



INSIDE

October 2006



▲ Conquering the
McKenzie River, page 26

'Best
Dressed
Hoes'
parade,
page 19



News

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| KPCS undergoes audit..... | 2 |
| Youth center planned..... | 7 |
| Smoking ban impact | 14 |
| Herring pen ruling | 16 |
| Volunteer spotlight..... | 20 |
| Longbranch cemetery | 22 |
| From pioneer stock | 25 |
| Obituaries | 27 |
| The Genuine ARTicle..... | 32 |
| Out & About | 36 |

Sections

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Peninsula Views | 4 |
| Schools | 6 |
| Elections | 12 |
| Business | 14 |
| Community Works . . . | 18 |
| People & Lifestyles . . | 22 |
| Arts & Recreation . . . | 29 |

Geoduck opposition groups, county seek solutions

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Geoduck farming practices, and the reality that there are pending applications for more farms on the Key Peninsula, continue to concern area residents. Last month, a meeting was held in

Gig Harbor between several opposition groups, at least one waterfront owner who is seeking a farming permit, and Taylor Shellfish Farms. The Pierce County Council held its September meeting in Gig Harbor, and a resolution addressing geoduck farms, singled out

from all other aquaculture, was introduced. After several citizens and a council member questioned shellfish industry methods, the resolution was passed unanimously. This contentious

(See **GEODUCK**, Page 30)

Neighborhood upset after beloved 'pet' deer's killing

By Lori Losee, KP News



Photo courtesy of Anne Nesbit

Several Lakebay residents are mourning the loss of a beloved "pet" deer affectionately known to some as Piglet and to others as Willow. The deer was found shot with an arrow on Sept. 10.

The young buck first made its appearance in Lakebay in July and has made an impact on several families. One of those families is offering a reward of \$1,000 for any information leading to the conviction of the deer's killer.

Lowell Jones became very fond of Willow, as he came to know the deer with one long antler and one stunted. He was the one to find Willow on his property under a cottonwood tree, dead.

(See **DEER**, Page 21)

A KP legend, Rhys Wood, passes on

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Rhys Wood epitomized the sort of person of whom Tom Brokaw wrote in his book, "The Greatest Generation." Before his 86 years ended, he'd lived through the Great Depression. He didn't recognize it as anything horrid:

"It was just what fate had dished up and you lived with it," he'd say. He served in World War II behind the lines in the Japanese-occupied Philippines and three times escaped prisoner of war status at their hands to continue leading a group of guerrillas who caused the occupiers great discomfort.

Honorably discharged at war's end, he resumed his teacher's career and, in the course of teaching in the Clover Park School District, met and surreptitiously dated his soon to be wife, Ruth Bilden, a fellow teacher. School policy

(See **WOOD**, Page 33)

BRIEFS

news

West Nile virus case confirmed on the Peninsula

The first human case of the West Nile virus in Washington was confirmed in September. The affected resident was a Gig Harbor Peninsula man in his 40s. Due to medical privacy laws, Tacoma Pierce County Health officials would not disclose whether the case was on the Key Peninsula or somewhere else in Gig Harbor.

“Most people who are infected with West Nile virus don’t ever get sick or have symptoms, yet it can be a very serious disease for a small number of people, especially those older than 50 years of age,” Dr. Jo Hofmann, state epidemiologist for communicable disease, said in a statement.

“Avoiding mosquito bites is the best prevention. With our first in-state infection, it’s vital to take the simple precautions that can help protect you from West Nile infection,” he said.

The disease affects mostly birds but can be transmitted to people as well as animals through mosquito bites. It does not get transmitted from person to person.

The state monitors the virus by sampling mosquito populations, and horses, as well as dead birds. Washington was the only continuous U.S. state that has not had any confirmed human cases until this case was confirmed in early September, following laboratory tests by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Vaughn Community Church to be sold

The Vaughn Community Church members decided to sell their church property and the building that was damaged by fire last spring. The congregation will move to a new location just off Elgin Clifton and 134th Avenue, according to Pastor Tim Stobbe.

The decision was made through a vote at the annual congregational meeting on Sept. 10. In the meantime, the church continues to meet at Vaughn Elementary on Sundays at 10 a.m. for services.

KPCS tackles bookkeeping issues

By Lori Losee, KP News

The Key Peninsula Community Services is working to solve the challenges it has faced this year, and is ready to begin a new chapter, according to Interim Director Linda Hubbard. An audit conducted recently revealed various problems with the organization’s bookkeeping, but Hubbard said the nonprofit organization has been working to fix those issues.

Hubbard said when she took the helm in October 2005, she was faced with many challenges.

“When I first came on board, things looked pretty bleak,” she said. “For awhile, I didn’t know what was going to happen.”

The KPCS board named Hubbard the interim director following the abrupt departure of Executive Director Luke Snyder after only a few months on the job. At the time, Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee was made aware of potential problems with KPCS’ bookkeeping and former staff.

“It was then I got really involved and starting digging into the problems,” he said.

Lee put a hold on the \$12,000 support for KPCS for the year 2005 that he secured through his budget. The release of the money was contingent on an audit. This year, Lee again set aside from his budget \$15,000, for a total of \$27,000 available to cover operational costs.

An audit was attempted in April, but a bigger problem was revealed, according to Lee. “There was nothing; The books were a mess,” Lee said.

Sally Nixon, manager of Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care, said there wasn’t enough information to complete the audit.

Lee said he worked with KPCS to set

several ground rules for KPCS to adhere to in order to receive the \$27,000. All of the money has been released and is available to KPCS.

In addition, Lee was able to help KPCS secure \$40,740 in county general funds to support the director’s salary, payroll taxes, insurance and communications (phone, and Internet, etc.), and pay for the audit. Nixon said the money budgeted to KPCS through the county works as a reimbursement to cover all operational costs. “They (KPCS) bill us for their costs associated with their operating costs on a monthly or quarterly basis,” she said.

The KPCS has retained the services from the same audit firm that attempted their audit.

“The CPA we hired offers suggestions to us on what to improve on,” Hubbard said. “We are going down the road doing that.”

In September, the same auditor hired for the April audit completed an account review. The purpose of the audit was to check the progress of the KPCS in its bookkeeping improvements and to make any suggestions or changes to its current progress. (Read the November edition of the Key Peninsula News for details).

As for 2007, Lee has yet to begin discussions for allocating funds from his discretionary budget and the county’s general funds. He expects a final decision to be made by mid-October.

“I am very supportive of all of the services of the KPCS,” he said. “I am very supportive of programs for seniors and the underprivileged and the essential services of medical and dental care and the food bank.”

Hubbard credits Lee with being very gracious in allocating money to the organization, which provides a food bank and other services for seniors and low-income individuals and families. KPCS also has

KPCS needs volunteers, donations

Key Peninsula Community Services Interim Director Linda Hubbard said volunteers and donations are needed for the annual holiday basket distribution to low-income families.

Nonperishable foods are needed along with turkeys, eggs, margarine and other staple foods associated with holiday meals.

“Our goal is to try to do up a good (holiday) basket for everyone,” Hubbard said.

Hubbard said she would know by Nov. 1 whether or not KPCS will be able to have Thanksgiving baskets. The baskets are dependent on several factors, including the relocation of the food bank to downstairs.

“After the move, then we will have to update our shelving before we become operational,” she said.

A sign-up list for the holiday baskets will be available at the end of November for families who qualify. Families who think they qualify or would like to learn about the qualifications should contact KPCS at 884-4440.

received numerous grants and Hubbard feels things are starting to look up. A new roof, carpet and linoleum are just three of a handful of projects happening around the building.

The Angel Guild has provided KPCS with a grant for a beautification project and the KPCS is in the latter stages of moving the food bank downstairs to its permanent home.

“Everything is transforming, and everyone here is all hoped up and has a great attitude,” Hubbard said.

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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

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Changes reflect Key Peninsula News growth, evolution

The Key Peninsula News has continuously evolved since February 2003, when we re-emerged after a hiatus and reorganization. In the last three years, we have increased our page count, implemented color pages, and listened to our readers' feedback to expand the coverage of news topics while maintaining the feel of a community newspaper, with its mix of community features and information. We have maintained the philosophy that as the community evolves and grows, so must the Key Peninsula News.

The new look we are introducing this month — a redesign and improved newsprint quality — is only one of the tangible changes we have implemented in recent months. The change reflects our goal for a more consistent and modernized look. The Key Peninsula News Website, www.keypennews.com, has also been enhanced. Some of the new features include:

- A Web-exclusive photo gallery;
- Online classifieds listings;

**RODIKA
TOLLEFSON**
From the Executive
Editor's Desk



- Monthly Key Pen tide tables;
- A search engine accessible via the front Web page that allows you to enter keywords to search for archived stories;
- Many posted articles contain online-only materials, such as additional photos or documents.

On the editorial front, we have made changes to the Community Works section, which serves as a bulletin board for local events. Starting this month, the announcements featured in this section will follow a consistent format we believe is more reader-friendly. We are reintroducing the "Get Involved" volunteer corner, which features volunteer opportunities for local residents — and invite Key Pen organizations to submit their announcements. We also plan a new section called "Off the Key," which

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

will include news briefs or short stories about events happening off the Key Peninsula but are of interest to local readers. We are exploring other potential ideas, such as an editorial cartoon and expanded special-interest sections, and invite our readers to share their ideas and feedback with us.

Behind the scenes, we have been expanding our paid support staff, in addition to continuously recruiting quality volunteers. In 2003, we started out with three paid part-time staff. With the addition of a new editorial position in September, we have seven paid part-timers contributing on a monthly basis, as well as special projects staff and a paid Peninsula High School intern.

Lori Losee, an award-winning reporter who covered the Key Peninsula and other beats for the Peninsula Gateway, joined

our team as the news editor, second in command. We are thrilled to be able to provide an internship position to PHS freshman Kristie Byrd, who as a Key Peninsula Middle School student contributed several articles to the Key Peninsula News last school year.

These changes are the result of the hard work by our staff, support from our advertisers who make it possible for our nonprofit newspaper to be published, as well as the decision by the Key Peninsula Publishing Board to take charge of growth rather than reacting to it. Following a board retreat this summer, a strategic plan was outlined that included the addition of a second sales representative. As we implement the new strategies, we hope to continue the pattern of growth and evolution.

On behalf of the Key Peninsula News, I would like to thank our community for the continuing support, and invite our readers to be involved with your local paper — whether by volunteering, providing feedback or story ideas, or contributing letters to the editor and other submissions.



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EDITORIAL

LuLu's gets thumbs up

LuLu's Homeport Restaurant was an unusual sight on a September weekend.

Crowds of adults and kids gathered outside, laughing, enjoying free food, music, and games in a great community celebration. The Hoe Down, as they called it, was the brainchild of LuLu's bartender Wendy McCall, who got the blessing and the support of owner LuLu Smith, and help from colleague Bobbi Tredgen.

The LuLu crew got busy fund-raising

with car washes, bake sales, auctions, and raffle ticket sales.

Several businesses in addition to LuLu's, contributed donations for the occasion. Kudos to the LuLu's staff, and the other businesses that supported the idea for the wonderful community treat. It was a remarkable reminder of why we so love the Key Peninsula.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Geoduck industry should not be trusted

In a September article in the Key Peninsula News, Ms. Fitzgerald describes a neat, tidy geoduck operation with water-front owners thrilled to have 43,500 geoducks tubes per acre on their beaches. Members of the Mayo Cove Shoreline Association recently visited Totten Inlet, where aquaculture is more advanced. We saw miles of protruding, sharp rebar, loose PVC tubes, discarded oyster bags and loose nets that threatened recreational use.

The article fails to mention that the beach at harvest is liquefied to a depth of 3-4 feet by workers using 50-gallon a minute water jets, that layers of sediment rich in biodiversity are disturbed, and that not all organisms survive. Contrary to the assertion that the beach is only harvested once, leaving clams for the property owner, workers in Totten Inlet make multiple passes to get every last geoduck. Those workers are paid by the pound for a luxury item that sells for \$100 a plate in foreign markets. Property owners in Totten Inlet are disgusted with aquaculture techniques.

I agree with Mr. Phipps of Taylor Shellfish that "anyone interested in leasing their beach, or opposing such a lease, should see a farm." Yes — they should go to Totten Inlet. It is through an understanding of history that we can make decisions about the future. The shellfish industry's geoduck farming history can be found in Totten Inlet, and it is a frightening scenario.

Mayo Cove Shoreline Association is strongly supported by Key Peninsula residents. We recognize that aquaculture is an important part of our state's economy. However, we oppose locating commercial aquaculture in recreational and residential areas. We support a programmatic environmental impact study on this activity before new geoduck operations are permitted. We are local citizens concerned with long-term and cumulative impacts of geoduck aquaculture. In that spirit, we request that our local newspaper make a more serious attempt to investigate this issue and the industry that says they can be trusted with what many consider to be Key Peninsula's greatest asset: our shorelines.

Cindy Johnson-Kuntz

President, Mayo Cove Shoreline Association

Amendments to county charter on ballot

By Rick Sorrels, Special to KP News

The Pierce County Charter is comparable to the federal or state Constitutions. It is the most important document for county government. Every 10 years a 21-person commission is elected to propose amendments to our charter. The November ballot has nine proposed amendments.

No. 1: Should Pierce County sheriff be elected instead of appointed? This amendment should not be supported.

Background: In 1980, Pierce County's last elected sheriff was imprisoned for RICO (racketeering) violations. He and his cronies used extortion and arson to line their pockets. The elected freeholders (citizens) creating our original charter were so incensed that they made the sheriff a position appointed by the county executive.

Pro: Pierce County is one of a very few counties nationwide that does not elect its sheriff. Even King County recently made the change.

Con: Loss of dignity and loss of choice. Candidates would become beggars owing favors for campaign contributions. Candidates limited to only those who file, compared to an unlimited nationwide search for best appointed sheriff.

No. 2: Should mandatory performance audit of all county programs be deleted, and replaced with an "as needed" performance audit with published annual reports and evening public hearings to inform the citizens of results? Flip a coin.

Background: In-depth audit of every program every year has proven impossible, resulting in shallow reviews. There is no requirement for public dissemination.

Pro: Published reports and public hearings are great. Resources would concentrate on areas of need.

Con: No guarantee of any greater depth of audit. Removal of mandatory audit of all departments is troublesome.

No. 3: Should Pierce County adopt instant runoff voting for county elections?



Flip a coin.

Background: The courts have declared Washington's method of primary elections to be illegal.

Pro: It's a good solution.

Con: Unorthodox and confusing. Unlike anything used before. Only applies to county ballot issues. State elections and issues are unaffected, resulting in confusing ballot.

No. 4: Should signature requirements for county initiatives be lowered to match requirements for state initiatives? The amendment should be supported.

Background: State initiatives require signatures equal to 8 percent of votes cast at last executive election. County initiatives currently require 10 percent.

Pro: Manifest unfairness will be corrected. More initiatives may make it to the ballot.

Con: More initiatives may make it to the ballot.

No. 5: Should signature requirements for county referendums be lowered to match requirements for state referendums? Yes.

Background: State referendums require signatures equal to 4 percent of votes cast at last executive election. County referendums currently require 8 percent.

Pro: Manifest unfairness will be corrected. More referendums may make it to the ballot.

Con: More Referendums may make it to the ballot.

No. 6: Should county council be allowed 25 additional days within which to prepare Budget? Yes.

Background: Pierce County has had a strong executive and a weak council that has neglected its primary source of power, the budget. Council is now attempting to

gain its rightful level of authority. Council currently allowed 45 days to prepare budget.

Pro: Additional time needed for council to prepare budget.

Con: Earlier submittal of executive's budget proposal makes proposal less accurate.

No. 7: Should the executive make board and commission appointments from a list provided by the district's councilman? Flip a coin.

Background: The executive currently has free choice over appointments.

Pro: Avoids political bias created by executive's appointments.

Con: Allows political bias due to councilman's control.

No. 8: Should county executive lose administrative authority over elected executive departments? Yes.

Background: Executive currently controls the budget, staff, operations, etc, of all county executive departments, including other elected officials (auditor, assessor/treasurer, prosecutor, etc).

Pro: Provides full autonomy for elected officials. Executive loses some authority.

Con: Complicates budget and management. Executive loses some authority.

No. 9: Should limitations on eminent domain be stated in the charter? Yes.

Background: Federal constitution requires property owners to be compensated if property is "taken." State Constitution severely limits when property can be "taken" by the government. Washington state and Pierce County lawmakers have a bad habit of ignoring constitutionally protected property rights.

Pro: Government transgressions are getting worse. County government needs to be put "on notice" that they must respect citizens' existing property rights.

Con: Not needed. No change to existing law. Individual property owners can already file lawsuits to correct injustices.

Rick Sorrels is a Key Peninsula resident who closely followed the discussions of the Charter Review Commission.

(From **LETTERS**, Page 4)

Civic Center's anniversary celebration a success

On April 18, 1956, the Civic Center Association purchased its buildings and grounds for \$8,100. On Aug. 26, 2006, we celebrated that event by a parade from Key Center to our site with many activities for everyone. Music was provided by Two Waters Arts Alliance; "Sheriff" Ty Hardin rounded up all the board members and threw them in jail. We had bounce houses, a dunk tank, a fishing pond, and other fun events. We do hope you were able to attend, as it was a celebration of our community as a wonderful place to live.

Kudos to Jena Henak, Ben Thompson, Tim Kezele, Gloria Bowman and everyone else who was instrumental in making our day a success. We would also like to recognize some of our past presidents, who have helped guide and care for our center over the years. Without their dedication and hard work, we would not be here: David Freeman, Max Marlow, Don Mills, Chuck Dalton, Marion Wagner, Larry Nichols, Robert Shotland, Earl Knapp, Tom VanSlyke, Michael Salatino, Vicki Henshel, Terry Thomas, Dale Loy, Chuck Dalton, Mike Coffin, Edward Taylor, Tim Kezele, Stephanie Zampini, Marty Marcus, Dave Stratford and Betty Kelley.

If you are a past president and your name is not on this list, please accept our apologies and contact Jena at 884-3456 so we can add your name.

We are working on many upcoming events: Halloween Party, Sunday Night Basketball, joining with the Longbranch Improvement Club for New Year's Eve Dance, Flavor of Fall with Two Waters Arts Alliance in 2007, Livable Community Fair in 2007, board development, and of course the ongoing

facility maintenance, including gutters, painting and an addition for Children's Home Society.

Thanks to all of you who come to our meetings, voice your opinion and want to know what is happening in your community. We will be having elections in November, so if you are interested in becoming a part of the KPCCA Board we need you at our meetings. Our board meetings are the second Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thanks again for all your hard work!

*Phil Bauer
KPCCA President*

Geoduck farming costs the environment

There is no doubt that geoduck farming is a profitable business both for the grower and the landowner who leases him the land. The question is, "At what cost?"

Everyone acknowledges there is very little science to go on, but it doesn't take much science to be concerned when one sees a harvester buried to the waist marching up and down the beach liquefying everything in sight. One study of this harvest method that is also used subtidally claims that full recovery of the habitat takes 39 years.

Shellfish aquaculture is good for Washington but so is a rich diversity of habitat and wildlife. State agencies like the Department of Natural Resources have come down clearly on the side of aquaculture. If habitat is to be preserved, the counties need to step up to the plate and zone intertidal areas like they do the uplands before the shellfish industry picks off the intertidal one parcel at a time. For more information on geoduck harvesting, contact Citizens for a Healthy Bay at 253-383-2429.

*Stanley Cummings, Tacoma Executive
director, Citizens for Healthy Bay*

Geoduck farming bad for Puget Sound

In the last issue of this newspaper there was a disquieting tone of favor for commercialization of our shoreline. Intensive farming of shellfish, whether geoduck or oyster or mussel, is not what I want to see when I look at the Puget Sound. It is the diversity of sea life, clear water, clean sand, or pebbles, and the birds that hunt here that make looking at our shore so wondrous. It seems intuitive to me that packing in one species of sea life to the exclusion of all others is not good ecology. To insert large quantities of industrial materials into our Sound to establish a commercial operation seems contrary to the safeguards enforced on upland development. Yet the state is fast tracking the geoduck industry, whose environmental impact is not understood. DNR has leased 25 acres of Case Inlet this year, with 225 more acres in the works. Is this what you want for our Sound?

*Charlotte Smothers
Lakebay*

Geoducks cause beach hazards

NIMBY. The shellfish industry loves to say this in regards to those opposing their operations. You would think they would know they can't grow geoduck in a yard. One, they would die, and two, we have zoning laws to keep industry out of residential areas. That is, unless we are talking about a beach.

Puget Sound belongs to everyone. This is your back yard! All of Puget Sound is public waters, no one can restrict you from being there. Yet some can install underwater hazards endangering your family and possibly damaging Puget Sound itself.

One of our back yards that may be sacrificed is Penrose Park, which adjoins

a proposed site. I watch us wade across the channel in our public waters and envision our children getting cut on tubes, nets and rebar. All this for a luxury item (the industry's word, not mine) at \$100 a plate in Asia. Can you afford that?

Write to County Council Terry Lee and tell him what you want for your back yard.

*Laurie Brauneis
Lakebay*

Beloved deer will be missed

Today we heard news that a local friend had been killed. "Piglet," as he was known to our family, was found shot to death in the yard of a neighbor. Many around here knew him as the deer with one long and one short antler who would make his rounds from yard to yard. He was very friendly, allowing anyone who was near to scratch his neck while he rested in the shade on a hot day. He would even play chase with our dogs.

I write this not only as a memoriam to our friend, but also to remind us all that we share this wonderful place we call home with the animals that make it what it is, and a few apples or flowers are but a small price to pay to have such a gift. Imagine how it felt telling a 4-year-old that the deer who he believed was one of Santa's reindeer had been killed. Piglet will be missed.

*Dave Nesbitt
Lakebay*

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Go, Seahawks!



Photos by Mindi LaRose

Peninsula High School's Seahawks won the annual Fish Bowl game against Gig Harbor High School's Tides, 14-3. The victory broke a longtime Gig Harbor winning streak. A Salmon Bake is traditionally held prior to the game. Pictured here, the team celebrates after the end of the game.

A personal message from
Lois McMahan

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See Bob, Mark or Jackie

Youth center to fill niche

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

A new youth center currently in the planning stages will aim to provide recreation and socializing activities for Key Peninsula's young people. The center, which has been in the works for nearly two years, is being planned at the Key Center complex that is also home to Communities in School of Peninsula.

Known to many as the "red barn," the three-building center once housed a manufacturing facility for disposable cameras. CIS-P is located in one building, and the group appropriately calling itself the Red Barn plans to lease the other two. The facility has been undergoing extensive remodeling and is in the process of obtaining necessary permits from Pierce County.

The Red Barn group is operating under the auspices of the Vaughn Community Church, but as a separate entity. The facility will be intended to attract all youth, regardless of religious affiliation, said Pete Hedin, the chair of the Red Barn Committee, which has six officers currently. "It's more of a community building, not just spiritual," Hedin said.

The theme of the center is a coffee lounge, where young people could drop by (or be dropped in) during open hours, usually after school. Organized activities will be planned, but the kids could simply hang out, do homework or socialize. Other groups will be able to utilize the facility for their events, and while youth activities are the primary focus, that will not be the exclusive use.

"Some of us were talking about the lack of things to do for youth on the peninsula," Hedin said. "There are all sorts of ideas floating around. We'll start out slowly and expand with time."

The Red Barn Committee may be contacted via mail at P.O. Box 1032, Vaughn, WA 98394.

“

Some of us were talking about the lack of things to do for youth on the peninsula.

— Pete Hedin, chairman

”

Some of the ideas discussed include a stage, an indoor gymnasium for sports like basketball, computer facilities and a coffee shop.

According to the Red Barn Committee vision statement, "The Red Barn is a response to the limited opportunities for socializing and indoor constructive recreation on the Key Peninsula... The goal is a safe and desirable location for Key Peninsula residents to mingle and recreate."

A steering committee helped get the project off the ground, and a variety of volunteers have stepped up to the plate to staff the facility. Hedin said all the positions needed to open the center, including a program coordinator, have been filled with part-time volunteers. Funding has been provided through organizations such as the Angel Guild and private donors, and much of the renovation is being done by volunteers to keep the costs low.

The Red Barn group hopes to see the center open by fall 2007, and plans to have more details available by next spring.

KPFD trains for confined space operations

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

During a recent Confined Space/Hazmat training session at the Key Peninsula Fire Department, KPFD long-time volunteer firefighter Gerry Marsh said, "I had no trouble getting through that hatch when I weighed 180 (pounds) but when I got up to 206, I was too stout to get into the thing."

Fellow firefighter Chance Gower asked, "Why didn't you take off your breathing apparatus?" Marsh responded, "I did. I was still too wide to get in."

That's just one of the reasons repeat drilling on the confined space equipment is so necessary. KPFD's Lt. Dale Heidal, overall coordinator of the training, said, "Over 60 percent of confined space emergency fatalities are those of would-be rescuers, including citizens and trained and untrained responders. The key to success in rescues of this sort is, 'Dial 9-1-1.'"

KPFD's Training Division Chief Paul Bosch explained, "We train on confined space operations every year. We alternate annually between classroom training on policies and procedures and actual hands-on operations in the confined space training vehicle. Use of the latter costs the district \$700 for three days; this includes the cost of transporting the vehicle to our station for use."

The training vehicle is the property of Bates Technical College's Fire Service Training Program out of Tacoma. It involves a labyrinth of total darkness chambers and fire walls designed to train and test the abilities of firefighters to maneuver within the confined spaces to



Photo by Hugh McMillan

KPFD volunteer firefighter Eddie Reeves wears full turnout gear including helmet, masked breathing apparatus, and air supply tank as he looks out from the interior of the confined space training vehicle used for the event.

affect rescues of those trapped in such quarters.

Heidal said, "We trained 18 firefighters (at one day's session) of whom five are career and the balance, volunteers."

"It was kind of, 'learn your own limitations,'" said firefighter Brian Pearce. Bosch estimated that over 40 personnel were trained over the three-day period. "That includes most of our career and volunteer staff," said Division Chief Charles West.

Those interested in serving as a volunteer firefighter should call 884-2222. The department provides training on all aspects of firefighting, search and rescue, and emergency medical technician disciplines to volunteers at no cost.

"The application window is open at this time," said West. "We welcome all calls for information."

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Local groups focus on preparedness

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Two organizations are offering help for Key Peninsula residents to prepare for possible future emergencies. The Key Peninsula Emergency Preparation Task Force, headed by David Jorgensen, has worked with PC-NET (Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams) to set up some training programs on the peninsula. The KP Community Council, working with the American Red Cross, set up forums that began in September. Three more sessions are scheduled for October and November (see sidebar). The community is invited to attend any of these forums and learn more about individual and neighborhood training. Presenters at the forum will include the Red Cross and Fire District 16; several other organizations will have booths.

PC-NET works with small community groups to prepare people for possible future emergencies, with training on what to do until first responders — police and fire units — can arrive to give assistance. Neighborhood teams organize, with some people trained for search and rescue oper-

Emergency Preparedness forums

Oct. 4, 6 p.m. at Vaughn Elementary

Oct. 19, 6 p.m. at KP Middle School

Nov. 1, 6 p.m. at Evergreen Elementary School

For information, call the community council hotline at 884-0557.

KP Shelter Training by Red Cross

Oct. 7 & 14, 1-5 p.m. at KPLC.

Register with Laverna Williams, 253-441-7624 or lwilliams@rainier-redcross.org.

ations and for damage evaluation. A first-aid station is located and stocked.

Jorgensen's wife, Karen, started the Key Peninsula group, whose home base is at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church (KPLC), a community-minded group.

McColley Hall at the KPLC was built to serve the community in various ways. Karen Jorgensen realized the possibility of using the facility as an emergency shelter for the larger community. Grants were received to build a commercial kitchen

and obtain emergency generators for the hall and a well system. A storage shed has just been completed to hold cots, blankets, towels, toiletries and long-lasting cases of staple food. Red Cross is providing training at no cost for first aid, CPR, and neighborhood teams. The training includes simulations of sample emergency situations. Alicia Jensen, Red Cross Emergency Services Specialist for Pierce County, says the purpose is to get people into a frame of

mind of what goes into a shelter and what they can do to prepare for emergencies.

Other facilities are being considered as other possible shelters for emergency situations local staging areas for volunteers.

Jorgensen says at this time, KPLC members are being trained in how to operate McColley Hall in the event of an emergency, including cooking, registering people, and providing first aid.

Emergencies might include earthquakes, forest fires, power outages, water supply contamination, school violence, tsunamis or other disasters that could affect local citizens.

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Photos courtesy South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

The culvert on a private property on West Fork Rocky Creek before and after the project.

Three salmon recovery projects completed

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Three Key Peninsula projects were among the recipients this year of grants aimed at preserving salmon habitat. The local projects, which included two new culverts on Rocky Creek and the repair of a failed culvert on Huge Creek, were completed in September.

"They were fish passage projects to open existing but blocked habitat," said Kristin Williamson, project manager with the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, which coordinated the projects. "The Key Peninsula watershed has been a focal area for our group and other groups for the last five to six years. The watersheds are so intact otherwise — they are ideal for fish passage projects."

Two of the projects were located on private property and one was on a county road, on 144th off Wright Bliss Road. Williamson said the fish had to be diverted during the construction, and sizeable Coho, Chum and Cutthroat salmon were found. "It seemed like an incredibly healthy system," she said.

The project entails a long-term commitment, including replanting of native plants, yearly monitoring, and some maintenance. Volunteers will return to the sites of the three projects this fall to complete the vegetation replanting.

Although the population in the specific stream areas may only number a few dozen fish, the affected streams are direct tributaries to Puget Sound, so they impact the entire stream system. The new culverts will allow the salmon to swim upstream, where they can spawn, and allow for enough room for juveniles to move freely for feeding and growing.

To find out more about the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, visit www.spsseg.org.

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group is one of 14 regional fishery enhancement groups in the state that started out as state Department of Fish and Wildlife satellites. The groups receive some base funding from the state and grants for individual projects.

This year's Key Peninsula culvert projects were funded in part by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, which awarded \$3.4 million in grants in January for Pierce County watershed projects. The board was created by the state Legislature in 1999 with the goal of supporting salmon recovery efforts and other programs related to fish and their habitat. The board awarded \$290,000 for the Rocky Creek projects, and Pierce County provided matching funds and technical assistance. The project was identified as a priority in the Key Peninsula/Islands Basin Plan created by the KGI Watershed Council, comprised of representatives from various agencies and organizations as well as private individuals.

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group also completed several culvert restoration projects on the Key Peninsula last year, including the restoration of a Minter Creek culvert. Next year, another culvert project is planned on 144th Street in partnership with Pierce County.

"If you think of a watershed as an arterial, it's all connected," Williamson said. "The more small projects you do, the more habitat you have."

BRIEFS

news

Historic building's days numbered

The old Wauna post office will be demolished this month. A final date has yet to be determined, according to the Pierce County Parks and Recreation, which owns the building and the Purdy Sand Spit Park. The paperwork between the county and the Tacoma-based demolition crew is complete.

The building was originally scheduled for demolition during the summer, but was held up. The county has offered the park to the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, which has said it would not be interested in the park as long as the building is standing.

Bear sighted recently in Lake Holiday area

Seeing a bear in the Lake Holiday community isn't a common sight, but when it happens, residents take notice.

Cindy Martel, who heads the Lake Holiday association, said the first bear

sighting was made early this summer, followed by another on Aug. 30 by a UPS driver. Martel contacted the state Department of Fish and Wildlife and was told that an agent would not respond to bear sightings unless the bears "become aggressive."

Capt. Dan Brinson of the Region 6 office of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife in Montesano said when they receive calls of bear sightings, they have two courses of action.

"If it is a sighting only and there is no safety issue, then we give (the caller) advice including not leaving garbage or pet food outside," he said. "If there are safety concerns, then we set a culvert pipe trap in hopes of relocating the bear."

To insure the safety of the residents and pets, Martel posted information about the sightings, including safety tips.

KPMPD board vacancy deadline Oct. 5

The Key Peninsula Metro Park district established a timeline to fill the park District's open commissioner vacancy.

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District will accept resumes to fill the

open commissioner vacancy until Oct. 5 at 5 p.m. The board will interview applicants on Oct. 9 and appoint an individual during the regular scheduled meeting on Oct. 9. This appointment will be until the next general election in 2007. The appointed individual will have to run for the position in order to complete the unexpired term until 2009.

The position is open to all residents of the Key Peninsula. Interested individuals may submit a resume and cover letter to KPMPD, Position # 4, P.O. BOX 70, Lakebay WA 98349 or contact the park office at 884-9240.

The park board has changed its meeting schedule to once a month starting in October. The board meetings, which are open to the public, will be held every second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m., and may be preceded by study sessions at 6:30 p.m. The meetings are held in the Volunteer Park Annex at 5514 Key Peninsula Hwy.

Community Council has vacancies

The Key Peninsula Community Council recently held its annual Board of Directors election. New members

elected this year were D'Arcy Figuracion and Lance McMillan. Other members include David Figuracion, Russ Humbert, Tim Calhoun, Barb Trotter, Danna Webster, Frank Shirley, Arlene Williams, Christine Fitzgerald, Jeff Harris, and Dexter Reuhl.

The board is seeking individuals to fill two remaining vacancies, one in Area 1 and one in Area 2, both at the north end of the Key Peninsula. Interested candidates should contact the KPC office at 884-0557 or Jeff Harris at 884-4697, or drop by the council's office in the Key Peninsula Health Center, next to the library, on Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon.

The council will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11, in the Key Peninsula Middle School library.

The meeting is open to all interested parties who live or own property on the Key Peninsula and is intended to solicit community input on establishing a meaningful and prioritized agenda for the upcoming year. Local residents and property owners who have issues or concerns they would like addressed by the community council in 2007 are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting.

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Ruling in favor of residents

By Lori Losee, KP News

In two major hearing rulings, the five homeowners who are seeking to make Powerline Road a public highway (or county road) are one step closer to reality.

According to John Thomas Ludlow, attorney representing the homeowners, at the first hearing ruling on Aug. 25 the judge concluded even though Tacoma Public Utilities, which owns the property, is a governmental entity, TPU is engaged in business-like activity, thus the road can be classified as a prescriptive easement.

"This was an important hearing for us and we prevailed," Ludlow said.

The most recent ruling, on Sept. 15, was a motion by the city of Tacoma and TPU to dismiss all of the homeowners' claims to the road. The motion was denied. "It was a very important decision for us," Ludlow said.

William Fosbre, attorney for Tacoma Public Utilities, could not be reached for comment.

The next step is a trial, scheduled to start on Jan. 9, 2007.

"Right now, we are just preparing for

trial," said TPU spokesperson Chris Gleason.

Since the 1920s, Powerline Road (known as 144th Street as well as Pole Line Road) has been owned by the city of Tacoma and TPU and is used as a right-of-way for work trucks to maintain the power lines that stretch from the Cushman Dam to Tacoma, according to Gleason. "Crews use the road about a half dozen times a year," she said.

Gleason said that about a year-and-a-half ago, then TPU Superintendent Steve Klein wanted to stop access to Powerline Road or restrict access; that is when TPU gated off the right-of-way, but has not cut off access for homeowners.

"The original plan was to lock the gates," she said. TPU has asked homeowners to sign indemnity waivers protecting the integrity of the road.

"In recent years, this area has become a dumping ground for meth and hazardous waste and it is costing us more and more every year to maintain," Gleason said. "It is also a liability issue for us when people use the road... It has been a challenge with people using the road without restrictions."

Safe Streets to hire full-timer

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Safe Streets has decided to hire a full-time community mobilization specialist to staff the Key Peninsula office, despite the original plan to staff the office part-time following the departure in August of Dennis Taylor.

The agency tried to fill the spot in-house initially by finding a current staff member who could work half-time on the Key Peninsula. The decision to cut the hours at the Key Peninsula office was made in order to shift some of the funding to Tacoma, which has been experiencing increased gang activity.

"We've had a couple of letters submitted to us by key community members that really encouraged the support from Safe Streets (for the Key Peninsula)," said Moni Hoy, operations manager.

"Our staff has worked really hard over the years to build the support of community leaders — it's difficult to bring someone part time and potentially give up the momentum we've built," he said.

Another aspect that played into the new decision was the fact that it is more difficult to hire a really qualified person part-time, Hoy said. The organization will try to recruit a local resident to fill the spot, and Hoy said anyone interested should call the Tacoma office at 272-6824.

Hoy said Safe Streets will request additional funding from the city of Tacoma to fund the work there.

Until the job is filled, two Tacoma office staff members have been assigned to work with two of the Safe Streets-supported programs: Teens Empowered Against Meth (TEAM) club at Peninsula High School, and the Youth Council that operates under the auspices of the Key Peninsula Community Council. Lisa Copp will be the coordinator and adviser for the Youth Council in the interim. Wanda Rochelle is the new adviser for TEAM and will remain in that function even after the Key Peninsula community mobilization specialist is hired.

Hoy said he hopes to see the position filled by mid-October.

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County charter review proposals on the ballot

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Pierce County residents will decide in the November election on changes proposed to the county's charter by the Pierce County Charter Review Commission.

The commission concluded its review of the current charter and outlined proposed changes earlier this year. The commission was comprised of 21 elected individuals, representing the county citizenry. They have approved nine proposals to change the charter, which has been in effect since May 1, 1981.

Among the proposal voters will not see on the ballot is one that creates an oversight position, something local residents have requested multiple times during the meetings of the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board. Agreement could not be reached regarding this issue, and it was ultimately voted down by commission members. Rather, they voted to approve recommendations to Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg and the county council that include creation of an office to field citizen complaints.



In a June 15 letter to the chair of the charter review commission, Bertie Enslow, Ladenburg attached a commentary on the proposed ballot items, thoroughly outlining his "objections to many of these provisions." His view was that the charter has served the county well over its 25 year existence, and "does not require, nor do I believe the citizens will benefit from, substantial change." Ladenburg wrote he was convinced the charter form of governance has fostered the "stability, professionalism and

integrity (Pierce County) has come to be known for."

One of the proposals provides for an elected sheriff, rather than an appointed one. Ladenburg objected to this proposal, saying it "Risks reversing much of what has been achieved since the days of scandal in the department." He cited growth of the urban community of Pierce County, and creation of a modern, professional law enforcement organization, and mentioned a loss of citizen-accountability by having an elected sheriff. "An appointed sheriff has instant accountability, and can be removed immediately by the county executive if necessary," he noted. Alternately, an elected sheriff stays in office for the duration of the term. He wrote, "Both the immediacy and flexibility of the executive's response are lost with the conversion to an elected sheriff."

Regarding a recommendation for a citizen oversight board, Ladenburg said it was "an unfortunate example of fixing what is not broken at excessive cost to the taxpayers... There is no need for

this body." He indicated the cost of administering such a board "could run as high as \$2,700,000 annually."

Among proposals on the November ballot are provisions for instant runoff voting, performance audits, budget presentations, and limitations on the executive power of the county executive relative to other elected officials, and how they administer their own duties.

A proposal to prohibit the county from taking private property (eminent domain) for any other than required public use will also be on the ballot. Ladenburg stated this provision is "a completely unnecessary (and likely illegal) restatement of the law of eminent domain in Washington, (including) protections against its abuse." Through use of a hypothetical scenario, he illustrated that, in his opinion, the new provision would most likely be unenforceable, and "its potential to confuse the law while failing to achieve any additional protection for property owners... suggests it should not be placed on the ballot."

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Primary election results

Based on unofficial results, Pierce County. Voters approved a proposition by the library system to lift a levy lid, maintaining funding that would have otherwise been reduced due to Initiative 747. Key Peninsula voters, however, were divided on a similar attempt by Fire District 16.

Of the two levy lid lift propositions on the ballot for the fire district, only one was approved after 3,980 voters cast

ballots. The proposition, which authorizes the district to collect an EMS levy at the rate of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, narrowly passed (by 79 votes). The other proposition, which sought to authorize the collection of a regular levy at the rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 (maintaining current tax levels), failed by 249 votes.

In local state races, the preliminary results are as follows (results are not official until certified) for the contested Republican races:

Senate: Jim Hines, 58.06 percent; Lois McMahan, 41.76 percent;

House Position 2: Trent England, 53.41 percent; Ron Boehme, 46.17 percent.

Hines will now face Democrat Derek Kilmer on the November ballot, while England will oppose Democrat Larry Seaquist. Republican Beckie Krantz will try to unseat incumbent Democrat Pat Lantz (both ran unopposed in the primary) for House Position 1. Also on the November ballot is Republican Terry Lee, who is running unopposed this year for reelection to his Pierce County Council seat. The election is Nov. 7.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

This is the first year when the new "touch-screen" voting machines are available in every precinct in Pierce County. They are required by federal law to enable disabled voters to cast their ballots with minimal assistance. A blind voter now has access to headphones. The machine is available for anyone to use. The downside to the machine is that only one voter can use it at a time. The primary elections results were to be certified Sept. 29. For certified results, check the county Website at www.co.pierce.wa.us.

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Smoking ban's impact on KP establishments both good, bad

By Lori Losee, KP News

Nearly a year after the statewide smoking ban went into effect in Washington, Key Peninsula bars and restaurants are still seeing its repercussions on their bottom line. But not everyone is impacted equally.

Greg Calahan, owner of two taverns, O'Callahan's in Key Center and another in Tacoma, said the smoking ban has impacted his two establishments in opposite ways. At O'Callahan's, business involving nonsmokers increased in revenue by 25 percent; however, at his North End Tavern (in the Proctor Business District), business has taken a 75 percent nosedive.

"Since there are no Indian casinos near O'Callahan's, the smoking ban hasn't bothered us," he said.

Calahan said the majority of his business at the North End comes from the business of pull-tabs. "Smokers gamble and therefore I could afford to provide gamblers with free alcohol and drinks, it keeps them establishment gambling," he said. "By taking away their cigarette,

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"Since there are no Indian casinos near O'Callahan's, the smoking ban hasn't bothered us."

— Greg Calahan, tavern owner

”

they leave.”

Initiative 901, which was passed by state voters in 2005, prohibits smoking within 25 feet of doors or windows of all public places. The ban took effect Dec. 8, 2005.

Calahan, a nonsmoker himself, said he estimates his losses at his Tacoma tavern at \$300,000. "They (the state) took that revenue and threw it in the toilet," he said.

"My tavern was very profitable until the smoking ban, and my bar is only three and a half miles from the Indian

casino where all my smokers now go," Calahan said. "I didn't buy this place as a nonsmoking bar."

At the New Brookside Restaurant, which opened before the ban went into effect, owners made the decision to go smoke-free before the state required it, so they haven't seen any decrease in business.

"It should be at the discretion of owners," said manager Shellie DeWitt. "The reason why we went smoke-free is that we have one large open dining room and no separation if we allowed smoking."

At Lulu's Homeport in Home, owner LuLu Smith has a different dilemma. Business has increased in the restaurant, but in the lounge, business is way down.

Smith said the lounge is really hurting by a 30 percent loss in revenue.

"It's been wonderful in the restaurant, but we have lost a lot of business in the lounge," she said.

The experience of the local business owners appears to be similar to those of establishments around the state.

According to a state Department of Revenue press release, gross business income reported by state bars and taverns declined 3.4 percent to \$122 million during the first quarter of 2006. That compares to a 4.3 percent increase in sales during the same period in 2005. However, sales at sit-down restaurants, many of which already were nonsmoking establishments, increased by 8.1 percent to \$1 billion during the first quarter of 2006, compared to an 8 percent growth during the first quarter of 2005.

State officials cautioned it is too early to draw conclusions about the economic impact of the smoking ban and data for additional quarters needs to be gathered to assess the longer-term trend. They pointed out that businesses affected by smoking bans in other states have tended to "adapt and recover."

"The volatility of the bar and tavern industry, which saw significant ups and downs prior to the ban, is a complicating factor in assessing what impact, if any, the smoking ban has had," according to the statement.

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New places to shop in Allyn

By Danna Webster, KP News

Two new businesses opened in Allyn this summer: Marty's Music and Twisted Angel. Their offices are on the corner of State Route 3 and Lakeland Drive. One third of the building is also occupied by George Kenny's School of Chainsaw Carving.

Marty's Music owners, Donna and Marty Bush, are Mason County natives. They met in fifth grade and both came from families where music was played in their homes.

"It was part of growing up in Agate," Donna says. Marty's mother played guitar and his uncle taught him how to play. Accordions, guitars and harmonicas were played in Donna's house.

Music is important in the their lives today. Marty leads the music worship at North Mason Bible Church and plays with a group of friends each week. Donna admits to blowing the harmonica a little. "I'm good at playing the radio," she says.

The store offers new guitars for sale and pre-owned guitars on consignment. Many accessories are available for band and orchestra instruments including strings, reeds, resin, straps, and drum sticks. Music lessons are not available at the store but Marty can match up students with teachers in the area.

This is a first-time attempt for the Bush couple to operate their own business. They decided they should try while

“

Bikers are just one big family. They are the first to stop and help along the road.

— Kristine Thaves, assistant

”

they are young. "Marty always wanted to open a music store," says Donna. "You've got to jump in and do it. Take a leap of faith." The grand opening celebration was Sept. 30.

Next door to the music store is an apparel shop for motorcycle riders. Leather jackets, chaps, shirts and jewelry with biker logos and popular emblems line the walls and hang on racks. The store also carries heated winter wear like Gergings. It is called Twisted Angel and like their neighbors at the music store, owner Roy Terry and his assistant, Kristine Thaves, were ready to try something different. Terry and Thaves have both lived all their lives in Mason County and each of them drives a school bus for the local school district. Both ride Harleys; Terry rides Heritage Softail and Thaves a Dyna Low Rider.

Twisted Angel opened Memorial Day in this new location. The name for the store is patented and was derived after



Photo by Danna Webster

Twisted Angel owner Roy Terry operates a 1919 Singer pedal sewing machine. Terry and his Singer will sew patches for customers onto their apparel bought at the store.

playing with ideas for names. It suggests someone who is not quite an angel, who is "not perfect, just doing the best he can," says Terry.

Terry had operated for a brief time on property above North Bay Road.

According to Thaves, the store is not just a Harley shop. "It's for all bikes, not just Harley," she says. "We have good quality merchandise and great prices. People are happy we are here."

Twisted Angel hopes to get involved with rides that contribute to the community. Thaves says there are always weekly events for riders and often the rides raise funds for charitable causes, such as the Toy Rides at Christmas time. Poker Runs, where bikers ride from point to point picking up cards, are also popular fund-raisers.

"We love biking," says Thaves. "Bikers are just one big family. They are the first to stop and help along the road."

At the far end of the building is George Kenny's Chainsaw School. The third shop in the building is Kenny's woodcarving gallery. Kenny manages the building for the new owners and displays carvings on the property adjacent to the building.

Watching chainsaw carvers work is a main attraction in Allyn. According to store manager Shari Stormo, the long-time carving shop has had a good summer. "We are booking right into October for classes," she says, and adds "that there will be a couple of weeks off for Kenny during the fall hunting season, but the store will keep its regular operating hours."

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Mayo Cove herring pens appeal denied

By William C. Dietz, KP News

The reconsideration was denied. That's the latest development in a long-running dispute between Pierce County's Department of Planning and Land Services and Mayo Cove herring pen owner Derwin Hostetler. The county maintained that Hostetler lacked permits necessary to operate the herring pens, while the marina operator claimed legal nonconforming rights, which, if found to be valid, would have allowed him to continue the operation.

However, on April 21, 2006, Hearing Examiner Mark E. Hurdelbrink upheld the county's cease and desist order when he concluded that Hostetler did not have nonconforming rights. Hostetler and his attorney appealed the decision on May 3, arguing there had been "errors of procedure and misinterpretation of fact," as well as "clerical mistakes." (To read the full text of the communication from Hurdelbrink to Hostetler and his attorney, visit the Key Peninsula News Website at www.keypennews.com.)

"At this point they (Hostetler and his attorney) still have the opportunity to appeal to the Superior Court as part of the LUPA process (Land Use Petition Act)," Mark Luppino, code enforcement officer for Pierce County, said. "Mr. Hostetler could also apply for the permits necessary to run a herring pen operation — although it's unclear as to whether such an application would be approved."

In the meantime, based on the hearing examiner's latest decision, the pens will have to be removed. "If he doesn't remove the pens, the county will get a court order to remove them and do so at taxpayers' expense," Luppino said.

When a KP News reporter dropped by the marina to speak with Hostetler about the pens, they were gone. When asked how the pens had been disposed of, Hostetler replied, "I do what I feel like doing. Within the law."

Large frames with attached floats were clearly visible just north of the pier leading out to Hostetler's marina. Part of the weathered structure had been pulled up onto the beach and part of it extended out into shallow water. According to a local resident who has a boat moored at the Lakebay marina, the partially beached frames constituted the remains of Hostetler's herring pens.

As for the possibility of an appeal to Superior Court, Hostetler said, "When my lawyer gets back from vacation, I'm going to talk to him about it."

When asked if he might apply for the state permits to legally operate herring pens in Mayo Cove, Hostetler said, "I have to get the county off my back first. Or at least that's my understanding. They (the state) have no problem with the herring pens."

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PSD teachers aim for highest honor

Peninsula School District encourages and supports teachers who are striving for excellence by obtaining a National Board Certified Teacher certificate. National certification is the highest honor teachers can receive, and it helps them learn how their teaching practices measure against rigorous standards.

This year, 27 PSD teachers have embarked on the yearlong process, a rigorous assessment that involves four portfolios, an exam, and as many as 400 hours outside the classroom time.

"The focus is on the students and their learning, not on how elaborate a teacher's lesson is; it is student focused versus teacher focused," says Jodi Kimizuka, a Vaughn Elementary School teacher who earned the certification in 2003.

This year, Peninsula School District certified teachers are providing the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards training in-house to their colleagues. Teachers view the process as the best professional development opportunity; they also benefit from peer feedback.

"Teaching is a solitary profession—classroom instruction and practice are merely seen through the eyes of that single teacher,"



Kimizuka says. "Having teachers come together to analyze our practice is one of the most powerful ways to become better, to see more, and to understand more!"

PSD currently has 12 nationally certified teachers, with eight others awaiting results from last year's program.

The school district has supported all teachers interested in national certification

by helping with program costs, providing substitute staff, and lending equipment necessary for portfolio creation. This year, 100 percent of the teachers' costs are paid through grants as well as funds from PSD and local businesses.



October events

- 11** School Board Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m. Harbor Ridge Middle School
- 13** No School
- 14** PHS Auction "Discover Seahawks Treasures"

For information on donations and reservations, Contact Jane Ostericher at 858-6011
- 21** HRMS Dedication 1:00 p.m. Community is Welcome!
- 24** District Choral Fest Chapel Hill 7:00 p.m.
- 26** School Board Study Session 6:30 p.m. District Office

TWO GREAT POOLS!

Gig Harbor High School

Lap swim: M W F 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Tues & Thurs 7:35 p.m. – 8:35 p.m. Recreational swim: Fri Sat & Sun 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Peninsula High School

Lap swim: Tues & Thurs 5:15 a.m. – 7:00 a.m. Recreational swim: Sat 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Lap swim is open at both pools to the public ages 14 and older.

The pools are also available to reserve for private parties on Saturday and Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

All reservations must be made in person at the pool office at least two weeks in advance.

For more information visit www.pools.psd401.net

At A Glance...

Safe and Drug Free Schools:

The Peninsula School District's Safe and Drug Free Schools program strives to reduce alcohol, tobacco, substance abuse, and violence through effective prevention and intervention efforts. It is required that all grade levels participate in substance abuse curriculum and/or activities that address the goal.

Did you know...

High school students have the option of participating in the district's distance learning (CCP) delivered through Cyberspace.

To register, please contact Sheri Lee Jones at 530-1073.

COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to news@keypennews.com • Deadline 17th of the month

Starting this month, the Community Works bulletin board has a new format. To make the section more reader-friendly, we are editing the announcements in a consistent style. The change includes the placement of all the basic event information (time, date, place and contact number) at the very end.

Oct. 4 & 5 — Grief Support Group

Two new grief support groups will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station 2 (Oct. 4 & 18) and every Thursday at 10 a.m. at Fire Station 5 on Wright-Bliss Road (Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26). 884-2054

Oct. 5 — Fuchsia Club

The club program for October will be Sharon Miller, the local fuchsia expert, reviewing the club plants grown this year and giving pointers on how to have better ones next year. Oct. 5, 7 p.m. Key Center Library; 884-9744

Oct. 5 — Voter registration drive

The Key Peacemakers will host a voter registration drive for the Nov. 7 general election. Bring your driver's license number or the last four digits of your social security number. Oct. 5, noon to 6 p.m., Key Center Library; 884-9299

Oct. 6 — Cub Scouts meeting

The KP Cub Scout Pack 222 for Evergreen or Vaughn elementary school students has openings at every age level, from first to fifth grade. Interested kids and parents are invited to attend the next meeting for more information. Oct. 6, 7 p.m., Lakebay Community Church (11 Cornwall Road, Lakebay); Cub Master Tim Ryan 253-383-8838

Oct. 7 — Pee Wee soccer

Pee Wee Sports, a program designed for the little guys and gals, gives youth ages 4-6 the opportunity to learn and improve their skills and fundamentals of soccer. Scaled down equipment, special-

ized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all kids. Parent or adult involvement is strongly encouraged during the weekly classes.

Indoor Soccer will run six weeks on Saturdays mornings starting Oct. 7 at the Civic Center as follows: 6 year olds, 9-9:50 a.m.; 5 year olds, 10-10:50 a.m.; 4 year olds, 11-11:50 a.m. \$29 per youth includes shirt, certificate and end of program party; 884-9240

Oct. 9 — Adult basketball registration deadline

Key Peninsula Metro Park District is accepting team registrations for adult basketball. Teams will play a seven-game season plus compete in a season concluding tournament. All games will be on Sunday evenings, from Oct. 15 to Dec. 10, and be played at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. \$375/team. League will use association officials; league and end of season tournament champions receive individual awards. Individuals without a team may contact KPMPD and request to be put on a player availability list. Registration deadline Oct. 9. 884-9240

Oct. 10 — TOPS Open House

An open house will be held by TOPS to acquaint folks with the program. Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets every Tuesday morning with a private weigh-in, a program, contests and fun and games. Childcare is offered. Oct. 12, 9 p.m., Key Peninsula Lutheran Church-McColley Hall; 884-2554

Oct. 12 — League of Women Voters

The League welcomes women and men interested in participating in the Gig Harbor-Key Pen Unit. The evening discussion topics will include Pierce County Charter Review issues and also local library needs.

Plans for beginning this League unit's study of the issue of traffic congestion on State Route 302 will also be discussed. Oct. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Gig Harbor Visitor and Volunteer Center, 3125 Judson St., Gig Harbor (across Judson from the Post Office).

Oct. 13 — Candidate forum

The Key Peacemakers will host a 26th District candidates forum representing the state House and Senate positions. Oct. 13, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; 884-9299

Oct. 14 — Elder Needs Assessment shared

The preliminary results of the recently conducted Key Peninsula Elder Needs Assessment will be shared and a discussion of the 10 community priorities for aging in place on the Key Peninsula will take place. Everyone interested in the concepts of "Aging in Place" and "Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula" is invited to participate in this community conversation about the survey and the next action steps to be taken. Oct. 14, 1 p.m., Key Center Library-Brones Room; 884-3920

Oct. 20 — Key Peacemakers meet

The Key Peacemakers will hold its regular meeting to discuss planning for the future direction of the group, and discussion of the initiatives that will be on the November ballot. Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; 884-9299

Oct. 26 — KP Senior Society

The Senior Society celebrates Halloween with fabulous decorations by its president, Virginia. (She has supplies for any occasion.) Those who attend in costume may be voted as having the most original, scary or creative one. Seniors meet every Thursday for potluck and card games. Bingo every first Thursday of the month. All are welcome to join in the fun! Oct. 26, noon, Key Peninsula Civic Center, Whitmore Room; 884-5052 or 884-4981

October — Cub Scouts fund-raiser

Cub Scouts Pack 222 is raising money for the annual day camp program. Trail's End popcorn can be ordered by calling 383-8838 or at special stands at Lake Kathryn

Mall and Key Center Square. Oct. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TOPS # 1019 meeting

The TOPS members lost a total of 54 pounds last month. Mary Nelson and Carole Fancher were the best losers and 15 members had losses. Ramona, Zaharia, Angela, and Lewie joined TOPS, which includes men and preteens. TOPS provides a good food regime, fun, motivation and also stresses being healthy. TOPS costs \$24 to join and has monthly dues of \$5. There is no weekly fee for the private weigh-in. Mondays, 6 p.m., Fire Station 5 at Wright-Bliss & Hwy 302; 884-4102

Water aerobics class

A new water aerobics class is held at Camp Easter Seal in Vaughn. 10-11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday; Donna Daily, 884-4473

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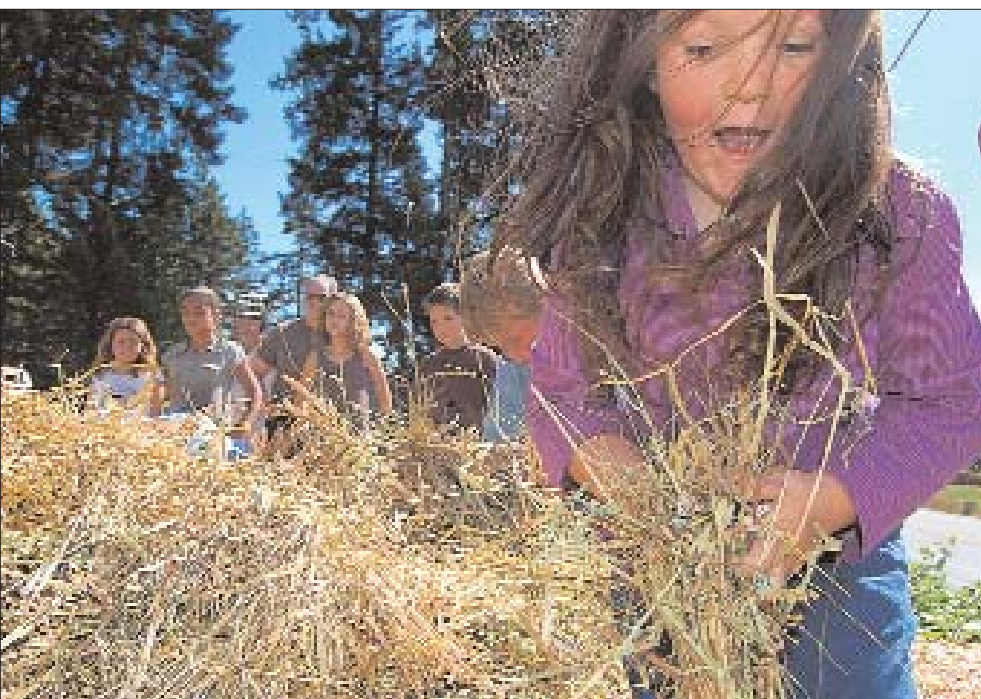
You're Worth a "MILion"



Hoes dress up for SUCCESS

A brilliant community event staged by LuLu's Homeport employees brought good crowds to Home for the "Hoe Down" music, food, games, and, of course, prizes for the "Best Dressed Hoe," all provided for free, thanks to the fund-raising ingenuity and generous donations by organizers. For more photos, visit our Photo Gallery at www.keypennews.com.

Photos by Mindi LaRose



Above, Emillee Durasmith, 6, finds a "goldmine" in the "Candy in the Haystack" game.

Right, Hoe Down provides special photo opportunities.



Left, the Baran Family sit and enjoy the good weather and the free food provided by LuLu's Homeport with the help of donations.



Above, Kids compete in a potato sack race. Various kids games were provided, with prizes ranging from candy to stuffed animals. Below, "Hoes" try to outdress each other for the "best dressed" title. Carolyn Yeager won a barbecue grill for her entry titled "Laverne and Squiggy" that won first place. Ken Trudgeon won second place for his hoe titled "Tux-ed-Hoe." His prize was a wood carving of a boot. (See their photos in our online gallery at www.keypennews.com.)



Local kids get help with school supplies

By Kristie Byrd, KP News

Nearly 100 local families are getting much-needed help with their children's school supplies, thanks to a collaboration between the Salvation Army and the local office of Windermere Real Estate.

"We now almost have 100 backpacks with school supplies in them that were donated from Windermere and United Way. We distribute them to a child that needs one or someone who comes into the office and expresses a need," said Jud Morris, manager of Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center.

Mike Maroney, member of the board of advisers of the Salvation Army in Bremerton and a real estate agent with Windermere Real Estate/Key Realty, made this happen.

"A percentage of all the commissions earned by realtors in the Key Center office are donated to the Windermere Foundation. All foundation money from the Key Center office is used on the Key Peninsula," he said.

The goal of this program is to help children in need with school supplies that are required for that school year.

"I donated and filled 20 backpacks this year. The Children's Home Society had 30 empty backpacks that were filled with the Windermere Foundation money and donations from the local community and other Windermere agent donations," Maroney said.

Maroney said he wanted to expand the program so it could fill the needs of all Key Peninsula children. His goal is to get more local people and organizations involved with it.

"This is a local program with Windermere Key Realty. It is one of the many national programs with the Salvation Army to help those in need," he said.

The Salvation Army operates solely on donated money. For the Children's Home Society backpacks project, the Salvation Army helped with details such as delivering the filled backpacks to the



Photo courtesy Jena Henak

L-R: Front row, Windermere's Cinda Baldwin, Mike Maroney, Dottie Mazza, and Laura Mosley, and (back row) Jud Morris, Kim Bauer, Megan Beck and Vicki Biggs, of the Children's Home Society, with the newly donated backpacks.

Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resources Center in Vaughn.

"Additional programs offered through the Bremerton Salvation Army include weeklong camps, meal programs — breakfast and lunch served daily — food bank,

Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and toys, local nursing home (Rocky Bay) visits and gifts, adult drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers, social services and other needs.

Kristie Byrd is a KP News intern and freshman at Peninsula High School.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Frankie Johnson

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Frankie Johnson, current "weight recorder" and co-leader of TOPS #WA1019, Vaughn, has been part of the TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) organization since 1979, when she was a member in California. When her family moved to the Key Peninsula in the early '80s, she found a group in Gig Harbor, and when TOPS began a chapter in Vaughn in the mid-'80s, she was among the first to join.

The organization, which is more than 50 years old, is loosely based on the Alcoholics Anonymous concept of members helping members, less the 12-step system. TOPS began in the Midwest,



TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY



JOHNSON

and offers a welcoming environment for anyone age of 7 and up who has a desire to meet a weight goal.

The Vaughn chapter meets weekly, and Johnson points out it is a dynamic, information-packed meeting, not a social club. They do not subscribe to any one "diet," and sell no specialized food. "No one diet is perfect for everybody," Johnson says.

All members are required to have a statement from their medical practitioner indicating what an ideal target weight might be. Members strive for consistent weight loss at a pound or two per week, in a way that is healthy and nutritionally sound.

The group is also involved in the community, and in the past has organized the Halloween carnival held at the end of October at the Civic Center, where

youngsters have a safe alternative to trick-or-treating.

In addition to being an active participant in TOPS, Johnson is a regular volunteer at Angel Guild. She is also a "face-painter in clown drag." Chances are that if local youngsters have had their faces painted at the Vaughn Elementary School carnival, the Maritime Gig, Spring Fling, or other area events, Johnson was the cheerful clown who applied the paint.

“

No one diet is perfect for everybody.

— Frankie Johnson

”

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Communities in Schools of Peninsula

After-school reading mentors at Evergreen, Vaughn, and Minter schools are needed to read and encourage children one hour once a week. Math mentors are needed on Tuesday after school at KPMS. Call Rochelle at 884-5733.

Key Peninsula News

A volunteer is needed to help with clerical work and special projects such as creating an archive of old issues. Spend as little as 2-3 hours per month. Email Rodika Tollefson at news@keypennews.com or call 884-4699.

Cub Scouts Pack 222

Adult volunteers needed to become den leaders. Adults 21 and older are welcome, even if they don't have kids involved. Call Jim Ryan at 383-8838 or email scoutpack222@yahoo.com.

(From **DEER**, Page 1)

"I just wish that I could have got to him sooner and could save him, but I couldn't," he said. "I feel a real void and I really miss him."

Capt. Dan Brinson of the Region 6 office of the state Department Fish and Wildlife in Montesano said that archery season (bow and arrow hunting) opened on Sept. 1 and there is nothing his office can do in regards to this incident.

Jones believes Willow was about a year old and was left to defend himself in the wild. "He was a special wildlife creature that took to people," he said.

Others believe that Willow/Piglet was raised by someone and then set free once he became too much to handle. "This is what happens when people turn wildlife animals into pets," Brinson said.

Jones said Willow was a special friend who made his day more special each time he visited and was smart enough to know and respond to his name when called.

"Willow made his home at my home and I thought it would be best that he remains home, and so I buried him under his favorite spot at my house, under my bedroom window," he said. "I wanted to give him a proper burial."

Several friends and neighbors came to Willow's burial, laid flowers and shared their memories.

Jones admits although he considers Willow to be a wild animal, he was known as a pet to him and many of his neighbors. "I got very attached to him," he said. "He was such a cute, loveable guy... I've never known a pet for only three months and became so attached."

The biggest issue that Jones has with Willow's death was that whoever shot him, did so on private property and didn't follow up on the shot.

The young buck was given the name Piglet by Dave and Anne Nesbit's 4-year-old son, Matt, for his eating habits.

"He just ate anything and everything,"

Reward offered

One family is offering a \$1,000 reward to any one who gives information that will lead to the conviction of the person who shot Willow/Piglet. Send an email to friendsofwillow@aol.com or write to P.O. Box 864 KPN, Lakebay, WA 98349.

Dave Nesbit said. "Piglet loved to eat our flowers." Nesbit said Piglet's death has been the hardest for their son, who would wake up every day and ask if Piglet would come to visit.

Mayo Cove resident Cindy Johnson-Kuntz remembers when she first met the young buck through her daughter. "I first met Piglet when I was cleaning my barn one day," she said. "I could hear my 4-year-old daughter playing in the distance. She kept saying, 'Oh, dear! I love you, dear!' I wondered what in creation she was doing and when I looked up in the horse pasture, I was in shock. There was my little girl, barefoot and in a bathing suit, playing in a water trough with a buck."

Johnson-Kuntz said she started to scream for her daughter, Hallie, to get away from the wild animal. Her daughter put her arms around the deer's neck, and said, "No, he loves me and he is my deer friend."

To the woman's amazement, the young buck seemed to enjoy the hug. To make sure her daughter was safe, Johnson-Kuntz ran up to her. The deer walked up to the woman and rubbed her with his nose.

"When I tried to walk Hallie down to the house, the deer just followed us, and stood at the back door waiting for us to come back out and play," Johnson-Kuntz said.

One close encounter with the young buck occurred at Bud Ulsh's home on July 31, when he and his wife rescued him from their pool after he'd fallen in. Setting up for their annual senior picnic,



Bud Ulsh puckers up to give affection to the young buck he saved from drowning in his pool in July.

Photo courtesy of Bud Ulsh

Ulsh was inside his home when Willow/Piglet showed up at their Lakebay home. Ulsh believes the deer thought the pool covered with a solar blanket was OK to walk on when he fell into the water.

"He started to thrash around and got his front feet onto the deck but couldn't get out," he said.

Too heavy to pull him out himself, Ulsh asked for his wife to come out and help. Ulsh jumped in the pool and pushed him up while his wife helped pull him out. "After we got him out of the pool, we were hoping that he would stick around for our picnic, but he left," he said.

On a different occasion, Ulsh recalls another time when Willow/Piglet came into and made himself at home. "One day he came in through our back door and inside the kitchen," he said. "I had to push him out."

Ulsh said the young buck just walked around the house and before he knew it, the deer had come inside. "Boy, that was pretty neat," he said.

"I just wanted to say how heartbroken our family is over this senseless and evil act of cruelty," Lakebay resident Lori Harrison-Hagen said, "As a frequent visitor to Herron Island, I have had numerous encounters with tame and friendly deer, but have never encountered

so gentle and friendly an animal as our local deer. He would freely explore our yard and even enter our home."

Even in the midst of several remodeling projects involving heavy machinery and power tools, Willow/Piglet made his presence known to those around him. "He would go right up to the workers in the bulldozers, nuzzle his head in the cab and not walk away until he was satisfied with the attention he received," she said.

Harrison-Hagen added that she can't imagine the type of person who could commit such an act of violence against this gentle and defenseless creature. "What could the sport be in killing an animal that happily walks up and eats out of your hand," she said. "It would be like killing a kitten."

"This killing was clearly an act of viciousness, as this animal was left to die a slow and torturous death, with an arrow protruding from his severed spine. If someone is capable of this type of viciousness against a defenseless animal, it seems possible that their cruelty may potentially not be limited to animals."

For more photos of Piglet/Willow submitted by readers, visit www.keypennews.com

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Good works at the Longbranch Cemetery

By Danna Webster, KP News

The cemeteries on the Key Peninsula are maintained by the work of volunteers. Down at the south end of the peninsula, the Longbranch Cemetery Association works to plan and organize the care of its cemetery. The association has one annual meeting, the last week of May.

The annual meeting starts in the morning when members and neighbors gather to form work crews to mow, trim, prune and clean two acres of land. About noon, a potluck dinner is served and a business meeting follows.

During the meal, conversations buzz with memories of those whose names are on the stones and markers in the cemetery. Conversations like those of the children and grandchildren of August and Esther Anderson can be heard around the dining hall. They share memories. The old Anderson chicken farm had hydro-powered electricity, thanks to two ponds on the property and Grandfather Anderson's ingenuity. The sport of baseball was a favorite pasttime for the farmers, and Grandmother Anderson was a big fan of the Longbranch baseball

team. When walking became difficult for Grandmother Anderson, she parked her car on the third-base line and honked the horn to cheer on her team.

One of the local celebrities resting in the cemetery is Marv Rickert, famous ball player. Marvin August Rickert, aka Twitch, played for the Boston Braves in the 1948 World Series and hit a homerun in the fourth game against the Cleveland Indians. Boston lost the series to Cleveland but Rickert's homerun is the only game statistic that matters in Longbranch history.

A wall-size cemetery map was recently created by past President Norman Watkinson. He transferred existing records onto a computer surveying grid. The work was enlarged and laminated onto the giant map. Downsized photo copies are also available.

The new pastor of the Longbranch Community Church, the Rev. Arlyce Kretschman, notes that although the work is done in honor of those who have passed on, it also pays tribute to the living community of Longbranch who care for their friends and loved ones through all stages of life.

According to association President

Donna Daily, having a "stone" for each grave in the cemetery has become the priority task for the association this year. There are 40 graves without markers. The association has purchased metal plates that will bear the full name and the date of death for all those unmarked grave sites. The Watkinson map will allow them to identify the exact location of the graves. Several volunteers will help place the markers by walking from the top of the cemetery down.



Photo by Danna Webster

Volunteers gather at the cemetery for a work party earlier this year.



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Conservancy land inspires artists

By Danna Webster, KP News

Artists from all over visited the Key Peninsula in September for a "plein aire" painting event. Using the Lind property in Home as their inspiration, they sat in an open air setting and created images. Easels, paints and water colors were put to work reflecting on the open fields, pond, rustic outbuildings and the adjacent Home pioneer cemetery.

The event was organized cooperatively by the Two Waters Arts Alliance and the Great Peninsula Conservancy. Margo MacDonald of Two Waters said the guests were happy to be there and the weather was sunny and wonderful. Some took time to walk the perimeter of the nearly 80 acres of property. Most of the artists set up in the big field below the family home that overlooks the flower and vegetable gardens. The hope was that some of the images

Arrangements to visit the Lind property and the historic Home Cemetery may be made by calling the Linds at 884-3347.

Information about Two Waters Arts Alliance is available at www.twowaters.org or by calling 884-7771. For details about the Great Peninsula Conservancy call 866-373-3504 or visit www.greatpeninsula.org.

produced could be used by the Conservancy for its publications, and Two Waters would like to have some of the work available for its Spring Fling 2007 art show.

This was the first art event at the Lind property but many people have visited and walked the trails over the years since the Linds put it into a conservation easement in 1993.

"We like to have people come and walk,"



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Key Peninsula resident and artist Tawnya McGraw participates in the Plein Aire "Paint-In" held at the Lind Family Farm on Sept. 9. She said she enjoyed coming to "paint-in" for the first time and was excited to meet new artists.

Nancy Lind said. She explains that, although the property is under the stewardship of the Conservancy, the land remains the family's private property; it is not public property. Guests are welcome to visit the land and are asked to call ahead before arriving.

"The Conservancy didn't buy it. All the easement does is to keep it from being developed," Lind said. She and her husband, Bob, have no regrets about their decision to put the land into a conservation easement. "Never had a thought that I wanted to break it all up and sell it for money," she said.

The conservation easement is a contractual agreement that the environmental and cultural attributes of their land will remain protected. That agreement restricts further development of the land with regard to housing, logging or large buildings.

"They realized in the future there would be a lot of pressure to develop the prop-

erty. In an effort to take the mystery out of the future, they looked for ways to protect the land," said Key Pen resident Bruce MacDonald, president of the Great Peninsula Conservancy.

When a property has value to the community — environmentally or culturally, a conservation easement can be attached to the property title. The easement is a legal document that restricts the use of the land by heirs, buyers or recipients of donated land. By putting a conservation easement on the land, it changes its potential assets to the extent of influencing the actual value on the property. Taxes are adjusted accordingly. Nancy Lind estimates their current taxes are only one third of what they would be without the easement.

The Great Peninsula Conservancy, based in Bremerton, is a private nonprofit land trust dedicated to protecting open space, rural landscapes and natural habitat in west Pierce, Kitsap and Mason counties. It is the job of the Great Peninsula Conservancy to initiate the easement for the owners, monitor the boundaries of the property, and serve as stewards to maintain the environmental and cultural aspects.

Congress recently reviewed conservancy easements for the IRS and passed a new bill this year that, according to MacDonald, reaffirmed the concept and extended some of the tax benefits. Easements are more restrictive than zoning and therefore reduce the value of the property. Taxes are also reduced.

MacDonald said he sees conservancy easements as the "ultimate property right."

"They keep the land as it is," he said. "The Linds are deeply attached to that property. They love it the way it is."



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Local residents participate in Hurricane Katrina relief work

By Kristen Pierce, KP News

Key Peninsula residents Ronda Haase and her daughter, Hilari, recently returned from a Hurricane Katrina relief trip to Mississippi. They were part of a 13-person group from Harbor Christian Center that spent five days to help rebuild a neighborhood devastated by the disaster. Their group was assigned to the restoration of a home in the impoverished neighborhood of Pearlinton.

The mother and daughter said they experienced an overwhelming urgency to serve God by going on this mission to help those affected by the hurricane. "I went there to be able to openly and unconditionally give to someone who has nothing left. By doing this for him (God) and not for me, though, has helped with my spiritual growth," said Ronda, a real estate agent who also volunteers at the S.A.V.E Thrift Store and at Peninsula High School, where Hilari is a senior.

The home they worked on belonged to an elderly woman and her three grandchildren. The woman's original home was destroyed in the flood. All she could afford to buy now was an older manufactured

home, and this home had been badly damaged, unsafe and unsanitary.

Much of the home had to be rebuilt or replaced. All volunteers tried their hand at cleaning, pounding nails, taping and texturing drywall, painting, plumbing, installing electrical wiring, framing, replacing windows, and laying carpet. Fortunately, some of the volunteers were already experienced in those trades. Others prepared meals, cleaned, and kept a diligent lookout for poisonous spiders and snakes at the base camp.

The group, which included Hilari's boyfriend, Zach Woare, also a PHS senior, endured harsh conditions during the trip.

"The heat was exhausting. We could not drink or use the water because of the toxins and bacteria, and there were bugs everywhere, like mosquitoes, flies, and poisonous spiders," said Hilari, an avid volunteer who also helps out at Minter Creek Elementary School, the Key Peninsula Middle School (as a Young Life leader), and at Harbor Christian Center watching pre-school children during church services held at PHS, and elementary age children during other programs at the church.

"It was common to take a shower with a spider, lizard, snake, or frog," Ronda said. "But, after a while, you'd get used to it."

Most of the time, the mother-daughter team carried a can of bug spray around with them wherever they went. But their most serious issue was how to contend with the overwhelming challenge of the vast amount of work that needed to be done in such a short time. The overall condition of the town was still engulfed in ruins, rubble, and toxic mud.

The group watched a branch of the military rebuild the neighborhood's volunteer fire station and construct a new emergency shelter for future hurricanes and other natural disasters. The soldiers also invited the volunteers to join them for Sunday breakfast. "The military fed us a meal like you wouldn't believe," Ronda said.

After five mentally, physically, and emotionally challenging days, the volunteers returned home. Each had many touching photos to share, stories to tell, and the personal satisfaction of helping others in desperate need.

Hilari said, "It was very fulfilling to go there and make a difference in someone else's life." She feels that some of the

Hurricane Katrina victims may have given up on God, and that their church's presence in their town demonstrated to them that God really was there to help. "It was good for the nonbelievers and the fallen in spirit to see us volunteering to help them," she said.

The church was compelled to go on this trip following the example of the Four Square Church in Texas, which set up the Hurricane Katrina Mission to inspire other churches to join in the much-needed relief effort. Harbor Christian Center member Joe Berg learned about the project and helped organize his church's mission. The church plans to return to Mississippi with another group.

Volunteers are always needed and there are no specific requirements to become a volunteer on a Hurricane Katrina Mission. Construction and remodeling skills are a plus, but organizers will take anyone with the willingness to lend a helping hand. To learn more about Harbor Christian Center, how to become a volunteer, or about other opportunities, visit www.hcctoday.com, or visit www.trustandobey.org to learn about the Four Square Church and the Hurricane Katrina Mission project.



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FROM PIONEER STOCK THREE GENERATIONS OF JOHNSONS

By Colleen Slater, KP News

O'Gust (Olaf August) Johnson left his wife and small daughter in Sweden to seek a fortune in the United States. He worked in the silver mines in Alaska after the Gold Rush, and earned enough to buy land and send for his family, but on the way back to Seattle, someone stole his moneybag while he slept. Johnson never got off the boat, but returned to the mines to earn the money all over again.

Johnson had learned some English, but wife Hilda had not. He had to leave her alone when he went to work in Tacoma. The family story says she asked him what she should do if someone came to the door. He said, "Say you don't speak English and I'm not home."

Sure enough, someone knocked on the door. Hilda opened it, said, "You don't speak English and I'm not home!" The visitor departed.

Johnson, who wanted a farm in the country, bought land about 1905. He raised chickens and eggs. His sister, Bertha, and brothers Hilmer and John arrived

later.

Four sons were born: Ragner, Ernest, George, and another who died young. Ragner, tired of being called Rag changed his name to Rogner. His first job, as a teen, was whistle punk with a steam donkey, but he was around when horse logging was still being done. He was the first bulldozer operator on the peninsula, working for Davidson Logging Co.

Rogner was hired to do cleanup work for Mr. Strom. When he went to collect his pay, he met Strom's daughter, Edyth. She moved to Longbranch from Dabob on her 16th birthday. They were married for nearly 40 years, and raised three children, Esther, Bob, Phil, and Dave.

Rogner and family were out of the area during World War II, and when they returned, traded their Longbranch house for his parents' home, as Grandma Johnson didn't enjoy living by the water, where they'd lived in the original Ulsh home.

Rogner partnered with logger John Larson until the late 1950s, then started Johnson Bulldozing Co., later changed to



The 1941 Thanksgiving at the Johnson grandparents' home. Left to right, standing, O'Gust and Hilda Johnson, Vernal Hyde, Ruth Johnson, Jeanette Anderson, Edyth Johnson, Elsie Johnson, Grandma Strom, Stanley Anderson. Standing children: David and Karen Anderson. Sitting: Esther Johnson, Don Johnson, Ernie Johnson, Loren Hyde.

Photos courtesy of Johnson family

Lakebay Construction Co. Sons Phil and Dave bought their dad out in 1975, and continue to operate, mainly building bulkheads. Bob did commercial fishing, then had a sawmill on the homes property by the water. When bulkhead building required removal of large trees, the logs were moved to Bob's mill for processing.

Esther, Phil, mother Edyth, and cousin Beverly reminisced about the old days at Grandpa Johnson's farm.

"All the Swedes came out to make hay," said Beverly, "and Grandma cooked for everybody. She had a copper washtub full of potatoes."

On Sundays, everybody dressed up and went on picnics. "People got together then," said Beverly.

Grandma started her lutefisk the second

week of December for the family Christmas Eve. "It took six months to get all the tarnish off the silver from the lutefisk," Esther said. "The kids all ate blutpalsa (blood sausage) until they were big enough to know what it was made of, then they graduated to potato palsa."

Phil recalled watching his grandfather stir a big pot on the stove, and asked what it was. "Chocolate," said Grandpa, and spooned out a sample for Phil. "That's the worst chocolate I've ever tasted," said Phil, and learned it was blutpalsa being cooked.

"Grandpa was the most serious of his family, but did have a sense of humor," Esther said.

Farmer, logger, bulldozer operators, three generations of Johnsons have made their impact on the peninsula.

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Four men, two canoes and a *river*

Friends spend 27 days on Mackenzie River following historic quest

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

In July 1789, famed Canadian explorer Alexander Mackenzie discovered the Arctic Ocean by following a river that now bears his name — the longest river in Canada.

In June 2006, four American men set off on an adventure to follow the explorer's route. That was 902 miles, 25 days of paddling, 27 days on the river, and 450,000 paddle strokes (or 385,000 strokes, depending on who was counting).

Mackenzie didn't think much of his trip: His goal was to discover the Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean. So he called the river Disappointment River, and barely mentioned the trip in his journal.

For the four adventurous spirits who tried to recreate the journey — Vaughn residents Phil Bauer and Don Hornbeck with John Richardson of Burley and Dan Linnell of Mount Vernon — the trip was much more exciting. "We had a good time," Hornbeck says. "We laughed all the way."

Bauer, Richardson and Linnell got the

idea of the trip after doing a similar one on the Yukon River in 2001. The three friends had been on other excursions together as well. When Bauer first approached Hornbeck, he didn't exactly convince him.

"I said it was a goofy idea," Hornbeck says. "I read the Mackenzie account and said, 'That sounds awful.'"

The four men loaded their two canoes, enough food to last 30 days, clothes and camping gear into a truck, and drove 1,600 miles to Hay River (a tributary), where the truck left on a barge for the rendezvous point at Inuvik.

"On the second day, the river was high and we couldn't find a camp. We paddled 14 hours a day," Bauer says. "We realized there was nothing we could do because our truck had already passed us (on the barge). We had no choice but keep going."

Lucky for them, that day was an exception. On average, they paddled about seven hours a day in about three increments. Instant oatmeal and bannock (fried bread) were daily food staples, along with the twice a day ritual of setting up/breaking down camp. "It was a spartan existence," Bauer says. "I pitched that tent 39 days in a row."

The river proved monotonous for the majority of the route, except for about half a mile, where it narrowed and had beautiful scenery. "The river was pretty repeti-



Photo courtesy Don Hornbeck

Left to right, Phil Bauer, Don Hornbeck, Dan Linnell and John Richardson all sport beards at the end of their long trip. For more photos from the trip, visit www.keypen-news.com. Phil Bauer is in the photo on bottom left.

tious... the same type of foliage and banks," Bauer says.

Despite the proximity to the Arctic Circle, the temperature was in the 70s and 80s on most days, and unlike other travelers who described the route as "gray," Bauer noticed beautiful colors of the river, the skies, and the tundra. The sun never set, and a few days brought cold rain.

The paddling proved much more arduous than they expected (the river was slow), but overall the group had a great time. Although it was not unusual to see no sign of civilization for three or four days in a row, they encountered many friendly local residents in the sparsely populated villages and the few towns along the way.

"The most interesting and enjoyable part was (meeting) the people, the aboriginals and white Canadians," Hornbeck says.

The trip was as much a test of endurance as it was a cultural experience. As part of the preparations, they read Mackenzie's journals and books by others who traveled the river. During the journey, they were surprised to learn that summer is the slow season on Mackenzie, with locals trapping lynx, beaver, mink and other animals in the winter using sleds pulled by dogs.

Richardson, who kept a detailed account and plans to write a book, describes one encounter with a couple that included listening to trapping journeys, being served bannock and coffee in the "best china" inside a tepee as it started raining, and leaving behind for the hosts some venison jerky and sausage from Linnell's hunting.

"We counted ourselves fortunate that circumstances of wind and water brought us to these wonderful people," Richardson wrote in his journal.

The group's journey ended in Inuvik — a bit short of the actual Mackenzie route. Reunited with their truck, they drove back 2,700 miles, first to Dawson on the Dempster Highway, then on the Alaska Highway to Seattle.

"It was an incredibly interesting experience," Bauer says. "We will do it again."

The next route? Probably a shorter river. The fun part is doing the research and the reading to make the decision. "(The river) has to be interesting on its own merits, and almost every river is," Hornbeck says.

Sounds like this adventurous group has more than just one quest to add to their future map.





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OBITUARIES

Myrtle Norma Cragun

Myrtle Norma Cragun, 85, of Vaughn, died quietly on Sept. 5, 2006. She was born in Libby, Mont., in 1921. The family settled in Vaughn in 1926. She attended Vaughn Union High School and married Glenn Cragun in 1936. They made their home in Tacoma and later retired to Vaughn where she lived after his death in 1980. Glenn and Myrtle did not have any children of their own but helped raise her younger sister and were involved in their many nieces' and nephews' lives. She was an accomplished artist. She did oil paintings and pencil sketches of family members, especially the children. She and Glenn also traveled the West as "rock hounds" and she loved to design jewelry with their found treasures. She was also a skilled seamstress and sewed for just about everyone in Vaughn. She attended Vaughn Community Church and was a member of the Key Peninsula Lions Club.

She was preceded in death by her

husband, Glenn, in 1980. She leaves behind her sister, Jane Williams, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service took place on Sept. 11 at Haven of Rest Memorial Park. Myrtle is buried next to Glenn with a gorgeous view of Mount Rainier. Remembrances may be made to Key Peninsula Lions Club Eye Glass Program, P.O. BOX 63, Vaughn, WA 98394.

Rhys C. Wood

Retired Lt. Col. Rhys C. Wood was born in Tacoma on Feb. 23, 1920, and died Sept. 1, 2006. He graduated from Lincoln High School and Pacific Lutheran University, majored in theology and education. He entered the U.S Army in January 1943 as a second lieutenant submarine mine unit commander. He left the military in August 1946 to pursue his teaching career. He was ordered to return to active duty in March 1951 during the Korean War and retired from service in June 1967.

He met fellow teacher and future bride, Ruth M. Bilden, while teaching in the Clover Park School District. They dated in secret due to school policy and were married on March 1, 1951. After his retirement from the military, the family moved



RHYS & RUTH WOOD

to Vaughn.

Wood started a construction and logging company. He was a charter member of the Lions Club, charter member of the VFW (later KPVI), board member and founder of the Community Food Bank, member of the Eagles and Elk Clubs, choir director at the Key Center Tavern, and unofficial mayor of Key Center. He performed 100-plus eulogies for friends and officiated over numerous events, parades and the Old Timer's Day Logging Show. He was known by all, loved by most, disliked by some when he made a strong stand, yet he made a positive mark in his little corner of the world.

He was predeceased by his wife, Ruth,

by 18 days. He is survived by sons, John Wood (Sue), Brian Wood (Margie) and Donn Wood (Suzanne); daughters, Elise Wood and Sally Loosen (James); grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

Ruth Bilden Wood

Ruth Bilden Wood was born Oct. 20, 1920, and died Aug. 22, 2006. She was born in Grand Forks, ND, and was raised in the town of Mayville. Wood graduated high school with honors and attended Mayville State Teacher College, earning a degree in education and music.

She taught school in Michigan and came to Washington to visit her sister, Valborg. She remained and taught school in the Tacoma and Clover Park school districts. She was a beautiful, shy, and reserved young woman and was courted by a young, brash man who taught at the school and confused her shyness with aloofness. He followed her around and teased her until she finally went out with him, thus began a lifelong adventure and romance with the love of her life, Rhys C. Wood. They married in on March 1, 1951. He took her to car races and eventually they became a racing team and won several trophies.

After Rhys retired in 1961, they moved to Vaughn, where she worked intermittently as a substitute teacher at Vaughn Elementary School. She was a member of the Longbranch Community Church. She rang bells and sang in the choir. She loved to paint with oils and produced beautiful artwork. She was loved by all who met her because she was always courteous and respectful. She was Norwegian and immovably stubborn, yet she was a true lady in every act and deed.

Ruth is survived by her sons, Brian Wood (Marge) and Donn Wood (Suzanne); daughters, Elise Wood and Sally Loosen (James); stepson, John Wood (Sue); her grandchildren, many great grandchildren and her brother, Eugene Bilden.



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Booming Vacation Home Market

Vacation home sales have boomed over the past 5 years and continues to be a strong market for the Key Peninsula. Nationwide estimates show about 1.02 million vacation homes were purchased in 2005. That equals a little more than 12 per cent of the total homes sold and an increase of about 16.9 percent over 2004.

Over the past few years, the Puget Sound region has experienced some of the greatest home appreciation in the country. With the increased values, many homeowners have been able to take the equity in their primary residence and use it to purchase their dream vacation home. Having a vacation home isn't just for the wealthy anymore. Baby boomers are a large part of the increase, too, and will continue to help boost the trend over the next 10 to 20 years.

60 per cent of the vacation homes owned by Puget Sound residents are located in Washington State and 45 per cent are within 100 miles of the primary residence. 71 per cent of vacation homes are located in waterfront communities.

The demand for vacation homes on the Key Peninsula isn't new. In fact, that is how many of the old estate vacation homes were established here. With the new limits on developing waterfront properties, expect to see the value of waterfront homes continue to rise. An alternative for many families would be to buy a home that enjoys beach rights and often views of the water, but remains to be priced like comparable properties away from the water.

The value of primary residences continues to rise on the Key Peninsula also. The median price of a three bedroom, two bath home is currently \$288,000. Last year at the same time the same house was closer to \$245,000. With regional rumors of the market turning to a buyer's market, these numbers show the Key Peninsula as an excellent market for sellers too!



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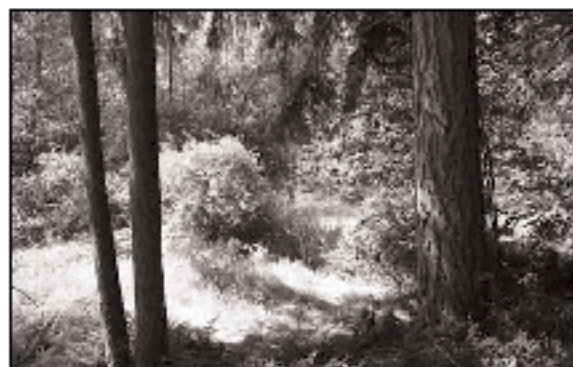
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KPCC Friday Night Skating resumes

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

At the grand reopening of Friday Night Skating at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, the parking lot was crowded with vehicles from which a gush of excited kids poured onto the KPCC's gym floor, once again converted into a skating rink for an evening of shrieks, races, skinned knees, and a lot of wild fun — governed by watchful parents all overseen by Shawn Etheredge, the current manager of the program.

Kip Miller served as the DJ and kept up a raucous, melodious, sometimes eardrum battering outpouring of the kind of upbeat music fit for the ears of the very young. They loved it. There were races at high speed, both with and without skates, lots of goodies like hotdogs from the volunteer moms who operated the kitchen, and the fun of gathering with friends to learn what happened during the recently ended summer holidays.

Ten-year-old home-schooled Shaelyn McKenzie and her buddy, Evergreen Elementary School student Brianne

"I'm here to hang with my friends and to prove I am the best skater."

— Brady Jacobs, 12, skater

Fisher, agreed they "come here to be with our friends and to skate and to have fun." Volunteer mom Jennifer Miller said, "It's a great opportunity for our children on Friday nights." The kids are in a safe environment and able to enjoy a clean, fun-filled evening with their friends.

Matthew Kaffer, 10, a student at St. Nicolas Elementary School in Gig Harbor, was having the time of his life rocketing around the skate course. Stacie Etheredge, 13, said she has been at Skate Night since she was 2 years old. Adrienne Torres, 13, proclaimed, "Skate Night is a lot of fun. It doesn't cost much to get in and you have a blast dancing to the music. Stacie is one of my best friends and she does a great job as the manager's daughter."

DJ Miller, who plays the top 40 music, invites everyone to "come dance and

skate on Friday evenings."

"There's fun for everyone. Admission is \$4 and you can bring your own skates or, included in the admission fee, if you wish, we can provide skates for your enjoyment," he said.

KPMS student Lexie Stefanoff, 11, said, "I'm here having fun and hanging out with my friends." Her KPMS chum, Brady Jacobs, 12, declared, "I'm here to hang with my friends and to prove I am the best skater."

That should pose a challenge to someone.

Cole Martin, masquerading as Darth Vader, celebrated his 14th birthday this evening. He said, "I like skating with my friends."

Etheredge said the event is in need of parent volunteers to help supervise the children and to keep Skate Night a success. "Any time (volunteers can provide) would be appreciated," she said.

Skate Night operates from 6 until 9:30 p.m. on Friday nights until the middle of June 2007. For more information, call the Civic Center at 884-3456.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

At the grand opening of Friday Night Skating at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, Key Peninsula Middle School student Lindsay Potts, 11, shows off her wee buddy, Victor Bartlett, 2, all ready to race around the course.



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"There is no key to happiness. The door is always open."

(From **GEODUCK**, Page 1)

Editor's note:

This is the third article in a series.

discussion is ongoing, with some permit applications receiving considerably more attention than others.

A June 29, 2006, Pierce County Planning and Land Services' staff report obtained from that agency references an application for a 1.89-acre geoduck aquaculture permit "in the intertidal zone of private tidelands" owned by David and Sabra Stratford (through their agent, Taylor Shellfish Farms). The completed application date was Oct. 25, 2005. The report states the scope of the farming proposal, site inspection, governing regulations, and environmental review in the "Findings of Fact." Also included in the document is a section for comments from other agencies, which reads, "No written adverse comments were received from abutting property owners, general public, or reviewing governmental agencies."

In contrast, an application for a similar aquaculture permit on private intertidal lands owned by the Souers' family on Lorenz Road at Mayo Cove, completed in February of this year, has sparked creation of an anti-geoduck farm group (Mayo Cove Shoreline Association). Its founder, Cynthia Johnson-Kuntz, says, "This is not a dispute between two families. We sent out a letter to gauge how the community feels, and (they) want to save our environment from destruction (by shellfish companies.) We do not oppose aquaculture. We do oppose locating industrial operations in heavily recreational and residential areas, and we believe environmental impact studies need to be completed by an impartial party with regard to industrial geoduck locations." According to Jim Gibbons, owner of Seattle Shellfish, there are only a handful of geoduck farms in operation on the Key Peninsula, including his company's tideland leases and a local geoduck business in Longbranch.

All geoduck aquaculture permits are subject to regulations under the Pierce County Shoreline Master Program, which "serves as the Comprehensive Plan for shorelines within unincorporated Pierce County." This program categorizes all shoreline areas into classified "environments." In the May 2006 Stratford report, the county issued a Determination of Non-Significance statement "after it was determined that there would be no probable significant adverse environmental impacts as a result of the proposal." The commentary also notes the immediate adjacent lands consist of one residence with a



A booth set up by the Mayo Cove Shoreline Association at the Key Pen Community Fair this summer attracted the attention of many fair-goers.

*Photo by
Kristin Pierce*

wooden bulkhead, and forested, high-bank, unimproved land, concluding that "the proposal would maximize use of this shoreline; however, the aesthetic impacts would be temporary."

The staff report also required the applicant (Taylor Shellfish) to comply with "Washington State Geoduck Growers Environmental Code of Practice," which was submitted with the application. In a September telephone interview, Bill Dewey of Taylor Shellfish said the code of practice grew out of a general shellfish code of practice, sometime in 1999-2000, charging growers to "walk their talk" by embracing environmental standards. He also noted that in Pierce County, the shellfish industry is regulated first by the shoreline regulations, and second by industry standards; this is not the case in all counties statewide.

A resolution to amend the Shoreline Management Use Regulations, sponsored by Councilman Terry Lee, and adopted at the Sept. 12 Pierce County Council meeting in Gig Harbor, charges PALS with developing nonindustry-created recommendations regarding standards applicable to aquacultural practices. (The entire Shoreline Master Plan will be updated by 2008, with Department of Ecology support, according to Lee.) The resolution states, in part, "general guidelines... may need to be modified... regarding standards aquacultural operations must comply with in order to minimize adverse impacts." Recommendations from PALS, in consultation with the Washington State Department of Ecology and other state agencies, should address, at a minimum, "the impacts of aquacultural practices on water quality, the nearshore environment, and general aesthetic quality of the shoreline."

Lee's office has also included 41 proposed conditions regarding aquaculture for examiners to consider. Lee said

the purpose of the resolution was to "develop (aquaculture) science and internal regulations that could be potentially rolled into the revised SMP in 2008." The Pierce County Planning Commission deadline for receipt of the amended recommendations is Dec. 1. Mike Erkinen, one of two county planners working on the project, said they hoped to have an initial schedule with a proposed "guidelines for best practice" draft to the Peninsula Advisory Commission by Nov. 8.

Representing "Save Our Shorelines!" (a self-described "neighborhood group that protects recreational beaches from commercial aquaculture") at the September council meeting, Laurie Brauneis said, "We endorse the language of this resolution, and request that PALS (and other participating agencies) include citizen representatives in this process (of evaluation and recommendation)." Brauneis quoted several of the seven mandated objectives of a Department of Ecology Aquaculture Siting Study, asking the council to "preserve the natural character of the shoreline, protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline, increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines, and (take no action) resulting in short-term benefit (at the cost of) long-term (loss)."

In Brauneis' opinion, the shellfish industry "poo-poo's" aesthetics, but, quoting a 1982 Adjacent Lands Guidance documents from the DOE Shorelines Division, she said "the regulations are pretty strong on public use of our shoreline, and environmental protection... somebody thought it was important." That document states, in part, "Consideration must be given to protection of the visual quality of the shoreline resource... the public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the state shall be preserved to the

Aquaculture meeting

The Henderson Bay Shoreline Association will host a community meeting on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Rosedale Community Hall next to the Rosedale Market (formerly Templetons) in Gig Harbor to discuss geoduck farming and aquaculture rafting planned for local shorelines in the future. A resident of Totten Inlet, where there is 30 miles of intensive aquaculture, will tell the story of the impact on their community.

greatest extent feasible consistent with the overall best interest of the state and the people generally."

Laura Hendricks, president of Henderson Bay Shoreline Association, told the council that "waterfront owners just aren't ready to relinquish their beaches to be liquefied by shellfish companies." She called on the council to place a moratorium on geoduck farming permits until industry science and the proposed resolution are implemented. Councilman Timothy Farrell, representing District 4 (Tacoma), also asked Lee about a moratorium, saying, "Aquaculture has turned into a messy game, it seems. For all of you who haven't seen (a geoduck farm), it basically destroys the beach... These people (shellfish companies) have not been friendly to Pierce County residents."

In an earlier interview, Lee said he had been advised by county counsel that a moratorium is not possible. A lawsuit on Bainbridge Island concerning conflict in the "unique criteria" of shoreline development in the Growth Management and Shoreline Management Acts hopes to clarify this point in the coming months through a Washington Supreme Court review.

The Seattle-based Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, an organization monitoring water quality issues relative to the Clean Water Act, is exploring ways they may be of help to environmental groups calling for assistance in fending off pending or new geoduck aquaculture permits. Executive Director Sue Joerger says this is a new issue for them, and inquiries seem concerned about debris left behind, and the harvest technique that "upsets the whole ecosystem of the tidelands." PSA must consider local, state, and federal regulations, including the Clean Water Act, when interceding. How they may become involved and what legal tools are available to challenge permits is unknown; their concern is the extent of potential environmental impact on the emerging magnitude of this aquaculture.

"Our mission is clear," says Joerger. "It's water quality."

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BRIEFS

news

Senior Health Fair

Seniors and family members are invited to gather information and talk to professionals in a nonthreatening atmosphere at the annual health fair and expo. There will be flu shots (bring your Medicare information), bone density screening, vision and hearing screenings, balance and strength testing, blood pressure checks. Information will be provided about senior care issues, household services, fall prevention and safety-proofing homes, senior meal sites, hospice and the Pierce County Division on Aging and Long Term care.

Free workshops include: 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. "De-mystifying Those Numbers" about blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and other lab numbers; 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. "Medicare Prescription Plans: What you need to know about the changes coming in 2007"; 11 a.m. "Retirement Living and Long Term Care Options"; noon "Elder Law Issues" and 1 p.m. "What Hospice can offer you and your loved ones; how to get connected; costs and other concerns." The event is Oct. 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way in Gig Harbor. Call 851-2625.

Flu shots available

Flu shots will be available at the Key Medical Center (15610 89th St., Key Center) Oct. 14 starting at 9 a.m. The flu shot clinic is available to all Key Peninsula residents, not only patients of the practice. Other dates include Oct. 18, noon, at the Key Peninsula Community Services, and Oct. 16 at the Herron Island fire station. The vaccine is recommended to anyone over age 65 and younger people with chronic health problems. Call 884-9221 for information.

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Artist uses talent to help others

By Jerry Libstaff

Raphael Murrell moved to the Key Peninsula three years ago and has lived here off and on until permanently settling this spring. He retired from Alaska Airlines in June to devote his life to art and to share his knowledge, enthusiasm and space with other artists.

Murrell has been an artist for more than 40 years. He learned to value art through the inspiration of both his mother and grandmother.

He watched them and was intrigued by the intensity they invested in their creations. He joined their enthusiasm and found his joy. In high school, he met his first mentor, Roy Akoda, an art instructor who saw promise in Murrell's abilities and convinced him to pursue his inclination.

"I was drawn by Akoda's optimism, fascinated by his lifestyle," Murrell said. "He reacted differently than many of the other teachers. He was more light-hearted, peaceful. I believed it was his involvement in art."

He studied with Akoda until the government called Murrell into the Army, where he experienced many cultures around the world. "I studied artisans from other societies and learned how different people interpret their humanity," he said.

Eventually, stationed in Germany, he found another mentor, Hans Hammer, an entrepreneur, musician and philosopher who advised Murrell to give himself to 'the direction that life brings your way' and to "never lose your soul."

Murrell studied art in Germany and was fortunate to attend the 1972's documenta in Kassel, said to be the greatest art event in the world (documenta is an exhibition of modern and contemporary art now held every five years in Kassel). He was drawn to a large painting and found himself in awe of the work. He later found the painting was done by Chuck Close, an alumnus of the University of Washington, whom Murrell came to know.

After Germany, Murrell returned to Seattle and attended the University of Washington, with the intention of



The Genuine
ARTicle



Photo by Jerry Libstaff

Artist Raphael Murrell uses life experiences in his work.

becoming a lawyer.

"At that time I had no desire to become a starving artist," Murrell said.

Two years later, he became disillusioned with his law practice and left the UW. He joined Pan American Airlines and landed in New York, where he fell back into the art world.

October art classes

Beginning art with Antoinette Teglovic for kids K-5 (\$25), 10 a.m. to noon, and grades 6-8 (\$30), 1-3 p.m.; Oct. 7 & 21, Nov. 4 & 18, Dec. 2, KP Civic Center

Halloween mask making workshop, free, all ages, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Key Center Library

To register, call Carolyn Scott Arnold at 884-7771; for other fall classes see www.twowaters.org.

Ten years later when Pan Am folded, he returned to Seattle and by chance, again found Roy Akoda, who encouraged him to revisit the University of Washington. This time he majored in art and received two bachelor degrees in painting and interdisciplinary arts.

Murrell's abilities cover a wide spectrum. He works in oil, charcoal, ink, pastel and watercolor. He does print making from hand-carved zinc plates and carved linoleum, and creates ceramics.

He has often used his art to relieve

suffering. Profits from his shows were donated to tsunami relief and to Alaska Airlines to assist a young girl who lost her parents. "I see art as a vehicle to help others," he said.

He is in the process of building a three-studio space in his home, where artists can come to work and learn. "The moment I found this house on the Key Peninsula, I was immediately drawn to the peace of the area," he said. "I said yes to the house without hesitation."

Murrell says painting comes from his life experiences. "I have to see, to experience something, to attempt to understand it before it can transcend into a painting," he said. "My work must include true meaning, rather than just observation." When that happens, "art touches all people from every aspect of life, regardless of their beliefs or background. Art is universal."

Murrell hopes to provide studio space and art training next summer.

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

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(From **WOOD**, Page 1)

forbade opposite-sex teachers to fraternize. His undercover guerrilla work had prepared him well for this bit of subterfuge.

He and Ruth became man and wife shortly before the Army called him back to duty in March of '51 to serve in the Korean "police action." Thereafter, he chose to make the Army his career and, with Ruth, served in various locations, including Germany. They were blessed with the births of John, Donn, Elise, Sally and Brian during this period. In 1967, the family settled on property on Vaughn Bay, where Rhys and family designed and built their waterfront home. The kids grew up there before going their separate ways to produce grandchildren and great grandchildren who were the delights of Rhys' and Ruth's lives. As the children grew and attended local schools, Rhys supported the family with the proceeds of his ingenuity and hard work as owner-operator of his own construction firm.

It was common knowledge that "everyone knows Rhys Wood" and when asked, "Who is this guy?" virtually any local would respond, "If we had an election, he'd be our mayor." He began most mornings after retiring from the construction business with what he called "my coffee bunch" at the Huckleberry Inn in Key Center, where they "solved all the world's problems."

He was everywhere. If he learned of someone hard on their luck and needing help of whatever kind, Wood was there in no time to help put on a roof, make sure the mud in a driveway was covered with crushed rock, mysteriously provide firewood for those who had none, repair or have repaired a vehicle for someone in need, drive someone to the doctor, and on and on. He was a natural to be a founding and longtime member of the Board of



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The memorial service of Rhys Wood is attended by a large crowd of friends, family and community members.

Directors for the KP Food Bank, which ultimately became the KP Community Services/Senior Center and Food Bank.

He became a charter member of the KP Lions Club when it was formed in 1983, served as its president, and was a comically demanding tail twister for the club as he extracted coins from the members to fund the club's efforts in behalf of the community. "We serve!" he would proclaim. "That's our international motto!" he'd say and produce an application for membership for anyone who was within hearing.

He was also a charter member of the old VFW Post 4990, helping organize the group's community-supportive projects, and after the demise of the post, he continued on with the KP Veterans Institute. He was an active member of the Elks Club and the Gig Harbor Eagles Aerie and part of the foundation of the Citizens Against Crime organization.

"It's my sound system," he'd declare, "and I'll say whatever I want," as he served as the moderator for the annual KP Pioneer Day parade, calling everyone moving by the microphone by their first names; he knew everyone and everyone knew him and they were all fair game for his humorous roasting as they passed by to the laughter of all attending.

The same sound system and Wood's same humorously acerbic commentary accompanied the annual Old Timers' Day logging show at the Longbranch Improvement Club, as his daughter — whom he called his "son Sally" — provided him the vital statistics of the competitions.

Over the years, well over 100 friends sought out, and were rewarded by, Wood, who performed eulogies for their departed loved ones. In every case, he spent hours and hours researching the deceased's life to ensure his talk was

warm, accurate, personal and sincerely spoken.

For several of the KP Lions' sponsored Citizens of the Year dinners, Wood and fellow Lion Frank Geary worked in the heat of the KP Civic Center kitchen preparing the dinner in much the fashion of Julia Childs — taking a sip or two of the "seasoning" as they proceeded. And Wood was justifiably proud of the sauce he prepared from his personal recipe for the club's then-annual spaghetti dinners.

Because Lions Club members are not eligible for nomination as Citizens of the Year, and because so many thought Wood should be so honored, his daughter Elise colluded with the Lions to stage a bogus "auction" in the Longbranch Improvement Club once and lured her dad into the affair, having convinced him that he should auction off some item of his choosing. Upon entering the room, he was almost dumb-struck to see a banner stretching the length of the stage, proclaiming, "Citizen of the Millennium, Rhys Wood." Elise said, "It's the only time I can remember Dad being at a loss for words."

Well over 200 friends gathered in the Key Peninsula Civic Center on a sun-swept mid-September Saturday to pay their respects to the man who had dedicated so much of his life to his country and his community. The ceremony was not sad. It was a testimonial to a man who had lived life to the fullest and shared it with so many in great good humor and encouragement. A life well lived. He went to join his loved wife, Ruth, who passed on just 18 days before. Following the ceremony, many gathered for graveside services at the Vaughn Cemetery.

The family fulfilled Rhys' request by asking that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the KP Community Services and Food Bank, the KP Lions Club, or the KPVI.

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BRIEFS

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Local artists in show

Three Key Pen artists, Sally Niemann, Myrna Binion and Jeanne Crider, will have their work included in an exhibit titled "The Dog Show," displayed Oct. 9 to Nov. 6 on the "featured artist wall" at Kimball Gallery and Espresso in Gig Harbor. Other artists include Pat Rush, Yulene Brasel, Robin Peterson, and Donna Fredenburg. One never knows what might appear — hot dog, dogwood, or golden retriever — anything goes with this creative group. The Kimball Gallery is located at 6950 Kimball Drive in Gig Harbor.

Contra Dance in Longbranch

Mary Devlin, a charismatic international caller from Portland, Ore., will lead the contra dance on Oct. 7 at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Contra dancing is walking in time to live music, assisted by a caller who does a "walk through" before each dance and "prompts" the dancers while music is playing. A workshop starts at 7:30 p.m. The dance follows from 8 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$7 with a maximum of \$25 per family. For details, call Tricia Thompson at 884-7830.

Retro Halloween


The annual Halloween party at the KP Civic Center features the 1950s theme this year. The party is from 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 31. Admission is a canned food or nonperishable item, to be donated to the food bank.

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Out & About



A local resident enjoying the last days of August in Lakebay.

Photo courtesy Cameron Snyder



Daniel Konicek, son of organizer Martha Konicek, at the peace rally organized by Key Peacemakers in Key Center in September. "We had a really good turnout. Look at all those people," Daniel said of the nearly 50 people who turned out.

Photo by Danna Webster



Key Pen artist Jan Buday demonstrates glass bead making to a visitor to her studio during the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Open Studio Tour in September.

Photo by Danna Webster



Photo by Karen Hale

Youth football teams the Bulldogs (in red) and the Graham Eagles are honored with the presentation of the flag before the start of the Seattle Seahawks game on Qwest Field on Sept. 17. The Bulldogs team is comprised of Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula and South Kitsap boys. The two Puget Sound teams were invited to a scrimmage before the opening season game of the Seahawks.



PHS senior Michael Humberd, a Key Pen resident, enlisted the help of volunteer Peninsula High and Gig Harbor High football players to organize an NFL-Pepsi "Punt, Pass and Kick" program in September as part of his senior project. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Left, local historian and Citizen of the Year Tim Kezele during the KP Civic Center's picnic at the end of August celebrating the association's 50th anniversary.

Photo by Danna Webster

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

