meetings throughout Pierce County, so that residents can interact directly with their county executive.

Mike Lonergan: I am not opposed to a Pierce County ombudsman. However, that's really a role that has been lacking by the county executive himself, and his staff. Less world traveling to observe other jurisdictions, and more effort to connect with all corners of Pierce County, will be my style as your executive. Unique sections of the county, such as Key Peninsula and our island communities, demand attention and understanding. I will not simply refer to "the greater Gig Harbor area" or "the other side of the bridge" and assume that the needs of Key Center and the Key Peninsula are being met. I propose to be your ombudsman.

Pat McCarthy: Yes. Pierce County residents can face challenges and obstacles as they navigate county government. That's wrong. I am committed to ensuring we have a responsive government. I practice it in my current capacity as county auditor.

Two months ago, the county created a public records ombudsman in an effort to address citizen concerns. This person resides in the Executive's Office.

I believe the next county executive needs to put the "service" back in "public

service." Five years ago, when I became Auditor, I was determined to take customer service to the next level. And we did. Today, when you come into my office, whether it's for a marriage license or for a passport, you will receive efficient service and effective guidance, while being given the respect you deserve.

My approach to address citizen concerns is multifaceted. One, the county needs to inform citizens about the ombudsman position. Two, individual departments need to put into place a plan and designate a troubleshooter to handle peoples' questions and concerns. Three, the county can better utilize the internet for citizen services to a greater degree across all county departments.

Assessor-Treasurer Candidates (6)

Many citizens are having problems making their property tax payments. Would you work to allow partial tax payments to help these people?

Beverly Davidson: Yes, I will work to allow taxpayers to make monthly or quarterly tax payments.

Barbara Gelman: The county's tax office is there to carry out State law. It is the Legislature that determined property taxes can be paid in two installments — 1/2 due the end of April and the second 1/2 due the end of October. Individuals who are suffering economically and unable to pay as prescribed are also subject to interest on the unpaid amount (1 percent per month) and additionally subject to two separate 3 percent penalties during the first 12 months of nonpayment. This also is a matter of State law and the Assessor-Treasurer is required to uphold the laws of the State of Washington.

However, I would support working with the Assessor's Association and the Legislature to explore the possibility of partial payments. I believe this option could potentially ease the burden for citizens who are trying to remain in their homes during these trying economic times. In order to be successful at changing the existing laws will require statewide support.

Terry Lee: I would work to allow citizens to make partial property tax payments on a more frequent basis if I could be assured that Pierce County Budget and Finance, who receives those payments, could effectively staff up to process accounts receivable more than twice a year. It would require coordination between several departments and some additional staff, but it could be done and is worth pursuing.

Jan Shabro: Property tax payments are regulated by state law. Consequently, the Assessor-Treasurer does not have the authority to unilaterally adjust property tax payments. Currently, however, it is

possible to for people to pay taxes via credit card. By doing so, they may make partial monthly payments on their taxes.

Bernardo Tuma: The current housing market presents very complex challenges that our county has not experienced in the last decades. This is going to require some flexible approaches to deal with every case on a case-by-case basis. We will survive the crisis and will build a better county.

Dale Washam: Yes

Sheriff candidates (3)

With projected budget shortfalls for Pierce County, what will you do to avoid a loss of sheriff coverage for unincorporated areas in Pierce County?

Jesse Hill: No response

R.P. Kollu: No response

Paul A. Pastor: As population increases and as demand for services increases we are facing a bad situation. How do we cope? First, I want to state very clearly that First Responders are the last place anyone should make budget cuts. Secondly, it is important to note that the KP and the rest of the peninsula detachment are not easily accessible from the rest of the county. For this reason, it is important that we maintain a critical mass of deputies in your area. We don't have enough now. Therefore, we should not look to cut staffing further.

My first priority now and in the future will be to ensure that we have adequate patrol staffing so that when you call 911 for a priority emergency, deputies will be able to respond. Recently, we have not just been faced with bad economic news, but we have also experienced an increase in deputies who have been deployed in reserve military service and who are temporarily out on disability. This stretches our already thin resources even thinner. To maintain basic patrol staffing under these circumstances I have temporarily transferred deputies from specialty assignments (e.g. Traffic, Neighborhood Patrol) to be sure that basic patrol staffing is covered. This approach is essential to maintaining your safety and the safety of deputies who put themselves in danger on your behalf.

Again, staffing is a key issue. I invite you to work with me to see that we do not run on a thin margin when it comes to ensuring that you and the people who protect you are safe and secure.

Now to Dec. 4 – Free GED class

A free GED class, for students wanting to get a GED, is offered on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Home Fire Station. Continuous enrollment enables students to enter the class at any time during the quarter. Attendance is mandatory once enrolled. Students must have a valid Washington State picture ID to take the official GED test and students under 19 must get a high school release. Winter quarter is Jan. 6-March 12 and spring quarter is March 31-June 4. Contact Linda Creswell, ABE Program Coordinator, TCC, Gig Harbor; 460-2355.

Tuesdays – Baby story times

Baby Explorer Story Time at 11 a.m. for ages 0-24 months, accompanied by an adult, at the Key Center Library. Join in

with your child and enjoy fun books, action rhymes, knee bouncers, songs and more. 884-2242.

Wednesdays – Family story times

Family Story Time held at Key Center Library at 11 a.m. for preschool-aged children accompanied by an adult. Enjoy fun with picture books, songs, finger-plays and movement games. 884-2242

Thursdays-KP Senior Society meets

The Key Peninsula Senior Society, aka Yesterday's Teenagers, meet at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck, fellowship and games at the Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981.

Saturdays-Writers meet

The Writers' Guild meets from 9-11 a.m. at Key Center Library; 884-6455.

OFF THE KEY

Oct. 1 – GH Welcome Club meets

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club sponsors a luncheon at Canterwood Country Club, 12606 – 54th Ave., Gig Harbor, at 11:30 a.m. Harris Atkins will explain how eBay works. Call June Benoit, 857-9263.

Oct. 6 – Internet Safety

This program, appropriate for law enforcement, educators, parents and individuals who work with youth and teenagers, will be presented 10 a.m.-noon and again 6:30-8:30 p.m. This training will consist of a PowerPoint lecture combined with integrated Internet examples. The PowerPoint presentation with the handouts will be provided for one's future workshops to help others understand how to use MYSFACE and search engines and how this technology can compromise a child's safety. Monday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m. to noon or 6:30-8:30 p.m., Gig Harbor Civic Center, 3510 Grandview St.

Contact: Lauren Lund, City of Gig Harbor Marketing Director (253) 853-3554, lundl@cityofgigharbor.net www.cityofgigharbor.net

Paradise Theatre offers classes

Students ages 9-17 may register to be in Les Miserables Student Edition and to attend the classes meeting every Thursday and Saturday with the performances in February.

Students ages 5-8 may register to be in Snow White Jr. with classes meeting every Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. with the performances in December.

Paradise also offers a Triple Threat program where one can take voice, dance and acting. Sign up now while spaces are still available.

For details: www.paradisetheatre.org and download forms or 253-851-PLAY. Paradise Theatre is located at 9911 Burnham Drive NW, Gig Harbor.

Want to be a sheriff?

Prepare yourself to meet the challenge and get informed about the testing and hiring process for the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. Physical fitness exams will be held on Oct. 4, Nov. 15 and Dec. 6. Pre-test workshops offer information about the video and written test, including a mock test; the application process for the Sheriff's Department; the hiring/selection process for both the deputy and correction officer's position; and the background and hiring standards for the Sheriff's Department.

Pre-test workshops will be held on Oct. 7, 6-8:30 p.m., Oct. 28 6-8:30 p.m. and Nov. 20 6-8:30 p.m. All are held in the Pierce County Hess Building, 901 Tacoma Ave. S, Room D, Tacoma.

No reservations are needed but seating is limited. Contact the recruiting team; Officer Barnham, 253-798-4171, Officer Magana, 253-798-6586, or Deputy Dos Remedios, 253-798-7277.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

• **SAVE Thrift Store** is seeking volunteers to work a 3 to 4 hour shift at least once a month. All profits are for scholarships for PHS graduates. Volunteers are drawn from the ranks of students themselves, parents and other supportive community members. Training of new volunteer is provided. SAVE is open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Debra Langley-Boyer at 884-4235 or 857-2800.

• **The City of Gig Harbor Visitor Information Center** is seeking volunteers to fill many of the 2-hour shifts, seven days a week. The center, managed by two staff people and dozens of volunteers is located 3125 Judson Street in Gig Harbor.

High School students who volunteer 145 or more hours in a year can earn a school varsity letter. Contact Susan or Cheryl at 857-4VIC or www.gigharborguide.com.

• Math mentors are urgently needed for **Purdy Elementary and Key Peninsula Middle School**. Contact Barrie at Purdy, 530-4600 or Melissa at KPMS, 530-4200.

OCTOBER PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Pierce County Council District 6, Oct. 7, 5:30 p.m. at Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St. NW
- Fire District 16, Oct. 14 & 28, 3 p.m. at Lakebay Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council Annual Public Meeting — Oct. 15, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library
- KP Parks, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex (some meetings preceded by a 6:30 p.m. study session)
- Peninsula School District Board, Oct. 8, 6 p.m. (regular meeting) at Evergreen Elem. and Oct. 23, 6 p.m. (study session) at district office, 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor

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District's facilities rental program popular in the community

One of Peninsula School District's successful community programs is the facilities use. The district's buildings and fields are available to community organizations when school or extracurricular events are not in session.

Last school year, the district had 6,731 bookings, totaling more than 34,000 hours of community use. Nearly half of the rentals were for fields and other outdoor spaces.

Local youth athletic organizations are among the major users of the schools, both for indoor and outdoor practices and games. This fall, several soccer and football groups are holding competitions and practices around Peninsula School District fields.

'This is our busiest time of the year,' says Jeremy Bubnick, director of Facilities Use.

Recently, Bubnick received a young professionals' fellowship from the National Recreation and Park Association for his current



and previous work to promote parks and recreation, and will attend a national conference in October.

'On any given day, we have about 20 rentals,' he said. 'The community really takes advantage of the program.'

The program is offered to nonprofit organizations and community groups that include swimming clubs, county committees, Girl Scouts, arts or music groups and churches. Rental rates are lowest for youth groups.

Available space ranges from classrooms, fields and auditoriums, to libraries and pools. PSD facilities have housed everything from pool birthday parties to political caucuses, county meetings and concerts.

The program is a community service that makes rental space available to the public on the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas. The rental fees are very competitive, and are set at just the right level to cover administrative and maintenance costs.

October Events

- 1-3 Bus Ridership Week
- 1 District Parent Council 10:15-12:15 at District Office
- 3 Fish Bowl 2008 Gig Harbor vs. Peninsula @ Peninsula 7 p.m.
- 8 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. at Evergreen Elementary
- 10 No School
- 14 Henderson Bay High School Open House 7-8:30 p.m.
- 23 School Board Study Session 6 p.m. at District Office
- 25 Peninsula High School Boosters Auction 5-10 p.m. at Key Peninsula Civic Center

November Events

- 5 District Parent Council 10:15-12:15 at District Office
- 11 No School Veterans' Day
- 13 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. at District Office
- 14 Minter Creek Elementary Fall Carnival 6-8 p.m.
- 15 Peninsula High School Seahawk Cheer Challenge 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at PHS doors open to the public at 8:30 and competition begins at 9:00.
- 20-21 **Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences** early dismissal at 11 a.m.
Elementary School Parent-Teacher Conferences early dismissal at 12 p.m.
- 24-25 **Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences** early dismissal at 11 a.m.
Elementary School Parent-Teacher Conferences early dismissal at 12 p.m.
- 26 Regular start time for all schools no collaboration time
- 27-28 No School Thanksgiving Break

Bus Ridership Week

Transportation Bus Ridership Week September 29-October 3. All of the students riding the bus to school in the morning will be counted. This is the one week the district can count the ride to school and receive reimbursement dollars from the state for transportation. If you currently ride the bus to school in the morning, please make sure you ride to school during this week.

1-866-LIVE-TIP

Anonymous Tip Line for School Safety

The Safe Schools LifeLine is a completely anonymous, toll-free tip line that anyone can access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year about any potential incident such as school violence, vandalism or theft, drug and alcohol issues, gang activity, suicide, fights or discrimination. It is offered free of charge through the Washington Schools Risk Management Pool. 1-866-LIVE-TIP is toll-free and when you call you will be asked to enter the district code: 162. Emergency callers will always speak to an operator, who is trained to take immediate action. You will also have the option of calling 911 directly. Suicide calls will be connected to 1-800-SUICIDE, the Suicide Prevention Hotline. Non-emergency calls are transcribed and faxed directly to a designated school authority within 24 hours — voices are not recorded and you do not have to give your name. All callers are assigned a code, allowing them to call back and check on the status of their issue. Do your part to keep our schools safe. Report any dangerous or threatening activity by calling 1-866-LIVE-TIP (1-866-548-3847).

Stalking the wild mushroom

By Kevin Reed, KP News

It's a typical day at Penrose Point State Park, cool and damp, with an overcast drizzle. Twelve people have gathered under a shelter to learn about how to stalk the wild mushrooms of Washington. Mushrooms are strewn over the picnic table, with others in paper bags. The first thing they learn from Park Ranger Dan Christian, who's giving this free class, is that there is no easy way to tell if a mushroom is poisonous or not. You need to identify each individual mushroom and get 100% identification before you eat it.

"You need two things: patience and observation," Christian said, adding that it can take a few days or longer to properly identify mushrooms. In addition, you'll need to become familiar with terms like gills, cap, veil, volva, deliquescent, decurrent, bulbous, ring, and a few others. Knowing the parts of the mushroom and what variables to look for are critical to correctly identifying the fungus. This, of course, means the difference between a delicious omelet,

and poisoning or death, as the KP is home to both edible and poisonous varieties. You'll need to hone your observation skills, using all of your senses except hearing to search for clues. Some smell like fish, or shrimp, or, as the author of one mushroom book has put it, like 'a cross between red hots and dirty socks'." Christian gets a laugh from the class on that one, adding, "What a joy to have some new smell in your life."

There are a few essential rules. First, over time, search for the mushroom in all of its development stages, from baby to adult to rotting, because each yields different clues. Second, always collect the entire specimen, including the tissue below ground, because it contains more clues. The mushroom is just the reproductive, fruiting body of a much larger fungal organism that lives underground. Think of an apple to a tree. Third, take notes in the field to capture information such as color changes, bruising patterns, and the color of "latex," which is a fluid that leaks from many mushrooms. This fluid will be



Park Ranger Dan Christian conducts a mushroom identification class at Penrose State Park. First lesson, there is no easy way to tell if a mushroom is poisonous.

Photo by
Karina Whitmarsh

different colors, and the colors may or may not change. Lastly, you'll want to get a spore print, which is obtained by placing the cap over a piece of paper from several hours to overnight. Spores drop from the cap and make a black or white pattern, critical to proper identification. You'll also need a good mushroom book that not only has photographs, but also identification "keys" which will walk you through "if/then" steps to help you identify

specimens.

If you're serious about collecting, the best and safest way to start is to take a class, like Ranger Christian's two-hour class. If you're willing to put the time in, you can be rewarded with some great new tastes of local favorites like chanterelles, oyster mushrooms, and hedgehog mushrooms among others. Just take his advice, and make sure you eat your own mushrooms and not someone else's. They may not have been to the class.



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Vancouver	2004	2800	5/3.5	5.74 acres	\$570,000
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Relax, paint, enjoy the Java

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

Rosalie Blue is not new to being a business woman, as her parents were self-employed and she has worked with the public since the age of 10. Upon graduating from Peninsula High, she received a golf scholarship to the University of Arizona where she majored in ceramics for two years. In Arizona, she designed and made her own pottery and glazes, which is a delicate art and procedure. She finished her last two years at University of Puget Sound

In 1997, her love of ceramics prompted her and daughter, Kathleen Valentine, to open a pottery studio. It was located behind a children's clothing store across the street from the Gig Harbor waterfront.

They called it Art and Soul. In 2003 there was a growing interest in the studio, so it was expanded. The former clothing store was turned into a coffee lounge with overstuffed furniture, table and chairs, fireplace and a counter by the window where one can sit, enjoy coffee, and watch passersby. Many people come just to relax and read or have a cup of java while conversing with friends in this homelike setting. Rosalie has been the sole owner since November 2005 when the studio was renamed Java and Clay.

At Java and Clay, customers can purchase preformed bisque pieces that are painted using special paints, cured by dipping in a special solution, dried, and fired in a kiln. Outside bisque pieces cannot be brought in for firing because the paint and kiln temperature are compatible only with the bisque used in the shop. There are many pieces to choose from, including vases of many sizes and shapes, dinnerware, tabletop items, and even dog and cat dishes.

Before becoming a Key-Preneur, Blue



Ceramic mugs are offered both as art objects to decorate and practical use objects for a good cup of coffee at Java and Clay.

Photo by
Karina Whitmarsh

did a lot of volunteer work beginning with the Red Cross from 1963 to the early 80s where she taught swimming and adaptive aquatics to the mentally and physically impaired. Following that, she lived in Bend where she enjoyed skiing and horseback riding until moving back to the peninsula in 1993. It was here she became involved with the Peninsula Sheriff's Mounted

Search and Rescue team for 13 years.

Blue has a son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons in Bend, Oregon and a daughter, son-in-law, and one granddaughter in Gig Harbor.

Today Rosalie lives with the company of her two horses, an Arab and Tennessee Walker, and keeps busy with the business demands of Java and Clay.

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KEY PENINSULA
NEWS

PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394



Key Peninsula Historical Society members reminisce

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Key Peninsula Historical Society met for their annual summer picnic meeting at the home of Dale Boquist. The host presented an array of logging equipment, historical photos, and stories to the group.

Boquist's cousin, Diann Whitmore Fox, also shared photos and stories of the Petersen family that built what is now The Olde Glencove Hotel. Fox noted that the current hotel was the Petersen home, and was never a hotel or even a boarding house. Overnight visitors, such as salesmen, or people traveling farther down the peninsula, slept in the nearby bunkhouse, now long gone.

Some new members joined, and the group looks forward to participating in the HarvestFest farm tour on Oct. 4. The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with their kitchen and farm equipment displays. The fall quarter KPHS meeting will be on Oct. 25.

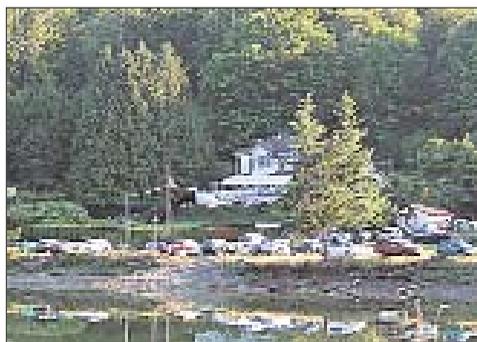


Photo by Danna Webster

The historic Glen Cove hotel was a topic of conversation at the September meeting of the Key Peninsula Historical Society. The hotel is neighbor to Dale Boquist's personal logging museum where the society met.

Museum hours are Thursday and Saturday 1-4 p.m. or by appointment, until mid-December, then it is closed until early February.

For more information about KPHS or the museum, call 884-3702 or 884-3272.

Citizens against crime



Photo courtesy of Hugh McMillan

Citizens Against Crime anniversary The three surviving charter members of Citizens Against Crime, Charlotte Krauss, Hugh McMillan and Anna White are reunited once again at the celebration of the organization's 20th anniversary.

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"In all the years I've known him, Larry Seaquist has always listened to and represented the best interests of the Key Peninsula."

Hugh McMillan, Community Leader

(From KPCC, Page 1)

transportation. A sign on its side reads, "Sorry all of our gas has been taken."

KPCS volunteer, John Glennon, showed the filming crew the box van's severed gas line. The thieves had to resort to cutting the line with a razor blade when they were unable to siphon out of the gas cap. Because of earlier attempts to remove gas from the vehicle, it was parked in a more secure location behind the building. A security system seems like a natural solution, but Penny Gazabat, executive director of KPCS, points out that funds are not available. The gas line repair was donated by a local mechanic and there was no interruption in services.

Gazabat, states the gas "was taken from the poorest families on the Peninsula." The van is used to obtain provisions from Food Life line in Lakewood for the Food Bank that operates out of the center. The food bank provides provisions for 230 families on the Key Peninsula. Each family obtains a 4-day supply of food and can visit the Food Bank once a month. In addition to the formal food bank, the center also operates a Bread Closet where bread products and fresh produce, donated by QFC, Costco, Safeway, and Fred Meyer, are available daily. Another 130 families use the Bread Closet to supplement their meals. The Labor Day weekend theft was the third time KPCS has been victimized this year.

The television news found it newsworthy that thieves would steal from an organization that gives more and more to the community. "The food bank currently serves 230 families," reported Lori Matsukawa on the Thursday evening news, "that's up from 98 this time last year," she said.

The food bank is struggling to serve those families. According to Gazabat, it is hard to keep food on the food bank

shelves. "We need donations of every kind," she said. "We don't have soups. We have to go out and purchase rice and flour," Gazabat says and refers to an ad in this KP News issue which includes a list of the products they need.

Monthly meals are provided for qualifying Key Pen families and individuals. KPCS is also able to provide basic commodities like peanut butter, pasta and rice to anyone in Pierce County. She encourages Key Pen residents to call and explore the possibilities, or come and see them. The Food Bank operates Tuesdays through Fridays. Their hours are 10 a.m.-4p.m. except on Wednesday when the hours are 11a.m.-6p.m.

With the downturn in the economy, Gazabat said, "a lot of people are going to be finding themselves in need of our services." She has a message for the thieves. "My plea is to stop doing it. You're really taking from the mouths of families and individuals that need our support," she said.

To view the KING 5 News cast about this event, copy and use this address: <http://www.king5.com/blcS.sc?search=key+peninsula+gas>

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The Key Peninsula's Young Writers' Conference took their lunch breaks outdoors on Aug. 22 and 23. Rebekah Doel, back to camera, wrote a fantasy story called Dark Claw. It will appear in the Young Writers' Anthology, a publication created from the works of the participants.

Photo by Jerry Libstaff

Rebekah Doehl says, "I'm 14 years old. I have been writing ever since I was little, but I became serious about writing only a couple of years ago. I would like to become a professional fiction writer." Her complete story can be read in the anthology. Here is how the story begins:



Dark Claw

By Rebekah Doehl
Special to the KP News

The fortress was drenched in the summer heat. The town center was even warmer, cobblestones absorbing the sun's crystal rays. On top of the stifling humidity the market was packed, crammed like a box that is too full. The crowds overflowed into side streets like grain being poured out of a barrel. In the midst of this stood a mutt, hunched over from the weight of a raven cloak draped about him. The dog grimaced and swiped at a lazy fly buzzing around his head. Dark Claw pulled the cloak tighter despite the heat that sent sweat dripping like rivers down his pelt. He couldn't let his disguise be noticed. He squinted through the afternoon sun's blinding beams.

His mind wandered to his situation. Most would be frightened, but not Dark Claw. Being behind enemy lines meant nothing more to him than one of his officers guzzling ale. The chain of circumstances was like a river. It was natural. It was going to continue no matter what he did, so he went with it rather than against it. Some might call this strength, others deem it as foolishness. It did not matter to the former crown prince. The mission needed to be done and he was the only one he trusted to complete it.

A pup's bark nearby awakened him from his quiet thoughts. All at once, he realized that he had walked to the middle of the teeming market.

"Fool!" he chided himself. He would have to be more careful if he ever wanted to get inside the palace. He nonchalantly swayed about, admiring the wares.

His fur bristled as he felt someone beside him. Dark Claw glanced in the direction of the creature. The sight that met his eyes was stunning. It was a female, and though she was clothed in a simple peasant dress, she carried herself as regally as a duchess in a ball gown.

Her slender paws slid gently over the buckets of assorted fruit. She felt his gaze and met it swiftly. Dark Claw stifled a gasp. Her eyes were the most shocking blue he had ever encountered. Her pelt was beautiful, speckled black, brown, grey, and silver.

She smiled shyly. Her smile was intoxicating and addictive. He couldn't help but smile in return.

He forced himself to take a step back. "Excuse me," he murmured. She nodded and curtsied, slipping away into the crowd. He shook himself. "That was too close," he whispered, confused as to why he was so entranced.

Sighing, he too slid silently away, not knowing that the beautiful she-dog was his daughter.

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Tennis in full swing at Civic Center

By Danna Webster, KP News

Key Peninsula Civic Center Tennis Advisory Committee members, Rufus Clark, chair, and Herb Marra, secretary, proudly watched a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the new tennis courts on Sunday, Sept. 7. Delegates from USTA Northwest, Peter Kram and Sharon Lisichich, applauded the achievement of the Tennis Advisory committee for taking a \$10,000 USTA grant and turning out a \$30,000 project. "This is the heart of tennis out here," Kram said. "And your committee deserves congratulations for it."

The committee, their volunteers, and KP Metro Parks staff worked 18 months to put up nets on a \$10,000 surface surrounded by an attractive non-industrial fence. At the ceremony, fans of the project made donations to support the purchase of Adirondack-style double benches; bricks for a pathway around a terraced landscape; and the installation of a power pole for lights, the ball machine, and a water fountain.



A ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening was held for the new tennis courts at the Civic Center on Sept. 7. Neighbors and supporters gathered to congratulate the success of the tennis committee.

Photo by
Danna Webster

More than 40 members have picked up keys that allow them access to the courts at their convenience. The courts are occupied daily. Use of the courts will be seasonal and they will be closed during the winter. "We will open (next year) as soon as the weather clears," Marra said. "We'll go as long as we can this year. Closing is a flexible date depending on Mother Nature."

The committee encourages more sponsorship donations that will go towards court improvements. Marra would especially like to have more of the \$300 benches sporting the names of their sponsors.

Information about supporting the tennis courts and arrangements for court keys is available by calling the civic center office at 884-3456.



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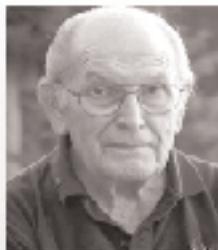
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Puyallup Fair awards first place to Bronstad portrait

By Jerry Libstaff
Special to KP News

One of the Key Peninsula's favorite artists has once again found acclaim for his work. Chris Bronstad received a First Place award at the Puyallup Fair for his family portrait of locals, Chuck, Sharon and Lilly West. The charcoal and pencil representation won in the Drawing Category. "It was a true thrill when the announcement was made," Bronstad said.



The Genuine
ARTicle

Bronstad, a teacher at Key Peninsula Middle School, can't remember when he wasn't involved in art. From early childhood, drawing and art were always a part of his life. As a young adult he earned degrees in biology and geology, both required illustration and helped develop his drawing talent.

He is a completely self taught artist and

elegantly portrays his work in several different media. His portrait work is truly amazing, rivaling photographs with a depth and realism that the camera can't match.

Bronstad grew up in Texas. As a young man he was drawn to art. After college the calling took him to Europe for a year and a half where he studied the masters. In Italy, he focused on da Vinci and was inspired by the realism of the work. He and his wife migrated to the Northwest in 1987, where he worked in the realm of nature, but when he created his first charcoal portrait from a photograph by Edward Curtis a dozen years ago, he was encouraged to focus on portraiture. Bronstad's influences lean to three particular artists: John Singer Sargent, Andrew Wyeth, and Richard Schmid for their styles, subject matter and vision.

Bronstad continues to work with wild life and natural settings and has attained success at several art shows. Among them: Best of Show at the Western Washington



BRONSTAD

Fine Art Show, Puyallup Fair 2003 for "Little Dreamer," a charcoal portrait of his daughter.

First Place and Peoples Choice awards at the Peninsula Art League's 2003 Summer Art Festival for "Anna Old Crow," a charcoal portrait. His oil painting titled "Best Friends," a painting of two golden retrievers playing in the water, won the Peoples choice at the Peninsula Art League's 2004 summer show, and a Silver Medal, Second Place award for a drawing, "Daddy's Girl," at the 2004 Bosque Conservatory Art Classic, Clifton, Texas.

His work has been seen throughout the Northwest, and Texas and has been presented in Cairns, Queensland, Australia, and both Skagway and Ketchikan, Alaska.

Bronstad has taught science and math for 16 years at the middle school level and for the past five years has taught drawing in an after school program. "I teach art to students at Key Peninsula Middle School. It's an extremely important opportunity for me and part of my passion for art. It's a lot of fun too," he said.

This summer, Bronstad spent more time

exploring landscapes, plein air painting, oil portraits and flowers. "I'm getting the feel of working with oils and I love it," he said. "I'll continue drawing, that's my passion, but it's great to experience new things."

He is encouraged by the acceptance of his work through the many awards he has gathered. His work "Downtime" has just been accepted at this year's Bosque Conservatory Art Classic in Texas. For more information about Bronstad's work, see his website at www.chrisbronstad.com.

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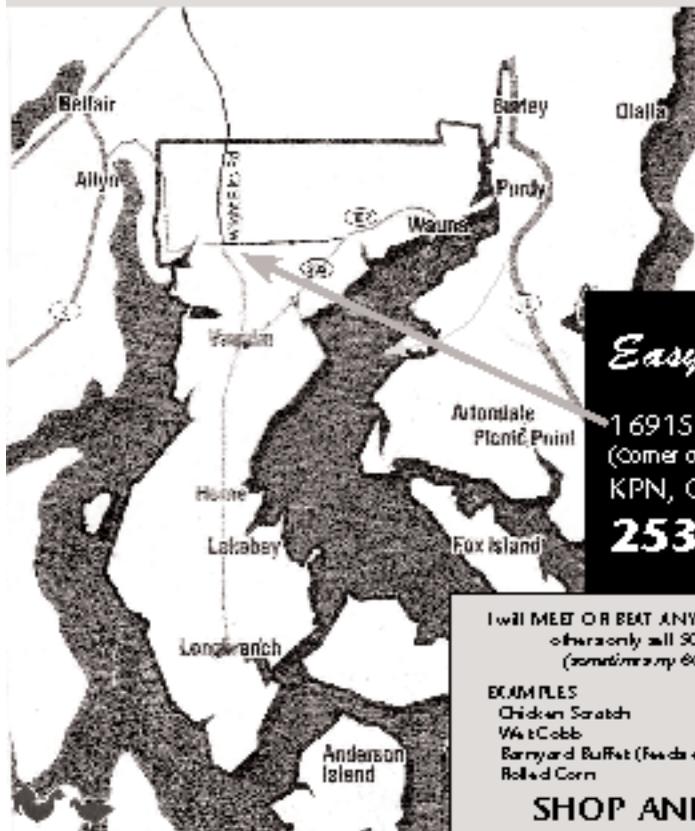


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SHOP AND COMPARE!!

(From TOUR, Page 1)

Farms on the tour:

Bea's Flowers: Dahlias and vegetables. Learn to make dahlia floral arrangements, and how to propagate, grow, and store dahlia tubers. Tour gardens and orchard.

Boll Heritage Farm: Flowers and vegetables. Garden and vineyard tours, hot coffee, fresh breads and pastries for sale. Learn about grapevines, watch chickens and sheep, picnic among climbing beans. The Bolls plan to open for weddings or large parties soon.

Creviston Valley Farm: Live music, the Sherman Family petting zoo, dog herding, natural horsemanship, and riding demonstrations. KP farmers' market vendors offer fresh and smoked salmon, plants, produce including pumpkins, farm fresh eggs, baked goodies and fresh corn on the cob. Make a scarecrow!

Fairview Acres: Lavender, lavender products, homespun yarns. Angora goats, sheep and rabbits. Spinning and lavender wreath demonstrations. Tour greenhouse, gardens, orchard, and gift shop.

Gentle Giant Meadows Ranch: Petting zoo, hay wagon rides, sawmill display, shire draft horses, braiding, harnessing, and

farrier demonstrations. Bluegrass band, and local artist Robin Peterson. Fresh eggs and some fruit available.

Kaukiki Farm: Tour the farm in a horse-drawn cart, see Oxford Down sheep and their guardian dogs. Horse dressage and jumping demonstrations. Fleeces, rovings, and wool bats for sale.

Ludwig Family Farm: Learn about beekeeping, wear a 'bee suit' for a picture, tour the greenhouse and learn about irrigation. Honey, and assorted items made with beeswax and honey, lavender products, tomatoes, and apples for sale.

Morgan Creek Farm: Garden and greenhouse and pumpkin patch tours. Fruit, veggies, and flowers for sale.

Trillium Creek Winery: Tour vineyard and wine cellar, stomp grapes, taste wine and cheese. Buy a bottle or case. Bring picnic lunch if you like.

Special events on the tour:

KP Restaurants: Homeport offers a country breakfast; O'Callahan's Pub and Grill serves three choices of oysters or a combo plate; The Beach Hut's burgers include oyster, cod, and salmon; On The Way Deli dishes up pumpkin soup, pumpkin ice cream, and



Photo by Danna Webster

The Boll Heritage Farm will be one of the nine farms on tour for HarvestFEST, Oct. 4.

pumpkin spice bars.

Longbranch Improvement Club showcases a Fiber Arts show, with demonstrations of spinning, dying, and other creative crafts. Outside, Fred Leenstra displays antique farm equipment.

KP Community Services offers soup and bread, tour of the food bank, and shopping for various items from KP farmers market artisans.

Realtors Liz Gefre and Cinda Baldwin are making up gift baskets and raffle tickets will be available at any of the tour stops.

Draw a chicken at Beverly Pedersen's Art

Barn where several local artists have displays.

KP Historical Society Museum will be open until 6 p.m. with a display of kitchen items of a hundred years ago, and some farm implements.

Key Peninsula Civic Center hosts Dr. Roes' Down Home Band serenading on the front porch at 5 p.m. The Cornucopia Dinner and Dance begins at 6 p.m., with tickets available at the door, \$35 per person. Must be 21. Dinner is served from 6 - 8 p.m., featuring fresh farm foods from the Key Peninsula, and a cash bar for wine, beer, spirits, and soda.

Little Bill and the Blue Notes play from 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. The gift basket raffle winners will be announced at this time.

The Farm Tour Board, the Mustard Seed Project and the KP Civic Center will all have displays on exhibit in the Whitmore room. Proceeds from the dinner/dance will benefit all three organizations. Tickets can be purchased in advance from any of the three participating organizations, at Sunnycrest Nursery, or by calling 884-1205.

"This is a casual dress dance," says Morgan. "We want the community to come and 'Have a Ball!' after the KP Farm Tour." More information is available online at www.HarvestFEST2008.org.

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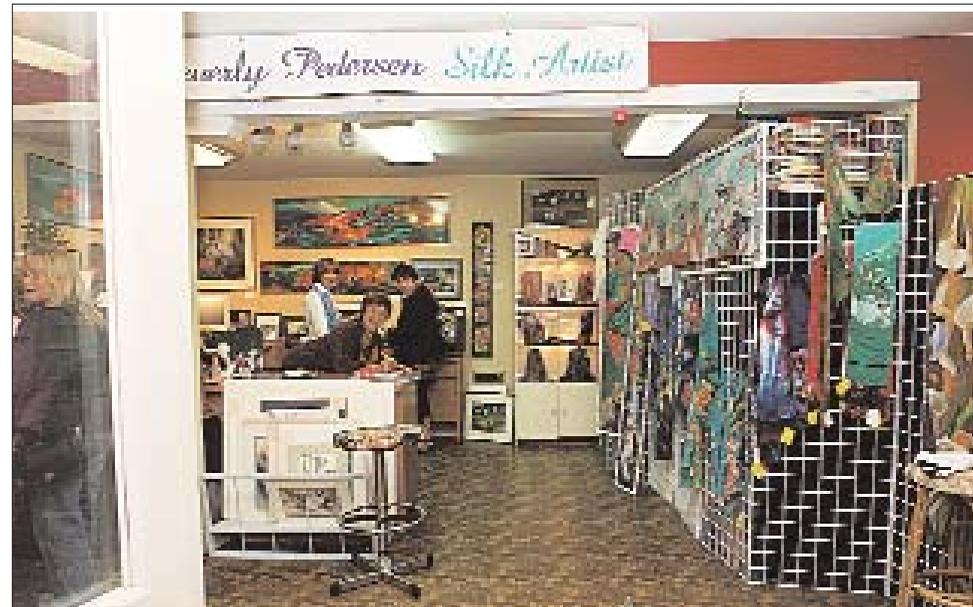
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Art studios hold open house on the Key Peninsula



Photos by Karina Whitmarsh:

Two Key Peninsula studios presented shows for the 2008 Open Studio Art Tour, on Sept. 20 and 21. Above, In Home, jewelry artist Jan Buday exhibited her glass bead techniques. Multi-media artists joined Beverly Pedersen at the Art Barn in Key Center to exhibit silk, watercolor, and jewelry creations.

An Important Message From The Case Inlet Shoreline Association:

Salmon or Geoduck. You choose! Geoduck PVC feedlots and Industrial Aquaculture practices are threatening juvenile salmon habitat and species diversity in intertidal zones. So far at least 330 acres of nearshore juvenile salmon feeding grounds and forage fish habitat have been impacted in the South Sound. The shellfish industry refuses to address or acknowledge the feedlot effect on forage fish that support our wild salmon. Even unique pocket estuaries with critical habitat are targeted for these feedlots.



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(From PARK, Page 1)

become a way of bringing the community closer together. "It's nice this is here, and maybe I'll meet other moms. That's what I'm hoping," she said. With two play areas, one for 2 to 5-year-olds, and the other for 6 to 12-year-olds, the park is sure to draw a variety of families with children.

Because the park is open all year, Miranda Martin said she plans to bring her four children to play on dry days. "We're in walking distance of it, and it will get them away from TV and video games," Martin said.

The equipment was chosen after a playground committee researched the options and came up with a plan, said Elmer Anderson, president of the parks board. "They helped with the design and layout, and chose the equipment," Anderson said. "They wanted to make sure the colors were earth tones, and we didn't want anything really bright for this location." Bark chips cover the play area, and the slides and other equipment are earth tone colors that blend with the trees and nature surrounding the park. "Many people helped to build this park shelter," Anderson said. "Some stopped by spontaneously to help."

One piece of play equipment, the fire truck, is red with yellow trim, and it can bounce and move, as the children play in and on it. Complete with a Fire District 16 logo on the side, the truck was a gift from the Zech and Adi West Memorial Foundation. Zech West, son of current Fire District 16 Chief Chuck West, was a newlywed when he and his wife were killed in a car accident in 2004. "He was an avid skateboarder, and he grew up in the area and was always seeking recreational activities," West said. "After he died, we put together the foundation, initially to build a skate park." The foundation, according to West, provided part of the funding for the skate park at Volunteer Park in Lakebay. Now that the skate park is finished, West said the foundation will continue to support other recreation projects.

"We felt we needed to continue to keep the Home Park idea moving along, so we purchased the fire truck early on in the planning process," West said. The work was completed through volunteer efforts. There is still some work to be completed. Grass needs to be planted, the remaining fence will be installed, and some barbeque grills will be added as well.

"This is the first of many opportunities for Key Peninsula Parks," Anderson said.



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Are you prepared for winter?

It seems like summer is still in full swing, but the school is back in session. How could that be? Is winter approaching? Cold winds, power outages? It just can't be.

It is, and this means we need to prepare for winter. And we need to start now.

Are you ready to camp in your house if the power goes out, again. I say again because it will happen, it does almost every winter. As anyone knows that has lived here on either peninsula for any length of time, you

must be prepared to 'camp' at home for up to a week each time. As a kid I remember going three weeks, several times. Within the last ten years we have had two episodes of being without power for more than a week at my house.

I call it 'camping' because I use my camping supplies for most of my needs. We keep extra canned foods on hand and we cook outside on the BBQ. There's nothing quite like a BBQ in the snow. Never use your BBQ or gas heaters inside the home. They deplete the oxygen and

give off carbon monoxide.

Restroom facilities are a bit tricky if you're not on a working water system. If you can capture water in bucket, you can pour it into the tank reservoir on your toilet and continue to use your septic system. If not a 'camping' technique is to use a five gallon bucket with a lid. Not pretty but it gets the job done in sanitary manner.

If you have children you may already be prepared for those idle moments. We keep a back pack full of games, books and projects. Otherwise they get restless.

Also try to keep a stock of special needs items like diapers, batteries and medications. This disaster kit will aid you in other situations like earthquakes so keep it ready year round.

Calendar of Events

- ▶ Safe Sitter - Oct. 11 & 12; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- ▶ Burns the Boot - Oct. 4

Burn Regulation Update

As of September 5th the summer burn ban has been lifted on residential burning. Fires are limited to residential burning which is natural vegetation derived from the parcel and is limited to (4) four foot in diameter. A larger (10) ten foot pile is OK with a permit purchased through the Key Center headquarter fire station.

All large land clearing fires are banned indefinitely by the Puget Sound Air Quality Control Agency. New regulations are coming and should be approved at Puget Sound Air's next meeting on October. So stay tuned. For now, be safe and remember it's just natural vegetation.

Contact information

Firefighter Association - Molly: 884-6368

Fire Chief - Tom Lique: tlique@pierrefire.org
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Fire Commissioners - Chairman Jim Bosch:
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Personnel Manager - Christina Bosch:
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Chuck West: cwest@pierrefire.org

Volunteer Membership - Chuck West:
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Training and Medical Services Division Chief -
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gallen@pierrefire.org

Use of Facilities - Vanessa Wells:
vwells@pierrefire.org

Phone contact for all others:

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Russell Hurd

Russell is our facilities maintenance guy, when something breaks around the stations he is there with tool in hand. He has an infectious smile that he carries everywhere he goes. I heard him referred to as 'Mr. Wizard' because of his uncanny ability to get anything fixed.



SPARKY SAYS:

"Prevent burns, use caution in the kitchen."



OBITUARIES

Jon Harmon Van Slyke

Born 5/24/65. Jon found his peace on 8/25/08. His proud legacy is his two children Alexandra Van Slyke (19) and Justin Van Slyke (20). He loved his wife Rene very deeply. He also leaves behind his sister Kimberly Van Slyke, half-sister Andrea Pope, mother Charlotte (Gus) Berry, step-dad Mark, father Tom Van Slyke, step-mom Ursula, step-sister Carlis Berry, step-brother Matthew Berry, grandmothers Martha Jolley and Jane Van Slyke, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Jon was an avid fisherman and loved fishing with his father. We all have tuna in our cupboards he canned himself. He had an amazing sense of humor and played many a practical joke on anyone close enough to be the victim. He was the main support system for Ali and Justin during their motocross years bringing in many trophies



VAN SLYKE

lining the walls of their homes. Jon was a father, son and friend who loved deeply, worked diligently, and gave to the best of his ability. A celebration of his life was held Saturday, Sept. 6. at Chapel Hill Church in Gig Harbor. Remembrance may be made to Chapel Hill Grief Counseling or a charity of choice. Ali and Justin would like to thank all of their friends that came from near and far to be there for them during their grief for the father they loved so dearly. Thank you to Chapel Hill, Pastor Mark, Chapel Hill family, and all family and friends that loved, prayed, supported and brought an endless supply of food.

Robert Vernon (Bob) Lind

Robert Vernon (Bob) Lind passed away peacefully at home on September 21 after an illness with cancer. Bob was born in Bellingham, WA on Sept 12, 1924 to Ivan and Velma Lind. They moved to Tacoma when he was five and his father died that year. His mother became a nurse and later married Harry Jackson, a local portrait photographer. Bob graduated from Stadium High School and was inducted into the army. He served as a medic in England and in the Battle of the Bulge where he was injured. He came home on

crutches and entered the University of Puget Sound — studying philosophy, religion and the Humanities — trying to figure out why men do terrible things to each other. He graduated with a teaching degree and went to work for the Peninsula School District. He taught fifth grade at Evergreen Elementary and became a school bus driver for special needs students.

Bob's life was devoted to philosophy and music. He was a drummer for dance bands in high school, the army, Fitzsimmons Veterans' Hospital, and when he returned to Tacoma he was the drummer for several years with Louie Greiner's Dance Band at the Top of the Ocean Restaurant. He continued to drum with bands throughout the Tacoma area until the 1980s.

Bob was a member of the NW Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge since the chapter was formed. He contributed greatly to several park projects on the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas and had been a supporter of the Great Peninsula Conservancy since putting his property under its stewardship.

Bob loved nature, especially the mountains. His war injuries limited him but he was an avid mountain hiker. He

also loved the water, beaches, boating, and the Lind family's 80 acres on the Key Peninsula in Home.

Bob's family includes Nancy, his wife of 57 years, and his three sons Aaron (Pam Hayward) Lind of Renton, David Lind of Home, and Rob Lind of Seattle.

To celebrate Bob's life, donations may be made to the Great Peninsula Conservancy, 3721 Kitsap Way, Suite 106, Bremerton, WA, 98312. Call 1-866-373-3504, www.greatpeninsula.org. No public service has been planned at this time.

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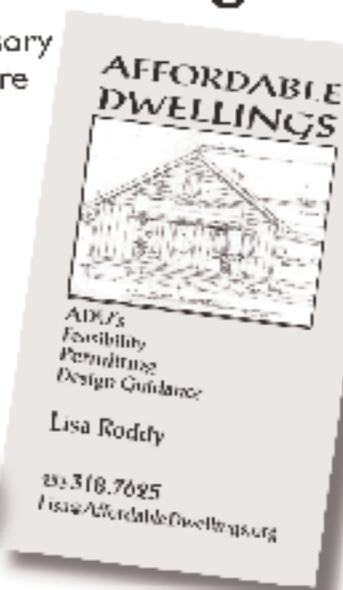
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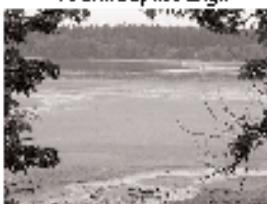
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Photo by Hugh McMillan

KPFD Babysitting class. Under the guidance of volunteer firefighter/EMT Claudia Jones, KPMS student Olivia Bowmer calls 9-1-1, describes the emergency situation with which she is allegedly dealing, and seeks help as part of her cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training with the Key Peninsula Fire Department's Safe Sitter® program.

A farewell cake was created for Rodika Tollefson by staff writer Sharon Hicks. The KP News staff held a goodbye party for Tollefson as she stepped down from her position as executive editor.

Photo by Danna Webster



The KPFD held an Open House on Saturday, Sept. 27. Gathered around the KP Fire Department mascot, Sparky, are Caleb Treja, Matt Nesbit, Tony Woo, Lilly West and Danae Treja after the kids had enjoyed a free pancake breakfast served up by Chief Tom Lique.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



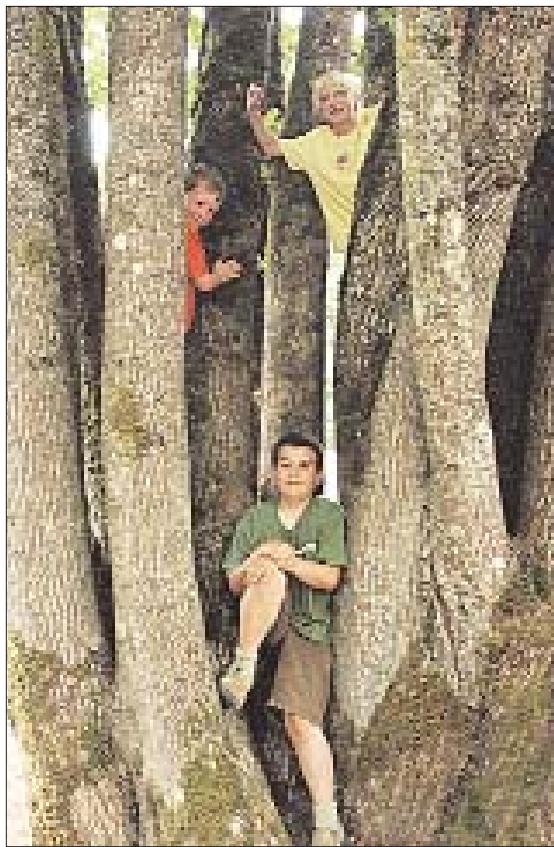
Photo by Hugh McMillan

Candidates visit KPBusiness Association lunch Sept. 19. I-r: Larry Seaquist (LD 26), Jan Shabro (assessor/treasurer), Marlyn Jensen (LD 26), Beverly Davidson (assessor/treasurer), Barbara Gelman (assessor/treasurer), Terry Lee (assessor/treasurer), Kim Abel (LD 26)



September 28 was the closing day of the Farmers' Market in Key Center. Lavender plants, flowers, and fresh local produce will return next summer.

Photo by Holly Hendrick



Enjoying a geocaching outing on the KP are Kelson Mills, a Key Peninsula Middle School 7th grader, and Mackenzie Mills, a 5th grade Vaughn Elementary student. They are high up in a Home Park tree with their cousin Gabrielle Mills from Alexandria, VA. Geocaching is a growing worldwide sport using hand-held global positioning system (GPS) units to find hidden objects.

Photo by Hugh McMillan