



Senior shuttle on the go, page 21

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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INSIDE

August 2007



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At last! KP has its own skate park

Facility dedicated in memory of Zech and Adi West



Photos by Hugh McMillan

More photos at www.keypennews.com.

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

In keeping with the traditions that made Volunteer Park the apple of Key Peninsula's eye, volunteers again turned out to build its latest "sports center," the long awaited Zech & Adi West Memorial Skate Park. It began June 26 with a pour of concrete on a steel-reinforced platform covering Volunteer Park's decaying upper tennis court. The rebar and supplies were provided at cost by Addison Supply. The pour, smoothing out, and seasoning were accom-

(See PARK, Page 23)

International festival to bring music, art and food on Aug. 4

By Jeanette Brown
Special to KP News

A groundbreaking event is coming to Longbranch on Aug 4: an international festival featuring music, art and food from around the world. "Beyond the Borders" is the collaboration between the Two Waters Arts Alliance and Longbranch Improvement Club, with a generous grant from the Angel Guild.

"Beyond the Borders will serve to break down barriers and bring people together," says Longbranch musician and music event coordinator Mark Runions. "Music can be used as a healing tool, and our goal was to provide a variety of international music in order to expand the horizons of local folks without the trouble or expense of leaving their own community."

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Cause of Delano Bay hay fire a mystery

Hay business owner to rebuild

By Danna Webster, KP News

A fire near Delano Bay on June 28 destroyed a truck used by a local businessman to haul and sell hay. Weeks of active investiga-

tion into the fire are complicated by inconclusive evidence. The fire, which broke out while the truck was parked overnight, was categorized as suspicious.

Property owner Sharon Moore was awakened by her blind Australian shepherd, Aussie,

(See FIRE, Page 32)



Photo by Danna Webster

The charred carcass of the truck's cabin after the fire was extinguished. More photos at www.keypennews.com.

Nine firefighter positions on the line in August

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

In September of this year, Fire District 16 will hire the last of four additional firefighter/paramedics authorized and funded by a 1999 lid-lift levy. These personnel additions will bring the total combined number of on-line (individuals available for duty) fire officers, and cross-trained firefighters (who are all either emergency medical technicians or paramedics) covering five fire stations and approximately 64 square miles of the Key Peninsula to 21 paid professionals.

On Aug. 21, voters will say yea or nay to a new six-year lid-lift fire district levy whose objectives are twofold: to hire nine more firefighter/EMTs, and create an equipment replacement fund. In an interview, Fire District 16 Chief Tom Lique said the district estimates just under \$1.1 million to be generated through the levy funding. The current fire suppression levy (98 cents per \$1,000 of assessed real estate value) will be reduced next year, while the fire truck levy (24 cents per \$1,000) and the limited obligation bond for construction (17.5 cents per \$1,000) will be paid in full at the end of 2007.

"That's what makes the new levy so timely," Lique said. "(We are asking the public) to fund nine more firefighter/EMTs at a cost increase of only 10 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed value in 2008. This levy is planned to provide enough funding to train, equip, pay, and provide benefits to nine more firefighter personnel through to a third-year top salary of around \$80,000 annually."

The second objective of the proposed levy is to establish a fund for replacement equipment, similar to the 2000 Emergency Medical Services levy that provides resources to replace ambulances

on a regular rotation (and also funded the four new firefighter/paramedic positions previously mentioned).

Lique said levy resources would also help offset the cost of implementing the new "fitness for duty" policy recently adopted by the district. This protocol requires all on-line personnel to have an annual medical exam, blood work, and physical assessment of capabilities. He estimates the annual cost per person will be about \$750; the district will use both Key Medical Center and an assessment facility in Fircrest for testing. Personnel falling short of requirements will be assisted with the required corrective action. These monies were not planned for. If the levy fails to pass, the policy will still be enforced; however, Lique indicated some sort of reordering of the process may have to occur.

Lique recognizes how easy it is for citizens to be distracted by recent commissioner events. "It's difficult to overcome the belief that the district mismanages its funds," he said, noting that he still hears about district difficulties occurring four fire chiefs and years ago.

He is in favor of a five-commissioner board as an opportunity for the fire district to grow and change. "The only place commissioners can bring up topics now is at board meetings; if two of them meet to discuss something, it's 'official' because they are a majority," he said. With five commissioners, the majority changes, and difficulties interfering with fire district business can be settled outside the meeting room, he believes.

Scott Campbell, Key Peninsula Firefighters Union Local 3152 vice president and firefighter/paramedic, said that federal and state-imposed standards, and safety issues for both firefighters and the public, are stretching the area's limited

number of professional firefighters. Of the five fire stations on the peninsula, only two are manned 24/7 — Wauna and Home. Each of those two stations is staffed in three rotational 24-hour shifts. Two firefighters are on staff at Wauna at all times, and three are at the Home station. Federal standards employ the "two in — two out" rule for minimum firefighter safety. This means, for instance, if two firefighters are in a burning building, they must return safely before two more can go in. (According to Campbell, numerous studies done across the country show that, because of the unpredictable nature of fire, a rescue effort for one trapped firefighter may involve eight to 12 additional firefighters.) Washington state standards are even tougher — but where does the funding to enact them come from, Campbell asks. He cites the Key Peninsula Business Association's estimation that the KP has a commercial business base comprised of only about 10 percent of the landmass, and says that affects tax dollars available for community services like fire stations. "We don't have a commercial 'district' like Gig Harbor," Campbell said. "(Our only option) is to tax our citizens."

Campbell said the turnaround time from accident scene to hospital and back to the station is easily two-and-a-half hours, tying up one ambulance and two firefighters. With current staffing, this means that an emergency situation requiring fire service aid and occurring during that hospital-run time may have to wait for Gig Harbor, South Kitsap or Mason County fire services to respond. "We manipulate the system to meet the calls," Campbell said, explaining that KP firefighters assigned to one firehouse may find themselves working at others on

the peninsula when staffing is problematic, and may still be short-handed if emergency events occur simultaneously or close together. According to Campbell, this is unlikely to occur in larger districts where stations are adequately staffed, and firefighters and paramedics are not routinely cross-trained.

Both Lique and Campbell stressed the importance of having residents understand the fire district board of commissioners is not the fire officers, firefighters, paramedics or emergency medical technicians who are in the field serving the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "Voting 'no' on the levy will not affect the commissioners," Lique said. "They will continue (with business as usual)."

From the union standpoint representing career personnel, Campbell said, "The purpose of the levy is to provide more staffing, and greater safety for both citizens and firefighters (and)... to begin generating funds for future equipment needs."

No statement against the levy has been officially filed with the Pierce County Auditor's Office.

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Key Peninsula News
17010 S. Vaughn Rd.
P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394
Phone (253) 884-4699
Fax: (253) 884-4053
Email news@keypennews.com

Executive editor: Rodika Tullefson
News editor: Chris Fitzgerald
Assistant editor: Danna Webster
Ad sales: Karen Hale, Charlene Day, September Hyde
Staff writers and contributors:
SD Galindo, William C. Dietz, Hugh McMillan, Colleen Slater, Frank Slater, Irene Torres, Mindi LaRose,

Linda Anderson
Community pages editor:
Connie Rens
Production: September Hyde,
Windelena Lindsay
Distributions: Phil Bauer
Web master: Bret Nobel
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New bridge becomes star attraction



The new Tacoma Narrows Bridge looked like a sea of people on Sunday, July 15, as crowds swarmed the new engineering marvel during the opening day celebration. More than 50,000 people walked the bridge throughout the day, according to reports. While Gov. Christine Gregoire cut the official ribbon with the help of bridge workers, everyone else could "cut" commemorative ribbons made of specially imprinted construction tape. The following week's commute on the newly opened bridge was reported to go without a hitch. For more bridge opening photos, visit our online gallery at www.keypennews.com. Photo by Vic Frazz

BRIEFS

news

Yanity trial rescheduled

The court trial date for Fire District 16 Commissioner Allen Yanity has been moved from July to Oct. 3. Yanity, charged with felony second-degree assault, has an omnibus hearing on Sept. 6 in Pierce County Superior Court.

WSP resumes local patrols

Washington State Patrol reopened a Gig Harbor office in July. According to Trooper Brandi Kessler, WSP public information officer, the decision to return trooper presence 24/7 west of the Narrows was mainly due to decreased response time of Tacoma-based troopers.

The office, located at 1701 24 St. NW, is not administratively staffed, and will be used by troopers in the field. Calls requiring assistance made to that office (858-4448) will be forwarded to radio dispatch. Individuals can also call 911 and specify either emergency or non-emergency assistance.

Council committee to discuss KP plan

The Pierce County Council's Community Development Committee will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 6 at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church (4213 Lackey Road KP N) on the Key Peninsula Community Plan. The committee will also hold meetings on the plan on Aug. 20 and Sept. 10 at council chambers (980 Tacoma Ave. South, room 1045) in Tacoma. A final hearing before the full council has not been set at press time.

Safe Streets takes a detour

Mike Babauta is no longer employed with the Key Peninsula Safe Streets office. Manager Moni Hoy said the organization is "committed to providing full-time staffing over there," and is seeking a replacement. In the interim, the KPSS office phone 884-7899 will be monitored and calls returned.

In his letter to KP organizations, Babauta wrote, "I have taken another position within Safe Streets... (and) appreciate all the help each of you have given during my short stint over the bridge."

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EDITORIAL

Do you know where your money goes?

Starting in January 2008, Key Pen property owners will pay about a quarter per each \$1,000 of their assessed property values. The new tax will be levied by the parks district, which can legally levy such tax without a public vote. The imminent levy decision has been widely publicized, yet the district received little feedback. That is surprising, considering tax was a contentious issue during the campaign to create the district in 2004.

We can guess the public hasn't spoken because people don't care, or because they supported the idea but did not say so. We could easily dismiss the first theory — who doesn't have an opinion on whether or not they want to pay more taxes? Which leads us to the conclusion local residents recognize the park district needs the money to grow.

Now that the decision has been made, voters should be ever vigilant to keep the district accountable. If you don't want the fate of your taxes to rest solely with five commissioners, make sure you participate in the budgeting or planning process, and make sure your voice is being heard.

Community Council takes position on geoducks

By Barbara Trotter
Special to KP News

After reviewing the facts available to us, and taking into consideration the input and concerns of local residents, the Key Peninsula Community Council has recommended to Pierce County Council and Councilman Terry Lee to allow limited aquaculture activity within the county's area of authority, while simultaneously commissioning a scientific study to determine long-term environmental effects of intensive aquaculture farming.

The issue of aquaculture (specifically geoduck farming) is an important and contentious one to many Key Peninsula residents. Some local property owners wish to use their privately held tidelands as a source of supplemental income; others express concerns about debris and the potential of degraded water quality.

While the pro- and anti-aquaculture factions are highly vocal, the Community Council's informal opinion surveys indicate many Key Peninsula residents and property owners currently have no strong opinion one way or the other. Indeed, many locals expressed a desire for more information before any

Pierce County or Washington state position is formulated — of particular concern to this largely undecided group is that additional information be provided by an unbiased organization, uninvolved in the aquaculture debate. A significant number of local residents do not view either the Washington State Department of Natural Resources or the Department of Public Health as entirely impartial due to their frequent reliance on aquaculture industry sources when rendering opinions.

Pierce County Ordinance 2007-34s represents a good start toward regulating local aquaculture industry. We recommend the ordinance include a requirement that all aquaculture equipment be clearly marked with information identifying the owner/operator. Regulations and penalties regarding debris containment and cleanup must be strictly enforced. We recommend that a temporary aquaculture buffer zone be established around state and county recreational beaches until the impact of nearby intensive aquaculture farming to these important sites is determined.

The Community Council also recommends that the current Washington state study on aquaculture (due to be

completed in 2013) should be expanded. Solid scientific evidence regarding the long-term effects of intensive aquaculture farming is sorely lacking. We recommend an additional analytical study be conducted over a span of at least two complete aquaculture seeding/harvest cycles. During the interim, the county should consider placing restrictive density limits on the level of aquaculture seeding in a given area to mitigate potential environmental impacts until the study is completed and safe seeding levels determined. The purpose of the study should determine, among other things: the safe level of bivalve seeding for a given expanse of tideland to avoid adversely impacting other marine plant and animal life; the appropriate postharvesting recovery time of tidelands undergoing intensive aquaculture farming before that area is reseeded; whether there is a "point of no return" at which areas of tidelands, being subjected to prolonged intensive aquaculture farming, will be unable to recover from as yet undetermined adverse effects.

Barbara Trotter is the president of Key Peninsula Community Council.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tennis court contributors appreciated

As you read this, the Key Peninsula Civic Center's tennis courts should be close to completion. Our total expenses are \$13,706.74 and contributions are \$7,911.17, with the balance needed from our community at \$5,795.57.

This has been a major improvement for our facility. Please drive by to observe, or better still, drop in and play a set or two. Many, many thanks to the following contributors: Rufus & Claire Clark, Herb & Pam Marro, Jeff & Christine Triff, Jerry & Pam Libstaff, Phil & Kathy Bauer, Loyd & Sharon Miller, Don & Jena Henak, George & Lisa Bryan, Sylvia Haase, Margaret Ellis, Gina Liebergessell, Chris & Ina Boygen, Larry & Catherine Heiberg and the KP Metro Parks.

*Phil Bauer
Vaughn*

Information clarified

I would like to try to clear up a myth that was recently quoted in the Peninsula Gateway from a KP fire commissioner. I recognize that is sometimes hard to know whom to believe, but if you take moment to reflect, you will know.

The Key Peninsula Fire Department is not "asking for a huge tax increase," as stated in the article. Quite the contrary, the district is asking the citizens for a 10-cent increase over 2007, about \$25 for an average home. No "slush fund" is being created. We will, however, put a small amount of money aside each year to repair fire stations and purchase fire engines/equipment like any good stewards of the public's money should do. It is our intent to utilize new funds primarily for the hiring of personnel to help us catch up with the growth we have experienced over the last few years.

Our current funding only allows for a minimum staffing of three persons. We desperately need to staff a second medic unit every day to meet current demands. We ask for your vote in helping us to better

serve you. Thank you for your support.

*Chuck West, Division Chief
Key Peninsula Fire Department*

KPVI thanks for support

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute would like to thank the local community for supporting our 2007 fireworks stand. This fundraising effort greatly helps our organization to meet the needs of Key Peninsula veterans and their families, and assist community organizations. Most recently, a donation was given to KPCS, for a Good to Go account for the vehicles that travel over Tacoma Narrow Bridges to bring goods to the community center. And thank you also to the KPVI members Ron and Kathy Collier and crew, who worked long hours at the fireworks stand to help secure funds that are directly used to benefit current soldiers and veterans in our area. Our undying gratitude goes to our U.S. military personnel for their daily service in this time of war.

*Richard Tiegs,
Vice President KPVI*

Writer supports fire levy

Our family has been involved with the Key Peninsula Fire Department since 1980, when my husband volunteered as a firefighter and subsequently earned EMT credentials. In 1982, he was elected fire commissioner until retiring in 1996. We are proud of the record of KPFD which, during my husband's service as fire commissioner, received more management excellence awards from the Washington Fire Commissioners Association than any other fire district in the state. These honors were achieved because commissioners, chiefs, officers, paramedics, and firefighter/EMTs worked together as a closely knit highly qualified team.

Over the years, with continual increases in the KP population, the department's responsibilities, personnel and equipment requirements have expanded enormously, as have the costs of meeting them. To maintain a high level of service KPFD is asking that we support a fire levy lid lift

(See LETTERS, Page 5)

Introducing guest columnists

The Key Peninsula News is pleased to introduce its first group of guest columnists whose work will be published regularly over the next year. The columnists were selected by a nine-person panel following a call for submissions. The three columnists, Jud Morris, Kevin Reed and Rick Sorrels, come from diverse backgrounds. We hope you will enjoy their voices.

Jud Morris

Jud Morris is the program manager of the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, and president of the Key Peninsula Business Association. He has lived and worked in a variety of places (rural, Suburban, and urban) throughout the country, and has been involved in human services and schools for over 40 years. Morris has written

several articles on rural communities, a couple of books, and produced a film on community building in rural towns. He is very interested and involved in the wellbeing of the residents of the Key Peninsula and the local community.

Morris says he doesn't expect everyone to agree with him because "if we all think alike, none of us are really thinking." His topics will be timely and focus on issues impacting the Key Peninsula. "I am not interested in writing about topics everyone else is writing about," he says. "I look forward to this new opportunity and hearing from you (the readers)." Morris' column, "From the Water's Edge," will appear every other month starting in September.

Kevin Reed

Kevin Reed is relatively new to the Key Peninsula. An East-Coast transplant, he spent time in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and North Carolina over the

years. His past jobs have included strawberry picker, pesticide salesperson, bartender, pool-side grill cook, table-side oyster-shucker, convention center custodian and late-night cubicle setter-upper in D.C. office buildings, among others. For the past 14 years he's been developing and managing training in various formats for manufacturing and military clients.

Reed lives on the south end with his wife, son, and trusty Australian Shepherd. He writes on the side for kicks. His column, "Here's Something," will appear monthly, and will strive to look at the KP from different angles. "Doesn't matter what the topic is, or what the angle is, for that matter, as long as I'm bringing you fascinating content in an entertaining way. Or at least entertaining content in a fascinating way," he says. "If there are things that interest you about the KP that you think others will enjoy, feel free to email me via the Key Peninsula News (news@keypennews.com)."

Rick Sorrels

Rick Sorrels is a longtime local resident whose great-grandfather was the first settler in the region of Puget Sound just north of Gig Harbor. His diverse background includes the fields of education, engineering, military, technology, ecology, architecture, safety, and the law. He holds teaching credentials for secondary and college, and has trained rescue and pararescue aircrew members.

Sorrels constructed prototype electric vehicles in the 1970s, and is "into" ecology. He has written war plans for the Pentagon, carried a diplomatic passport through the Middle East, and investigated homicides in the Midwest. Now, for fun, he makes jousting equipment and is a vocal conscience for politicians, in an attempt to keep them accountable for their actions.

Sorrel's column, "The Pragmatic Sophist," will provide insights into events and happenings that affect citizens of the KP. The column will appear every other month starting with this edition.

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(From LETTERS, Page 4)

on the primary ballot Aug. 21. The main purpose of this is to provide funds to hire nine critically needed new firefighter and emergency medical personnel.

*Janice McMillan
Lakebay*

Community rallies for friend

On June 16, friends rallied and showed support for Gary Richardson at a barbecue and auction held at the Huckleberry Restaurant and Lounge. May, Gary suffered a heart attack and he had a quadruple bypass. He had no insurance and has been out of work during recovery.

The response was overwhelming. Gary has been a karaoke host at the Huckleberry for 10 years and is also a resident of Longbranch. Gary and I, his fiancé, would like to thank all those who have supported us through this trying time: Mindy Hand, Jan Sweeten, Sheryl at KC Computers, Close to Home Espresso, Cutter Bug, Key Center Liquor, LuLu's Homeport, On the Way Deli, Jed's Good Stuff, Martha Swanson of the Huckleberry and her staff, Rhonda Young of M & R Karaoke, Marianne, the auctioneer/emcee, our neighbors, Scott,

Billy, Dan, Larry and Penny of Seattle; Denise, Jake, Bill, Val and Buffalo; the Floation Device; Lynn Anne Higgins; Christa Halinen; Stacy Stoican; Joe Sunde; Dan Fleury and Kitsap Reclamation; Sit and Sip; JR's Hideaway; Peninsula Hair Design; Colleen Clemons; Shannon Oliver; Virginia Baxter; Candy Martin and Evan. Thank you to all of you that have donated money in the buckets; it is appreciated greatly. Thank you also to all of those who bid and won the various items for auction and those who came to the barbecue. Many people contributed time and effort to putting it all together and it was a great success!

*Erika Arnold-Eberhardt
Longbranch*

Doc Roes contribution worth adding

It was nice of you to write about the many good deeds performed by Dr. Roes, but one more should have been included. For more than 20 years, Dr. Roes wrote a monthly column for the KP News without ever missing a deadline. A record that will probably stand for a long time.

*Marty Marcus
Home*

Key Pen — the land of 'hicks'?

KEVIN REED
HERE'S SOMETHING



Whether you've been here for a long time, or you're brand new, you're likely aware that the KP can get a bit of a bad rap from time to time, depending on the source. Take Wikipedia, for example. Wikipedia is a free, online encyclopedia that's written and edited by anyone who wishes to do so. Volunteer editors comb through new text and verify sources; in general, it's a pretty good starting point of reference for general research. Next time you're online, go to Google.com, type in "Key Peninsula Wikipedia" and you'll see a short entry pop up.

There are a few sentences about geography and schools, and about how the KP is a "finger" of land about 15 miles long. Here's the good part:

"Though the Key Peninsula is connected to Purdy and Gig Harbor via the Purdy Bridge and is generally considered the same area by Pierce County, residents of Gig Harbor try to distinguish themselves from the Key Peninsula, as it is considered by some to be an area inhabited by 'hicks' due to most of the population being lower middle working class."

Hicks! Can you believe it? An area inhabited by hicks! It sounds terrible. So basically, to the rest of the world, we're a finger of land with some schools, populated by hicks. Of course, to much of the rest of the world, this description could work for the entire country, but, like our situation, that would be an unfair characterization not just of a place but of a people.

And "inhabited," what's that all about? We use "inhabited" when we're talking about some sort of insect, beast or perhaps cannibals. As in, "The mutants inhabit these hills," or, "The storage area under the barn is inhabited by hobo spiders." Things like that. I don't like it.

The entry concludes: "Although with a boom in population on both the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor Peninsula there has been an influx of new middle to upper middle class residents and areas such as Wauna have many large homes."

As if a hick can't dwell in a large home. Look, if you need proof to the contrary, simply drive to the White House and peer inside. Big ol' hick in thar. So the author is downright confused, assuming that working class people are all a bunch of hicks, and that middle- and upper-middle-class people make everything OK just by moving in because they've got it all together and have large homes.

But here's the thing. The KP has colorful character. That's what makes a place charming. Who wants to live in a suburban sea of like-minded, look-alike Borg-folk who all make the same amount of money and talk about the same things? I sure don't. I like the fact there are people of all different incomes on the KP, and that there are farmers and artists alongside each other, as well as laborers, writers, business owners, teachers, homemakers, skilled trades folks, the independently wealthy, and so on down the long list of occupations. That's diversity, and it's what makes a population strong. As much as we have, we can always use more.

And that's just the half of it. The KP has miles of pristine shoreline, beautiful land lush with trees, and some rich, fascinating history — just look at the town of Home. With nudists, free-thinkers and anarchy in its past, it's just one example of the textures that make this land finger as unique as it is gorgeous.

None of that is on the Wikipedia page, so I'm going to make some updates to the entry. Feel free to do the same. I'll keep you posted. But first, I'm going to go meet some fellow hick inhabitants and do hick stuff. Yeeeeeecdoggy!

KPCCA Upcoming Events

August 18

KPCCA Dinner/Dance
Fundraiser

September 7

Friday Night Skate Begins

Questions? Call 253-884-3456
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Fire policy: Let it burn?

RICK SORRELS
THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



Imagine sitting in your comfy chair surrounded by all your electronic technological marvels when an overloaded electrical outlet sparks, igniting a small fire inside an interior wall. You smell the burning electrical insulation, then the smoke, then feel the heat when you touch the wall. You immediately call 911 for fire response and you run outside to help responders find the correct address to save your valuable property before all is lost.

Eight minutes later, the first fire engine arrives on scene. The two firefighters assess the situation, get their equipment ready and then... stand there waiting for somebody else. After another eight minutes, a second fire truck shows up with one additional firefighter. The three firefighters talk with each other and... continue to wait.

By this time, massive volumes of smoke are seeping from your roof vents. What is this? Some bizarre Twilight Zone episode where the fire department is responsible for burning fires, instead of extinguishing them? No, this is 21st century bureaucracy in Washington state.

Fire standards are designed to protect not only the public, but also the firefighters who are exposed to the most dangerous situations imaginable. The fire standard known as "two in, two out" ensures that a backup is in place before firefighters are allowed to enter a structure on fire. An exception is allowed if someone's life is at risk inside the building, in which case, two

firefighters can enter if one backup firefighter is on the scene.

Fire standards are created at the national level after detailed study, and then adopted at the state level. They are all based upon the assumption that protection of life is of paramount importance, while property can always be replaced.

Frustration can result when standards meet reality. A good example happened on the Key Peninsula in 1991, when an 8-year-old boy fell into an abandoned hand dug well that was 25 feet deep. The boy had been in the well for 20 minutes. The responding firefighters and medics could hear him crying, but had no idea how severe his injuries were.

Fire standards said they could not go down the well to rescue him because they did not have the testing equipment to measure the oxygen level, and they only had a half-inch rope instead of the required 5/8-inch rope. They rescued the child with what they had, and got their hands slapped administratively by the state Labor and Industries department afterward.

Imagine the frustration of a firefighter or medic faced with the choice of risking his or her livelihood or rescuing a person in distress. I, for one, trust the competence and professionalism of the firefighters and medics of Fire District 16.

The August primary election includes a fire levy that would allow the hiring of nine more firefighter/paramedics in addition to the four being hired as a result of the 2006 levy. Nobody likes taxes, but if any taxes are to be imposed, the least objectionable would be the one that protects our homes and the lives of our families.

August Calendar of Events!

Every Monday	Down Allard, Country & Bluegrass - In The Beer Garden	6pm
Every Tuesday	Open Mic, Billy Farmer - Everyone Sings & Plays	6pm
Aug. 3-	Beddie Sue & Big Rodin Daddies, Rock & Roll	9pm
Aug. 5-	Happy Hairs Rainer, Polka Breakfast, Polka Dance	11am
Aug. 8-	Leanne Trevalynn & Billie Stoops, In The Beer Garden	6pm
Aug. 10-	Junkyard Lane, Rock-A-Billy	8pm
Aug. 11-	Crossroads, Rock & Blues	9pm
Aug. 17-	In The House Band, Rock & Blues	9pm
Aug. 18-	In The House Band, Rock & Blues	9pm
Aug. 22-	Leanne Trevalynn & Billie Stoops, In The Beer Garden	6pm
Aug. 24-	Randy Oxford Band, Rock & Blues	9pm
Aug. 25-	Ed Taylor & Taylormade, Jazz	8pm
Aug. 31-	Billy Farmer & The Ramblers, Rock & Roll	8pm

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Tuesday- Tacos \$1.00	8am-12:30pm
Wednesday- Pork Chops, Apple Sauce, Mashed Spuds, Veggies, House Salad \$8.50 5-9pm	BBQ in the Beer Garden Saturday & Sunday
Thursday- Steak Night \$8.95	12 noon until gone
Friday- Prime-Rib \$10.95	Bloody Marys \$2.25

253-884-9766

Parks district to collect levy starting in 2008

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

At its regular July meeting, commissioners of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District voted to collect a parks levy in the amount of approximately \$600,000 total in 2008. The exact amount of collection for taxpayer will be determined once the total assessed values of the Key Peninsula are released this fall, but the estimated tax will be about 25 to 27 cents per each \$1,000 of assessed property value.

At the meeting, the commissioners considered four preliminary budget scenarios prepared for them by Executive Director Scott Gallacher: one with no levy, and three with different levy amounts of approximately \$500,000, \$600,000 and \$700,000. Although no one in the small audience disputed the need for funding, Bruce Nicholson, who is running for a commissioner seat, criticized the move and asked for specific acquisition plans, saying: "You're going to taxpayers and asking for (money) and

not building any parks — 90 percent of the budget is not for growing the park (district)." Commissioners disagreed, stating they cannot list specific properties due to the sensitive nature of real estate transactions.

The 2008 budget that will determine how the extra money is spent will undergo public hearings. Gallacher told the KP News the budget process will occur in August-September, and the final document must be approved by November.

"The areas we have to focus upon are acquisitions, park improvements, planning and development," he said. "We will continue to have a frugal budget and watch our nickels and dimes."

The new money could pay for additional staff, a master plan for Volunteer Park, and a playground at Home Park, among other things. The underutilization of Home Park due to lack of amenities has long been a discussion, and residents have agreed the park needs improvements. Marty Marcus told commissioners at the July meeting:

"Home Park is a good example — if people were using it, they would be supporting of (more money)." Gallacher's preliminary budget proposal included \$60,000 for Home Park playground equipment and \$40,000 for restrooms. The Adi & Zech West Foundation, spearheaded by Chuck West, has even given the idea a head start: West purchased a fire truck toy to donate to the district for installation in the park.

"I want Home Park to be our showcase park, to show what we can do," Gallacher said in an interview.

With four commissioners voting in favor of imposing the levy without an advisory public vote, Commissioner Kip Clinton abstained. She is the only current commissioner who was involved with the creation efforts of the metro parks district in 2004, when some members of the creation committee told voters the new district would not bring new taxes. As a commissioner, Clinton has been vocally opposed to imposing a levy without a public advi-

sory vote, but told the KP News following the meeting she felt resigned over the issue due to lack of public input. The commissioners have been discussing the levy for several months, and postponed a vote on a resolution at their April meeting. The discussions have been widely publicized, and Clinton thinks the lack of response from the public shows they are either apathetic or understanding that the money is needed.

"It's not like we haven't asked the public to form a levy committee. They haven't shown up, and people who showed up said we needed more money," she said.

Commissioners say the levy money will allow them to bank new properties as well as pursue grants, which are usually paid on reimbursement basis and often require matching funds. One of the grants the park district could pursue as soon as the money comes in next April could be REET (real estate excise tax), which has slated matching funds for Key Peninsula parks several years ago.



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"Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't." Erica Jong

Key Pen fire district gift goes to dogs

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Early in July, six firefighter/paramedics met in Key Center with C.H.E.W. (Canine Health Education and Welfare), a Gig-Harbor based nonprofit organization. The purpose of the short event was the presentation of three sets of animal supplemental oxygen "snout masks" to the fire district for inclusion on medic aid units. Each set contains three mask sizes; the largest can accommodate a large dog, or be placed over a small kitten, bird or other pocket pet to aid in resuscitation. The other two graduate down in size from medium to small.

The device looks like a clear, quart-size (large mask), deep plastic bowl with a wide rubber-type gasket around the rim, two small screened vents on the sides, and a valve on the bottom outside end. When used, an oxygen tube is attached to the valve, and a hand-squeezed breather bag is attached to the other end of the oxygen tube. The mask is placed over the unconscious animal's nose/snout with the gasket making a snug seal against its face, and the person assisting gently administers oxygen



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Sherette Main, Canine Health Education and Welfare (CHEW) president, demonstrates to KP firefighter Andrew Tiller the best method for using canine oxygen delivery masks in resuscitation of imperiled canines.

with the breather bag. Alternately, the rescuer can use mouth to mask breathing without risk of contamination.

The masks, donated in memory of C.H.E.W. founder Jan Patterson, have also

been given to the Gig Harbor fire district. A rather reluctant demonstration of the mask use was imposed on Misty, a short-coated collie formerly belonging to Patterson and now living with Candy Plumlee, another co-founder. Sherette Main, the third co-founder, was also present with her shepherd mix dog, Skye, who was visibly relieved at not having been selected for the mask show-and-tell.

Plumlee said the masks originate in Florida, and are being provided or made available to service agencies, K-9 units, veterinarians, boaters, any place where animals could benefit from having them.

"We will use these on calls," said Fire District 16 Capt. Mike Riegle. "We've had fires when we've rescued animals — but we are not in the business of transporting them to emergency veterinarian hospitals. That is against county and department protocol."

C.H.E.W. was formed last July as Patterson's response to having no place in Gig Harbor to exercise her dog off-leash. (The rescue mask offshoot is a side product of their commitment to animal welfare.) She enlisted neighbors Plumlee

and Main; they created a voice for dog-lovers throughout the area. Beginning with a membership of three, the group has grown, in 12 months, to more than 1,400 petition-signing local citizens who have the same goal: an off-leash park in the Gig Harbor vicinity.

Main explains it this way: "We love dogs, and they need a safe place to run. A dog park allows the dogs and community to meet and enjoy (each other) in a natural, normal environment."

Plumlee takes the issue to a citizen-based activist level. "(We intend to) be stewards of a park owned by either Pierce County or Peninsula Metro Parks. If people are interested in joining, we need them. We are all tax payers, and money should be available for people whose (leisure time) includes their dogs. (Our needs) are just as important as any other group — a dog park is a legitimate recreational activity."

She cites a regional statistic indicating the area has nearly two pets per household but "zero dog parks." C.H.E.W. is negotiating with PenMet for park space, and expects to begin fundraising for fencing and other park supplies soon.

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Wrestling more than logs at Old Timers Day 2007

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Loggers' Show is the feature event at Old Timers Day but the night before will bring a new main event to the peninsula this year: professional wrestling. Friday night, Aug. 17, the doors open at 7 p.m. and the bell is at 8. Wrestlers from Pinnacle Pro Wrestling will climb into the ring, entertaining the audiences with team, singles and women matches. The main event will feature the Pinnacle heavy weight Washington state champion Arron Bolo.

"He is popular with kids and the crowd. His character is Korean," says Debbie Dilley, who worked to bring this event to LIC. "Bolo is a favorite — well liked by kids and people in general — the boy next door." Bolo is the good guy and there is a favorite bad guy named Christopher Ryseck. "(Ryseck) considers himself perfect," Dilley says. He refers to himself as the "Ideal Reflection."

Fans may recognize wrestler J.D. Mason when he climbs into the ring. J.D. Mason is the professional name of a local boy who attended Vaughn Elementary,

Old Timers Day

Festivities start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18. Live entertainment, silent auction, vendors, food and a loggers show are among the attractions; admission is free. A professional wrestling show will be held on Friday, Aug. 17; advance tickets to the wrestling show are \$10, or \$12 at the door. Tickets are on sale at KPCS and LuLu's Homeport in Home, and at the Floatation Device in Purdy.

Key Peninsula Middle School and Peninsula High under his family name.

The wrestlers are donating all proceeds from ticket sales to the food bank at Key Peninsula Community Services, which organizes the annual fundraising event.

Before the doors open for wrestling, the Loggers will enjoy their annual spaghetti dinner provided by the Longbranch Improvement Club under the supervision of Marge Adams. Adams has been serving the loggers for 20 years

and is part of the original committee that organized the logging event which included: Rhys Wood, Lauretta Yaggi Tank, Bill Onstead, Helen and Earle Saxer, and Adams.

The logging show is under the direction of Dale Boquist, a third-generation logger from the Glen Cove area. According to Boquist, the loggers are almost all local and they will compete against each other in such events as chainsaw cutting, bucking logs, wrapper throwing, chocker setting and an obstacle course. The main event is Fallin' Trees, where 30-foot-tall tree poles are set, anything but straight, 5 feet into the ground. The contest is to make the tree fall and hit a stake set 30 feet away. The contest usually has a different winner every year. Boquist says it takes more than skill to win. It takes luck. "Guys have hit it dead-on or we take a tape measure and see who is the closest," he says. "I only won that one time."

After the logging events, the wood on the ground is auctioned off for firewood. The loggers' live auction outside usually also includes crushed rock, top soil and

gift certificates.

Complementing the loggers' will be ongoing steam donkey demonstrations, and the hot saws are expected again this year. Hot saws are chain saws with a V-8 motor that can "saw a 20-inch log in about two seconds," according to Boquist.

In addition to the auction outside, there will be a silent auction inside the historic Longbranch building. Vicky and Ted Lilyblade are organizing the silent auction items, which include theme baskets and services from local car care centers and the KC Computer store. Gardening and nights out on the town will be some of the themes presented in the baskets.

As LIC volunteers work to set up the 22nd Old Timers' Day event, they will be walking in the footsteps of early volunteers. A tribute to the memory of two of those volunteers will be part of this year's program. Rhys Wood and Loretta Tank will be honored "in memory of all their hard work and dedication," Dilley says.

A plaque with their names will be given to the memory garden at the Community House.



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Decades-old addressing glitches hamper service providers

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Some 15 to 20 years ago, State Route 302 did not turn at Elgin-Clifton, but continued down to the main Key Center intersection of Cramer and 92nd, where it turned right onto 92nd and Olson Drive, to Wright-Bliss, shot right again up to Elgin-Clifton, then left and continued running toward Allyn, as it does today. At that time, both residential and commercial street addresses were correctly identified with the address of State Route 302, incorporating a grid system of street numbering originating in approximately the heart of Pierce County in Tacoma and continuing out in linear fashion across the entire county. At that time, for instance, the address for Moreland and Sons Auto Center was correctly given as 15317 SR 302. (15317 would correspond to 173rd Street, originating across from a straight line drawn at Pierce County's Tacoma hub, and the street — SR 302, from the state.) Today, since SR-302 turns at Elgin-Clifton, and the stretch of road beyond it is now the Key Peninsula Highway (having been acquired as a road system by Pierce County), the address numbering system along that corridor — and a few others in pockets around the KP — is no longer accurate.

A few months ago, Jim Guinn, recent purchaser of Moreland's, got a visit from Fire District 16 Division Chief Chuck West, who explained this phenomenon to him, indicating he needed an address change. Because Guinn was anticipating a business name change, and had already purchased interim business literature with the current address, West agreed he should wait. Now that the new name has been chosen, West assisted Guinn with the task of acquiring the correct street address, 9707 Key Peninsula Highway North.

'Vital Signs'

In an ongoing effort to ensure consistent and easily recognizable address signage throughout Key Peninsula communities, the KP Firefighters Association is sponsoring a "vital signs" program. A red metal address sign with 3-inch white reflective house numbers printed on both sides can be ordered from the Key Center fire station for \$15, a portion of which stays with the association. The cost of the sign includes a metal T-post and roadside installation by volunteer fire district personnel. These house markers can be seen at night from a distance of 300 feet, and are of great benefit to aid units responding to emergency calls.

Citizens concerned about the accuracy of their current address or requiring an address correction should call Pierce County Planning and Land Services cartographer Barb Cook at 798-3187.

West said the fire district has been aware of the address discrepancies; it is a matter of enough time, research, and cooperation from the county to make the appropriate changes. He has mapped all parcels along that part of the arterial corridor and discovered close to two dozen inaccurate addresses — some even still posted as "XXX SR 302." These discrepancies do not include vacant land parcels, most of which have no true address, and any new construction along the highway, which is accurately addressed.

"We are growing so rapidly, we need to fix these discrepancies before the area gets more populated," West said, adding that address changes have nothing to do with a lack of addressing numbers available in the area. He said problems arise when an aid call comes in and responders head to where the address "should" be according to current county maps (reflecting the correct state and county road divisions), only to discover the address is still employing long-outdated mapping, resulting in the loss of precious time while providers backtrack.

Unfortunately, the opposite is also something this fire district contends with. According to West, the district uses

a computer mapping system that is updated approximately annually. Easements and roads that have been platted but not necessarily built show on the mapping, and others that have been newly cut in and are being used without notification to the fire district may not show up, further hampering accuracy. Pierce County Planning and Land Use is aware of both the address discrepancies along the arterial corridor, and new roads and easements, but is under no obligation to pass this information along to service providers such as police and fire units, or correct them in a timely way. What this means, West explains, is that sometimes aid calls come in from citizens on roads they don't yet even know exist. Until the new roads are recorded on the updated mapping system, as far as the fire district knows, they are not there.

Occasionally, West is called out to inspect a driveway on a new house construction project. The last one he looked at had a wrong address: The county had dropped the first number. He advises homeowners building on vacant land to check and double-check their addresses for accuracy.

Part of the problem at the planning

department is that for the entire county, there is only one person responsible for addressing issues, whether for correcting wrong numbering, or assigning new addresses. West says if an address change arises from the fire district's inability to find a house involved in an aid call, the county will make the address correction within a day. If he is sending in several nonemergency change requests, correction may take months. West asks people along the old SR-302 to take initiative and ask the county for a correct address, because planning staff will not initiate it on their own.

He turned in the two dozen or so known discrepant addresses to the county for correction in early June. Residents receiving county correspondence regarding an address change should follow the instructions in the letter to ensure their utility and other services continue uninterrupted. "We are doing this for people's best interests," West said. "We want to provide quality service, and we need to (get these addresses) cleaned up so we can get (to people when they need help)."

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The Civic Center gratefully acknowledges the financial support given by the "Angel Guild" towards the purchase of a much needed floor scrubber for cleaning the gymnasium floor.

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Summit focuses on public safety

By Irene Torres, KP News

About 75 people attended a public safety summit on July 16 at Peninsula High School. The summit was the first one organized by Pierce County Sheriff's Department, with more planned for later this year.

Moderated by Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, panel presenters included Gig Harbor Mayor Chuck Hunter, Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor, Gig Harbor's Police Chief Mike Davis, Gig Harbor Fire District 5 Public Information Officer Penny Hulse, and Fire District 16's Division Chief Chuck West and Board of Commissioners Chairman Rick Stout.

Washington State Patrol Lt. Dale Alexander announced that the detachment was to resume operations in the area on July 16, covering the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, State Route 16 from Union Street west, and State Route 302. Alexander said the WSP has the highest safety belt compliance rate in the nation.

The speakers reviewed their respective organization's mission, outlined their work on both peninsulas, and discussed

the challenges they foresee in the future. They responded to questions and comments from the audience, with discussion ranging from the anticipated impact of the new Narrows Bridge on population growth and traffic, to the installation of car and home alarms as a theft deterrent.

West said the lack of commercial growth and a small retail tax base on the KP presents funding challenges for the fire district in continuing to meet the needs of the community and provide quality services.

Pastor said, "Public safety is not a spectator sport... It's the duty, obligation and sacrifice we owe each other, and the community can be involved."

Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy Rich Folden told the KP News, "I wish we'd had a bigger turnout but between the temperature, vacations, and the (Key Pen) fair, we probably did alright."

Another safety summit is planned for the fall, according to Lt. Larry Bauer, chief of the Peninsula Detachment.

Hugh McMillan contributed to this article.

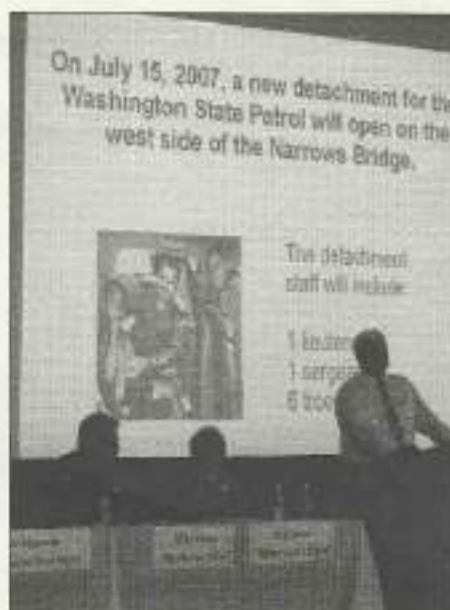


Photo by Hugh McMillan

Pierce County Council member Terry Lee, serving as master of ceremonies for the first-ever Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas Safety Summit last month, is backed by a Power Point production depicting a series of scenes, plans, and accomplishments of local public safety officials.

Key Senior Information Center opens Aug. 1

The Key Senior Information Center will open at the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center (in the Key Center Library building) on Aug. 1. Trained volunteers will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, to provide printed literature, contact numbers and some application assistance for services and programs available to KP senior citizens.

Eighteen local residents have attended training sessions with The Mustard Seed Project, Franciscan Health System Volunteer Services and Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care staff over the last two months in preparation for this new face-to-face program.

This free service is designed to assist local elders and their families identify and access the local and regional programs and services they need to "age in place" in this community. This information will be available by telephone as well during the same hours by September.

For information about The Mustard Seed Project, call 884-5920, or email edicmorgan@themustardseedproject.org.

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Key Peninsula Fair 2007

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Right, Herron Island's Melanie and Amanda Wiggins, 3 and 5 respectively, are visiting with "Bounce," the Democratic Party's mascot.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Far right, the extraordinarily talented Vicci Martinez accompanied by her three-man combo poured out rhythmic beats and mesmerizing tunes, all composed and orchestrated by the 22-year-old Tacoma vocalist who also played guitar, keyboard, and, seen here, bongo drum to a standing ovation from a steadily growing audience.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



The night before the opening of the fair, a teen night brought in huge crowds of teens. Entry as well all activities except rides and food were free. Here, high schoolers compete in the pizza eating contest as friends look on. Purdy Pizza donated the pizzas for the contest. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Magic Swami sits on his magic carpet as it "flies" along the vendors' booths. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Brittney Wylie inveigles Jonathan Castillo into carrying the "leopard shark" he won for her at a gaming booth along the midway. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

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November ballot has 14 school board candidates

By Danna Webster, KP News

Four Peninsula School District terms expire at the end of this year. Since none of the positions have more than two candidates, they will all appear on the general election ballot Nov. 6. The Key Peninsula News asked candidates why they are seeking their position, and answers are provided below.

District 1

Geoff Baillie, Longbranch (incumbent)

I chose to run for reelection to the PSD board because I want to finish our ongoing work to provide safe schools that support and retain quality teachers, foster continuous student improvement in basic skills, be fiscally responsible, and respect the rights of parents in the education of our children.

Matthew Wilkinson, Lakebay

The school board has two major responsibilities; first is the education of students and second is being fiscally responsible. Teachers need to be provided with necessary supplies and materials to educate students. Teachers, administrators, and parents can work together to provide tutoring, mentoring, and real world education. This is what I'm committed to.

District 2

Jean Gazabat, Gig Harbor

I am running because I have two boys in the district. One is in middle school, the other is in high school. I have an interest in what is being taught and if it is preparing them for their future. I am interested in making sure that all students are given a safe learning environment. I want our taxes to yield the largest educational return per student possible. The students' education should be the first consideration. I am worried that the students are not being prepared

Do you have a question you'd like the KP News to ask the candidates? Email us at news@keypennews.com.

ensure that we provide well-maintained facilities throughout the district.

Ken Roberts, Gig Harbor

I would be an independent voice on the board, providing common-sense answers to problems as they arise. I have over 30 years experience at the corporate level in finance, management, administration, and benefits. I will not be a "rubber stamp." It is time to hold administration accountable for their mistakes.

District 4

Jill Uddenberg, Gig Harbor (incumbent)

I am a wife and mother of three children who attend schools in the Peninsula School District, and an incumbent school board member running unopposed for my second term. I chose to be a candidate because I am very pleased with the quality of education that our district provides all children. I want to be a part of this.

for the economy they are going to be asked to participate in.


Wendy Wojtanowicz, Wauna

I have chosen to run because we have four children in the district. I'm already involved at three schools and believe that I can offer a perspective from many levels: looking at issues as a parent, citizen, and a business.

District 3

Jill Guernsey, Gig Harbor (incumbent)

I have been involved with our schools since 1990 and have been on the school board since 2000. I will continue to work with teachers and staff to provide our children with exceptional educational opportunities. I will also continue to



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Vaughn Community Church to build at new location

Zoning challenges may limit plans

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

The March 2006 fire at Vaughn Community Church did \$500,000 damage to the physical church buildings, but did not touch the "real church" contained in the hearts and souls of its parishioners. The church will soon have a new building.

Tim Stobbe, who became pastor in 2005, said, "We had over 170 active parishioners at the time of the fire, which frequently pushed our maximum facility capacity of 200. We already had plans to construct a new, larger church on land we had purchased in 1999 located where Key Peninsula Highway joins SR-302. We could not use the old church after the fire, and the lot was too small to expand, so we sold the old church site in the fall of 2006."

Stobbe said ground breaking is planned for October, with construction to last six months.

"In the interim, we are holding Sunday services at Vaughn Elementary School with 150 parishioners usually in attendance," he said.

At 10,000 square feet, the new church will be about the same size as the old one "but the new church will be more functional with a greater capacity, bigger kitchen, nursery, etc."

"We've lost very few parishioners since the fire. They've all hung with us through our troubled times," Stobbe said. "The congregation is a bit younger than most. We have a very active youth program, and we are actively pursuing development of

a youth drop-in center at the Red Barn located just south of Key Center. The congregation has a strong desire to become even more active in reaching out to the community's needs, which our new facilities will aid immensely."

Dale Harrison, chairman of the church's building committee, said they have run into problems with permits from the county for the new building. "The land is zoned as R-10, which allows churches, but does not allow some of the activities normally associated with churches," he said. "A zoning change to commercial has been considered by the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board, which was approved, then rejected, then approved, and then rejected again. Our hope is that the (Pierce) County Council will recognize the need to allow all churches the same right to provide necessary community services, whether they are located in an R-10 or in a commercial zone."

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church has had a similar running battle with Pierce County over use of its kitchen facilities for community purposes. Dan Boone, the former church council president who dealt with the county for the past three years concerning this problem, said, "We still don't know for sure what we can do and what we can't. We get a different story every time we talk with somebody from the county. Whenever we allow a community group to use our facilities, we do it in fear that the county will complain again. It's like the government is trying to interfere with our community outreach instead of assist."

Mike Kruger, Pierce County senior planner who has overseen the community planning process, said the county council may still amend the proposed Key Peninsula plan "to allow ancillary uses associated with religions."

"Some of the community outreach programs that the church would like to do, like a nonprofit thrift store and a day care facility for low-income single mothers, would not be allowed without special applications and permits and/or an amendment to the community plan," he said.

A council committee will hold public hearings in August and September on the KP community plan. This follows a public hearing process in May by the county's advisory Planning Commission.

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Resources a key: The example of Gig Harbor's park district

By Rodika Tollefson

Editor's note: As the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park district undergoes its comprehensive planning process, the Key Peninsula News has been taking a look at various issues the district is trying to solve.

In July, the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District commissioners voted to impose a levy, starting in 2008. The move has long been advocated by KPMPD Executive Director Scott Gallacher, who felt the limited funding generated by the zoo/trek sales taxes was only sufficient to "put band-aids" on the existing systems. Gallacher believes the additional funding from the levy, the first half of which will be received next April, will allow the district to not only set aside money for acquisitions and park development but also will allow KPMPD to partner with other agencies as well as seek grants. A stable stream of income, such as a levy imposed every year, would also allow the park district to borrow money for the long term.



As an example of what such possibilities could bring to a park system, the Key Peninsula News took a look at Gig Harbor's PenMet Parks, a metropolitan park district that was created at the same time as KPMPD, as a result of a special election in 2004. PenMet serves more than 36,000 people on the Gig Harbor Peninsula, outside of city of Gig Harbor limits.

Gig Harbor's former Parks and Recreation District struggled with levy approval, much like the former KP Parks and Rec. In fact, where the now dissolved KP Parks and Recreation had been successful at passing some levies or bonds, Gig Harbor's PRD failed to pass 15 out of 16. And while one bond measure was successful (to develop the flagship Sehmel Homestead Park), its companion maintenance levy failed as well.

At its inception in 2004, PenMet had 12 acres of property; by the end of this year it will have 280 acres of parks, some of which have been acquired through transfers from Pierce County and Department of Natural Resources. Although the Gig Harbor district's income is about double

that of KP's with regard to zoo/trek tax (due to population count), the majority of its revenue source is from a levy collected since January 2006. Less than three years since its creation, PenMet Parks has four full-time employees and one nearly full time, a \$2.75 million budget for 2007, and a capital improvement list for 2007 totaling more than \$6.6 million. (A \$6.5 million general obligation bond was issued in 2005 for Sehmel park).

"The real critical piece for our ability to move forward was the dedication of our commissioners to develop a plan and strategy to meet open space deficiencies out here on the peninsula, and recognizing they can't do it without resources," said Marc Connelly, who was hired as PenMet executive director in 2005.

Connelly said the district has been leveraging its revenues by creating partnerships with other entities as well as aggressively pursuing grants. The list of received grants includes \$100,000 from the Boeing/Mariners Athletic Field Grant, \$15,000 from the Starbucks Neighborhood Park Grant (in partnership with Peninsula Athletic Association), with others in the works. "Without the levy dollars, it would have been impossible to have (the grants) because they're matching and reimbursement-based," Connelly said.

A local park foundation was also created, focused currently on acquiring Harbor Family Park, but will expand its scope once that park is in the hands of PenMet. The foundation helps "offset public taxes" and "enables the district to utilize funds for other acquisitions," Connelly said.

One aspect that distinguishes PenMet Parks is its partnerships. The district not only aggressively pursues funding but also gives out its own grants through a

park enhancement program to entities such as the city of Gig Harbor, the YMCA (via a \$1.5 million contribution over several years for the aquatic center), and Peninsula Athletic Association. The district also facilitates a joint recreation program guide four times a year with the city, PAA and Tacoma Community College. "There aren't white lines on the street when you go from the district, to the city, to the county... We all look at it more holistically... Why not work together," Connelly said.

Connelly said the district conducted extensive outreach efforts when it was first formed to discuss plans for the future, and the public has been very supportive of its efforts. However, the lack of response to surveys or low meeting attendance is the same as the Key Pen district has encountered. For example, from 15,000 surveys mailed by PenMet to households, less than 600 came back; meetings for developing a comprehensive plan were poorly attended, and some residents still don't know who or what PenMet Parks is. On the other hand, public workshops have great turnout, and as the district matures and

adds more parks (which now are all identified by signs indicating PenMet ownership), Connelly believes the public's trust grows even more as a result of being able to see tangible results.

"I really believe people see parks as wonderful things to get involved with — very few things the public can walk right into and feel they own a piece. There is a real proprietary feeling," he said.

When asked what he thought about the KPMPD commissioners grappling with idea of a levy (prior to the July levy vote), Connelly said, "Timing is everything. The Key Peninsula is growing, and at some point someone will decide, 'Here's what we need to get accomplished — what resources do we need?'" he said. "If they decide to go in the direction (of seeking more resources), they'll be able to do great things. They're fortunate to have a metro parks district so when the timing is right, they can dedicate resources to park facilities."

Next installment: A look at the KPMPD's comprehensive planning, future plans and dreams.

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Nimrick's Furnishings has something old, something new

By Sharon Hicks
Special to KP News

Nestled on a hill across from the Key Center fire station is a delightful antique and vintage collectibles shop, Nimrick's Furnishings Old and New. This friendly store is owned by Barbara and Harry Nimrick and their son, Randy. Their daughter-in-law, Geri, manages half of the store, which opened its doors in May 2003.

Upon approaching, one will see a few items in front, and inside is a fairly large, open room, filled with furniture of various decor preferences and vintages. Around the perimeter are pictures, glassware and a number of smaller collectibles to catch one's eye. The sales counter always has a plate of cookies or chocolate to offer customers while they browse.

Barbara and Harry Nimrick are cordial, warm people and both love to talk. Soft spoken, Barbara is very sociable and likes people as much as she likes selling her wares. Harry stays more in the background but often joins in a conversation when someone walks in.



Barbara and Harry Nimrick enjoy a visit with Tracy Manning and her dog (peering out from behind furniture).

Barbara and Harry were childhood sweethearts from the first grade and married in 1956. Both were born and raised in Tacoma and moved to the Key Peninsula in 1973 after Barbara had a desire to buy a horse farm. They wanted to do something for girls ages 9 through 16 who loved horses and whose families wanted their daughters to experience

safety, showmanship, skill and sportsmanship. The signup was anywhere from one or two weeks, longer for some, with the girls living in bunk houses where each had her own horse during the stay. The farm was named Westward Ho and remained in operation for 15 years.

In 1989, many of the girls performed

square dancing on horseback during the Civic Center Pioneer Days. This consisted of two squares with four horses per square whose riders executed intricate moves to the square dance caller and music.

During that time, Barbara went to Puyallup every day for 10 years to buy strawberries to bring back to the peninsula to sell. She became officially known as the Strawberry Lady.

At the urging of her grandmother, who was a connoisseur of English china and other items, Barbara started going to estate sales. Eventually, her mother encouraged Barbara to open her own store. The couple listened to her advice, and opened the store with financing help from Randy. They continue to attend estate sales once or twice a week, bringing home items for their business. Clients also bring furniture or accessories to be sold.

Nimrick says an item must be 100 years old to be considered antique. Anything under that would be considered vintage. She says pricing is difficult because she wants to be reasonable and fair, but if an item is in mint condition, the value goes up.

Asked what her most unusual experience has been, Nimrick recalled meeting a woman at an estate sale whom she had never seen before. "As we talked, we discovered we had gone to the same school, had the same doctor, shared the same interests, were married at the same time and have a love for horses and estate sales," Nimrick says. They have remained friends ever since.

Harry and Barbara Nimrick have made many other friends through their store. They know that their "other friends" will always be stopping in to see "something old or something new" and to have another friendly visit.

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COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Aug. 2 – Fuchsia Society meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will hold its meeting at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. A program teaching how to grow and show fuchsias will be presented, several upcoming special events will be discussed, and refreshments will be available. For questions, call Ginnie, 884-9744.

Aug. 2 – Mustard Seed Project workshop

The Mustard Seed Project hosts a free community workshop, "How to Open an Adult Family Home." Experts from DSHS' Aging and Disability Services Administration will explain how to determine if there is a need for adult family homes in the community. Presenters will also discuss the keys to a successful adult family home including getting licensed, purchasing the right size house, obtaining a mortgage, creating a realistic budget, delivering services, and developing a targeted marketing plan.

This workshop is designed for health and social service professionals seeking a new career path, homeowners who are "empty nesters" and desire to be caregivers, and people who like to provide care to elderly and disabled adults. Nonprofit organizations are invited to participate.

Adult family homes provide services for up to six individuals, age 18 and older, who require assistance with personal care, meals and supervision. Adult family homes are a great option for elderly and disabled individuals who wish to stay in their hometown.

Thursday, Aug. 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Key Center Library. Advance registration required. Space is limited. 884-3920, or ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org

Aug. 3 – Senior Information Center meeting

The Key Senior Information Center volunteers associated with the Mustard Seed Project will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 3 in the meeting room of the Key Center Library.

The four community task groups of the Mustard Seed Project will take a summer

break during August and resume their usual schedule in September.

Aug. 3, 10, 17 – Outdoor movies

The Key Peninsula Metro Parks partners with Children's Home Society of Washington to offer three Friday Movie Nights in August:

Aug. 3, "Happy Feet"; Aug. 10, "Ghost Busters"; Aug. 17, "Charlotte's Web"

Grab your blanket, a lawn chair and movie munchies and enjoy an outdoor movie shown on the big screen at Volunteer Park. If the weather is bad, the shows will be in the gym at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Movies start at dusk; suggested donation \$1 per person and one can of food for Key Peninsula Community Services.

Aug. 4-5 – Canine agility trials

Running a dog in an agility trial is the ultimate game for you and your dog and is one of the most exciting canine sports for spectators. In an agility trial, a dog demonstrates its agile nature and versatility by following cues from the handler through a timed obstacle course of jumps, tunnels, weave poles and other objects. The Gig Harbor Kennel Club will host American Kennel Club Agility Trials, which are free to the public.

Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 4-5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Volunteer Park

Aug. 6 & more – Blood drive dates

The "Bloodmobile" is scheduled for the following dates, places and times:

Mondays, Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 12:30-7 p.m. at Albertson's, 11530 51st Ave. NW

Friday, Aug. 24, from 3:30-7:30 p.m., at Safeway, 4831 Point Fosdick Dr NW

Friday, Aug. 31, from 2-7 p.m. at Olympic Village, 5500 Olympic Drive.

Aug. 11 – KP Historical Society's picnic

The Key Peninsula Historical Society's Pioneer Picnic will be at "the Bassett Homestead" hosted by Frank Shirley. The

Bassetts were early settlers on Vaughn Bay. Please bring something to share and your own place setting.

The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays or by appointment. All those interested in the Key Peninsula's history are encouraged to become members at \$10 per year. Donations are always needed to help meet ongoing monthly expenses. Come check out the museum, which has "Dr. Roes' Traveling Medicine Show" exhibited throughout the summer.

Saturday, Aug. 11, 11:30 a.m., 18219 S Vaughn Rd (look for KPHS sign at first driveway beyond 182nd); Leona, 884-7232

Aug. 17 – Key Peacemakers film

The Key Peacemakers will present the film "The Future of Food," a documentary made by Deborah Koons Garcia, widow of Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead. The film explains how huge multinational corporations such as Monsanto are taking over the world's food system. The patented GMOs, genetically modified organisms, are now on our food shelves without debate, controls, or labeling as it is in Europe. Learn the truth about corporations. Please bring homegrown or local produce to exchange with others.

Friday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m., Key Center Library; Dory, 884-9299

Aug. 18 – Bunko fundraiser

Bunko will be played for a breast cancer fundraiser with all proceeds to benefit the Susan G. Koman Foundation.

Raffle tickets and snacks will be available. Adults are welcome to play. Rules will be explained before play. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$10. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted. Childcare is available for an additional donation; RSVP with number and ages of children.

Saturday, Aug. 18, 1-3 p.m., Whitmore Room, Vaughn Civic Center, 17010 S Vaughn Rd; advance tickets required; call for childcare; Brandy, 253-223-5467 or teamangelsoffaith@hotmail.com

Aug. 25 – Key Peacemakers host rally

The Key Peacemakers will host a rally against the occupation and war in Iraq. Themes may also include oil for the Iraqis rather than the oil corporations and the dismantling of U.S. military bases in Iraq.

Saturday, Aug. 25, noon, Purdy Bridge; Dory, 884-9299

Aug. 29- KP Family Resource Center meets

The Key Peninsula Family Resource Center will hold its quarterly community advisory meeting, with agenda including "News From Over The Back Fence," Family Successes, and Looking to the Future — Meeting Community Needs. The guest speaker will be Vontell Moore from the Metropolitan Development Council's Healthcare for the Homeless. She will talk about the agency's mobile medical van, which will be on the Key Peninsula in September to provide healthcare to people who are currently homeless. Please RSVP to 884-5433 by Aug. 24.

Wednesday, Aug. 29, 1:30 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; RSVP 884-5433

August soccer and golf camps for kids

The Key Peninsula Metro Park District will offer and partner with Skyhawks Sports to offer soccer and golf camps in August. Soccer camp for ages 6-14; Aug. 6-10 at Minter Creek Elementary, \$128; golf camp for ages 5-9, Aug. 13-17 at Minter Creek, \$104. For times and registration info, visit www.keypeninsularparks.com or www.skyhawks.com.

Donate to Goodwill — get Rainiers discounts

The Tacoma Rainiers teamed up with Goodwill to thank donors by distributing \$1 off vouchers for selected games in August. The vouchers are available as long as supplies last at Goodwill's KP donation station located in the Chevron parking lot at 9522 State Route 302, Wauna. Station hours are Monday-Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The vouchers are for \$1 off a \$9 reserved ticket.

The Flavor of Fall returns

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

With plenty of summer still left to enjoy, at least some people on the peninsula are already thinking fall. The Key Peninsula Civic Center and Two Waters Arts Alliance have teamed up to bring back the Flavor of Fall after a three-year absence.

Preparations have been in full swing for the semi-formal gala dinner and auction event, which has always been sold out in the past. The primary focus of this year's fundraising extravaganza is the development of a performing arts program and facility at the Civic Center. At the last such auction in 2003, the community raised \$30,000 toward goals for that year. Claudia

Loy, co-owner of Sunnycrest Nursery and longtime organizer of the legendary event, said she hopes to raise at least that much this year, and perhaps more.

"We will transform the Civic Center," Loy said. "The theme this year is 'colors of fall,' featuring the cuisine of Blondie's chef Lynn Marshall, and foods of the harvest season." Decorations will dramatize crisp autumn hues, textures and flavors in a setting of fine linen and elegant dining. Reservations for 175 to 180 diners will be accepted for the October event beginning sometime in early September, but Loy encourages those who know now they will attend to call Sunnycrest and have their names placed on a pre-reservation list for the

Auction seeks donations

Local artisans, craftspeople, service and retail businesses, and entrepreneurs are encouraged to actively support the KPCC and TWAA. Procurement chairpersons Keiko Wada, 884-0810, and Margo Macdonald, 884-2955, are seeking auction donations.

\$50 per person tickets. She says seating fills up fast, and there is no "at-the-door" admission.

Keiko Wada and Margo MacDonald are coordinating both silent and live auction procurements. Among the goodies already donated are a \$500 paint job from Tracy's Painting, original artwork from supporting artists at Two Waters, and Sunnycrest's garden tour. Antiques

are always a big seller and popular with attendees, as are services, private dinner parties, and vacation getaways. Loy stresses the need for more donations. "We don't turn anything away — unusual items are welcome — we make it a fun event," she said.

Volunteers willing to work behind the scenes the weeks and days prior to, evening of, and tear-down after the dinner/auction make the event a success. "Volunteering for this (much-anticipated) event is a great way to get to know the community and meet new friends," Loy said. She smiles when she hears both new and longtime KP residents telling each other if they hadn't volunteered, they never would have met this or that person. Loy is convinced that "volunteering is just a great way to forge new friendships."

GET INVOLVED VOLUNTEER CORNER

Communities in Schools of Peninsula is looking for caring volunteers to work with kids in 10 schools during the 2007-2008 school year. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the program. Meeting about an hour weekly with students, the volunteers can change a child's perception of herself or himself as a learner — for a lifetime. Certified teachers at each of the participating schools guide volunteers in working with students. Programs begin in October and continue through May. If you're ready to make a difference, please call 884-5733.

To submit a brief for the volunteer corner, call 884-4699 or email news@keypennews.com.

OFF THE KEY

Aug. 8 – Seedlings Gardening Club

Help Mary Bridge by joining The Seedlings. Peninsula Gardens' Gardening Club for Kids, is hosting a planting class in cooperation with Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. The Seedlings will decorate and plant two flowerpots, one for themselves and one for a child at Mary Bridge. Each flowerpot will bring sunshine to a child in the hospital. Wednesday, Aug. 8, 4 p.m., Peninsula Gardens, 5508 Wollochet Drive, Gig Harbor; \$5 registration for each child; space is limited; 851-8115

Aug. 11 – The CRUZ classic car show

The "CRUZ" Annual Rod, Custom & Classic show, at the Port Orchard

Waterfront Park, will feature cars from the 1920s through 1980s — more than 500 muscle cars, hot rods, trucks and motorcycles will be on display. Admission is free for the public; \$10 for car entries. The event is organized by the Port Orchard Saints, a family-friendly club for classic car enthusiasts.

Sunday, Aug. 11, Bay Street in Port Orchard

Aug. 14 & 17 – Peninsula Youth Orchestra concerts

On Tuesday, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m., as part of an educational music program, the Peninsula Youth Orchestra will join concert rock violinist Aaron Meyer on stage at the Harbor Covenant Church (5601 Gustafson Dr., Gig Harbor). Visit www.aaronmeyer.com for video clips on

this dynamic performer and masterful educator of music. On Friday, Aug. 17 at noon, there will be a more traditional, free concert at the Pavilion at Skansie Brothers Park in Gig Harbor.

Peninsula Youth Orchestra 534-5384, or info@harborpyo.org.

Aug. 22-26 – Kitsap Fair & Stampede

The Kitsap Fair & Stampede includes exhibits, vendors, kids activities including "Farmer for a Day" contests, one of the best rodeos in the region, national headlines, and more. Also includes the Xtreme Bulls competition — as seen on TV.

Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 22-26, Kitsap Fairgrounds, 1200 NW Fairgrounds Road, Bremerton; www.kitsapgov.com/parks

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Ren Faire travels back to 1567



Photos by SD Galindo

Above, Hawke of the Bedlam Bards performs in a faire tavern. Right, The Blue Fairy, the faire's beloved character.

By Rick Sorrels
Special to KP News

A renaissance faire celebrates European history from the 14th to 16th centuries. The Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire on the Key Peninsula focuses on a particular year: 1567.

Amy Forsyth, performing arts department director for the faire, says, "We require that the actors, merchants, and staff construct their booths, and even dress and speak as if they were living in the year 1567. We want our customers to feel like they've stepped back in time..."

Two factors drive an understanding of this time period. First: The "Middle Ages," also known as the "Dark Ages," began when the Roman Empire fell in 476 AD and ended about 1450 AD. This was a very harsh and violent time to live. The existence of few major governments, coupled with a dismal climate, including a mini ice age, made subsistence living a cruel taskmaster. Roving bands of thieves and cutthroats stole what little could be scraped together by the average person. Second: The Black Death (bubonic

Faire details

The Renaissance Faire is on Aug. 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19. For an overview of this year's events, visit www.keypennews.com for a web-exclusive story. For admission information, directions and other details, visit www.washingtonrenfaire.com.



plague) killed over half the population of Europe between 1347 and 1351.

The 15th and 16th centuries saw mild climate, bumper crops, large population growth, vacant houses and prepared fields left over from the plague, as well as a historically rare commodity, free time. This new leisure permitted endeavors other than subsistence living, leading to a great revival of art, literature, and learning not seen since the fall of Rome and the destruction of the Library at Alexandria.

The Renaissance began in Italy, the home of the great masters: Leonardo DaVinci (1452-1519), Michelangelo (1475-1564), Raphael (1483-1520), Titian (1485-1576). The Age of Discovery included

Columbus "discovering" America in 1492, and John Cabot claiming all of North America for England in 1497. Native Americans were taken to England during this time period and placed on display.

Famous Renaissance figures in 1567 England included Shakespeare (1564-1616), Sir Francis Drake (1540-1596), and Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587).

With common usage of the English longbow (14th century) and hand-held cannons (late 1400s), the martial playing field was leveled. An untrained peasant could easily kill a well-equipped knight. Mounted knights and their armor retired from the battlefield to engage in the gentlemanly sport of jousting.

Ren Faire offers an opportunity to taste the flavor of 1567, a year in which Europeans were generally well-fed and content. Attendees can experience the art, recreation, and lifestyles of this early time.

The year 1567 has been the focal point of all 10 faires on the KP due to the historical significance of this critical time period at the pinnacle of the Renaissance and Mary Queen of Scots, who was heir to the English throne, was married to the Prince of Wales, and was later married to the King of France. Her pivotal history and tragic life has been documented many times by book, stage, and screen. Come meet the reenactment of Mary Queen of Scots, her court, and even her drunken husband, Darnley.

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KPCS van helps seniors who don't drive

By Danna Webster, KP News

For over 15 years, Key Peninsula Community Services has provided a van for seniors who have medical appointments and need to run errands. The senior shuttle runs twice a month on the first and third Thursdays.

Donna Chapman has driven the van for the last four years, after Ruth Mathews retired from the job. Recently, the riders are mostly women. "I enjoy the women; they are nice people," Chapman says. "They were all productive, hard workers — just people who can't get around anymore."

The van goes door to door to pick up passengers. Riders try to arrange doctor appointments on these Thursdays around the 11 o'clock hour — easier said than done. The van's first stop is Key Center, where passengers bank at Sound Credit Union and check their blood pressure at the fire station. The next stops are for riders with doctor appointments, while others go to Fred Meyer and shop for groceries.



Van fans on a recent drive, left to right: Gloria Farnann (driver), Donna Chapman (driver), Lucy Pinkhan, Arvilla Merchant, Stella Brennan, Peggy (who declined to give last name), and Liz Fore in front.

Photo by
Danna Webster

"They study all the sales and share with one another in the van," Chapman says. She shuttles between the appointments, lunchtime and the grocery stores, until it is time to head west to Lake Kathryn's Cost Less Pharmacy to fill prescriptions. There, Peninsula Market may have a bargain or two to check out also. If the return is early enough, they stop to shop at the Angel

Guild; then each rider is delivered home. Milk crates in the back of the van are marked with names and hold the day's purchases. The driver carries them in for the riders.

There is more to being the driver than steering the wheel. Chapman begins the day at 8:30 a.m. and is not home until 6 p.m. She says the job requires some physical strength. At each stop, she must

For more information about the senior van, call KP Community Services at 884-4440.

hop out of the driver's seat, pull open the heavy passenger door and slam it shut. She also assists passengers as they get in and out.

Chapman appreciates the assistance of Gloria Farnann, who is one of the substitute drivers when Chapman takes vacation time. More drivers and an assistant on the trips would make a world of difference for this service, Chapman says.

The costs of the van are covered by the KP Community Services; the Angel Guild has donated some funding for both vans belonging to KPCS. Riders sometimes donate money toward gas. Chapman has driven as many as 11 riders and as few as two. She knows the van is important to their lives and that it is appreciated.

"The ladies are so grateful," she says. "They can't thank you enough."

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(From PARK, Page 1)

plished by Oliver Lystad Construction of Vaughn and his crew members, all of whom contributed their long hours free of charge. BoMac Concrete of Port Orchard provided the concrete at cost. And it was all accomplished over two days of almost incessant drizzle and rain. The expressions of accomplishment, the gratifying glow of giving, the nonhesitating hard work that began at 7 a.m. and was still underway near midnight was a testimonial to what this community is all about.

On July 18, after the concrete had set up and seasoned and after the seventh annual KP Community Fair crowd had trod its surface, tons of pre-cast concrete skate park components, half pipes, platforms, even a "picnic table" from Skate Concepts were anchored on the concrete slab by experts from Sequim's Northwest Recreation of Washington. On July 19, all units were bonded together permanently and the steel transition entry ramps were welded to their bases. Once again, it was all accomplished in a constant drizzle of rain.

"The list of those who made possible the skate park is long. We couldn't have done it without the support of the community," said Chuck West, founder of the Zech & Adi West Memorial Foundation, which



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Oliver Lystad, who read about Chuck West's vision of a skate park in the Key Peninsula News, contacted him to offer his Lystad Concrete Construction crew for free to help.

spearheaded and paid for the project. "They came through with donations and help all along the way."

For West, a division chief with the KP fire department who grew up on the Key Peninsula, the park is the realization of a dream — to honor the memory of his son, Zech, an avid skateboarder whose life was cut short by tragedy.

Long ago, the father and son vacationed in Idaho, where Zech enthused over a skate park. He encouraged his dad to create a similar facility on the Key Peninsula. With appropriate approvals of the then KP Park & Recreation District board, the two of them and others built a

wood-framed, steel-sheeted "half pipe" on a scarcely used, in-need-of-repair tennis court at Volunteer Park. While not "state of the art," the kids swarmed over it like bees in a rose garden. Being somewhat heavier than bees, their flying athletic skills soon reduced the structure to one deemed unsafe for continued use. It was taken down. Zech's enthusiasm for skating, however, did not abate.

Not long after graduating from Peninsula High School, Zech volunteered for the U.S. Navy, fulfilling a longtime dream of becoming a Navy Seal. During training in the mid-West, he met and fell in love with Adi. Thereafter, while Zech was on assignment to Italy, the couple's correspondence culminated in their wedding in her home town while he was on leave. Their honeymoon brought them to visit Zech's family on the Key and to borrow dad's vehicle for a few nights in the Cascades so that Zech could share the mountains with his new bride. There, three weeks after they were wed, they were lost in a tragic accident.

At a memorial luncheon at the Wests not long thereafter, all those in attendance agreed to do whatever it would take to fulfill Zech's dream for a permanent skate park to be created on the Key Peninsula. The Zech & Adi West Memorial

Celebration ahead

The grand opening of the newly completed skate park is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 10, at 2:30 p.m. and everybody is invited to attend. The KP Skate Park will be turned over to the KP Metro Parks for maintenance and care. For details, call Volunteer Park at 884-9240.

Foundation was formed, the proposal was successfully presented to the newly formed Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District and, in cooperation with KPMPD, plans were formulated for a skate park at Volunteer Park. A well-attended fundraising dinner sponsored by volunteers with mostly contributed supplies and freely offered entertainment and a dance was a big success. Car washes, table waiting, and a plethora of other efforts contributed to the funding effort; Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee contributed significant county funds to support the endeavor.

Just as many community-minded individuals assisted in creating Volunteer Park — which has served as a model for other communities in the state as an example of what volunteers can do for their communities — so did the community rally once again to see the skate park dream come true.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

School starts Sept. 5

Times are changing at Peninsula High School

By Danna Webster, KP News

Peninsula High School students will start the new school year in September with a new bell schedule.

The new schedule is not like those at any other high school. It is a mix of many scheduling ideas, according to PHS Principal Tim Winter, and it increases classroom instructional time by 75 minutes per day.



SULLIVAN

Winter, who is in his first year as principal and was previously a vice principal at PHS, worked with the faculty to design a school improvement process by tackling the questions of "What can be done to improve student learning, and what can be done to improve instruction?"



YOUNGERCHILD

Their answers were to decrease the amount of noninstructional time and increase instructional time. Passing time between classes was reduced from 10 to five minutes; the daily 45-minute tutorial will now occur only on Fridays. Classes will rotate through the week with six periods on Monday and Friday and four periods Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. With the rotation, the classes will occur more often and the periods are longer.

"Students see teachers four days per week. On the old schedule, it was two days or three days a week," Winter said.

Monday has a time change of its own, with dismissal 30 minutes early. "Monday, students release at 1:30 and teachers meet to work together to improve learning," Winter said. The teacher meetings focus on learning and academic planning. Winter wants freshman students to focus "on what they want to do after high school," to "know what to do — (and) what is needed to graduate." "I don't want

seniors surprised to learn they need course work," he said. He wants freshmen focused and on track, with the help of their teachers, for all four years.

KP sophomore HaLeeAnn Sullivan saw the new schedule at the end of the last year when a "teacher handed out papers of the new schedule but wouldn't let us keep them," she said. Recalling the major changes, she commented, "It's good taking away tutorial every day. It gets boring, but they shouldn't mess with our schedule." Her concern is for kids who have a lot of absences. Although their absences are excused, she thinks it would be very difficult for them to catch up on missed work with the rotation schedule.

Nater Youngchild is a Key Pen senior this year. "I like the fact that we will be

"I really like that because I have sports schedules. If school is shorter, that makes sports easier (on Mondays)."

— Nater Youngchild, PHS senior

having more class time... so much of the time changed goes into more time taught," he said. He has a different view of the tutorial than HaLeeAnn. "I don't like that we lose tutorial. I know some kids think it is a waste of time but I used it for homework." The early dismissal on Mondays was news to him. "I really like that because I have sports schedules. If school is shorter, that makes sports easier (on Mondays)." Five minutes

passing times is another matter. "I can almost promise you, that will not work. Over half the population of each class will be late to class. There's no time for the bathroom and I don't think you can get clear across the building in that amount of time," he said.

The next step for students and the faculty is to see how it works. Winter hopes for a new sense of urgency with a focus on learning.

He hopes the changes will realize three goals: freshman transition with the right foot forward for success; improvement of reading, math, and writing scores; and an environment where students are recognized for doing well. "We'll watch a couple of months — see what's happening," Winter said.

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Student gets slithery summer assignment

By Danna Webster, KP News

Fourth grade at Vaughn Elementary was more than reading, writing, and arithmetic for Bailey Sullivan. It was the year of science with a specialty in snakes. The discovery that the classroom corn snake laid eggs kick-started Bailey into an emersion in herpetology. "I was the first one to notice (the eggs)," Bailey says. "I skipped a whole week of recess or free time just to study. But since we didn't have the right stuff, the eggs died. I never had a chance to examine one of the eggs. I could have opened it to see how they formed in it."

According to Bailey, it was after this extra effort that his teacher, Doug Smith, talked to him about a special assignment. Smith asked Bailey to take care of the classroom python over summer vacation, and cautioned him not to tell any of the other students. A note was sent to his home with the news.

During the last days of school, when Bailey's mother, Kasey Sullivan, came to pick up the python, Mr. Smith told her he had a wonderful surprise. He was going to let Bailey baby-sit the tarantula, too! Sullivan says with a laugh, "You know the only reason was (that) we're the only ones that would take him." Tarantula is an easy pet to care for, she says: "Just pour in water and give him a cricket every couple of weeks."

The giant spider is a Red Shield Tarantula. Bailey says, "The cool thing about tarantula is, instead of sucking blood out of food, it eats the whole thing."



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Bailey Sullivan with his summer guest. Bailey and his mom said "snake-sitting" the python has been a treat for the family.

Feeding the python is not such a simple matter. Frozen mice are stocked in the Sullivan family freezer for python dinners. "He eats frozen mice. To thaw out, we put them into hot water, then leave it out (to cool) and dry it. He eats always from head first, otherwise it's too hard to eat," Bailey says, adding that the python's teeth are just like sandpaper, a fact he learned from Internet research.

Both Bailey and his mother give the python high scores on a pet personality scale. "It's very nice; you can put him around your neck. It won't squeeze," Bailey says.

"It's going to be hard to give up Snake. We just hold him. He likes it," his mom ads. "You just fall in love with these creatures."

Kasey Sullivan appreciates that Smith selected Bailey for the summer baby-sitting job. "Mr. Smith is so wonderful with these children," she says. "Bailey has three sisters and my husband works away on a tugboat. This is boy stuff. What a treat. Thank God for Mr. Smith."

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Camp shows a glimpse at life-saving profession

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Peninsula High School junior Sarah Kelley-Edie wants to be a nurse — and in July, she had the opportunity to take a first-hand look behind the scenes of the profession. The Lakebay resident was one of more than 100 students from Pierce, south King and Thurston counties who participated in a four-day nurse camp sponsored by the MultiCare Health System.

"It was hands-on experience to further our career path," she said. "There's a lot of diversity in the career, and we learned about the different opportunities."

The students learned basics about hospitals and visited one of three MultiCare hospital facilities, where they also had the chance to spend one-on-one time with patients. They practiced their CPR skills, drew blood on mannequins, scrubbed for surgeries, and watched surgeries on close-circuit television. Sarah's favorite part was visiting the neonatal intensive care unit, where she watched nurses working with babies.

As part of the application process,



Photo courtesy Kristin Zavers

Key Pen's Sarah Kelley-Edie learns about some of the life-sustaining equipment used in nurseries.

students had to write essays about their aspirations for nursing careers. In addition to Kelley-Edie, four Gig Harbor High School students were selected from Peninsula School District for the camp,

which is in its fourth year.

"This program is built on solid research that supports mentoring youth in middle and high school to explore healthcare careers," said Ethlyn Gibson, RN,

MultiCare's manager of community outreach. "Experiences like Nurse Camp can help inspire students to stay focused in the classroom and set career goals."

The program was complete with a graduation ceremony that included certificates and prominent speakers. Four nursing schools participated in the program, allowing students to connect with professionals whose colleges they may later enroll in: Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma Community College, Clover Park Technical College and Pierce College's Puyallup Campus.

Kelley-Edie's interest in the profession stemmed from personal experience, following her mother's extensive illness. Having grown up on a ranch, she's also worked with injured animals. Now that she has completed the background search and training process through the camp, she can volunteer in a hospital and plans to do so.

"I recommend this program to anyone considering the nursing field," said the Evergreen Elementary and KPMS grad. "It's a really good experience for anyone thinking about the health care field."

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	12:00 - 2:00	Sharon Steames
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25 th	9:30 - 11:30	50's Day Festival

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8:30-2:00-50's music playing all day when no activities are scheduled ~ Columbia Bank Stage
 8:30-2:00-Classic Cruise In-Cruisers can park next to the stage area
 10-2:00-Elvis Impersonator
 10-2:00-Live: The Randy Litt Band,
 12:00 Limbo, Hula Hoop and Twist Contest
 1:30-Announcement of the winners for the best dressed 50's costumes

AUGUST ACTIVITIES WITH KEY PENINSULA METRO PARKS

SKATE PARK Grand Opening



Grab your board, helmet, and pads and try out the new concrete skate park at Volunteer Park. The official dedication ceremony will be at 3 pm on Friday, August 10. There will be a raffle for a couple skate decks as well as other prizes.

MOVIE NIGHTS at Volunteer Park, Dusk (approx 8:30 pm)



August 3	Happy Feet
August 10	Ghost Busters
August 17	Charlottes' Web

Grab your blanket, a lawn chair and your favorite movie munchies and enjoy an outdoor movie shown on the large screen at Volunteer Park. KPMPD and Children's Home Society of Washington have partnered to offer a series of movie nights at Volunteer Park, or if the weather is bad, in the gym at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Suggested Donation \$1 per person and 1 can of food for Key Peninsula Community Services.

SUMMER SPORT CAMPS

Key Peninsula Metro Park District is partnering with Skyhawks Sports to offer the following recreation Sport Camps:

CAMP	AGES	TIME	DAYS	DATE	LOCATION	SEE
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Golf	5-9	9am-12 pm	Mon-Fri	Aug 13-17	Minter Creek Elem	\$104

All camp participants will receive t-shirt, camp specific ball, and great instruction.

For more information visit the following web sites at www.keypeninsulaparks.com or www.skyhawks.com

Out of the Ashes: Volunteers support fire fighters behind scenes



Photo by Hugh McMillan

At a fire department picnic in July, Gerald Eckhardt, a KPFD volunteer water tender operator, cooks up hamburgers and hotdogs using one of the brand new donated grills. See more picnic photos at www.keypennews.com.

By Linda L. Anderson, KP News

Very few people still around can remember a time when there was no fire department on the Key Peninsula. Many local residents are involved with the department in some way: career firefighters and paramedics, civilian staff, commissioners, volunteers. The fire department is such an integral part of Key Peninsula life, one could easily assume it has always been here.

Fifty years ago, a house blaze on the KP kept burning until men and equipment arrived from Gig Harbor to douse it. By the time of their arrival, they found nothing but a pile of ashes where the house once stood. The name for the women's auxiliary group became, appropriately, called Ashes.

Nearly 50 years ago, a battalion chief from Tacoma came out to the Key Pen and began the first fire department in Longbranch. Both men and women trained to serve local residents.

Marguerite Bussard, the current presi-

dent of Ashes and longtime resident of Longbranch, was the wife of one of those early firefighters. "One day, the battalion chief handed me \$20 and told me to start an auxiliary group," she says.

Bussard began the group, serving as its president for several years. Ashes has grown and dwindled and grown again over the years, as people moved on and off the peninsula, retired or passed away. Some 20 years ago, while the group was floundering due to lack of members, Bussard was asked to resume her role as president and help keep it together. She has held that position ever since.

For years, Ashes has worked to raise money for the ambulance fund and other needs within the department. It has provided scholarship money for young men and women to use for department-related education. Earlier this year, the group joined with the firemen's union and the firefighters association to buy a barbecue for each of the three full-time stations. On July 7, the firefighters hosted a barbecue picnic and invited the women

of Ashes and their families to join them, as they used the barbecues for the first time.

Most recently, Ashes donated \$100 to the M&M Ministry at Lakebay Community Church for a "Good To Go" pass for the church van used by ministry leader Howard Johnson and his team to pick up food donations across the bridge.

Diane Johnson of Lakebay, new secretary for the group, says, "Ashes helps people in our community in many ways. In addition to monetary help, they also send out get well, sympathy and hello-neighbor cards."

The primary fundraiser for Ashes is an annual rummage sale at the Key Center firehouse, which was held on July 21. This event is usually accompanied by a pancake breakfast organized by the department.

The current membership of Ashes is 12 to 15 women. "It's very hard to recruit new members," Bussard reports with sadness. "We need more women, especially the younger ones, to help us be effective support for our fire department and our community."



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FROM PIONEER STOCK MAR HOEY — HER HOME, ONCE A SCHOOLHOUSE

By Colleen Slater, KP News

William and Mary Frances White, grandparents of Mar Hoey, arrived in Rosedale from Nebraska in 1882, and stayed in a primitive Hudson Bay cabin at first. They lived in Allyn by 1890, where Hoey's father and possibly two siblings were born. A boy born a week earlier was named Allyn, and the Whites named their son Mason for Mason County. Hoey's oral history says some local Indians came to see the infant, as they had not seen a white baby before.

William White ran a small store in Allyn and was postmaster for a while. They later moved to Springfield, where their store, built in 1899, began a tradition handed down for three generations. Mary Frances White selected the name of Wauna during her tenure as postmaster, because of postal confusion with too many Springfields in the country.

The Whites homesteaded in Springfield, near where Hoey now lives. She was not sure why, as she thought he was always a grocer, but census records

list William as a farmer through 1900. White gave 10 acres for the first Springfield school, built in 1885. Condemned in 1904, the school was torn down and the community constructed a new one, the current Hoey home, in the same field. Hoey inherited the property from her father, Mason White.

She first remembers Wauna as a 5- or 6-year-old, coming to spend summers with her grandparents. By then, the Whites no longer operated the Wauna post office and store they started, but their daughter, Mamie, and her husband, John Goldman, did.

"There were only two summer homes on the beach, with a few other year-round residents," recalls Hoey, "and we had the beach all to ourselves." Her sister, Mar, and friends swam, fished off the pier, picked up stuff, and built rafts from logs and driftwood that collected on the beach. They anchored the rafts and swam out to them. A raft disappeared with the tide every so often, so they built another.

A stewardess with United Airlines, and later the Flying Tigers Line, Hoey lived in



Photo courtesy Mar Hoey

William E. and Mary Frances White in their Wauna general store.

the Philippines with a friend, teaching local stewardesses, prior to her first marriage. She lived in Tel Aviv with her first husband; they worked in an operation with a Jewish organization, flying Jews from Aden, Arabia, to Tel Aviv.

Her second husband headed up a Flying Tigers Line operation out of Edmonton, Canada, flying supplies to the DEW (distant early warning) line on the Arctic Circle. When that operation ended, they lived in Detroit, then California, before settling in Wauna in the 1950s. At that time, he was a pilot with the company in Burbank, Calif., loved the

Wauna area, and could live there as he flew into Seattle Tacoma International Airport regularly.

In Wauna, Hoey joined the Wauna Social Club, where her grandmother and aunt, Mamie Goldman, belonged. This group, recently disbanded when active membership was reduced to three or four women, "was a social group," says Hoey. Book reviews or demonstrations, such as how to make gifts for Christmas, provided programs.

The school property came up for sale in the 1960s, and Hoey's bought it for investment purposes. Several families had lived in it since the conversion from a school to a home, prior to the 1950s. In 1984, Hoey had the former school gutted, remodeled it to her taste, and moved in.

An active octogenarian, Hoey takes vacations by house sitting for friends and acquaintances in various parts of the world. Retired airline people get her reduced fare tickets, and she "pays her own way." Trips have included Hawaii, mainland states, and the Caribbean.

"All I require is a car and computer," she says with a smile.

Hoey's sister, Thelma, 90, lives in Gig Harbor. They each have some of their grandmother's diaries about daily life of a century ago.



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KP artists receive awards



Four Key Peninsula artists are part of the Fifth Annual Juried Local Art Exhibition at the Tacoma Community College Gallery. Two of the artists, Chris Bronstad and Margo Macdonald, received awards for their work during the gallery's reception in July.

The Gallery at TCC is located at the Tacoma campus, and is part of the school's arts program. Key Pen's Jennifer Olson-Rudenko is the gallery's coordinator.

Rick Mahaffey, TCC arts instructor who was department chair until July, said the program is focused on two-year transfer students as well as continuing education and returning students. Many artists enroll at TCC to perfect their technical skills or learn new arts, he said. More than 300 students are enrolled at any time in one of the half-dozen disciplines offered.

Margo Macdonald, who was honored with the Hollie Junker Award for her "Shimenawa for Puget Sound" tapestry, is one of the founders and active members

of Two Waters Arts Alliance. A Vaughn resident, she teaches art at the Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma, in addition to painting and weaving tapestries that have been displayed in public spaces as well as private homes. Chris Bronstad, whose charcoal portrait, "Little Dreamer," received one of the juror's awards, teaches at Key Peninsula Middle School.

Other Key Pen artists in the exhibit are Adria Hanson and Melanie Johnson. The exhibit will be open until Aug. 10. The Gallery at TCC is located at 6501 S. 19th Street in Tacoma. For hours and other details, call 460.4306.

In the photo: Vaughn artist Margo Macdonald (right) visits with (r-l), Joe Junker and Bill and Norma Honeysett after receiving the Hollie Junker award sponsored by the Honeysetts in honor of their late friend, Joe, Hollie's brother, flew in from Vermont for the TCC Gallery reception. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

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Key Pen native returns, brings along new business

By Jerry Libstaff

Taylor Forehan grew up surrounded by the natural beauty of the Key Peninsula. Her artist mother and her father have always had a deep love for the land and shared their delight of gardening with her. Forehan developed a mutual enthusiasm for art and nature. She wanted to combine her passion for both, and after graduation from Peninsula High School, she searched for an art school that would promote each of her interests. Examination of several schools lead her to the Art Institute of Southern California. Forehan was drawn to the intimate setting and the opportunity to study at an institution limited to 450 students.

She enrolled to earn a bachelor of fine arts degree, then planned to return to the Northwest to explore her path. During the following four years, Forehan's life took a different direction. While she worked at a nursery to augment her income, she was asked to assist some of her clients at their homes. When she offered suggestions and possibilities for landscape projects, her ideas were well received and her reputation began to grow. Outside involvement in architectural design took on a life of its own. A co-worker also had a talent for design, and although there was enough work for both, they began to combine their efforts. The two became friends and found that each of their strengths complemented the other's. Their partnership enhanced their work and was very well received.

As their work increased, they decided to organize into a business and "Les Fleurs" was created. Larger and more prominent situations came their way. They were engaged by a member of the rock group "The Black Eyed Peas" to redesign and overhaul his entire estate inside and out. From there, business continued to expand.

During her final year at school, Forehan met the man who would become her husband. Considering her relationships and her business, she decided to continue in Southern



The Genuine
ARTicle



Photo by Jerry Libstaff

Taylor Forehan.

California. Forehan's processes transformed the business into an art form. She would first visit her clients, discuss their desires and concerns, and then return to the office, where she and her partner would bounce ideas back and forth. After designing a space they felt would match their clients wishes, Forehan created a color illustration of the design, including the plants and trees she wanted to provide.

She says, "Les Fleurs also provides a two-dimensional drawing with circles and dots, just as the other design houses do. I don't believe everyone can actually see what the end product will be that way, so we offer an illustration and we take a vase with the plants and flowers we are suggesting." Forehan feels the clients have a much better understanding of their design when they can see an actual representation of the objective.

In Southern California, Forehan focused on Mediterranean landscapes. She is resolute in providing draught-tolerant, organic designs that are easy to maintain. She says, "I want something that doesn't have a negative impact on the environment or the client's time." She also enjoys providing more unusual types of plants, "not the everyday fare that you can see in every other yard." She is fond of several plants from New Zealand and Australia.

In June, Forehan finally returned to the Key Peninsula with her husband.

Two Waters Arts Alliance upcoming events

Aug. 4, noon to 6 p.m. at the LIC: Beyond Borders art show, music and food; free admission (see story, page 1)

Oct. 6 at the Civic Center: Flavor of Fall Dinner and Auction (see story, page 19)

For information call TWAA President Frank Garratt at 884-3869.

Taylor Forehan may be contacted through Two Waters Arts Alliance at 884-9172.

She loves working with her clients to develop a palette they will love. "When I develop a design for a client, I like to sit with them, discuss the details and get their suggestions. I then fine-tune the design and create the look they're hoping for."

Forehan delights in seeing one of her designs completed. "I provide a unique design for each space I work with. They're all different and in some respect, seeing a completed design is like looking at your own child," she says. "It fills you with joy."

One thing that Forehan misses and hopes to make more time for before she is fully engaged in her business again is her oil painting. "I've had to put it aside for a while but I truly love to paint and hope to be able to do more."

Jerry Libstaff is a writer who lives in Vaughn.

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(From EVENT, Page 1)

The featured band is the internationally acclaimed group Pearl Django, which will perform its special brand of "Gypsy Jazz" style music. The group's inception 13 years ago was as a trio in Tacoma. The focus of Pearl Django was, and is, to incorporate the music of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli with American swing music.

Runions said he was "very pleased not only to bring the music of Pearl Django to the Key Peninsula area, but also that of Abrace (multilingual vocals with percus-

sion), Brizee and Band (Mexican-pop) and Eyerabira (Ugandan vocal and dance)."

The music will be performed on an outdoor stage. Indoors, guests will be able to enjoy music provided by the local group Rhythm Intermission (drum ensemble), which will contribute "a pulse between acts" and keep things lively. Organizers have also left room for an indoor dancing area for those who want to kick up their heels.

Specialty desserts, cookies and coffee will be available for purchase and served by volunteers in the Longbranch Improvement Club's kitchen. Event chair Carolyn Wiley said she was "pleased to give guests the opportunity to taste the shortbread dessert made from an original French recipe that is topped with fresh fruit compote and brandy sour cream."

A beer garden will feature imported beers and wines from around the world; several vendors will provide a variety of food and beverages. Festival goers are also welcome to bring their own picnic meal. An invitational art exhibit will be on display, and festival-goers will be able to vote on their favorite entry, with a People's Choice award announced at 4:30 p.m. A percentage of the sales from the art will go to help fund projects for the Two Waters Arts Alliance. Arts and crafts



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Beyond Borders

The Aug. 4 festival will take place from noon to 6 p.m.; admission is free.

Performance schedule:

- 12:30 p.m. - Eyerabira (Ugandan song/dance)
- 2 p.m. - Brizee (Mexican pop)
- 3:30 p.m. - Pearl Django (Gypsy Jazz)
- 5 p.m. - Abrace (multi-lingual vocal/percussion)

Between acts:
 "Percussion Intermission"

vendors will be on site, and the ever-popular wooden "Heron Sculpture," the Key Peninsula's public arts project, will make an appearance at the event. Patrons of the festival will have the opportunity to make decoupage feathers and have them added to its tail. The Heron Sculpture will be auctioned off at the annual Flavor of Fall Dinner Auction at the KP Civic Center on Oct. 6 (see related story, page 19).

There will surely be something for everyone to enjoy at the first-ever Key Peninsula international music, arts and food festival at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

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(From FIRE, Page 1)

about 2 a.m. "My blind dog woke me up or the whole damn place would have burned down," Moore said. "He may not be able to see but he can smell and hear. As soon as I raised out of bed, I could see the hay load on fire but I couldn't see the truck."

Moore made her first of two 911 calls immediately. She says that by the time the fire trucks arrived, it was too hot to get close to the truck. According to Moore, the loss included 35 tons of hay, two trailers, four elevators, three outbuildings and a 1999 Kenworth truck. "Nothing left except the smoke stack and part of the grill," she said.

In a press release, Fire District 16 Division Chief Guy Allen wrote, "With concern for the power lines down in the driveway, firefighters used the deck gun on the fire engine to initially knock down the flames. As more firefighters arrived, hand lines were set up around the structures and the hay trailers to contain the fire. The estimated dollar loss is roughly \$120,000, including the truck and trailers, hay and the two buildings."

According to Allen, the truck owner, Joe Leitz, informed firefighters he had about 200 gallons of diesel in his fuel tanks because he had filled them the night

before. The hazmat response unit of NRC-Environmental Services was hired to clean up the diesel spill.

The fire is under investigation by county fire marshals, insurance and law enforcement officials. Investigators have labeled the fire as suspicious but they disagree about its origin. Some evidence supports that the fire started in the engine of the truck, and other evidence finds that the fire started at the rear of the hay load.

Pierce County Deputy Fire Marshall Mike Patti has been at the front of the active investigation. "There are a lot of things I need to rule out," Patti said. "I'm leaning toward a faulty electrical system based on the burn patterns, either a battery or electrical system problem." At press time, a report was expected in a few days, but the case remains open pending additional information.

"I'm calling it electrical," Patti says. "The insurance company was calling it arson. My finding is the one that counts. I have the final say. If they want to call it arson, then the proof is on them."

While the investigation is ongoing, the costs to rebuild the hay business have fallen on Leitz. According to Moore, Leitz immediately began working on an older truck to get it road worthy and ready for a haul to Yakima for hay loads. "I put a



Photo by Danna Webster

Behind a curtain of smoke, Fire District 16 Chief Tom Lique talks to witnesses before dressing up in full fire fighting gear.

motor in Old Blue a couple of years ago and parked her for a spare," Leitz said. On his first trip to Yakima after the fire, "she did have a little breakdown," he said, "but stayed up and going." He brought back 25 tons of hay and was ready to sell on July 14 at his usual corner in the O'Callahan's parking lot in Key Center.

Leitz is a second-generation hay business owner. His father originated Leitz Livestock "east of the mountains" in the '40s. They trucked hay to the dairies on the west side from Sequim to the Key Peninsula. Leitz kept the company name, though he's locally known to some people as "the Hay Guy."

About four years ago, he moved to the

Key Peninsula. "I was just down here looking for a change away from Yakima. I drove down here one day, brought in a load of hay downtown and sold it," he said. "I started talking to Sharon, who introduced herself, and then I knew who she was." Moore's stepfather and Leitz's father were both in the hay business and were good friends. The rest is history, as the saying goes. Leitz rented Moore's barn and began parking his trucks on the Delano Road property, returning it to a hay business enterprise.

"I love it here on the Key Peninsula," Leitz said. "There isn't a better place in the world to live. So many good people. People I don't even know, and my customers, stop by and want to know if I need anything. I had one guy offer to punch a driveway for me up his road and let me park my trucks up there. Greg (Calahan), the bar owner, he's the best and that's the kind of people we need out here."

Undaunted by the destruction of her outbuildings and by the inconveniences caused by the fire that took out the electricity and waterline to her house, Moore said they plan to rebuild.

"We are here to stay," Leitz said. "It's gonna be a good summer, I think, unless something else happens... It's hard to put somebody down when they're tough."

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When it comes to flooring, soft is out, hard is in, do hardwood floors or tile instead of carpet if flooring needs replaced. Remember any item that is broken or in bad repair, remove it or replace it. Have windows and carpets cleaned. The front yard is most likely the first impression a buyer will have of your home, make it inviting with fresh bark, green lawn and lots of plants both potted and in the ground, will make the potential buyer feel like they have just arrived home. Keep in mind plants, should not be overgrown and taking over the yard. The backyard should be a gathering place for adults or children with an arrangement of lawn furniture and possibly a play area. Often just cleaning up, rearranging, completing the "honey do" list that you have had for years and adding a few new items WILL MAKE YOUR HOME STAND OUT IN A LARGE INVENTORY CROWD.

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Charming 3 bd rambler, with the spaciousness of vaulted ceilings, skylights and fireplace in the liv rm. Kitchen has an abundance of oak cabinets and access to the deck and big backyard. Fenced, level lot in a terrific lake access neighborhood. MLS 27127644



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TAYLOR BAY \$259,900
Private saltwater community of Taylor Bay w/access to a boat ramp, covered picnic area and one of the nicest pebble beaches on the South Sound! New rambler w/ open concept kitchen and living room with vaulted ceilings, porcelain tile in entry and the covered cedar porch has recessed lighting, deck off back and attached 2 car garage. MLS 27094486



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Out & About

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Above, Participants in the KP Lions Club's 18th annual Volksmarch, which had a beautiful day this year. More than 150 walkers enjoyed the tough but beautiful 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) trails through Penrose Point State Park. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Below, KPVI officers being sworn in at an installation ceremony by outgoing President Roxyanne Wooldridge. The new officers include: President Mike Coffin (pictured), Vice President Richard Tiegs, Secretary Eileen Young, Treasurer Marge Adams (pictured), Chaplain Marguerite Bussard (pictured), Parliamentarian Cy Young (pictured), trustees JayDee Crooms, Patsy Tiegs and Nick Zampini (pictured), and Historian Shirley Cromie. *Photo courtesy Patsy Tiegs*



Washington State Bicycle Association's State championship racers whip past the start point at the Longbranch Improvement Club on July 8 to complete five trips around the loop embracing Longbranch and the south-most part of the Key Peninsula. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Above, Isaac Lystad, 6, "hangs around" the construction site of the skate park his father, Oliver, helped install in July at Volunteer Park. Lystad Construction, based on KP, donated its time and crew for the project. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



Members of the Key Peninsula Youth Council watch Canada geese after the group's lunch and awards ceremony at Horseshoe Lake Park. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Left, LL Bill Sawaya with daughters, Ellie, 4, and Chloe, 2, enjoy the Key Peninsula Fire Department July picnic, which included families, at the KP Civic Center. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Above, chiefs and fire fighters are getting ready for a game of "football." *Photo courtesy Diane Johnson*