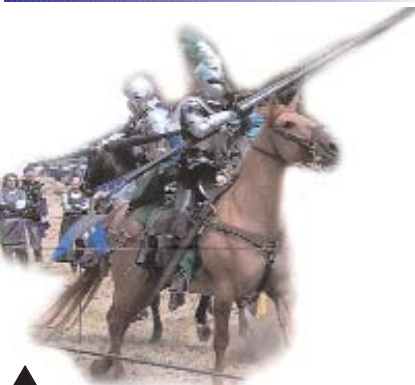


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KP abuzz with excitement for the *Key Peninsula Community Fair*

By Paula Moore
KP News

"Take me out to the Key Peninsula Community Fair.

Buy me some candy and Crackerjacks.
Watch the chainsaw carvers give
That log its whacks!"

People can sing this ditty the weekend of Aug. 19 through the 21 as they celebrate the annual Key Peninsula Community Fair. One of the main attractions each day will be a chainsaw carvers' demonstration. Watch the chips fly as the chainsaw buzzes through the log, when suddenly a smiling face of a bear appears.

You may even hear something like, "Be careful now; if you slip, you might cut off an ear. Wow, there's another leg. Now the bear is complete!"

Each afternoon, George Kenny, owner of Northwest Experience in Allyn and Snoqualmie, will auction off all the artwork created that day. He was the winner of the Oregon State Chainsaw



Carving Championships in 2002, after which he decided to open the George Kenny School of Chainsaw Carving. Some of Kenny's students will be carving at the fair.

Friday, Aug. 19, the fair will open with the National Anthem sung by Whitney Moore, and the colors will be presented by Cub Scout Pack 222. For the family, there will be a petting zoo for the kids and rides

The carnival, the highlight of the fair, is planned to be bigger this year, organizers said.

File photos



by the Great American Carnival, a new company at the fair. Even better is the fact that there is a lower price this year for the presale pass. It was \$15 and now it's \$12. To

(See **FAIR**, Page 20)

Building an 'All-Star' event

By Irene Torres
KP News

Home resident Dan Wilson is a builder at heart. He built custom log homes on the Key Peninsula for 15 years. He started restoring used guitars and soon found his barn filled with them. On that inventory, he built his business, All-Star Guitar, in Gig Harbor, with a workspace and showroom featuring six-string electric and bass guitars, mandolins, banjos, and violins. It carries amplifiers and accessories, everything from A to Z, autoharps to zithers.

Using wood from his KP farm's curly maple trees, Wilson builds his own custom line, "Flying W" guitars,

(See **WILSON**, Page 27)



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Dan Wilson, at his Gig Harbor All-Star Guitar shop, holding a "Flying W" guitar that he built.

A KP fish story

By William C. Dietz
KP News

For the moment the herring pens in Mayo Cove remain in operation, but based on comments by Pierce County officials, that part of Lakebay Marina owner Derwin Hostetler's business may be shut down within a matter of weeks. According to their research, it appears that Hostetler never had the proper permits to begin with.

If so, some of the bay's other residents will be pleased.

"My wife and I moved into the area in

(See **HERRING**, Page 28)

Culvert replacement to improve passage

By Danna Webster
KP news

Key Pen drivers may have noticed detours at the end of July for 118th Avenue. The detours were needed for a Minter Creek culvert restoration project spearheaded by South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG). The group is replacing culverts that block fish migration.

“My organization saw Minter Creek as a high priority,” says Jason Lundgren, project manager for SPSSEG. He lists the many partners involved with the project, including counties, tribes, the Pierce Conservation District, the state Department of Ecology; U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the National Fish Wildlife Foundation, and private landowners.

“The more people involved — the more complex the project,” says Lundgren.

According to Lundgren, the goal is to increase access to salmon spawning and rearing habitat for four native salmonid species by replacing the five worst fish passage structures along Minter Creek, Hugh Creek, and Little Minter Creek. The restoration project is not affiliated with the Minter Creek Hatchery but it was the hatchery’s scientific studies that established the importance of the Minter Creek salmon stream.

The need for the restoration was established by a culvert inventory done by the Pierce Conservation District completed in 2000. Restoration projects are awarded as a result of a highly competitive process among 40 Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs). Each WRIA has its own citizens and technical group who compete for funding. The funding comes from state and federal government departments of Fish and Wildlife.



Photos courtesy of SPSSEG

Above: The first of five Minter Creek restoration projects, done on private property, in progress.

Right: Lance Winecka, project manager for SPSSEG, holds a crawdad.



In addition to the complexity of many partners, the project is further challenged because it is now in the final year of a three-year implementation requirement. One of the culverts was finished on private land in 2002, and since then there have been lots of reviews and design changes, and the cost of steel and fuel has played havoc. SPSSEG hopes to complete four of the five projects for Minter Creek but, according to Lundgren, they will probably hand the fifth one over to the counties.

The culvert replacement started at the intersection of State Route 302 and 118th Avenue on July 25 and will move north along 118th Avenue. It is the second of the five projects. SPSSEG expects to finish the work in three weeks but Lundgren warned that the “sites get

looking pretty messy.” It becomes a big construction site with heavy machinery used to pull the old culverts, making it necessary to block off the creek and route it around the project. The first phase of each project involves “gathering fish and critters...to move them downstream,” says Lundgren. “It’s usually pretty exciting moving fish from streams.”

After work completion, native plants and trees will be planted at the sites and volunteers are needed to assist in restoring the work areas. Interested volunteers may contact Jason Lundgren at 360-412-0808.

News briefs

Building delisting decision postponed

During the May meeting, the Pierce County Landmarks Commission postponed the final decision on whether to delist the historic Wauna post office building from its register due to lack of quorum. Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department, which owns the building, requested the delisting so it could demolish the building.

Due to a number of vacancies on the commission, it will not meet until September, and the final decision on the proposal will likely be made at that time, according to Airyang Julia Park, county historic preservation officer.

If the commission approves the delisting, the request will be forwarded to the Pierce County Council, which makes the final decision. The parks department will need a demolition permit through the county’s Planning and Land Services Department.

Gig Harbor hospital proposal hits a snag

A traffic study by the city of Gig Harbor released recently showed that current and proposed projects in Gig Harbor North, including a Costco and YMCA but excluding the proposed St. Anthony’s hospital, bring significant congestion and require significant infrastructure improvements. The city said it will require further traffic studies. Officials with Franciscan Health System, which is planning to build the hospital in Gig Harbor North, said the decision will delay the opening of the facility by one or two years. The original planned opening was for 2008.

At press time, Franciscan officials were planning to meet with city staff to discuss the issue further.

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Community Council adopts resolutions

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

The Key Peninsula Community Council (KPC) voted on several resolutions at its July meeting. One vote was to endorse and support the nationally recognized Promise to Youth program which seeks to expand the number of assets in young people's lives. Council President Jeff Harris said, "This approach has been exceedingly effective in reducing the incidence of inappropriate behavior among young people nationwide."

The directors also voted to endorse and support creation of a KP Youth Council. Under the guidance of KPC Director Barbara Trotter, a group of young people from the Key Peninsula Middle School and Peninsula High School have been meeting to create this Youth Council.

Another resolution passed was for sponsoring and facilitating public meetings on logging, blighted property and critical areas ordinance. Harris noted, "The purpose of these forums is to present factual information in order to dispel incorrect information and to determine what, if anything, the community wants the

council to do regarding these issues."

The KPC adopted a motion to establish an Elections Committee and adopted Sept. 17 as the date of the second Community Council election. Elections Committee Chair Arlene Williams indicated that the deadline to submit applications to run for any of the seven open positions is Aug. 2. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older and residents of or own property on the Key Peninsula. Council members are expected to attend council meetings and be involved in the work of at least one committee.

Harris indicated that "as the council gains experience, its ability to have a positive impact on issues the community views as important will grow."

The Key Peninsula Community Council is a nonpartisan, nonpolitical organization with four districts on the Key Peninsula and 14 directors. This fall the council will hold its first meeting for any interested residents or property owners on the Key Peninsula and will share its draft strategic plan. For information, call 884-0557 or 884-4697.

Hugh McMillan is a KP Community Council director whose term expires this year.

Sunshine and salmon on Allyn Day

Story and photos by Danna Webster

The sun came out to greet the festivities at Allyn Day. This was the 23rd year for the Allyn Day Salmon Bake and Festival. Kids enjoyed activities like hat making, games, rides, and snow cones. Adults visited vendor booths in the Waterfront Park and the art show inside the Port of Allyn building.

Once again the beer garden presented several local breweries and the alder-smoked Salmon Dinner, complete with oven-baked beans, cole slaw, corn-on-the-cob and historic Indian fry bread, was the highlight of the day for many people.

Musicians and entertainers performed under the gazebo and included a kazoo band, Country Cloggers and excellent bands with tunes from the '30s, '40s as well as ethnic and modern music. A favorite band was the Windjammers, a North Mason community band that played a wide variety of popular songs; but the kazoo Buzz Band claims it may be the only performing organization of its kind.

In the photo, Kelsie Betz is modeling one of the finer bonnets made at the Allyn Day Festival. Kelsie will be a sixth grader in Puyallup this year. She was visiting her grandmother, who lives in Lakeland.



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Editorial

Meth won't go away by being ignored

In the relatively tranquil setting of our Key Peninsula, where many people live to escape from city noise and pressures, it may be uncomfortable for some people to talk about things like methamphetamine. Yet it is an incredibly sad part of our community, and the Key Peninsula Crime Task Force deserves credit for bringing the issue to the forefront.

This group has barely been around for a year, but it has already accomplished a great deal, and it keeps adding new ideas to its list. Through the work of 13-year resident Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets, the task force has come up with step after step in the battle against meth. What's especially incredible is that this group has not only the commitment of many local residents, but also the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, and various county and state agencies.

If you take a look at the names of the local residents on this committee, many will sound familiar. These are people already involved in many other groups, volunteering their time for yet another good initiative. Some work full-time jobs and have families. Others are retired, but choose to spend their time working for the community.

One of the group's biggest accomplishments is the attempt to dispel many myths about meth, and educate anyone willing to learn about the human faces behind the addiction, and its ravaging impact on families, neighborhoods, and society in general.

Other local organizations, including Citizens' Patrol and Citizens Against Crime, have been fighting the meth battle as well. For all those groups working behind the scenes, there have already been many victories. Their war is far from over, but they won the biggest battle: Recognizing that this scourge will not go away by itself, and recruiting the community to help.

Letters to the Editor

Young resident takes initiative for cleanup

Today, July 5, my mom and I drove on the Purdy Spit and I was disgusted because of how dirty it was. Some people lit their fireworks and left the garbage on

A slice of life Adventures in skydiving

By Helen Macumber
Special to KP News

I recently decided to literally jump into my 62nd birthday, feet first, in a big way — by following a longtime dream of skydiving. And what an experience it was: everything I thought it would be and more.

A big crowd came to see me off. My husband, Bill, my mom, sister, three children, granddaughters and my first great grandbaby, my best friends of 35 years with their families — and my precious day care families. We were told we were the largest group Blue Skies Skydiving has had for one jump. It would not have been the same without them, believe me.

It was so special to have my son, Steve, on my flight and see him bail out, then to have him there on the ground to greet me when I landed.

The jump was amazing! We jumped in tandem from 2 miles up. The force of the air when you bail out was really something — didn't have to worry about your cheeks sagging any more. But the most incredible thing was the complete peace and quiet after our chute deployed. Rick, my jump partner, told me to take off my goggles and he proceeded to point out the islands, the mountains, cities and sights. It felt like we were standing still! It was breathtaking.

I guess we did stay up a little longer than the others, which gave the camera man time to land and be in position to film my landing. The peace stopped as we neared the drop zone, as I heard all the friends and family yelling and cheering. I felt like the astronaut Sally Ride as I walked off the field in our blue jumpsuits. Then down the hill came my daycare kids and grandkids running to greet me. Wow!

the beach. If you were to walk on the beach, no matter where you walked, you'd step on fireworks.

I think if you were old enough to buy or light fireworks, you should be responsible enough to clean them up. Tomorrow, me and my mom are going to the spit to clean it up.

Julia Kerkes, 10
Lakebay



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

Helen Macumber get hugs from friends and family after her birthday jump. Right, Macumber lands safely after a prolonged jump in tandem.

I couldn't have asked for a better birthday. I plan on jumping next summer again, when my son Scott and grandson Kyle can jump too.

I can now say I was 2 miles closer to heaven! It was unbelievable. I've decided I'm going to be dyslexic from now on, and instead of being 62, I'll be 26!

Helen Macumber lives in Horseshoe Lake Estates. She invites anyone interested to watch the DVD from her adventure to see what it was like — or anyone who'd like to join her next year — to call her at 858-3460.



Slice of life stories wanted!

Do you have a "slice of life" story to tell? Send it to us at Key Pen News, PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394, or email to news@keypennews.com. Please include a contact phone number. We'd like to publish more slice of life stories from readers in upcoming months, showing life on the Key Pen.

Editor's note:

We followed up with the Kerkes family to see how the cleanup went. Julia's mom, Dawn, said the two ladies went to the spit twice and spent about six hours total cleaning up. The mother-daughter team picked up 45 bags of garbage! On behalf of everyone who enjoys playing at the spit, we thank Julia and Dawn Kerkes for making the park look nice!

Letters to the editor

The Key Peninsula News welcomes letters to the editor that pertain to Key Peninsula issues and news. The deadline is the 17th of each month. Send submissions to news@keypennews.com or mail to PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394. Please include your town and phone number for verification.

Crime task force marks one year with new projects

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

A year ago in August, a group of local community leaders and volunteers were summoned by Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets to open a dialogue on what can be done to decrease crime on the Key Peninsula. Including representatives from the Citizens Against Crime, Citizens' Patrol, I.M.Pact domestic violence project, community council, neighborhood associations as well as various agencies, the group started meeting regularly to brainstorm problems and solutions.

"I never left a meeting without feeling so encouraged. The people were so inspiring and worked well together. It's a great group," said Miriam Goad, who is active with Citizens Patrol and other groups, and represented Palmer Lake on the committee. She recently turned the job over to another Palmer Lake association member, but said she would continue her interest.

"I feel the task force is just getting going," she said. Nonetheless, the results of the work have already been visible. A

methamphetamine education forum and the creation of Teens Empowered Against Meth, or TEAM, at Peninsula High School (see related story on page 6) were just some of the group's first-year accomplishments.

The focus has been largely on fighting meth so far because of the broad reach of meth-related crimes. Meth is extremely addictive, is very easy to make, and is prevalent on the Key Peninsula.

"The biggest accomplishment is bringing the meth awareness to the group. People don't understand that if you do it once, you're addicted, then it eats you up," said task force member and CAC President Pat Latshaw. "Bringing the awareness of meth to as many people as possible and its capabilities...and empowering the people to understand it's not a fly-by-night drug, and that we need to eliminate it" is the biggest task, she said. Latshaw noted that it was a big boost to get Lt. Larry Bower on board, who took the helm of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Peninsula Detachment within the last year.

As the group marks its first-year milestone, the work continues. The next step for the educational component is organizing a follow-up to the meth forum, Taylor said. "I would envision us having a three-hour session with half of it (focused) on education and the other a brainstorming session," he said.

The forum would be semi-invitational, giving an opportunity to representatives from various interest groups and agencies to be involved. The goal for the forum would be to discuss the idea of a "community cares" center, a safe place where drug addicts can find support with drug treatment and other issues.

"The primary focus is engaging people who are addicted to drugs," Taylor said. "Seldom people seek treatment voluntarily." Taylor has pitched the idea of having such a center at the KP Community Services. As part of the project, Taylor would help KPCS find funds, volunteer labor and donated supplies to complete its much-needed renovation.

"I think as time progresses, the group will look at other problems on the Key," Latshaw said.

News briefs

Traffic camera added to SR-16 Purdy exit

The Washington State Department of Transportation has extended its real-time State Route 16 traffic images as far west as State Route 302 (Purdy). Images are now available for viewing at www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/gigharbor. These traffic images are downloaded to the WSDOT Website every 90 seconds, and provide expanded SR-16 traffic information every hour of every day.

The expanded traffic images are the result of WSDOT's decision to help keep traffic moving through the Tacoma Narrows Bridge construction zone by installing five additional traffic cameras to the agency's extensive traffic monitoring systems and Website, according to officials. In addition to being used by Web-savvy motorists, they allow WSDOT to monitor SR 16 traffic conditions on a continual basis.

The traffic cameras were installed in conjunction with five ramp meters that will be activated later this summer on the five eastbound on-ramps between Purdy and the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.



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Teens get empowered to fight meth

By Christina Moore
KP News

Members of the Key Peninsula Crime Prevention Task Force gathered together on Jan. 10 and formulated the idea for a Peninsula High School club called Teens Empowered Against Meth. TEAM was created on the basis of three goals, but the purpose of this club is to spread awareness on the dangers of meth use and production to both community members and students along the Peninsula.

Two of the group's current goals were planned to be put into action by the end of June. One of them is a petition campaign to lobby pharmaceutical companies into making all their products pseudophedrine-free, because this is one of the necessary ingredients of methamphetamine. The second goal is the lobbying of local smoke shops to stop selling drug paraphernalia. They are assisting the PHS organization TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use) with this particular goal.

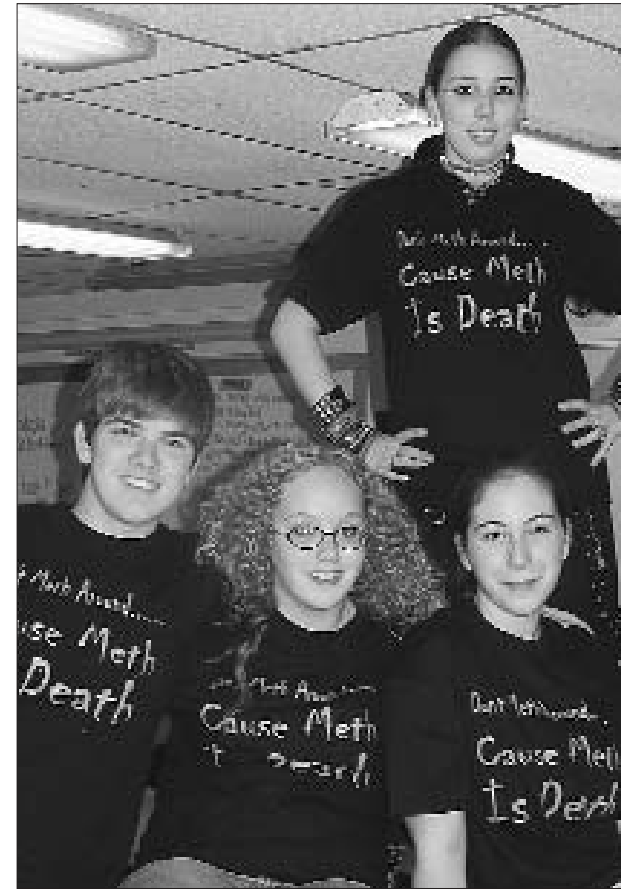
Sometime in September, TEAM will give a presentation to middle and high school students about the dangers of meth. The students are currently learning the material in the presentation, which includes hazards, ingredients, statistics, and details on what a meth house looks like.

The group consists of five PHS students who are

For information about TEAM or fighting meth, contact TEAM adviser Dennis Taylor with Safe Streets at 884-7899. The members of TEAM will have a booth at the Key Peninsula Community Fair on Aug. 19-21. They will be lobbying pharmaceutical companies into manufacturing their cold and allergy medicines without pseudophedrine, the key ingredient to making meth.

determined to spread awareness of meth, whether they have had personal accounts with it, or just because they are against it. Aaron Love, the president of TEAM, wants to save people from the experiences that he went through and hopes they will take something away from the upcoming events.

It may seem that only five members will not accomplish any expectation to an acceptable degree. On the contrary, Ashley Chambers, vice president of TEAM, believes that since teen-agers are presenting instead of adults, students will be able to relate more to the material, making a much more impressionable mark than anything a teacher could say. And besides, "The more people there are, the more ideas, but the less people there are, the less conflict," says Love. As long as everyone does their part and practices, he believes that everything will be successful because "it all depends on how they view it."



Aaron Love, Cassie Webb, Marki Dinsmore and Char Jantz (standing) are members of Teens Empowered Against Meth (TEAM) at Peninsula High School.

Photo by
Mindi LaRose

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Making the community more livable It's all in a day's work for Dennis Taylor

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The Key Peninsula has seen a series of efforts in the past couple of years to fight crime and improve the quality of life. Some work is done largely behind the scenes, other, such as the KP Community Council, takes a community effort. But first, they all start with a vision and an idea — and in many cases, those are born in the office of Dennis Taylor, Safe Streets community mobilization specialist.

"The things he's done in the community are amazing. My respect for him has grown all the time," said Miriam Goad, member of the Citizens' Patrol and other groups.

Safe Streets is a private, nonprofit organization that is based in Tacoma. The Safe Streets Campaign originally was created in 1989 by an interlocal agreement by several agencies and was administered through Pierce County. Several years later it was incorporated as an independent nonprofit. According to the organization's Website, it has a total of five community mobilization specialists among other staff. The group's efforts have resulted, among other things, in the closure of more than "800 drug dealing locations in neighborhoods and reduction in crime in organized neighborhoods by a minimum of 30 percent and often up to 65 percent."

Taylor has been part of Safe Streets for about three years, after being a social worker for the Children's Home

"I'm always looking for an opportunity to find a way to solve the problem."

-Dennis Taylor

Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center. While at CHS, he was the one who introduced the idea of a local arts organization, and became involved in the early stages of creating the Two Waters Arts Alliance.

Safe Streets' focus is on neighborhood watch, truancy and community mobilization. In the rural setting of the Key Pen, Taylor has a wide range of options for what approaches he can take, and he has focused his time largely on community mobilization. Building on his previous work as program director for Sustainable Pierce County, he has introduced the concept of livable community to his current work. He's said on numerous occasions that safety is the foundation for a livable community. Within that framework, he has tackled everything from methamphetamine and crime hot spots to junk cars and blighted properties.

One of the more visible aspects of the Safe Streets work on the Key Pen are the annual Livable Community Fair and the KP Community Council. Taylor played, and still has, key roles in both.

The Livable Community Fair was an outgrowth of a nonprofit event organized by the Civic Center in 2002. "I saw ... an opportunity to promote it in a different way. I saw it as a potential to create an event



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Dennis Taylor in his Safe Streets office, located in Key Center.

to celebrate the Key Peninsula," he said.

The fair's success has grown every year, and in the last two years it became a fundraiser for the KP Civic Center as well. For the local organizations and various agencies, it's a time to connect with the residents and showcase their work and services; for the residents, it's an excellent way to find out what is going on around the KP. To see "how many organizations on the Key Peninsula are involved" and to celebrate that "is astonishing," said Jeff Harris, president of the KP Community Council.

Taylor, a 13-year KP resident, was the force behind the KPC as well. He brought the idea of a community council to the KP Business Association, and later provided administrative support for the organizing group and the elected council.

"Nothing ever happened until he said, 'OK, Safe Streets has authorized me to

spend time on this,'" Harris said. "Without Dennis and his ability to convince Safe Streets (it was a good project), it would have been all volunteers. The legwork and the coordination he provided was instrumental."

The underlying issues for Taylor and his mission, however, goes back to crime and methamphetamine. Taylor created a safety task force (see separate story, page 5) that includes a wide range of stakeholders, to find ways of fighting crime and especially meth.

"There is a human tragedy behind meth addiction," Taylor said. "You have to show the ugly side of meth, but on the flip side...if we can get the public to understand these are normal people who had a life just like you, then they (the public) are more willing to get involved."

The catalyst for the Safe Streets' local success has been perhaps building awareness of issues such as meth. Anyone who needs help, has questions, or is looking for resources on all sorts of crime and other topics often start with a call to Taylor's office. "Clearly, he's done a huge effort locally," said Harris, who pointed out the blighted properties struggles as an important piece. "Once you start letting the neighborhood go, people get the attitude of 'who cares for the community.' He deserves a great deal of credit for addressing that issue."

Following the same thought pattern, Taylor is currently spearheading efforts to get bong, pipes that can be used for drugs, out of local smoke shops. "Having those products on the shelf shows a community that's tolerant," Taylor said.

Taylor recognizes that a solution to the meth problem may be decades ago, and some of it has to be addressed beyond the local level. As long as work remains in his own community, however, he continues to look for new solutions.

"I'm always looking for an opportunity to find a way to solve the problem," he said. "It's one of the reasons I like the job."



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Building a safe neighborhood

Residents take action to make their community a better place

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

A family looking for a place to live may find a nice neighborhood tucked away from the main traffic, with a private lake, community celebrations, beautiful scenery that includes bald eagles, ducks and the occasional bear, and friendly neighbors walking their dogs or delivering the latest neighborhood newsletter.

"It's so peaceful and beautiful," one resident says.

This neighborhood is Palmer Lake, and those who haven't visited there lately may be surprised at such a statement.

"Palmer Lake had a reputation as the place to buy drugs," says Vicki Edwards. But her family heard talk that the area had been cleaned up. "When we drove down here, we saw the big change," she says. As they looked to downsize from



The basketball half-court is one of many visual improvements that have been made recently at Palmer Lake.

Photo by
Mindi LaRose

their Gig Harbor home, the Edwards family found Palmer Lake as a great place to settle more than four years ago.

"For people who have not been here... the changes are like...wow," says Ted Lillyblade, who moved to the area from an apartment 12 years ago. In those days, the neighborhood had a lot of crime, drug dealers and even squatters—but the mortgage was only \$20 more than rent, so the family went for it.

In those 12 years, Palmer Lake has gone from being one of the eyesores of the Key Peninsula to an area where new homes are being constantly built. Originally designed in the '70s as a vacation property and filled with cabins, seasonal motorhomes and rentals, the development has less than 20 vacation homes now out of about 300 plus houses. A couple of developers have been actively building more homes—there are 500 lots in the planned development. And more people are moving in, enticed by the beauty and the amenities.

What is the secret of these changes? Various groups, working separately and together, have been transforming their community one day at a time.

"The biggest change is that people are taking a sense of pride in ownership," says Lillyblade, who is a board member of the Palmer Lake Beach Club. "Everybody's taking a more active role in improving their community."

This board, together with the Palmer Lake Improvement Club and Citizens

Patrol, are coming up with new ways to improve their community, with a big emphasis on communication. PLIC produces a monthly newsletter that is hand-delivered to residents. A new basketball court and bus shelter were built; picnic benches and a floating dock were added; community buildings were painted; brush was cleared—the list goes on. Then, there are annual and new community events, including a barbecue party, an Easter egg hunt and a "trunk or treat."

A sheriff's deputy was hired by the board to patrol regularly; there are 21 Citizens Patrol members (of the 58 total on the Key Pen) who live here. Miriam Goad is responsible for recruiting 40 of her neighbors over her four years on Citizens Patrol. Everyone knows Goad's yellow car as she cruises around the streets, and people frequently ask her about what she does. Edwards, active in several Palmer Lake efforts and a new member on the Key Pen Crime Task Force, was one of those recruits.

Goad says they know where all the drug and other problem homes are, and they keep a close eye on them and other hot spots; the drug dealing activity has been steadily decreasing. "When a sign (from Citizens Patrol) goes up on your property, that means you're cooperating with the (Pierce County) Sheriff's Department," Goad says.

When the newsletter goes out, it addresses everything from meth education to loose dog issues and blighted properties; it too has proven as an effective tool to keep the neighbors informed—and involved.

"If you have high civic participation, crime rates go down," says Dennis Taylor with Safe Streets. "Palmer Lake is an example of that."

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KP Lions Volksmarch brings walkers to Key Pen

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

The 16th annual Key Peninsula Lions' Volkssports Club-sponsored volksmarch at Penrose Point State Park was judged a success by all Lions, their friends who helped make it happen, and, without exception, those who walked the trails. Despite a rainy Friday and foreboding weather reports, Saturday was a perfect day for a walk and 140 people from all over Western Washington took advantage of it.

Sunday was overcast and downright chilly for those compelled to sit and stamp the papers of the day's 40 walkers, the latter of whom were pleased with the temperature. Some even worked up a sweat.

Volksmarches all have a start/stop site and a halfway site at both of which restroom facilities and fresh water must be provided. The KP Lions have annually set their halfway point at the picnic shelter nearest the boat dock in Penrose because it is near restrooms and has had a fresh water faucet. Surprise! Park

ranger Dave Roe explained that vandals had busted that faucet standpipe off underground and there just hadn't been time to repair it. So, the water supply had to come from a five gallon thermos instead.

Roe pointed out that this sort of irresponsible vandalism, "costs us all. There is no water for those who wish it, replacement of the equipment will cost money, and the rangers will have to take time away from other important tasks to care for the problem." Roe couldn't say when the problem will be resolved; this is the high season for use of the park and our rangers have other things that must be done.

Ranger Roe noted that Washington State Parks will mark the 52nd anniversary of Penrose Park with free parking on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 8 a.m. until dusk. He invites outdoor enthusiasts looking for fun and recreational activities including camping, hiking, biking, crabbing, boating, swimming and more. For information, contact the park at 253-884-2514 or go online to www.parks.wa.gov.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

These Volksmarchers wisely chose to make the trip on a sunny Saturday, not an overcast, downright chilly Sunday. Overseen by Key Peninsula Lions helper Cindy Robison on the far left are Sherry Colgan, Doris Clayton, Don and Eleen Williams of Puyallup, an unidentified couple, and Fred and Sheila Genzler of Longbranch. Clayton is 85 years old, has just completed 1,500 kilometers on various volksmarches, and, according to Eleen Williams, can outwalk anyone of their group.



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"A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour" (author unknown)

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Teachers and Paraeducators Continue Learning

The Peninsula School District provides a variety of opportunities for teachers and paraeducators to further their teaching skills, use best practices, as well as learn about new research and techniques. Workshops, peer discussions and presentations on specific aspects such as reading and writing are part of professional development opportunities presented at each school and district-wide.

'This is a time of education reform nationwide. To accomplish it successfully, we need to examine what we are doing and refine it,' said Patricia Scott, Peninsula High School principal. 'We are becoming more accountable for making sure we're using the best research and practices.'

At Peninsula High, the training is built around the Building Academic Achievement Plan (BAAP), a strategy of yearly goals each school implements based on student needs and district goals.

The PHS professional development activities last year centered on writing and reading across the curriculum, and included a workshop on incorporating reading techniques in all courses, a book discussion on poverty's impact on education, peer groups looking at research, hands-on activities on evaluating student work, and more. Experts in various fields often present or facilitate discussions.



Peninsula High School teacher Elizabeth Duffey leads a professional development workshop.

In spring, the building team evaluates the year's results, analyzes data, and brainstorms priorities and activities for the following year.

'I truly appreciate the district's and the teachers' commitment to staff development; it's the mark of true professionals,' Scott said.

Did you know

Peninsula School District participates in the state-supported Teacher Assistance Program. TAP serves teachers who are new to the profession, providing them with valuable support.

At a glance

Instructional Advisory Committee

Through community levy support, the Peninsula School District provides students and teachers with quality instructional materials that support the district curriculum and the state Essential Learnings. An Instructional Advisory Committee (IAC) has been established to coordinate the process of selection and implementation of district-wide core instructional materials.

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Photos of the month



Minter Elementary students love to use the climbing wall in the school's gym. The wall was installed two years ago with funding from a special district program called "Healthy Kids." Photo by Hugh McMillan



Evergreen Elementary students Jessica McClure, Sarah Tydal, Jaz Stolican, Jacob Minter, Leanne Turnpaugh, Avery Banks, Olivia Poehoorde, Belle Powell, Josh Lewis and Kristin Jensen after a session at the "Eagle Academy," an after-school reading program that pairs adult mentors with students. Photo by Hugh McMillan

Water quality around the KP gets good report

By Danna Webster
KP News

According to a Pierce County press release from earlier this year, approximately 1,450 acres of tidelands in the Penrose Point area meet water quality and shoreline criteria for the "approved" classification, following a state Department of Health sanitary survey of the area. The area is approved for commercial shellfish growing, and that is good news for all clam diggers and shellfish fishermen around the Key Peninsula, officials said.

According to Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist Ray Hanowell, the shellfish program that is in place works well. It tries to sample all the flows into the Key Peninsula waters including Burley, Minter, Rocky Bay, Vaughn, Filucy Bay, Dutcher Cove, and Mayo Cove. The sampling involves dye testing twice in the wet seasons and twice in the dry seasons, and sanitary survey work on a five-years basis. The health of the shellfish beds are usually a good

"Years ago it (Vaughn Bay) was horrible, but it is looking real good."

-Ray Hanowell, Pierce County Environmental Health Specialist

measure of the water quality in general.

The water quality of the peninsula shellfish habitat is good in general, thanks to recent efforts by county citizens and government officials. They have achieved improvements in water quality where problems had resulted in the closure of 210 acres of Pierce County commercial growing areas between 1981 and 2004.

A relatively small portion of waters around the two Penrose Point marinas and the one private Lakebay marina, however, do not meet water quality standards and are classified as "prohibited" for commercial shellfish cultivation. The classifications are based on shoreline pollution evaluations and marine water quality samples collected from eight sample stations between June 2001 and October 2004.

Hanowell says, "Though the marina area does not qualify for harvesting, (I'm) confident that the main body of water is good quality for harvesting shellfish." With regard to prohibitive restrictions around marinas, Hanowell comments that the state "always has a closure zone around marinas, if I understand correctly."

Marinas and boating are not the only potential source of water pollution. Shoreline surveys resulted in the identification and the repair of three failing private septic systems and also identified three agricultural farms and 13 hobby farms that may be contributing to downstream pollution due to stream access by livestock, overgrazing and runoff management problems. Hanowell says the Pierce Conservation District has employed a full-time farm planner who

works with farmers to provide animal keeping practices, which minimizes water quality impacts.

A good and improved water quality seems to hold true around the peninsula east to west. Filucy only has a small portion of restricted area and its marina is prohibited, but the rest of the water quality looks good. Vaughn Bay has come a long way from the days when it was closed to shellfish harvesting. Hanowell says, "Years ago it (Vaughn Bay) was horrible, but it is looking real good."

Hanowell recommends checking the DOH Website at www.doh.wa.gov. The DOH map showing Puget Sound includes maps of shellfish areas and their classifications and will show closures for recreational fishing for shellfish.

More information

For more information or concerns call Ray Hanowell, Pierce County environmental health specialist at 798-2845 or see www.doh.wa.gov.

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4-H and WSU team up to teach kids sewing

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

The third annual Key Peninsula 4H Summer Sewing School was recently held at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. As in previous programs, the kids, under the guidance of skilled adults, were aglow with the thrill of learning these new skills. Those kids were Aubrey Conn and Lindsey Frazer, both 12, Sara Wilson, 11, Yvonne Breithaupt, Elizabeth Frazer, Gabbi Hake, Torie-Sue Jaderlund, age 10, and Jazmyne Morton and Victoria Popkov, 8.

Sueko Eriksen, a Washington State University Extension clothing and textile adviser volunteer, saw the need in the KP community and wanted to share her love of sewing with others. She approached Washington State University Extension in Pierce County with her idea and worked with Ann Sagawa, extension coordinator, to make her dream a reality. Aided by trained WSU clothing and textile advisers Pat Black, Connie Forch, Pam Hall, Gretchen Engle, Barb Lewis, Martha Brown, Clairee Meeks and Linda Ramsdell, the group taught the students to make shorts, a designer pillowcase and a backpack.

Eriksen said, "Sewing, currently not taught in most school districts, has many hidden benefits for our youth. Besides sewing a garment or accessory by the end of the class, students improve their eye/hand coordination, sequential learning, abstract thinking, self-esteem and confidence, and develop transferable skills which



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Ann Sagawa, WSU Extension coordinator, coaches 8-year-old Jazmyne Morton in some fine points in the sewing process.

enhance learning in the classroom." Eriksen gave many thanks to the staff at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church for use of their Community Hall and to the clothing and textile advisers of Pierce County. She said those interested in the Clothing and Textile Advisor Program or the 4H program should contact the WSU Extension office in Pierce County at 798-7180.

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Planning board discussions move to land use

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

When Jean Zeren learned about plans to build a subdivision across the street from her 65-acre property a few years ago, she rallied a few neighbors to try to stop it. Zeren has owned her property since 1967. There, she raised more than 100 horses, including Longacres Mile winner Trooper Seven.

The plan for the 34-acre subdivision at the time called for 20 duplexes and three single-family homes. Little Minter Creek goes through the plat. The residents who appealed the project cited concerns that included impact to the salmon, traffic, safety, runoff, and the character of the neighborhood.

"It wasn't consistent with the rural area," Zeren said.

Although the Peninsula Advisory Commission, comprised of residents, recommended not approving the project, the hearing examiner disagreed. The neighbors took the battle to court — and lost.

The development, along with another one, is planned on a small portion of the 168-acre farm property that has been in the Alvestadt family since the 1900s. Paul Alvestadt, who is representing the projects, says the family will keep farming on the rest of the land.

"Farming isn't something you can do a lot of and make a living; it's more of a hobby farm," he said.

Under current regulations, the subdivision wouldn't be allowed. But because an application was submitted before the Growth Management Act became in effect, it was "grandfathered in." The GMA limits the density in rural areas to



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Resource zoning, which include farms, are part of the discussions that will start in August.

a minimum of one home per 5 acres and doesn't allow subdivisions of rural plats.

The Key Peninsula has many lots like this one that have been grandfathered in. "Most of the growth (on the Key Pen) will happen in those," said Mike Krueger, Pierce County planner who is coordinating the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board. The board, which has completed the environmental and economic development elements of the plan, will start discussing land use in August.

The land use plan will address commercial, residential and resource zoning that will impact future developments on the Key Peninsula. But residents like Zeren and her neighbor Judy Austin, who have been attending many of the meetings, see little impact from the discussion.

"How do you control sprawl when so many things were vested before the Growth Management Act?" Austin said. "It's a rural area with large tracts of land and they are starting to chop it up into developments."

As with any other community plans, the Key Peninsula one has drawn some controversy. One of the more recent ones was a proposal by the Key Peninsula Business Association to establish a reserve area for a "New Fully Contained Community" that would allow for thousands of jobs to be created, including offices and light manufacturing. The NFCC was included in the draft economic development policy, but Kruger said he received feedback from many residents who did not want that kind of intense use on the Key Peninsula.

"Nobody supports the idea," he said.

"They were miffed it was even there." The planning board was due to discuss the draft at press time, at a July 27 meeting, after the work of the economic development subcommittee ended. It would be up to the board if that concept remains in the plan, Kruger said.

"I'm greatly concerned this Key Peninsula can't take urban development. Am I the only one who moved here from the city?" said Pat Latshaw, who has been attending subcommittee meetings. "I look at the Key Peninsula as a retirement area; this is where you come to 'get away from it all.'...You make your lifestyle changes — that's part of living out here."

These kinds of views, and the battle of growth vs. keeping the character, will continue to be expressed in future months, as the land use element, the cornerstone for the plan, is being discussed.

Should we have more growth on the Key Peninsula?

The Key Peninsula News has set up an unscientific poll on its Website to ask that question. To vote, read previous stories on the planning board, or follow a link to Pierce County for more information on the board's work, see www.keypennews.com and follow the "Special Section" link.

The Key Peninsula Community Planning Board's upcoming subcommittee meetings are Aug. 10 and 31, at 7 p.m. in the Key Center Library, located at 8905 Key Peninsula Highway.

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Penlight invests in progressive AMR technology

Peninsula Light Co. (PenLight) will begin installing a new technology called Automated Meter Reading (AMR) in August. This technology will provide two-way communication over the power lines, increasing efficiency and accuracy of meter reading.

With AMR technology, the meter data is sent from a module inside an AMR enhanced meter to a substation on the existing power lines. From the substation the data then travels to the corporate data center via communication lines, where the meter data is then integrated with PenLight's customer information and billing systems, resulting in the production of a timely, accurate bill.

Existing meters will need to be replaced with a new AMR enhanced meter that contains an integrated AMR transponder. This will be done throughout the service area at no cost to members. PenLight will begin with the routes on the Purdy substation and will continue with the rest of the system through the next three to five years.

"AMR technology benefits members by eliminating the need for PenLight meter readers to enter their property to read the meters each month, with only an occasional visit required for maintenance," said Mike Simpson, engineering supervisor. "AMR will also reduce vehicle miles, which will help reduce rising gasoline costs and lessen air pollution for everyone."

As PenLight moves forward with this project, it will publish updates on its website (www.penlight.org). In addition, members will receive several notices prior to the installation of their new meter. Please contact 857-5950 if you have any questions.

Richard Czyzewski, Pen Light journey meterman, inspects a new Automated Meter Reading meter. Photo courtesy of Pen Light



Briefs

Museum owner dies

Charles "Bill" W. Sommers, who for many years operated the Puget Sound Museum on Stretch Island, died in early July at age 94.

The museum included unique items

such as the 1904 steam whistle from the Virginia IV of Mosquito Fleet fame, a Navy-type signaling search light used in World War II on the steam ship "Victoria" operated for Alaska Steam Ship Co., pictures of the Mosquito Fleet and other maritime memorabilia he had collected over the years.

The family of Sommers declined to

discuss the future fate of the museum with KP News.

Home park project delayed

The Key Pen Lions' project to install a picnic shelter at Home Park has been delayed, due to additional permit requirements by Pierce County and their associated costs, Key Peninsula Metropolitan

Park District Director Scott Gallacher said.

KPMPD and the Lions are trying to solve the matter with county officials, but in the meantime the Lions will participate in other projects at Volunteer Park.

KPMPD meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park; the meetings are preceded by study sessions at 6:30 p.m.



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We are hosting a fund-raiser "Skate Night" at the KPCC on Aug. 12 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$4 per person. We have a limit of 100 kids. This is for kindergarten to eighth grade children only.

If you have questions, feel free to stop by on Tuesday night or call the KPCC office at 884-3456 to get more information.

—By Joetda Wickline

KP Lions host Ken Madsen

On Aug. 13 at 6:45 p.m., the Key Peninsula Lions Club will host Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer Ken Madsen. He will describe how the 1 percent spending cap affects property tax bills and how property evaluations are determined. This meeting, open to the public, will be at Blondie's Restaurant on the hill above Key Center, 9016 154th Ave. Court. Space will fill up fast, so come early.

The Lions Club is presenting a series of informative programs open to the public and invites Key Peninsula residents to participate.

Angel Guild clarifies grant process

Angel Guild has had requests for funds they have not been able to grant at times. The group must receive requests by the 10th of the month before the funds are needed. These requests must be in writing addressed to: Financial Chairman at Angel Guild Thrift Shop, PO Box 172, Lakebay, WA 98349. We cannot give to individuals as we only give to groups located here on the peninsula.

If you know you are going to need donations, please let us know early as the financial committee must consider the request. Their decision next goes to the members of the board of directors, and then it is taken to the general membership for a vote. General membership meets once a month.

Angel Guild has a good supply of shorts, swimsuits, jeans and most anything

else you need for the summer. Back to school items will be here soon. The store will have a bag sale on Aug. 28. There will be bargains galore to stuff your bags!

Then the store will be closed until Sept. 7, so we can renovate the shop, clean, and restock new merchandise. We will reopen with the shop full of fall items, including Halloween.

—By Betty Barkubein

S.A.V.E. features back to school garb

Back to school season is always a great time to check out the bargains in kids' clothing and shoes at S.A.V.E. Thrift Store. The shop is located just below Peninsula High School in Purdy. The store is open daily, except Wednesdays and Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Besides clothing for all ages, S.A.V.E. features toys and games, housewares, books, craft items, jewelry and much more, all in excellent condition. Frequent sales, including \$3 and \$5 bag sales, where the shopper selects the merchandise, reduce prices even further. Why not look here first for items to stock your college student's dorm room or apartment?

Funds raised through the operation of S.A.V.E. support the scholarship and activity group programs of Peninsula High. Donations of high quality reusable items (except furniture and appliances) are welcomed during normal business hours. Volunteers are also sought to help with sorting, pricing, and sales. For more information, call the store at 857-2800. We look forward to seeing you as a shopper, donor, or volunteer.

—By Marsha Williams

State Parks marks Penrose Point's anniversary with free parking

Enjoy camping, hiking, biking, crabbing, boating, swimming and more at Penrose Park. On Wednesday, Aug. 10, the park will offer free parking from 8 a.m. to dusk. Contact the park at 884-2514 or www.parks.wa.gov.

Garage sale table at Old Timers' Day by KP Veterans' Institute

KPVI will hold a Garage Sale Table at Old Timers' Day, Aug. 20. All proceeds will be donated to the Community House in Home. KPVI membership voted to purchase \$1,000 worth of needed clothing for veterans in residence at the American Lake Veterans' facility.

KP Writers' Guild offers anthology journal

The Guild's 2005 journal, "Impromptu," will be on sale at writer Debra McElroy's booth for Real Estate USA at the KP Fair.

"Impromptu" is a collection of poems and compositions by guild members. The purchase price is \$10. Guild member Rae Hight's new book, "Voices of WWII Veterans," will also be available.

Halloween Party volunteers needed

The Civic Center is searching for volunteers to serve as the organizer for the annual Halloween Party on Monday, Oct. 31. Please call the office at 884-3456 to volunteer.

KP Lions Club raffles cord of firewood

The KP Lions are raffling one cord of firewood, split and delivered on the Key Peninsula. Raffle tickets are one dollar and the winning ticket will be drawn during the Oct. 26 Board meeting at 8 p.m. Tickets available from any Lion or phone Al Twidt at 253-884-1038.87

Planning Board sets August meetings

The next meetings for the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 10 and Aug. 31. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Key Center Library, at 8905 Key Peninsula Hwy.

The board is working on policy development for the KP Community Plan regarding zoning and land use. The public is encouraged to attend. See www.piercecountywa.org/landuse.

Get ready for wine tour

Mark your calendar now to tour the Columbia Gorge Wine Country with your friends Oct. 1-2, Saturday & Sunday. Call 884-5608 for reservations. Cost is \$155 for TWAA members and \$175 for nonmembers and includes transportation, breakfast, lodging, a visit to four wineries and an Art Walk in Bingen.

Bayshore Garden Club picnic

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at the Longbranch Fire Station at 11:50 a.m. on Aug. 5 to car pool to the home of Jean Young for a potluck picnic.

For information call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

Volunteer spotlight: John Biggs

Story and photo by Danna Webster

The KP Fair serves an important purpose for the Key Peninsula and that is why John Biggs is a fair volunteer and supporter. Biggs moved to the Peninsula in 1995. "When I got out here I could see (there) wasn't anything where we all do anything at the same time together," he says. "Nowadays the Civic Center supports LIC and vice-versa... (the partners) sell tickets and advertise for each other. The fair has served the purpose of getting the community together." The fair is a joint partnership of the Key Pen Civic Center, Longbranch Improvement Club and the KP Business Association.

Biggs serves on the fair executive board and coordinates over 70 volunteers from LIC for ticket sales. Though he has lived in two communities, Home and Longbranch, he credits the fair for allowing him to meet a lot of people he wouldn't have known.

But a lot of people know John Biggs, with or without the fair. When legal help is needed on the peninsula, his name comes up. He has generously offered pro-bono legal advice to many of the KP nonprofit organizations.

Biggs moved to the Peninsula from Kennewick, where he was the public school attorney for two school districts. He presently is an adjunct professor of Public School Law for Administrators at City University in Tacoma, still serves out-of-town school districts, and writes books on school law related topics.

Biggs retired from the staff attorney position at the Peninsula School District in 2001 and says he has cut back on volunteer work. He serves on the committee for the Longbranch private water district, assists with the many LIC projects, and continues his dedication to the KP Fair.

"Anyone interested in volunteering?" asks John Biggs. "We need folks to help set up on Thursday, Aug. 18 and take down on Monday, Aug. 22. We also need volunteers to help park cars during the fair and we could use a few volunteers who are willing to accept whatever assignment the manager designates. The new fair Manager is R. Mary Graves. Her toll free number is 877-724-5843."



BIGGS

New deli in Key Center is 'On the Way'

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Sometime in August, those who missed having a deli in Key Center will get their wish. "On the Way" deli is slated to open at the same location where Lisa's Deli closed doors a few months ago.

Business partners Lisa Larson and Kathy Moran signed a lease contract for the building with Stoltz Northwest Inc., owner of Peninsula Market, in July.

Moran, a five-year Key Peninsula resident, has been in the restaurant industry for more than 30 years, and is the original owner of the coffee shop near the Shell gas station off Key Peninsula Highway. After losing her recent job, she thought about going into business for herself when she considered the deli idea. When Larson lost one of her jobs, Moran asked her to become a partner in the business. The two women, who met while working

at the New Brookside Restaurant, say they have similar ideas, tastes and work ethics, so the partnership seemed like a great fit.

They have already agreed on one big issue: where to get help. "One thing we totally agree on is depending on family and friends," Moran said. Both women have teen-age children who will help run the shop.

Larson is not a stranger to self-employment either. She had previously owned a cleaning business, but after it grew too much, she went back to full-time employment.

The two women had considered opening a teriyaki eatery, but it would have required too many changes to the building. Some of the equipment left behind by the old deli owners helped save capital investment.

"Everything went so smooth, the timing was perfect," Larson said.

The deli will serve soups, salads, sand-



Business partners Lisa Larson (left) and Kathy Moran in their newly redesigned dining area.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson

wiches, homestyle meals and, of course, ice cream and milkshakes. Take out, delivery, dine in and a drive-through window will be offered. They will use only fresh, no frozen, ingredients, and make the salads to order.

"We both have our ideas on recipes," Moran said.

Larson and Moran said the best part so far was being able to respond to the community members, who wanted to have a deli back, and getting the support of many friends.

At press time, the estimated deli opening was by mid-August.



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1573 - Average square footage
\$225,061 - Average price
65 - Average days on market

- Highest sale was \$956,000 at 1818 N. Herron Road.
- Lowest sale was \$89,000 at 19712 2nd Street KPS.

Other Sales:

Wauna

8010 Springfield Dr NW	\$437,000
9918 132nd St NW	279,500
14501 91st Ave NW	125,000
8006 143rd St Ct NW	299,000

Longbranch/Lakebay

722 Key Peninsula Hwy N	\$129,000
2210 C St KPN, Home	133,000
2016 Lake Dr, Palmer Lake	195,000
209 E Herron Blvd, Herron Is	200,000
4311 Key Pen Hwy S	300,000

Vaughn/Winter

14516 Holiday Dr, Lk Holiday	\$155,000
14222 Hollyburn Lane KPN	175,000
14622 108th St Ct KPN	196,000
13610 105th St Ct KPN	249,500
17206 Hall Road KPN	385,000

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Key Peninsula Community Fair
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(From **FAIR**, Page 1)

put the frosting on the cake, Friday will be "Buddy Day." At 4 p.m., you can bring your "buddy" and get his or her pass for an additional \$5. So bring a friend and join in all the fun.

Bands are an all time favorite at the fair. Friday night will feature Wickerman and Bruce Partridge. Saturday, fairgoers will enjoy the Blues Passage Band and The Billy Shew Band. If you are over 21, stop and relax at the Beer Garden. There will be a good time for all — singers, magicians, comedians, clowns, a fishing tank, a dog show and even a pie-eating contest are planned, along with great food vendors. And, of course, the judging of the floral arrangements, food, vegetables, sewing and needlepoint. To top all this off, there are antique tractors and a tractor pull.

The fair is important to the community because it involves all of the peninsula. It's the joint effort of the Longbranch Improvement Club, the Key Peninsula Civic Center, and the Key Peninsula Business Association. Many volunteers from all over the area come together to make this fair a success each year.

Pam Libstaff, president of the fair board, is very grateful to all of the helpers. She particularly wanted to thank Sharon Kaffer, the former director, who transferred her place to Mary Graves. Pam said, "Sharon did a tremendous job. We have nothing but good will for her future endeavors."

Fair details

Read more about fair volunteer efforts on the Community Works page. For details, call 884-4FUN. The community fair is Aug. 19-21 at the KP Sports Center and Fairgrounds (Volunteer Park).

August is the time for fairs galore on the Key Pen! See stories about the Renaissance Faire and the Old Timers' Day on page 29.

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Peninsula Girls' Fastpitch team blazes to championship

By Danna Webster
KP News

It's summertime and the ball games are sizzling around the Key Peninsula. This is especially true for the Peninsula Girls' Fastpitch team known as Elite Fire. This team of 16-year-old girls has qualified for tournament play in three national organizations this year. Due to funding constraints, they were able to attend only one, the National Softball Association (NSA) Western States World Series in Utah.

According to the girls' coach, Joe Gagnon, it is remarkable that Elite Fire is so successful because their opponents built teams from a broad pool of players from many high schools. All the Elite Fire girls are basically drawn from one high school (Peninsula) except for one player from Poulsbo. Five of the 13 players are from Key Pen.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's like the deck was stacked against them. But they are all really good female athletes; they all worked really hard; and we have a great group of parents," says Gagnon.

One of the Key Peninsula players has



Photo courtesy of Pamela Gordon

Keri Leaverton

been playing ball since first grade. Keri Leaverton started playing Little League with the boys on the Key Peninsula nine years ago, according to her mother, Pamela Gordon. Gordon is proud of the team's accomplishments this year and at the level of play for Keri. According to coach and umpire reports, Keri has made some outstanding outfield plays this year, hit a couple of home runs and has a

batting average of nearly .500.

But her mother is proud of the whole team and that they have qualified for three championships. "There are a lot of awesome girls out there, and a lot of awesome teams. This is the first time that girls from Peninsula (PHS) have gone this far," says Gordon.

Keeping the players local was an intentional decision by the coaches, who saw the team as an opportunity to represent their community. Gagnon also coaches at PHS during the school year and hopes the success and enthusiasm will transfer over to school ball. He says that sport team success can keep morale at a high level for the community.

The National Softball Association Western States World Series was a week-

long play-off starting July 16 in St. George, Utah. Elite Fire played against 18 teams from seven Western states in scorching 100-degree temperatures. The team remained in contention for a trophy until the fifth day of play, when their place was established as ninth. Coach Gagnon points out that many opponents were from climates where they can play 12 months out of the year while his team has about four months and have to work out in a gym in the winter.

"After this, they will know how they can compete nationally for scholarships," Gagnon said before the team left. "I hope the Los Angeles and San Francisco teams will say, 'Wow. Who were those girls from that little bitsy town in Washington?'"

Stories wanted!

Do you have a favorite winter holiday memory or story you'd like to share? We are looking for stories about local family traditions, favorite winter memories, etc. We will publish some of the stories in a special holiday issue. Send to: PO Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394 or email news@keypennews.com



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Obituaries

Peggy D. Schmidt

Longtime Longbranch resident Peggy Schmidt was peacefully called home to God on June 26, with her family by her side. Peggy was born in Bismarck, North Dakota and moved to Renton during her high school years, graduating from Issaquah H.S. She worked her way through the University of Washington, graduating with a B.S. in Nursing.



SCHMIDT

After working as a Graduate Nurse at Harborview Hospital for two years, she became a Public Health nurse, assigned to the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. Later, looking for more adventure, she joined the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. While stationed in Balboa Naval Hospital, San Diego, Ltjg Davis met and married husband of 44 years, Henry Schmidt.

Peggy's kind and loving spirit for her family and others was demonstrated by her work as a Red Cross volunteer nurse at the U.S. Army Hospital in West Berlin, W. Germany, where she and her family resided for six years. After arriving on the Key Peninsula, Peggy continued to give her time as a 25-year member of the Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild.

Peggy was preceded in death by her parents, Lillie and Abraham Davis, sister Lela and brother Ronald. She is survived by her husband Hank, children Susan, Seattle; Timothy, Tacoma; Eric (Allison) and her beloved granddaughter Ella, Noblesville, IN.; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Her family is strengthened by her

warm smile and unconditional love. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her; the world is a brighter place because of her.

A Celebration of Life Service and luncheon was held July 9 at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Interment was July 11 at Tahoma National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation In Memory of Peggy Schmidt P.O. Box 65039, Dallas, TX 75265-0309, and/or Tacoma Orthopedic Association, In Memory of Peggy Schmidt, Member of Dr. Penrose Guild T.O.A. Commemorative Gifts, P.O. Box 5299, Tacoma, WA 98915.

Carol Lee Morton

Carol Morton was born on Nov. 28, 1943, in Sanger, Calif., and passed away on June 30, 2005, in Tacoma. The oldest of seven children, he became a journeyman painter and joined the Painters Union at age 15.

In 1980, he moved to the Key Peninsula and built his home, where he lived until his death. He became a member of the local Painters Union #64 and was very involved in helping them in recent years. Carol was a member of the "Midnight Riders Car Club." He loved working on cars and camping with his friends.

Family members include wife, Leona; daughters Lisa Polm (Keith), Monica McHaley (Mike); stepdaughter April Sanchez and stepson Frank Sanchez, Jr; brother Larry, sisters Debbie and Evelyn; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Haven of Rest Chapel on July 5, followed by a reception. Arrangements were by Haven of Rest Funeral Home in Gig Harbor.

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From Pioneer Stock Helen Fravel: Lady from Longbranch

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Helen Fravel was born in Tacoma, but didn't learn English until she started school in Longbranch. The teacher allowed her to take books and flashcards home, so she taught her mother English.

Her father, Richard Stolz, came to the United States from Germany about 1901. "He was an adventurous type," says Helen, "and if he saw something he liked, he bought it." That included property in Fircrest, Clallam County and goldmines.

His mother bought 24 acres at Taylor Bay in 1909, and deeded 12 acres to Richard. He cleared the land and built a two-story house with a root cellar. He thought it clever to build near the sawmill, so lumber didn't have to be carried too far. He planted an orchard and garden, raised chickens, pigs, and cows.

In 1924, at age 48, he wrote to a former neighbor in Eisern, Germany, and asked her to marry him. Helene had never married, as she ran a boarding house and cared for ailing parents.

Pioneer stock wanted

The Key Peninsula News is looking for more local residents from pioneer stock to be featured in upcoming months. If you know someone, let us know by calling 884-4699 or e-mailing news@keypennews.com. Please include your contact number in case we need clarification.

Richard sent her ticket money: \$163 for Germany to New York City, and \$108 for a train to Tacoma.

Helene was appalled by the wilderness, lack of indoor plumbing, and having to carry water from the creek. She was ready to pack up and return to Germany. Richard dug a well, plumbed the house, and she stayed.

Richard died when Helen was 7. Helene and Helen shipped most of their belongings to Germany. The freighter sank, nothing was recovered, they had no insurance, and the house didn't sell. They stayed in Longbranch and raised chickens.



Photo courtesy of Helen Fravel
Helen Stolz, about 8, on Taylor Bay.

Helen's duties, as soon as she was big enough, included using a hatchet to cut alders and other brush to keep it down, to gather bark for extra firewood, and to clean chicken houses. They had about 1,500 chickens.

The manure pile, used for the garden each spring, was downhill. Helen held onto the wheelbarrow, and aimed it to run up a plank so she didn't have to push it up. Sometimes she fell in and had to wash and change clothes.

Helen's toys included a ball, a doll, furniture, dishes, a wood-burning set and a chemistry set. At 10, she had a bicycle.

"I nearly burned the house down with that chemistry set," she says. She lit a match under some perfume, and it exploded.

When she was 10, she became sick at school, and Walt Rickert took her home on his bike. Her mother gave her Epsom salts, but in the middle of the night, Helen cried, "I'm dying!"

Her mother ran to get Harold Hanson,

A freighter exploded at Johnson's Point, and packages and cartons of cigarettes appeared on the beach. Helen gathered them for her neighbor, but asked if she could try one. Her mother laughed, said yes, then laughed harder when Helen began coughing. She never tried to smoke again.

the Taylor Bay ferry operator. They crossed to Johnson's Point and drove around to Tacoma General, where Helen had an emergency appendectomy.

Back home, she joined her friends jumping from the swing, and tore some stitches loose. Her mother rushed her to the local doctor. He said to warm up a piece of fat and rub it over the stitches. It healed well.

A freighter exploded at Johnson's Point, and packages and cartons of cigarettes appeared on the beach. Helen gathered them for her neighbor, but asked if she could try one. Her mother laughed, said yes, then laughed harder when Helen began coughing. She never tried to smoke again.

Helen slept on the porch every summer. Sometimes a skunk jumped onto the bed. She stuck her head under the covers and stayed very still until it left.

Helen and husband Earl (Bud) Fravel purchased a vacation cabin at Taylor Bay in the 1960s, and sold it in 1965. He said he'd like to live at Taylor Bay, and she agreed. They bought land nearby in 1974, built a cabin with an outhouse, and eventually made it a three-story home, where she still lives.

Helen has written her family history for her children, in English, which she now speaks without a trace of accent.

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If your heart needs care, you'll find it all at MultiCare Heart Centers. For a physician referral or more information about cardiac services, including the Women's Heart Advantage program, call 800-342-9919. Or visit www.multicare.org.

DO YOU KNOW that nine in ten Pierce and South King County women have at least one risk factor for heart disease? What's worse, many

don't recognize their own potential for serious problems. That's why we've taken the initiative in offering the WOMEN'S HEART ADVANTAGE. This proven program includes a complete cardiovascular screening, as well as a one-on-one consultation with a cardiac nurse practitioner — all tailored specifically to meet the unique needs of women.



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Arts & Recreation briefs

Dinner theater to return this fall to Longbranch

The play "Bully — An Adventure with Teddy Roosevelt" will be presented by Longbranch Players this fall in late September and early October on the Longbranch Improvement Club stage in three performances. "Bully" is a one-man performance by Rick May, well-known Seattle area actor and director familiar to Key Peninsula audiences as the director of the Players' 2004 presentation.

Written by Jerome Alden, the play is told with great humanity and is suitable for all ages. It is a thrilling romp through the turbulent life and times of our 26th and most colorful president. May will play Roosevelt as well as many of his companions.

The Players organizing group is making plans for the fall season. The opening night performance on Friday, Sept. 30, will be a dessert buffet and wine bar event, followed by two dinner theater evenings, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7-8. Ticket reservations will first go on sale at the Improvement Club booth at the Key Peninsula Community Fair in August.

The organizing group this year is headed by Kim Gebhardt as production manager, assisted by Mary Mazur. The Two Waters Arts Alliance will join once again to make this a Key Peninsula community arts event with a gallery show of local artists works displayed in the auditorium. The evening of drama will begin with a cocktail hour and viewing of the gallery show before the audience is seated at tables.

Wine trip tours Yakima Valley in August

The KP Metropolitan Park District will sponsor a fun-filled day touring by motor coach the fruit stands and wineries of the Yakima Valley on Aug. 27. The tour will visit fruit stands for fresh produce, and enjoy a Chardonnay Wine Poached Salmon lunch at Silver Lake Winery at Roza Hills Vineyard.

Two other wineries of the valley will be visited. The price is \$55 per person and includes lunch, snack, and transportation via motorcoach.

The Saturday trip will last from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will depart from Volunteer Park, with a pickup stop at the Purdy Park-and Ride. For more information or to sign up, call 884-9240.



KPHS plans annual picnic

The Key Peninsula Historical Society June meeting was held at the Civic Center, attended by 27 members and guests. After lunch outside, two trees were planted on the Civic Center grounds in memory of Keith Seavy and Lee Stiles.

The annual picnic will be held at Evelyn Evans' home on Aug. 6. Jim Greetham will talk about Peter Puget's

encounter with Native Americans on Von Geldern Cove. For information, contact Leona Britt at 884-3272. The KPHS Museum is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. Monthly meetings are the first Thursday of the month, at 7 p.m. (new time) at the museum.

Pictured here, Keith Stiles helps plant a tree in honor of his late wife, Lee. *Photo by Frank Slater*



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MORTGAGE



Artist presents beautiful Key Pen images to the world

By Jerry Libstaff

Kurt Solmssen, a realist painter, paints where he lives. His paintings, rich in color and poetic reality, have presented alluring images of the Key Peninsula to the world. Upon seeing his work, a common statement is, "I want to live there."

Solmssen's vivid, lyrical representations of Rocky Bay, the Vaughn sandspit and other local subjects truly evoke a deep longing to experience those visions.

Solmssen paints "directly from life," often returning to a location for as long as six weeks. He sometimes paints under the Purdy Bridge.

"The scenes are exceptional and I can work during inclement weather in the winter," he says.

Several years ago, Solmssen and two friends, Carl Carlson and Bill Mitchell, created a studio on his property. He



**The Genuine
ARTicle**



Kurt Solmssen sets up before a recent outdoor painting session.

Photo courtesy of Jerry Libstaff

works there from sketches he's made around the area. Solmssen might do a small painting to determine composition, then translate that to the full-size work, often a 50- by 70-inch canvas. He prefers the large size because "you feel like you could actually walk right into the space."

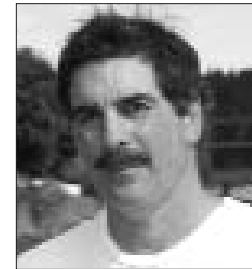
He was born and raised in Philadelphia, though he spent summers here. His mother was originally from this area and wanted Kurt to appreciate her past.

While attending Pennsylvania Academy

of the Fine Arts in the early 1980s, he met and later married Rebecca Schofield, another painter. One of his instructors spoke of a house in Spain where he had once worked. In 1986 Solmssen and his wife moved to the Spanish home, where they lived at the edge of a cliff and captured their experience of Spain on canvas.

In 1988 the couple came to the Key Peninsula. They now live in a home built in 1906 that belonged to his grandfather. Several of Solmssen's paintings reflect scenes in and around that home. In his work, his daughters appear in the dining room; a vivid yellow rowboat, more than 70 years old, floats languidly in the bay. Summer sunlight and winter mists draw the observer into the canvas. The beauty of the Key Peninsula is manifested in Solmssen's work in a manner that allows even longtime residents to see the area anew and it underscores their longing to be here.

Though Solmssen focuses on the Key Peninsula as his subject, he returns to the East Coast each spring as a conservator to help restore sculptures in New York.



SOLMSSEN

His paintings are currently included in a group show at George Billis Gallery in New York through Aug. 13.

Solmssen is featured in an ongoing show at Alder and Co.

Gallery in San Francisco. The gallery found his work in an online auction and requested an additional piece for a client. After selling that work and five more in rapid succession, Alder and Co. Gallery asked to present an ongoing feature of Solmssen's work, something rarely done for an artist.

Solmssen, wife Rebecca and their two daughters live in Vaughn. Rebecca paints and teaches art. Kurt Solmssen's work can be seen online at www.kurtsolmssen.com and at Foster/White Gallery in Seattle.

Jerry Libstaff, a writer who lives in Vaughn, is president of Two Waters Arts Alliance.

August classes:

Aug. 1-5: "A Week With Kids" art instruction for youngsters

Aug. 9: "Acrylic Painting 101" with Adria Hanson

Aug. 4: "Kayaking the South Sound With Two Waters" dinner on the beach

Aug. 16: "Acrylic Painting 201" with Adria Hanson

TWAA is looking for a dance instructor, ballet or tap. For information or to register for a class, call 884-2029.



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(From WILSON, Page 1)

prices for which range from \$1,500 to \$3,000, and which take a month or more to finish. All-Star is authorized to repair and service name brands Gibson, Fender, Squire, and Epiphone. May, Wilson's wife, said, "People are happy we're on this side of the bridge."

He builds a love for music into the lessons he gives his students. And he builds relationships, fitting youngsters with their first instruments and giving them a venue to express their artistic talents. Wilson has built an audience with his "All Stars Live" radio shows on KGHP 104.5, 89.3 and 89.9 FM, featuring local musical acts on Tuesdays at 9 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. He has built a following at the Tides Tavern, and at local dances, with the Blues Passage Band.

Now he is building what he hopes will become an annual community event by bringing the first annual Gig Harbor Folk Festival to the area.

On Sept. 3, festival organizers Wilson and Steve Lundquist will bring internationally renowned acts to two venues, Skansie Brothers Park and Wilkinson Farm Park in Gig Harbor, for a full day of music and fun. Sponsorships from

Gig Harbor Folk Festival

The Gig Harbor Folk Festival will be held Sept. 3, all day, at Skansie Brothers and Wilkinson Farm Parks.

Artists will include David Wilcox, David Lindley, Cliff Eberhardt and Lucy Kaplansky, Tracy Grammer, Pat Donohue, Liz Queler and David Jacobs-Strain and others. Admission will be free.

Festival organizers are accepting applications for sponsorships and vendors.

For details, contact: Steve Lundquist at 265-1240, Dan or May Wilson at 853-5610.

Information is also available at www.gigharborfolkfestival.com.

\$250 to \$5,000 will make it possible for the public to enjoy free admission. Applications for sponsorships and food vendors are being accepted.

Artists David Wilcox, David Lindley, Cliff Eberhardt and Lucy Kaplansky, Tracy Grammer, Pat Donohue, Liz Queler and David Jacobs-Strain and others will perform.

A featured event will bring amateur

songwriters to compete for prizes. Entrants will be judged on composition, vocal delivery, timing, length, pitch, and overall performance. Gig Harbor Folk Fest staff and a panel of industry professionals will judge the event, to be held on the festival main stage. (Deadline for contest entry was set for Aug. 1.)

Laureen Lund, marketing director for the city of Gig Harbor, told the KP

News, "Bringing a folk festival to the Gig Harbor area will be another in a string of new events that will help build the region as a destination for arts and performing arts lovers. We are proud to be hosting what we believe will become an annual and multiday event in the years ahead."

It takes people like Dan Wilson to build a more livable community.

Mmmm...

Do you have a favorite fall recipe? The *KP News* would like to publish it!



We are looking for unique pie recipes, something that has been passed to you through generations, or any other recipes that have a story behind them,

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(From **HERRING**, Page 1)

2002," says property owner Dylan Stanley. "About a year later all of a sudden there was a herring pen floating about a hundred feet off the Lakebay Marina dock. Then a fishing boat started coming in two or three times a night. They have two big diesel engines, which they leave running while they're unloading and cleaning their nets. Two or three hours at a time. It's pretty loud.

"That's part of it, but starting at about 5:30 in the morning a refrigerator truck backs up to the marina, then a skiff goes out to the fishing boat to pick up the herring and bring it ashore. That means there's noise from about 12:30 until 8 or 9 in the morning. All depending on tides and their work schedule.

"There's four big pens, and I understand they starve the herring for about four days, to firm them up for freezing. But probably 20 percent of the fish die, so there's a lot of dead fishing floating in the water, and a terrible smell.

"Having the fish there brings in a large population of seals and seagulls. Having the operation there causes a lot of disturbance that none of us were aware of when we purchased our homes."

Some, but not all, of Mayo Cove's other

residents agree. But Hostetler characterizes them "as people who have nothing better to do than make trouble." He says the herring pens went into the water back in 1969.

"I bought it (the marina) to go into the fishing business," Hostetler says. "The herring business. That was the main purpose of the marina. The marina is a fast way to starvation."

If the herring pens were in place before 1971 when new shoreline regulations went into effect, and Hostetler applied for and was granted all of the necessary permits over the subsequent years, he could have what Mark Luppino, a code enforcement officer for Pierce County, calls "legal nonconforming (or grandfathered) rights." Meaning that the pens could remain in operation.

If Hostetler failed to get all the necessary permissions to begin with, or had such permissions but allowed them to lapse at some point, then he might not have legal nonconforming rights.

Vicki Diamond, supervisor of the Current Planning section of Planning and Land Services for Pierce County, indicates that while her department was initially focused on the question of whether Hostetler's original legal nonconforming rights had been allowed to lapse, they have

come to believe that the marina operator and his partners never had legal nonconforming rights to begin with. And, because neither Hostetler nor his attorney have had an opportunity to respond to this latest development, the county granted them two additional weeks in which to consider the matter in July.

However, that decision doesn't sit well with folks like Mayo Cove resident Stanley. "We are writing to express our dismay that the cease and desist order (described in the letter dated July 8, 2005) was not served on July 15th as promised," Stanley wrote in a letter sent to Diamond on behalf of the residents. "Furthermore, our phone calls to you requesting explanation for yet another 'two week' reprieve went unanswered.

"Your office, under other leadership, gave its first two-week deadline in August of 2004.

"The law, as we have had it explained to us, states that any permit previously granted naturally expires if the operation is not in continuous use for over 1 year. If the permit expires, it can only be reactivated if nonconforming rights are granted or if the user goes through the Substantial Shoreline Development Permit process.

"We have proved both with photo documentation and through verbal testimony

that the pens were not in Mayo Cove for at least one and a half years. Furthermore, as stated in your July 8th letter, no permit has ever existed for herring pens in Mayo Cove, the pens occupy territory not leased to Mr. Hostetler, and to add insult to injury, Mr. Hostetler is profiting from the illegal, ill-placed pens by way of sublease to Mr. Kauppila and Mr. Blair..."

In spite of repeated attempts to contact Hostetler by phone, in hopes of getting his reaction to the latest developments, Key Pen News was unable to get through.

Would you like herring with that?

According to the World Book Encyclopedia, "In many parts of the world, herring are a favorite food, either pickled, smoked, or eaten fresh." However, in the United States, herring are typically used as bait. There is a significant herring fishery within what the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Website refers to as "the South-central Puget Sound region." Which is why fishermen need places like Mayo Cove, in which to store herring, prior to taking them to market. For more, see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/forage/herring.htm>

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Local folk make the Renaissance Fantasy Faire work

By Karen Hale
KP News

Ron Cleveland, a KP resident, is the man who created the Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire. The faire is going into its eighth year, has the second largest gate in the county (after the Puyallup Fair), and the success is due mostly to the dedicated people who are willing to work the faire as volunteers and actors as well as local entrepreneurs who enjoy a place close to home to sell their wares.

Tim Masbruch has lived on the KP for almost 10 years. Originally from Wisconsin, he and his brothers have had a family business with bratwurst for a very long time. After meeting Cleveland at church, he became aware of the faire and eventually became a food vendor for the event. Masbruch said it's nice to make a little extra money from the event, but the main reason for going is the family atmosphere with other vendors, actors and volunteers. Everyone has so much fun, the money is the smaller part of the equation as a reason to go, he said.

Wendy Bateman, originally from New Hampshire, has lived in Lakebay since 1998, and has been selling her Old World beeswax candles among other wares at the faire for the last six years. She learned her techniques from one of her teachers in New Hampshire, and truly put her artistic ability to work in making her wares the way they did during Renaissance days. She did so well, she was self-employed in just a few years. Many crafters lost their ability to be self-employed after the Sept. 11 attacks downturn, and now her main income is nonartistic. For her, the Ren Faire is a great way to keep in it, get together with Ren Faire friends and dress up for fun.

Bateman has had some great experiences getting help from some campers, who even helped salvage her booth last year when wind and rain crashed it during the night.

Campers come for the whole show every year. They enjoy it so much, they just can't bear to leave.

Amy Forsyth, performing arts director, lived in Gig Harbor for seven years and recently moved to Port

Renaissance Faire

The Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire will be held over three weekends in August, 6-7, 13-14, and 20-21, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Minter Creek Ranch off State Route 302. For details, see www.washingtonrenfaire.com or call 851-4114.

Orchard. This busy personal assistant and soccer mom keeps her hands in the fun working the faire as well. Her main job is directing all actors around the grounds during each day of the faire. The actors are directed to make their performances fun and interactive - especially for the children. Age-appropriateness is observed at all times and kids not only love the attention, but also learn and remember more of the historical significance behind stories and fun activities available, Forsyth believes.

Those involved with the event say the bottom line of the Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire is to come, soak up the atmosphere, learn some history, dress up if you want to and just have some fun.



Photo by Karen Hale

Looking for action? You'll find it at the Renaissance Faire, along with food, music, things to do for kids, and much more.

Old Timers Day gets laughs, oohs and aaahs as it stages an old-fashion party on the Key Pen.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Old Timers celebrates 20 years

By Danna Webster
KP News

Good things come in small packages and that's true of the KP fairs. Old Timers' Day is one day only but that day is chock full of good music, good food, and good fun. This is the fair that presents the skills and feats of authentic loggers. According to Bud Ulsh, president of the KP Community Services board, this year will feature the "hottest chainsaw in the Northwest (with a) souped-up Buick V-8 engine on it. "(It) can cut a log in about two seconds, I guess," he says.

The loggers have always been a part of this event that started 20 years ago as Pioneer Days. After their final show of the afternoon, they will hold an auction that usually offers a load of gravel, topsoil, and firewood.

"Every penny they take in they give to our center," says Ulsh. "It's usually around \$1,200."

Old Timers' Day has entertained the peninsula community longer than any of the other fairs put together; and it is

dedicated to featuring local talent.

Events will begin after the Loggers' Breakfast, on Saturday, Aug. 20, with a formal flag raising ceremony at 10 a.m. Visitors can roam the grounds around the Longbranch Improvement Club and relax inside a building that is on the National Register of Historical Places. You can munch on popcorn, hot dogs and hamburgers while you watch the tall timbers fall. You will see hometown bands and country cloggers; reptiles, horses, and dogs; martial arts and archery demonstrations. There will be games for kids and a house they can bounce in. Treasure hunters can explore the garage and garden sale. You can cheer on the players in the horseshoe pitch tournament and try to buy the winning raffle ticket for the \$500 first prize.

It is a down-home, old fashion fair steeped in traditions that have proven to please visitors over the years. There will be no glitz and glamour; it is a day that is low key. In fact, the third prize winner of the raffle may be the luckiest of all, taking home a handmade quilt.

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Out & About



Top left, Three-year-old Logan Rutz of Vaughn is not really interested in the Little League baseball game being played nearby in Key Peninsula's Volunteer Park. *Photo by Hugh McMillan* Top right, Key Pen resident Tim Kezele's family and friends went geoducking at the end of June on Pitt Pass and dug 20. *Photo courtesy of Tim Kezele* Above, KP artist Beverly Pedersen in the foreground, with KP jewelry artists Karen Geiger and, behind the counter, Norm Geiger at their booth at the annual Gig Harbor Arts Festival in July jollyng with potential customers. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department's Kidmobile made a stop in July at Evergreen Elementary. Staff counselors Jamie Johnston and Mandey Bonebrake helped guide several youngsters in creating anything from jewelry items to dragons and dinosaurs of beads.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Photo by Danna Webster

It's official: The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District was dissolved in July; pictured are Chair Mike Salatino and Treasurer Ben Thompson taking care of paperwork with the county.



Left, At the Longbranch Improvement Club July 23, auctioneers Ronald VanSomeren and Virgil Iverson encourage bidders in the overflow crowd at The John Peterson Memorial Salmon Bake, the fifth such fund-raiser inspired by Peterson, who died recently. Proceeds are used by the Longbranch Community Church and in the community. Bottom, YMCA's Camp Seymour held its annual five-day long MDA Camp, dedicated to Firefighter Appreciation Day. Part of the friendly intermingled crowd of MDA campers and their counselors, Camp Seymour counselors, and fire fighters from 10 Washington state fire protection districts are seen here enjoying hot barbecued hamburgers and all the fixings, followed by with ice cream sundaes. *Photos by Hugh McMillan*

