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VETERANS' DAY NOV. 11

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Gov. Gregoire cheers KPMS students



Gov. Christine Gregoire speaks at the Key Peninsula Middle School NASA kick-off assembly.

Photo by
Mindi LaRose

Dreams and encouragement the theme of special assembly

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

There was no shortage of praise in October for the Key Peninsula Middle School, praise coming from district, state and NASA officials. Gov. Christine Gregoire and state Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson stopped by; and NASA Administrator Michael Griffin and Sen. Maria Cantwell sent personal letters.

KPMS earned these high honors by being the first, and one of two, NASA Explorer schools in the state. The

school was selected for the three-year partnership through a highly competitive application process. Last year, KPMS embarked on a journey that has included special visits by NASA officials and astronauts, trips by students and teachers to NASA's Ames Research Center and Wallops Flight Facility, grants from NASA for equipment, and a variety of activities integrated throughout the entire curriculum.

In October, the school kick-started its second year at an inspiring special

(See **GOVERNOR**, Page 25)

Park district moves ahead with ideas

By Irene Torres
KP News

As the acquisition of the 360-acre Department of Natural Resources property by the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District moves forward, the park district continues to look for ways to grow.

As a member of the KPMPD Land Acquisition Committee, Ed Taylor told KPMPD that it should land-bank open land now for the future. Taking his recommendation, the KPMPD recently approved that remaining DNR lands on the Key Peninsula be pursued.

"The largest of these properties is over 500 acres located just north of Key Center," Taylor said. "Another parcel is some waterfront property located near the Sports Center (Volunteer Park)." Taylor said the Devil's Head property (see KP News Sept. 2004) was scheduled to close to a private party by the end of October, but he hopes the current owners will contact if the sale does not close.

Nearly 50 potential uses have been suggested for the 360-acre DNR property bordering the Horseshoe Lake Golf Course. KPMPD plans to seek out a professional park planner to design a master park plan for the property, which

(See **PARKS**, Page 29)

This isn't Hollywood, it's Homeport

By Danna Webster
KP News

"Lights, camera, action!" rang out at LuLu's Homeport Restaurant on a drizzly April morning last spring. It was 5 a.m. when The Film Co. at Northwest Film Forum moved in, set up a ton of equipment, and stayed for the entire day.

Filmmaking had arrived on the Key Peninsula. It started with a search by the

independent film company based in Seattle. They were looking for the perfect setting to represent a rural Northwest scene in the feature-length film "We Go Way Back."

The story of the film is about 23-year-old Kate, a nice girl who can't say no. She tries to make everyone around her happy—except herself. She senses

(See **LULU**, Page 24)



LuLu's Home Port Restaurant and Lounge owner LuLu Smith is excited about her business getting a little stardom.

Photo by
Danna
Webster

Community cooperation leads to drug arrest

By Irene Torres
KP News

The value of cooperative relationships was demonstrated recently when the Peninsula Detachment of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department received a tip from Safe Streets Community Mobilization Specialist Dennis Taylor regarding suspected drug activity at a house on the Key Peninsula.

Allen Myron, department investigator, said, "The tip was very specific to include the physical address, suspicious activity, and even included persons known to be at the residence. As a result of the subsequent investigation, probable cause was developed for a search warrant."

The warrant was executed on Sept. 23, with several people arrested on suspicion of narcotics-related activities.

"This is an excellent example of the community and law enforcement partnering together to achieve the mutual goal of improved public safety," Myron said.

Asked what information does the sheriff's office need in a crime tip, Myron said, "The best way I can answer that is to say, details, details, and more details. We can respond much more quickly when we receive detailed and credible information as to the suspected activity." An anonymous call just saying that the location has traffic at "all hours of day and night" may not be sufficient.

Citizens, however, may report the information to Safe Streets instead, which will then send the tips on to law enforcement officials.

"This is a classic example of how it can work. People who call in crime tips can be assured of complete anonymity with Safe Streets, without fear of retaliation," Taylor said.

Citizens who suspect unlawful activity are also encouraged to call Community Service Officer Emily Watson, who recently was added to the detachment personnel. Watson said even if a crime is not committed and therefore a report cannot be generated, she can record the information so the department can track patterns.

"I think this event was a great example of how problems can be solved when citizens and law enforcement team up to tackle a problem," Watson said.

Crime reporting

To confidentially and anonymously report a crime tip, call Safe Streets at 884-7899.

Include as much information as possible:

- A contact person as the reporting party with phone numbers for contact;

- The specific address of the activity (house number and street name) or specific description;

- A list of license plates of people known to reside at the incident address;

- A list of license plates logged with dates, times and duration of visits.

To contact Pierce County Sheriff's Department Peninsula Detachment CSO Emily Watson, call 798-4940.

"People who call in crime tips can be assured of complete anonymity with Safe Streets, without fear of retaliation."

-Dennis Taylor, Safe Streets

Myron mentioned another example earlier this year, when the agency received a tip with specific information. "I contacted the reporting party and a day later an arrest was made and the problem was resolved," he said. "Many cases are solved as a direct result of information provided by members of the community. They can literally act as our eyes and ears and provide vital information in regard to crimes they have witnessed as well as suspicious activity."



Guatemalan fire personnel Jorge Luis Arroyo, Edmundo Camey Vasquez, Byron Cordon and George Armando Gonzalez check out the engine compartment of a fire engine donated to them.

*Photo by
Hugh McMillan*

KPFD's recycling will save lives in Guatemala

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Key Peninsula Fire Department officials turned over the keys of a retired KPFD fire engine and an ambulance to four members of the Guatemalan, Central America, fire department, which won the bid for the 20-year-old ambulance and a 1969 Ford fire engine. In addition to the KP equipment, the department received four ambulances donated by Olympic Ambulance of Port Angeles and another engine from Rural Metro Ambulance of Everett.

Key Pen resident Ron Quinsey, Lakewood Fire EMS lieutenant and project volunteer to Guatemala, facilitates rescuing fire equipment no longer meeting U.S. standards. He said, "The Guatemalan fire department relies on gifts to provide emergency services to its 14 million citizens."

In July 2004, two KP fire engines, life saving defibrillators, breathing apparatus and other surplus emergency equipment contributed by various generous citizens, including the KP Health Center, were transferred to a Guatemalan crew who

drove it all to Guatemala.

"The engines did not meet U.S. safety standards and repairing them would be throwing good money after bad," said Quinsey. "In Guatemala, they make a life saving difference." Guatemala is the size of Tennessee, and its capitol, Guatemala City, the size of Seattle with four times the population (4 million). The Bomberos Voluntarios is largely a volunteer fire department with 134 fire stations and 8,000 paid and volunteer firefighters answering over 250,000 emergency calls a year. The country's president decides the fire department's budget. Much of the fire service is supported by public donations or out of the pockets of the volunteers who have other regular paying jobs. If an ambulance needs a battery or a fire engine a new tire, it is usually the responsibility of the firefighters to find the funds. Guatemala cannot afford to purchase new life saving equipment and regularly scavenges parts from disabled equipment.

"It's the best deal for both fire departments and taxpayers alike," said Quinsey. "KPFD sells its outdated equipment and the Guatemalans get a good deal on old but functional emergency equipment."

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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

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Peninsula Detachments adds CSO position

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Community Service Officer Emily Watson started a new position at the end of September with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Peninsula Detachment, which serves both the Key Peninsula and the Gig Harbor areas.

Watson's role is to be a liaison between the sheriff's office and the community.

Watson has worked as a CSO with the county sheriff in other areas for four years, and comes from a background of working with teens in crisis. A native of Tacoma, she had traveled often to the west side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge for visits.

Watson said her emphasis is getting the community more involved. In her first few weeks on the job, the main thing she noticed is that "the community is scared to come forward with problems." "I want to change that, to



WATSON

have people call us," she said. "People aren't reporting when their tires are getting slashed or having their vehicle broken into — and those are crimes."

Watson said even when a crime has not been committed and a police report would not be generated, she would collect the information and create a record on file. That helps document a problem, and may help later in finding patterns in neighborhoods and collecting other information.

Watson encourages residents to call her "if you think there is a problem and something is not right, but you're hesitant to call 911" or the sheriff's office. She can also educate people on available resources, from roaming dogs to dumped vehicles.

Watson brought one example when residents should contact the CSO for help: animals. She can collect all the necessary information and facilitate the county animal patrol officers' response.

"The community service officer is designed to help the department address community issues that a uniformed deputy doesn't have time to

Questions? Problems?

CSO Emily Watson may be contacted by phone at 798-4940.

address...It enhances our ability to reach out to the community," said Lt. Larry Bauer, the chief of the Peninsula Detachment. "It's also a resource for the community when they have questions."

Bauer said the detachment will also add a neighborhood policing officer (NPO) at the beginning of next year, who will work with the CSO to target persistent problems such as drug activity and quality of life issues. "Things will improve a lot in 2006," Bauer said. "It is one of the most exciting changes I've seen in the department in my time."

Bauer said adding an NPO is a way to proactively address problems, and the program has been successful in other parts of the county. The NPO position will be temporary as a tryout, and he says if it proves successful, the department would look at long-term funding for it.

News briefs

KP gets noticed

The September 2005 newsletter for Pierce County staff surveyed county employees for their favorite after-hours "stomping grounds."

The picks included Blondie's Bar and Grill in Key Center and the Beach House in Purdy, among others in Spanaway, Orting and Lakewood chosen for their relaxing atmosphere, good food and nighttime entertainment.

Reward offered for vandalism information

A \$2,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for the vandalism, particularly involving the grave markers, at the Vaughn Cemetery.

This award is a cooperative effort between the Crime Stoppers and the KP Veterans' Institute.

Identity of respondents shall remain anonymous. Call the Pierce County Sheriff's Crime Stoppers Unit at 253-591-5959.

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Editorial

Finding a balance between good news and bad news

A letter mailed recently to the KP News regarding a story about negative things happening at the Key Peninsula Community Services and Food Bank, published in the October issue, said, "It made me very sad to read (the story). Over the years the center has done many good things for me."

The letter was written by an anonymous person, and we don't publish anonymous letters. However, this message was worthy of note because it expressed a sentiment heard from many other people who are sad about what is happening at their community center.

Some comments we heard stated a few readers felt the newspaper gave an unbalanced view of what has happened, or perhaps gave too much credibility to former personnel. As much as we too are saddened over what is going on, we have an obligation as journalists to give as many sides as possible in such a story. We cannot report the full story based on uncorroborated information, unverified rumors, or comments people only wish to make off record. So we are left with trying to sift through for the truth—whether we succeed or not.

The mission of the Key Peninsula News is to build a sense of community, and while some people believe that means only delivering good news all the time, we feel that is not how true communities are built. Sometime building community means bearing bad news, attracting attention to a potential problem, and hopefully getting the community members involved in solving it.

That was our intention with the coverage that we hope to continue on the situation of KPCS. Any nonprofit, community organization on the Key Peninsula, including KPCS, must be accountable for the way it operates and serves residents. That includes the Key Peninsula News, which must be accountable to its readers by openly discussing problems that may exist in our back yard.

We invite our readers to let us know any time they disagree, or agree, with a story. We are here to listen and follow up! Write to news@keypennews.com or write PO Box 3, Vaughn WA, 98394.

Guiding teens, preteens to positive choices through Scouts

By Christine Burris
Special to KP News

One night recently, a number of friends, all parents of teen and preteens, were gathered around my kitchen table. We began to discuss why parents should encourage Scouting and Venturing. We came up with a few strong reasons: It's a great value, positive role modeling, structured quality time, and character building through leadership and community service.



We agreed that for people on a budget (and who isn't?) scouting is a great value. Membership is roughly \$22 a year, which covers insurance and a subscription to "Boys' Life" magazine. Dues are \$1 at each weekly meeting and Scouts can earn monies at car washes, wreath sales and even bake sales to help cover the personal cost of campouts. Troop 220 has an incredible supply of equipment for use and a loan pool where Scouts can check out equipment for as long as they need, at no cost. So when new boys join and do not have enough personal equipment such as sleeping bags, hiking boots, or even long underwear for winter camping, we have it to loan. Even so, occasionally families have financial troubles. In such an event, our parent committee has scholarships available to members to help cover costs for summer camp and long-term outings.

Scouting teaches skills and leadership that inspires confidence. Kids can develop leadership, skills and confidence in sports as well, but somehow scouting is different. Scouting encourages empathy, mentoring, and acceptance. It stretches over a wide range of ages, combining kids from 11 to 18.

One father confided that with his busy professional life, he needed quality structured time with his sons. The monthly campouts, which include activities such as backpacking, hiking, canoeing, fishing, rock climbing, and biking, give time for him and his son to get away from the TV, the computer, the telephone, and build great memories.

A mother who home schools her three children said she read an article about the community service that Troop 220 provides to the peninsula. Service projects such as setting up flags at the Vaughn Cemetery, or waiting tables at



Colin Hill, senior patrol leader of Troop 220, and Tina Perry, a member of Venture Crew 220, in the snow kitchen that Colin dug on Mount Rainier a few winters ago. Other crew members dug snow shelters that they slept in as part of their winter survival training.

Photo courtesy of Troop 220

For more information

Contact Christine Burris, Crew 220 adviser, at 857-2357, or Bill Macaras, Troop 220 head scoutmaster, at 884-3133 or wmacaras@centurytel.net.

the Longbranch Improvement Club, cutting ivy off the trees at Penrose and building benches along the trails were all great character building opportunities. Best of all, these Scouts were having a great time while helping others. That was why she brought her boy to a meeting. Now that her oldest daughter is turning 14 and interested in venturing, she is looking forward to becoming a Crew advisor.

Venturing provides an opportunity for both girls and boys ages 14 to 21 to participate in outdoor activities that are considered more challenging. Last summer Bill Macaras, the head scoutmaster, and I traveled with four girls and two boys to the Salmon River in Riggins, Idaho, for a six-day backpacking and white water rafting adventure. The year before, along with two other parents, we drove five boys and two girls to the Philmont National Boy Scout Reservation, in Cimarron, N.M. We visited national parks along the way, backpacked 70 miles and climbed a 12,400-foot mountain.

Many of our parents find the linking of Troop and Crew 220 to be a highly effective family program. Both the Troop and Crew meet at the KP Civic Center every Tuesday night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Although we hold meetings in separate rooms, we share the opening and closing

flags and announcements. The Crew is welcome to use the troop equipment and in exchange they help with fund-raisers. As part of their advancement requirements, they assist in training Scouts. More often than not, both groups camp and backpack at the same location on the same weekends and carpooling is interchangeable. We also share in community service opportunities.

Several of our scoutmasters are professional educators who are dedicated to encouraging young people to become their best. Teachers, including myself, enjoy the chance to work with kids outside of the classroom. Every parent who wants to become involved is welcomed. Although this is not true in every troop, 220 encourages moms to become scoutmasters alongside dads. The more parents we have, the more diverse experiences we can offer. During weekly meetings there is opportunity for the Scouts to plan their outings, create menus and receive structured lessons, not only by featured guests and Scoutmasters, but also older scouts and Crew members. Older Scouts practice leadership and set an example of an alternative lifestyle in strong contrast to the negative temptations of adolescence.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in becoming involved in scouting, please visit us during our open house on Tuesday, Nov. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn. We hold our weekly meetings there every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Christine Burris is a Peninsula High School teacher and adviser to Scout Crew 220.

Lions host county charter review commissioner forum

By Irene Torres
KP News

Key Peninsula residents learned more about the workings of county government as the KP Lions Club hosted a public forum for Pierce County candidates on Oct. 5 at the library in Key Center. Five of the six candidates for Council District 7 Charter Review Commission positions voiced their intentions as the charter review process begins.

Lions President George Robison introduced the candidates and facilitated the forum. Each candidate had three minutes to present their ideas, then answered questions from the audience.

Candidate Michael Venuto's positions include a more efficient initiative and referendum process, open government, and better communication from the county to citizens through the media and technology. He encourages the exercise of the vote "to actuate our freedom."

Debi Srail wants a "front-loaded" process of government instead of one

allowing public input only after the fact.

Kelly Haughton wants to use open forums and his Internet blog to get input from residents of unincorporated areas of the county. He said, "Those unincorporated areas are more affected by county government. Cities have their own departments for police and planning."

Candidate Vera Cooley said, "An informed electorate is the basis of democracy." She advocates the posting of county council meeting minutes on the Internet within five days of meetings, to make the council proceedings more available to the public.

Thanking both those who voted for him in the primary election and those who didn't, Burt Talbot said, "The prerogative of participating in a representative democracy is one of our most important and precious rights." He said he brings "experience from both sides of the paycheck," representing both workers and employers.

Talbot said the charter review process is for the purpose of instruction and improvement of government. Citing concerns about disaster preparedness,

The Pierce County Charter is available online at www.co.pierce.wa.us/xml/Abtus/ourorg/council/code/CHARTER.pdf

The charter is a 35-page document covering, among other things:

Powers of the county - allows the county the power to take any action not expressly forbidden by state law, thus providing "home rule."

The legislative branch - establishes a full-time, seven-member county council, nominated and elected by district on a partisan basis.

The executive branch - establishes positions of elected executive, assessor-treasurer and auditor, and the executive departments of clerk of the Superior Court, coroner and sheriff, and grants them administrative powers.

Elections - sets election procedures, qualifications for office, boundaries of council districts, and provisions are established for redistricting based on the federal census. Also established are procedures for filling vacancies, terms of office, and limitations on consecutive terms in office.

The public interest - grants rights of initiative, referendum, recall and agenda petition, and establishes the procedures for their use.

Financial administration - establishes procedures for financial planning through the requirements of a six-year plan and a comprehensive budget.

Personnel system - mandates a personnel system with limited exemptions. Also required is a personnel board to oversee the administration of the system.

Venuto favors the appointment of an ombudsman for disaster response and relief. "Radio communication is hodgepodge in the county," he said.

Venuto said he will consider the method of selecting the sheriff, currently an appointed position. Cooley

supports a change to an elected sheriff. Haughton hasn't made a decision on the question of whether to elect a sheriff, saying, "I'm trying to represent the people who live out here."

Public input "will be thoroughly aired and considered, and a strong consensus must be reached," Talbot said. Srail said, "Six months is not a very long time to get it (charter review) done."

Candidate Randy Boss was not present.

In the audience were state Reps. Derek Kilmer and Pat Lantz. Lantz told the group, "My husband was among the original group of freeholders who launched the county charter (25 years ago)."

The County Charter is a document similar to the state and federal Constitution, outlining how the county is governed. Review every 10 years involves a six-month process conducted by a group of 21 elected private citizens, as unpaid volunteers.

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Fire and park candidates square off at second forum

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The Nov. 8 elections were just three weeks away when two candidates each for the park and fire districts participated in a forum at the Civic Center, but the event attracted only a small crowd.

President Phil Bauer said the Civic Center plans to sponsor more public events like candidate debates in the future, and hopes to attract a wider audience. This was the second forum the center has hosted for the November elections.

The two candidates for Fire District 16, Al Yanity and Ben Thompson, agreed with each other on several of the issues, including the reason they were running — to ensure a better budget and a fiscally responsible district.

Thompson has been endorsed by all former fire commissioners who are still around, as well as by the fire fighters association and Keith Stiles, who lost the primary election for the commissioner job. Yanity said all the commissioners who did endorse him are now dead, and that the reason none of the other commissioners would do it was because he had argued with each of them on various issues as he followed the works of the boards through the years.

Thompson and Yanity differed on the idea of changing the board to a five-commissioner status, and on whether the fire district has enough funding currently to provide the services needed. Thompson said he feels five commissioners are needed to create a stronger board because certain limitations exist with only three commissioners, plus there is the possibility that one strong commissioner would dictate the decisions. Yanity countered that increasing the number of commissioners would cost more money because of the per diem and other expenses paid to commissioners.

Yanity said he didn't feel the fire

Cast your vote

The elections will be held on Nov. 8, and new rules require voters to bring an identification such as a voter registration card or state ID.

district is fully funded and said some solutions would include tax relief from purchases of equipment, and the construction of the proposed hospital in Gig Harbor, which will bring savings by making paramedics available quicker after a transport to the hospital. Thompson, however, felt the funding was adequate, with prudent management and a "good stewardship of funds."

Park commissioner candidates Russ Humberd and incumbent Kip Clinton also agreed on several issues discussed, including some of the priorities they saw for the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District such as land banking, recruiting more volunteers and increasing the community involvement.

Clinton supported the idea of a levy, saying it would be necessary in order to develop the new 360-acre park to its full potential. Humberd stressed that any decision made needs to be well-communicated, and said he did not feel the park district currently communicated enough with the community. The park, due to be transferred from Department of Natural Resources to KPMPD (see related story on cover) within the next year, dominated much of the forum, which also touched on the subject of the Purdy Spit and the old Wauna post office building.

Clinton concluded the forum by saying she would remain involved with the parks regardless of whether she is re-elected, while Humberd said he would love to be elected, but most importantly, citizens should "vote for someone."

"You have to be involved...by voting for someone you feel will best represent you," he said.

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Commissioner job means long hours, big decisions

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

This year's elections for the Fire District 16 commissioners have had a stronger interest from candidates compared to the last few elections. In fact, in the last commissioner election, in 2003, Jim Bosch ran unopposed. This year, having three candidates required the district to run a primary election as well.

What makes the job of a fire commissioner so attractive? According to those who've been there, it is definitely not the glory.

"The fire service is a good part of our community, so I can see why people are wanting to do it," said Fred Ramsdell, who has been involved with the fire district for about 40 years as a volunteer and whose term is ending at the end of the year. The races, however, can become quite polarizing, he said. Ramsdell was opposed during his election by current candidate Allen Yanity, who has unsuccessfully run previously.

"In most districts, it's not a sought-after position," said former Commissioner

Ruth Bramhall, who is still active with the fire district.

"Some people feel they can do a better job than the commissioners in place," Bramhall said. "It takes a cooperative team of three people to function as a (board)."

Being on the board can be very time consuming, said current Commissioner Rick Stout, a retired firefighter. "I am glad to see other people are interested in running," he said.

The fire commissioners are the legislative branch of the department, making decisions on how the budget is spent and how the department is run. They also have the hiring authority of the fire chief, and could decide whether to perform an international search or promote from within the district, as was the case with Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen.

At times, the job can get stressful, as controversial issues arise, levies don't get passed, or promises made to voters — such as building new fire stations — take longer to fulfill than anticipated.

Commissioners are entitled to be paid

per diem for every district-related meeting they attend. That includes the monthly FD-16 meetings, monthly out-of-district meetings, a state meeting held once a year in various cities, educational seminars and other functions. The commissioners get paid accommodations as well as mileage reimbursement. Although not everyone claims all the mileage, most commissioners opt to get the per diem, according to

Bramhall. State law allows commissioners to be compensated up to \$70 per day when a meeting or similar business function is held. The local commissioners are far from the yearly allowed limit of \$6,720, according to the department's Christina Bosch. Commissioners are also able to apply for insurance through a pool that offers special rates.

"You don't get rich on it, that's for sure," Bramhall said.

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Celebrating 20 years

Minter Creek is the Key Peninsula's youngest elementary school. At the end of September, Minter Creek Elementary School celebrated its 20-year anniversary with a special assembly.



Photo by Mindi LaRose

The school's principal of nine years, Steve Leitz, with original staff members who attended the 20th Birthday at Open House on Sept. 27, (left to right) Jan Hein, Susan Hostetter, Judy Grenke, Paula Kepler, and Ann Olson.

Evergreen Elementary invites reading volunteers

Evergreen Elementary is planning its first RIF Day for Nov. 8. "Gathering Good Books" will be the theme.

Community members are invited to come in and volunteer for the special event by reading to younger students in the morning.

Interested volunteers may call the school at 530-1300 for details.



Top, Visitors to the open house had a chance to look through old Minter photos and other materials. *Photo courtesy of Minter Creek Elementary*

Above, Teacher Jeff Stafki and school counselor Ann Olson joined students in a special performance. *Photo courtesy of Minter Creek Elementary*

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Young man's yearlong mission brings him to Palmer Lake

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Last May, a young roofer from Ohio set off on a personal mission to travel the entire country in one year and help build 50 homes — or more precisely, 50 roofs — for Habitat for Humanity. That's about one roof per week.

In October, set to hit his mid-mark, his 25th home, Seth Kujat lent his skills to a home being built by the Gig Harbor Key Peninsula chapter of Habitat in Palmer Lake.

There was a small glitch, however: The roofing materials hadn't arrived as planned, so after spending some time on the site on a Friday, Kujat had to quickly find another home in the area that was ready for the roof. Luckily, the opportunity provided itself in Tacoma, and Kujat moved on to the site on Monday, and a day or two later was already on his way to Oregon.

"It would be nice to come to the Northwest and visit," he said in a phone interview from Oregon. "It was great."

He didn't get to see Mount Rainier because it was overcast — but there was no time to hang around. Kujat has kept a steady pace since he started his journey. He was slightly ahead of schedule so he

looked forward to taking an entire week off at Thanksgiving.

Kujat, who turned 24 at the end of October, had a roofing company at age 18 that helped pay for his college studies. After graduating, he felt something was missing, and eventually his "Leap of Faith" journey idea was born.

"The whole thing is exciting, to live out of a van and travel from state to state," he said. "I haven't had a chance to stop and process it."

Kujat said he was compelled to attempt the feat because he felt he was called by God to do it, and he wanted to help people in need. Since no one has done this before, he wasn't sure how to prepare for the journey physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The journey has strengthened his love of his country, and he has met many great people along the way, he said.

The Palmer Lake Habitat home, the fifth local chapter project on the Key Peninsula, was scheduled to be dedicated on Oct. 30 at press time. The chapter was created by Key Pen residents Dale Harrison, a home builder, and Chuck Odegaard, pastor at Vaughn Community Church. The Christian-based organization partners with the families for which it builds the homes, and relies on volunteer labor and donations.



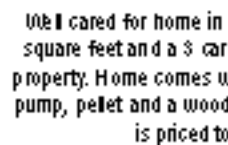
Photo by Mindi LaRose

Seth Kujat (r), who made a special visit to the Key Pen to help build a Habitat for Humanity home, assists the rest of the crew with the Palmer Lake project.

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Personal discovery leads woman on *path* to new business

By Yvonne Josowitz
KP News

Linda Youngchild is determined and passionate about children. Even as a young married woman before having her own boys, she was interested in working with children. She started by working at Tacoma preschools, which brought her in contact with special-needs children. The long commute from Key Peninsula was hard, so she began thinking about doing daycare.



YOUNGCHILD

Youngchild researched the business and became licensed to do daycare in her home. She laughs now that she had a daycare for 12 years in her less than 1,200-square-foot Key Peninsula home with one bathroom. She says she never even considered the space; it was always just about

"the kids." Some of those kids Youngchild saw at preschool age still stay in touch with her as young adults, many with children of their own.

Four years ago, Youngchild gave up daycare, but kids are always at the center of any activity she is involved with, either through working in the local schools or volunteering. She loves that her married name, Youngchild, says what's so important in her life.

Most often Youngchild works with children who have special needs. She has a personal reason for that focus: She is a special-needs learner herself. All of her life Youngchild knew she had challenges, had to work harder than others to learn, and sometimes felt like she was pounding her head against a wall when she was told she "wasn't trying hard enough." There were times when she felt stupid and dumb.

Everything changed when as a parent partner advocate she became involved

with helping a mother and her child. This mother wanted to do whatever it took to help her child. She had signed him up for a week's special training for dyslexics. Youngchild went along to observe.

It was like opening the floodgates. Youngchild became more interested in dyslexia and started to read everything she could on the subject. As she researched, she recognized many of the characteristics in herself. Excited, Youngchild had herself tested and one week before her 40th birthday found out that yes, she was dyslexic. A sense of peace and understanding poured into her life.

For her 40th birthday Youngchild gave herself a very special gift. She used some of the money she'd set aside for her education and took a trip to San Jose, Calif. There, she attended a training course called Bright Solutions, from a company geared to teaching professionals how to tutor persons with dyslexia. As a result of this training and the network she's become involved in with others around the United States, Youngchild has recently started "Youngchild and Beyond," a tutoring and testing business devoted to helping both children and adults with dyslexia getting to the same place she is today.

Youngchild's refrain is that one must find the strength in others and work with it. She believes everyone, child or adult, has his or her own abilities. Finding other people's strengths and abilities is what Youngchild hopes to do. She knows it isn't an easy path, but she wants to share the feeling of good self-esteem, desire to learn, and how one may find the way to learn.

Business brief

Plans change for Longbranch Mercantile

Mike and Denise Hays, the new owners of the Longbranch Mercantile, said in October their vision is to reopen the building with a new café and meeting rooms by the spring of 2007.

In 2003, the couple started working on the mercantile building, which had been vacant for several years. They said they have discovered a variety of problems since then with the structure, zoning and other issues.

Before their purchase, the Department of Ecology had dug out underground storage tanks and the majority of contaminated soil from the property caused by gas spill at the old fuel pumps over years of operation. The agency continues to monitor ground water in the area to make sure no additional leaking has occurred.

The building, which was built in the 1950s, has major roof leaks, sinking floors, leaking plumbing and an undersized septic system, in addition to other problems, according to Denise Carron-Hays. A large portion of the building sits on a county setback for the Key Peninsula Highway, which means the county could condemn the building in the future if it needs to make road repairs or other work, she said.

"Given all these complex issues and the necessary funding to correct these deficiencies, it might make sense... to just start over," she said.

The owners said they are working with other local businesses to develop their ideas for the property.

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Shuttle business celebrates first-year anniversary

By Paula Moore
KP News

Your airport shuttle has just let you off at the "park and ride" station, and it's 11:30 at night. As the shuttle leaves, having other stops to make, you realize it is dark and cold, with a raw wind blowing the icy snow all around. Your pickup ride is late. You begin to wonder if, with weather conditions so bad, they would come at all. You try not to panic and think, "Why and how did I ever get into this mess?"

That scenario happened to Amy Muhlbaier. Only she was the airport shuttle driver and had to go off and leave the person alone at the park and ride. This and other such problems began to plague her mind. She told her husband, Barry, "There must be an answer to this."

"It's not right to have to leave people stranded. I would like to be able to offer people another alternative," she says.

This became the brainchild that gave birth to the couple's business, A & B

"It's not right to have to leave people stranded. I would like to be able to offer people another alternative."

-Amy Muhlbaier

Specialized Transport, which gives customers door to door airport shuttle service. Nothing to worry about, customers just leave all the fuss to them. If a person's flight back is late because of weather, A & B will be found waiting outside the airport. They have a special number to call about all flights, and they are there for their customers all the time.

Amy, who was born and raised in Burley, and Barry, from New Jersey, live outside Home. This time last year they were wondering how this idea would play out. They had just finished getting all the permits, were done with all the court appointments, and they had drivers: Amy and her mom. Barry, who had been a



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Amy and Barry Muhlbaier, owners, with grandma Debbie Doyle and the couple's children Barry, Taylor, Cameron, McKenzie, and Shaelyn.

truck driver with 2 million miles under his belt and had driven in nearly every state, would have been the ideal driver, but he had had a recent accident, resulting in surgeries for both shoulders and knees. So Amy became the breadwinner, and Barry was a stay at home dad to their five children.

They have two vans. One seats eight and the other 15, so they can take weekly commuters, which has become a stable backbone for their business. In addition to regular vacationers, there are groups going out for special trips and cruises.

The Muhlbaiers serve all of Gig Harbor from the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, and from the Key Peninsula, Port Orchard, to Gorst. Barry says, "We go from the Mason County line to the water." They are hoping to expand the service area to include Bremerton, Silverdale and Belfair.

The first year has been fairly successful, with a few handicaps — like getting the advertising out that "there is such a

service even offered," and of course, the soaring gas prices. Future plans are to get another driver so Amy can be home more. She is having "Missing the Kids Syndrome" and Daddy, once he recovers, wants more time to work on the new home they are building to accommodate the family of seven.

Asked if the shuttle is more expensive, the couple answered, "Yes and no." Yes, right up front it is. But customers don't have to leave their cars at the airport or parking lot, where they pay out good money and might have their car stolen or gas tank emptied; they don't come out of the airport and find that the shuttle has already left and they have to wait for another hour or more; and they are not left stranded at a lonely place waiting for a ride at the mercy of the weather. Once those expenses are added up versus safety, peace of mind and convenience, there really isn't any comparison.

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October, a month of Jewish celebrations

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Tishrei, the seventh month of the Jewish calendar, holds several important dates for Jews. This month may begin in September on the Gregorian calendar, but the later holidays of Tishrei occur in October. Key Peninsula Jews celebrated these holidays in traditional form.

The Jewish calendar year is based on the year of creation being AM 1 (Anno Mundi, or year of the world), assumed to be 3761 B.C. This date was determined by adding up the ages of people in the Bible back to creation. The date does not represent a scientific fact.

The Jewish calendar is lunar-based, so actual dates on the Gregorian calendar are different each year.

All Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the first day, and are over at sundown on the last day.

This year, Rosh Hashanah started at sundown on Oct. 3.

No work is to be done on Rosh Hashanah, first and last days of Yom Kippur, the first and second days of



Photo by Colleen Slater

A sukkah on the Key Peninsula, constructed for the Festival of Tabernacles.

Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and other holy days. Cooking, baking, transferring fire and carrying, all forbidden on Shabbat (Sabbath), are allowed on holidays unless they occur on Shabbat, when they must be observed.

Rosh Hashanah is the only celebration that falls on the date of the new moon. It is celebrated with the blowing of the shofar, a ram's horn, to signify trumpets. It is blown 100 times, with several different sounds, during the synagogue service.

Ten Days of Awe, beginning with Rosh Hashanah, are to be used to repent and make amends for any wrongs committed in the previous year, so one's name may be added with the righteous.

Apples dipped in honey and a greeting of L'Shanah Tovah is shared, for "a sweet year" and for health and happiness.

Although Rosh Hashanah is a happy holiday, it is a time to look back at the past year, and start thinking about the day of atonement, Yom Kippur, which is held on the 10th of Tishrei.

Yom Kippur is a day of fasting and repentance, lasting from sundown to sundown.

It is one of the days when almost all Jews attend synagogue services.

Sukkot (Succot), or Festival of Tabernacles, celebrates the protection of God during the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. Booths (sukkahs) are built outside, traditionally with a covering of branches, to stay in during the days of this festival. Jews may sleep and eat in these tent-like structures, while others use them for some

meals and for parties.

Simchat Torah, the Joy of the Torah, is the eighth day of Sukkot. This celebration signifies the end of the yearly cycle of Torah readings in the Sabbath services. The last chapters of Devarim (Deuteronomy) are read, followed by the first chapters of Bereishith (Genesis) to show it is a continuing cycle. The ark in the synagogue is opened, the Torah removed, and the men dance, carrying the Torah past the members of the congregation. As it goes by, congregants touch it with the corner of their prayer shawl — never with their fingers — then touch the shawl corner to their lips, signifying that God's Word is on their lips.

American Jews may follow all the traditions kept in Israel, but some have adapted to fit where and how they live. Traditional foods have been influenced by ethnic background, and the "no-work" rules may be adjusted.

Overall, Tishrei is a month of joyous celebrations for Jews worldwide, including those who live on the Key Peninsula.



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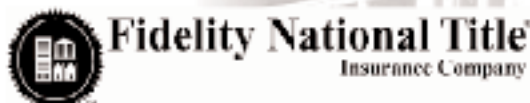
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Civic Center Newsletter

One of the major hubs of the Key Peninsula is the Civic Center. Here one can find the KP News, WIC, Children's Home Society, Two Waters Arts Alliance, the Senior Society, Boy Scout Troop #220, Comprehensive Mental Health, The KP Baptist Church, the Historic Vaughn Bay Church and the KP Historical Museum.

On Friday nights, the center is active with Friday Night Skate, and during the week there is an Indoor Park for parents and toddlers. Forums for local elections are held here, as are weddings, dinner dances and other community events.

Classes are offered here: Clogging, Tae Kwon Do, Karate, Tennis, Yoga and Instep Dancing. In the spring of 2006, the basketball league will be reactivated.

Because the Civic Center is not a public building (it is run by a board for the benefit of the community), it receives no county or state funding. The funds to keep the center operating must be raised by means of fund-raisers such as the fireworks stand, benefit dinners, dances and user fees.

The operating costs for the Center in 2004 were \$93,146. Insurance costs were \$25,064 and utilities were \$16,958. Wages for the five part-time employees, four of whom direct Skate Night, plus the office coordinator, were \$23,572.

In the past, grant funding allowed us to renovate the buildings: new roofs on both buildings, new windows, paint the outside of the buildings and renovate the gymnasium.

The board had hoped to find funding to reestablish the basketball league once again. John and June Mercer, who donated \$5,000 to purchase the new equipment, met this need. We are grateful for their support. But we still need the support of the entire community. As Edie Morgan said last month, "The ongoing costs of running and maintaining the historic building are a continuous challenge."

Presently, it is imperative that carpeting in the entryway be replaced and the estimated cost is \$8,000 to \$10,000. We will be asking for assistance from the community to cover this cost, as operating expenses have risen and there is no money in the budget for this item.

Please feel free to drop by the center at any time. Jena is available in the office weekday afternoons to answer questions and receive suggestions. The latest Profit and Loss statements are available for your perusal. We need your continuing support to keep the Civic Center open for the community.

—By President Phil Bauer

Bayshore Garden Club news

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. on Nov. 4 at the Longbranch Fire Station. The hostess is Sylvia Retherford. The theme "Native plants that tolerate less water" will be presented by Maryanne Hawthorne. Other presenters are: Peg Robertson, design, and Jean Young, horticulture. For information, call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

S.A.V.E. at Winterfest

Over the Thanksgiving weekend Nov. 24-27, side-by-side, with all the great arts and crafts sellers at Peninsula High School's Winterfest, will be the S.A.V.E. Thriftstore. The S.A.V.E. booth will feature holiday and vintage goods. Christmas items that come in as donations throughout the year are held for this special event. They vary from year to year, but typically include tabletop nativities, holiday cookie jars and dishes, china and crystal, antique glassware, unique ornaments, festive sweaters and vintage clothing.

Apart from its booth at Winterfest, the Thriftstore will offer savings of up to 50 percent on all items in the shop on Saturday, Nov. 26. This includes a wide array of shoes and clothes for the whole family, housewares of all types, linens, books, toys, games and jewelry.

S.A.V.E. Thriftstore is located at the foot of the hill below PHS in Purdy. Make a point to stop in when you attend Winterfest, or anytime Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All proceeds of the operation support the scholarship and activity programs at Peninsula High. Please call 857-2800 if you need additional information on shopping, donating or volunteering.

— By Marsha Williams

A reading and open mic

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Nov. 12, for a free literary event on the Key Peninsula, 4 to 7 p.m.

Nationally acclaimed poet Jack McCarthy will be featured at the Easter Seal Camp, overlooking Vaughn Bay, as he presents his work. Jack just returned from a successful West Coast tour over the past two months.

ALA Booklist says, "McCarthy brings his compelling experiences to his poetry with nimble humor, hard-won wisdom, and a raconteur's knack for telling diabolically barbed stories...concrete, candid, personal, and utterly captivating...caustic, sexy

and smart."

Among his influences he numbers Robert Frost, Dylan Thomas, and Garrison Keillor. He doesn't think of himself as a "performance poet," but as a "standup poetry guy," a writer of poems that perform themselves. See his work at www.standupoet.net.

Also featured will be our own Debra McElroy reading her works. Debra was a featured poet at the Frye Museum last month.

We will have limited readings from local authors as well. If you're interested in presenting, please contact Jerry Libstaff at 884-5934.

— By Jerry Libstaff

O'Callahan's plan benefits for KPCS food bank

On Nov. 25, the Friday after Thanksgiving, O'Callahan's will feature the live band music of Crossroads. Crossroads is a popular band based in Seattle. Two dollars of the \$5 cover charge for this event will be donated to the KPCS Food Bank funds. O'Callahan's is also conducting a monthlong food drive to benefit KPCS. Canned food, and nonperishable donations will be delivered to KPCS.

Angel Guild in big new shop

The Angel Guild Thrift Shop has moved into bigger quarters, right next door to the old shop. It is big, attractive, and stocked with more merchandise than we had room for before. If you haven't been in to see it, put it on your list of things to do. Customers were lined up for opening day. Thanks to publicity, we had new customers that had never been in our shop before.

This was a tremendous job to get the new building ready, then the stock moved into place. Lots of Angels and their helpful husbands were involved. We have a good supply of gently used winter coats for youngsters at very attractive prices. It is getting cooler out there, get yours soon.

Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here before we know it. Angel Guild has holiday items available now. Due to more space, we have room to display some furniture. However, we still do not take couches, chairs, TVs, computers, mattresses, and exercise equipment. When any of these items are left for us, Angel Guild has to pay to dispose of it. This cuts down on the funds available for the community.

The jar for Peninsula Market slips is

still on the counter so drop off those when you come in. Your continued support of quality donations is much appreciated. Our loyal customers are appreciated also. We all benefit.

Support for the community is Angel Guild's purpose for being.

—By Betty Barkubein

Community invited to fuchsia event

The November meeting of the LakeBay Fuchsia Society will be held on Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Library meeting room. The speaker will be Bill Heller. He will present a slide show and talk about hybridizing rhododendrons. Guests are welcome

Alcoholics Anonymous schedules Tuesday meetings at Library

A new meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous started this month at the Key Center Library. "Keys to Sobriety" will be held every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. This is an open meeting and whether you are a newcomer or an "old-timer" the group invites you to come. The address is 8905 KPN, next to the fire station.

Call Sharon Hicks at 884-5666 for further information.

KP November 2005 Blood Drive date

The Cascade Regional Blood Services will be available at Peninsula Light Company, on Nov. 8 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the second floor meeting room. The Pen Light address is 13315 Goodnough Dr. NW, Gig Harbor.

For more information contact Maria Johns-Davis, Donor Resources Support, (253) 383-2553, Ext. 265.

Community Planning Board November meetings

The next meetings for the Pierce County - Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are scheduled for three dates in November. The dates are all Wednesdays: Nov. 2, Nov. 16, and Nov. 30. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library. The meeting on Nov. 2 will include opportunities for citizens seeking site specific rezones to present their proposals to the Planning Board.

The Community Planning Board is working on policy development for the Key Peninsula Community Plan regarding Land Use and Zoning.

Artist Kathy Bauer draws inspiration from nature

By Jerry Libstaff

Artist Kathy Bauer's successful career took her around the world. She lived in an urban environment and cherished the city experience. In 1990, Bauer found herself on the Key Peninsula. Here, she fell in love with another lifestyle, away from the city lights.

Bauer began to focus on the natural environment that surrounded her. The beauty of the area was an inspiration that she longed to capture and share with others. She found an instructor in Gig Harbor, Sandy Newhouse, and began to study watercolor painting. Bauer quickly developed a passion for the media.

When Newhouse was called to jury duty, Bauer worked with another artist, Lois Tucci, and encountered different techniques. Those art teachers provided inspiration to Bauer and her evolving art career led her to her new purpose.



**The Genuine
ARTicle**



Photo by Jerry Libstaff

Kathy Bauer.

Bauer searched for additional training and experiences nearer her home. She met Beverly Pedersen at Homestead Crafts and started training there. During classes, the two developed a lasting friendship through a mutual ambition.

In the following years, Bauer painted and continued her education, attending classes at the University of Puget Sound. During her final semester, she needed one more class to fill out her schedule. A ceramics program was available and though she hadn't considered that media before, she was drawn to the work.

Bauer developed a penchant for ceramics and began hand building as well as "throwing" ceramic vases and other

items.

To help cultivate her passion, Bauer and her husband, Phil, converted a small log cabin, already on their property, into a studio. Bauer installed a potter's wheel and work table to create her art. Her kiln was too large for the space so she placed it at another location.

Over time, Bauer has expanded her abilities to include oil and acrylic painting as well as Sumi and Chinese brush painting.

Bauer says, "Nature is my inspiration. It's an intricate part of our lives on the Peninsula. Though I truly enjoy ceramics, painting allows me to capture the scenes I love."

She adds, "When I see our beautiful views, I want to recreate and share them; however, I'm always humbled by the actual works of nature."

Bauer feels that an artist can only touch on what nature's canvas offers. She continues to travel to different parts of the world each year and she paints when nature's beauty inspires her.

Bauer recently displayed some of her work at the Longbranch Improvement Club Art Show during their theater presentation, and successfully marketed some

TWAA classes for November:

Nov. 5: Kumihimo with Jan Buday.

Nov. 10 & 12: Acrylic Painting 101 with Adria Hanson

Nov. 17 & 19: Acrylic Painting 201 with Adria Hanson

Watercolor with Carolyn Scott Arnold (Call for times and dates)

For more information, costs, or to register, call Brynn at 884-2029.

of her work.

Bauer is extremely active in the art community on Key Peninsula. She was one of the original founders of the Two Waters Arts Alliance and served as president in 2003 and 2004. She is dynamically involved in the Key Peninsula art scene, helping provide "all things art" to the community. She is diligent about bringing the art experience to young people and helping others touch on the inspiration that has brought her so much joy.

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

Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the meetings. For more, see www.piercecountywa.org/landuse.

Two Sunday services at Vaughn Church

Vaughn Community Church has expanded to two services on Sundays in an effort to better serve the community. The first service runs from 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and the second service is 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Both services feature Spirit led worship, Biblical teaching, nursery care and programming for children ages 3 through fifth grade. Vaughn Community Church is located on 17616 Hall Road (across from Vaughn Elementary).

Holiday bazaar at LCC

Ruth Circle of Longbranch Community Church will hold its annual holiday bazaar on Nov. 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handmade crafts, plants and white elephants will be for sale. Coffee will be served. The church is located at 16518 46th St, on Key Peninsula Highway.

Library hosts November events

Thursday, Nov 12, 7 p.m, come see "In Service: Life downstairs." at the Key Center Library. Tames Alan, an actress, historian and instructor, appears in the authentic clothing of a maid and talks about what it was like to live and work downstairs in a late Victorian house.

Saturday, Nov. 19, at 11 a.m., watch "Puppets Please!" a marionette puppet show for children of all ages.

Volunteer spotlight: Ellen Lowrie

Story and photo by Danna Webster

Ellen Lowrie is starting her sixth year as a library volunteer. After retiring from her education career as a classroom teacher at Purdy Elementary for 24 years, she still felt a need to contribute to public service. "I always feel I have to give back a little to the community," she says.

Lowrie has been a Key Pen resident since 1961. Her two sons attended Peninsula High School and have moved away, one to Tacoma and one to Cambridge. With her boys gone from home and then her retirement, Lowrie gained the luxury to volunteer her time. The Key Center Library is close to her home but Lowrie chose to offer her services to the library because it was a place that helped her with many education projects.

"Dory (Myers, recently retired librarian) was such a help with research projects," Lowrie says. Myers was the first person Lowrie asked about volunteering. Myers arranged for a bit of training and now Lowrie stays busy, along with several other volunteers, shelving books, CDs, and magazines; replacing covers around videos; and repairing materials. Lowrie says there are many volunteers who help with lots of jobs inside and outside the library. It is Lowrie's opinion that working at the library is a "good thing to do." She says, "Helping them out gives great satisfaction." The Key Center Library is "a good system and such a friendly place to work in. It is such a wonderful library," Lowrie says.



Disaster planning: It's all up to you

By Irene Torres
KP News

In the event of a major disaster, citizens of the Key Peninsula will not immediately be able to count on forces of government or military, fire department, or law enforcement.

"I would love to be able to reassure all of you that the problems and chaos you've been watching on TV would never happen here, but I would be lying. In fact, I'm often amazed, as I discuss emergency preparedness, to hear citizens talk about their high expectations for government to respond in a widespread disaster," said Steven Bailey, director of Emergency Management for Pierce County.

When asked about disaster preparedness on the KP, Hugh McMillan, long active with Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee (PEP-C) said, "YO-YO. Yep, YO-YO. 'You're On Your Own.' This is why emergency managers keep trying to tell us they won't be there. That we are to plan to be self-sufficient for at least the first three days. You noticed that it was three or four days before any help arrived in the Gulf...Some people were very upset about that...Here is the deal: You are responsible for yourself and your family. Your neighborhood should then check on each other and offer aid. Get your neighborhood organized for this purpose. Next, your neighborhood should report in to the local first responders and emergency operations center as to your status and needs."

Gretchen O'Connor, PC-NET community program educator, said, "A major focus by Pierce County Department of Emergency Management is on public

Disaster preparedness

Preparedness is an act of love.

Prepare because you care.

Contact PEP-C (Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee) at prepare@pep-c.org or see www.pep-c.org.

For information on Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC-NET), call 798-2751.

education. We are having great success with a program called Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC-NET). The focus of this program is in training neighbors to put together an emergency response plan and thereby become able to respond to needs... in their own neighborhood. In essence, it's neighbors helping neighbors to help themselves... There are mutual aid agreements in place with corresponding jurisdictional agencies."

O'Connor added, "I find that the citizens of the Key Peninsula have had a sensible approach to preparedness, and have surpassed the recommended three-day (72-hour) supply of essentials." She offered this advice. "Past events (significant ice, wind storms that left them without power for days) have taught them that five days, or even two weeks' worth of supplies, is a better idea. The bad news is that we cannot get to every single person when disaster strikes to treat their wounds. The good news is that we can teach them to meet their own needs by having a response plan in place and training citizens to help each other until the professional responders can get there. The best news is that there is no fee for this program to be delivered in the community. It's a program of empow-

erment that provides training and tools to help people come together with a common goal, to save lives, reduce property damage and free up the first responders."

Bailey said PC-NET is "the single most successful program" he has seen in his more than 30-year career in public safety, and that the dedication of the commu-

"I would love to be able to reassure all of you that the problems and chaos you've been watching on TV would never happen here, but I would be lying."

-Steven Bailey, Pierce County Emergency Mgmt.

nity to this training will allow emergency personnel to respond to people who will need help the most.

"Local first responders will attempt to respond to life and death emergencies if you can get word to them," McMillan said. "Local Emergency Operations Center, in communication with county and state emergency operations, will evaluate the



Emergency communications

Local radio station KGHP is the only radio station for emergency broadcast to the Key Pen. This will be the only means of communication that emergency services has with the public during a disaster. KGHP, broadcasting from Peninsula High School, is linked out of the emergency center for specific response to emergencies. It is equipped for continued broadcast during power outages. KGHP can be heard at 89.9, 89.3, and 104.5 FM.

status of the area, according to local reports, and make plans to allocate resources. Resources are allocated according to the greatest need, concentration of people, and business centers. A school full of kids is a priority. A mall full of shoppers is a priority. A business center is important for the community in supplies and jobs."

It is a fact that homes are low on the list. "Life trumps property," McMillan said.

"County and state emergency responders will begin response. The state's governor declares a state of emergency — if asked. This will clear the way for federal help and money. The Federal Emergency Management Agency makes a plan to aid an area in response to the governor's request. FEMA responds. FEMA, federal troops and other outside agencies cannot come into an area unless requested by that state. The president is not going to land Marine One in your back yard to bring you water. You bring your water...Clean water is the one most essential item everywhere," McMillan said. "YO-YO."

Kelly Houghton

for Charter Review Commission Position #2

"Houghton's civic experience will make him a good member of the Charter Review Commission."

— Derek Kilmer
State Representative

"Kelly Houghton will help us improve our county government!"

— Jerry Lee
Pierce County Council

- Big Harbor resident
- Vice Chair, Economic Development Board
- Chair, Pierce County Districting Committee

www.kellyhoughton.blogspot.com

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Fire District 16's response in case of disaster

By Capt. Chuck West
Special to KP News

If a major disaster happens on the Peninsula, what are we going to do? First, stay calm; then, utilize the resources you and your family should have prepared to be on your own for 72 hours. Assess your situation and report your needs as time allows; remember that life-threatening injuries are taking precedence early on. The fire department will be triaging the needs of the community and getting help out as quickly as possible using the comprehensive plan that has been written for mitigation of the incident.

Under the Key Peninsula / Gig Harbor Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the primary EOC (emergency operations center) would be set up at the Fire District 5 headquarters on Swede Hill. The Key Peninsula would open the Vaughn station as a local EOC directing its requests to the Gig Harbor EOC, which will then direct requests to the agencies such as Red Cross, the U.S. mili-

tary, county or state.

Both of these facilities have generator backup systems with auxiliary communication systems. On the KP, all the mainland fire stations are set up with emergency generators, radio base stations, ham radio antennas and some basic personal supplies. At the Vaughn station, a Red Cross shelter kit and additional medical supplies are available. Several local churches are working to be established as Red Cross shelters as well.

The plan has had a wide range of participants, from fire districts to the city of Gig Harbor, Peninsula Light Co., Peninsula School District, the county roads and sheriff's departments. Locally, many local community organizations are working through the KP Community Council's safety committee to establish a working relationship that will allow emergency responders to act as smoothly as possible in an actual event.

The FD-16's goal is to assess the needs of the community as quickly as possible and utilize resources to mitigate the

emergencies with life safety as the first priority. In a major event such as an earthquake, the district will assess the damage internally to determine its own capabilities before it can do much of anything else. In the last earthquake, that only took a couple of minutes, but if more damage is sustained, it could take some time to dig out.

After assessing the needs of the community and the fire department, local responders would call for assistance as needed. The state has established a system of mutual aid through the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) that allows for a variety of resources to be mobilized in very timely manner. This system is tested and used every year for wildland fires, floods and similar events.

On the Key Peninsula, the disaster response capabilities have been tested with the storms that have blown in from time to time. It seems there is a storm of significance every five to seven years — so everyone should be prepared.

Fire District 16 waits out the storm, responding to medical emergencies only after the storm has passed, unless it is a life-threatening incident. After the storm has passed, the department would assist with clearing roads and securing

damaged buildings.

Through the National Incident Management System (NIMS), FD-16 organizes its staff and resources to handle events, both large and small. It is hard to predict what event might happen next, whether a major storm or a terrorist attack, but in any situation the district has the training and ability to call for whatever resources are needed. How quickly the event can be mitigated will depend on a lot of factors, such as the size of the incident, other demands for resources and the ability to get the resources here.

Because of the possible limitations of outside resources, FD-16 is creating a list of local resources and would like people to contact the Key Center station with information. The district is looking to list special skills along with contact information for specialized equipment like large generators, heavy equipment, marine crafts and specialty tools. If you have skills as a medical professional, fire or police professional, military, construction or any specialty that could be used to help during a major event, please contact the fire department at 884-2222. The list will be kept confidential for in-house use only.

Chuck West is a Captain with the Key Peninsula Fire District 16 and a longtime Key Pen resident.



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This Cedar home sits on 9.44 equestrian acres with Olympic Mt. view. Classic 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1,938 sq.ft. home features cedar, hardwood, skylights, ceramic tile & beautiful light fixtures throughout. Stalls for 4 horses each w/paddocks, pastures and heavy duty fencing. 2+ car detached carport w/workshop, loft, feed/tack rm. \$375,000 MLS # 25150185



Fantastic 4 bedroom, 2,540 sq.ft. Olympic Mt. view home sits atop 5 private acres. Mahogany viewing decks, wood wrapped windows, custom oak cabinets, ceramic tile, den/office, family room and an incredible 704 sq.ft. Bonus room. Two car garage w/room for workbench/hobby area. \$295,000 MLS # 25152882

Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened. (author unknown)



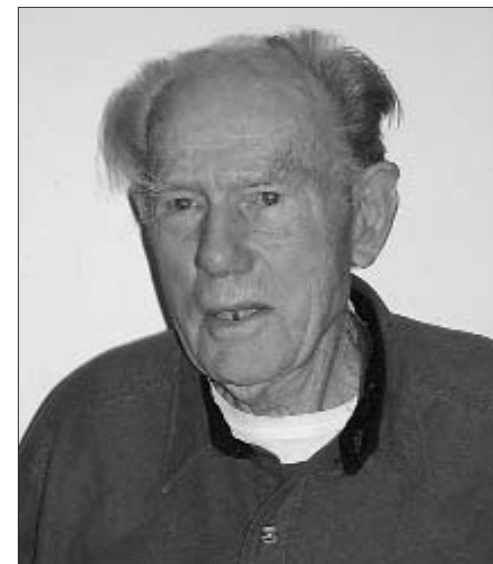
Bob Lind



Chuck Williamson



Jim Blundell



Richard Matthies

World War II veterans on the Peninsula

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Wherever one goes around the Key Peninsula, there are veterans of our country's wars, including quite a few from World War II.

Every story is different, and after listening to some, one is impressed that so many did survive that "war to end all wars."

Richard Matthies joined the Army at age 21, before the war with Japan began. Matthies was one of four brothers in the military during that war. His oldest sister was a riveter, an essential job, and later his youngest sister became a Coast Guard SPAR (Semper Paratus — Always Ready).

After Pearl Harbor, his unit was dispatched to build the Alaska Highway in order to move troops quickly if needed. He spent one and a half years in the Yukon, building 250 miles of road.

Matthies then trained to go to Europe as a combat engineer. He served in France and Germany under Gen. George Patton, and became a Jeep driver.

"We were bombed, strafed, hit," he says. He learned to get his head down when he heard the whistle preceding a bomb.

He learned German at home from his parents, and applied as a translator, but says, "I flunked," as they wanted perfect High German. He used his language skill in other ways — to speak to Germans in the countryside, tease the children, and talk to prisoners. His



VETERANS' DAY NOV. 11

commander said they didn't need a professional translator — they had Matthies.

He and two others were sent to check out Czechoslovakian villages. The sun was low, and they saw three soldiers lying in the grass, watching them. An older couple sat in front of the house and a blonde girl approached the Jeep. She said the men were hungry, had just come from Russia, had no guns, and were trying to get home. Matthies joked and jollied with them, shared some food, and told them which way to head to avoid the German army. After they left, the girl brought the U.S. soldiers steins of sweet beer.

"It was always scary," he says, "every day." They never knew what was coming.

Jim Blundell worked in the U.S. Naval Shipyard in Bremerton after finishing 11th grade at Vaughn. He was a ship-fitter, and received his high school diploma from Bremerton, although he didn't take any classes there. He joined the Navy and trained in Norman, Okla., for air combat. He learned to fly anti-submarine aircraft in Corpus Christi, Texas. He rejoined the Navy when the

Korean conflict broke out and spent six months in a patrol squadron. After that, he stayed in the Reserves and retired as senior chief.

Bob Lind says when he and a friend received draft notices, they found if they reported a week early, they might have some choice in the general area assignment. He loved mountains, had worked at Mt. Rainier in the summer, and his buddy wanted to be a doctor. Lind asked to be in the mountain troopers unit, and his friend requested medic. Lind became a medic in the 393rd Infantry Regiment, while his buddy went with the mountain troopers, and was killed a few weeks after getting to Europe.

In high school, some teachers gave the students opposing points of view on the war, so he wasn't sure which side to take, but did serve his country, and was awarded a Purple Heart.

Lind had an unusual tour, with lots of moving around, being a drummer in the marching band, and "... felt like a civilian in an Army uniform." He was at the 55th General Hospital in Great Malvern, England, later was a cook for several months in a chateau south of Paris, and was stuck on a large bridge for 24 hours, while Germans tried to take it out. The American P-38s, fast at diving, helped protect them until they could move ahead.

At Elsenborn Ridge, on about four feet of snow, something exploded beneath him, and broke enough bones in his foot that he was finished with his service time. He never achieved his dream of being a park ranger because of

that disability.

Bob Mauk, from Texas, wasn't old enough to join the Army until 1947, so he had only six months of war service. He did his basic training at Fort Ord, San Francisco, and was sent to Denver, Colo., for the remainder of his service time.

J.T. (Tom) McCormick was an Army Air Force pilot in the 17th Airborne. In Europe, they flew two or three missions a day, transporting troops and supplies. He says so many of those troops fresh from the States were scared, and he was sorry he had to just drop them off and hope they'd make it.

They were weathered in December 1944, when the Battle of the Bulge began. At midnight on New Year's Eve, he was at the Joan of Arc statue.

His squad lost a lot of pilots. He says those who made it came through on skill and luck.

Chuck Williamson served nearly three and a half years in the Navy on the troop transport General M.L. Hershing. Their sick bay housed 350 patients. His most thrilling experience was racing away from an enemy submarine laying mines. He and his shipmates were relieved to escape that area and join the rest of the convoy.

As Veterans' Day approaches, we are more aware of the freedoms we enjoy for which many brave men and women were willing to put their lives on the line. Thanks to all of these veterans who live in our midst, whether from that war, more recent conflicts, those who served their duty in peace times or within the borders of the United States.

From Pioneer Stock

Betty Boyd lives in her grandmother's house

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Betty Boyd, 81, lives in the home her father built for his mother.

Boyd was born in Bordeaux, France, where her father worked with the YMCA. His job took him to Czechoslovakia, Russia, and France.

She isn't sure what brought the first members of the family to the shores of Burley Lagoon, but her grandmother's sister Nettie and husband were there in the early 1900s, on 25 acres.

Boyd's grandmother, Clara, married a professional photographer, Charles Lamb. She had a yen for show business. When their two children were about 3 and 5, Clara took them, left her husband and family, and traveled all over the country performing in plays. The children, Stanley and Lolita, became known as The Lamb Children, "the sweetest and most confident tots to ever grace a stage," as one advertising flyer proclaimed.

The children didn't attend school, but Stanley became an avid reader. At age 15, he told his mother he wanted to go to school. They stayed with friends in Duluth,

Minn. He finished all eight grades in one year, and graduated from high school there, with his future wife.

Mother and daughter continued on the theater circuit for several more years.

Stanley worked with the YMCA in Minnesota, and after serving overseas in World War I, he stayed in Europe for awhile with YMCA facilities in various places. He returned to Duluth, married, then went back to Europe.

When Betty was about 2, Stanley bought land from his uncle to build his mother a permanent home in Wauna. His sister, Lolita, married Gladstone Murray and stayed in the area, too.

The Lambs lived in Rosedale for a year or so, before returning to the Midwest. Boyd recalls many pleasant days at her grandmother's home on their frequent visits there.

After Betty married Milton Boyd, they continued to visit Wauna, where her parents retired after her grandmother's death. When her parents died, the house was rented for awhile.

Betty and Milt discussed retiring in Wauna, then decided if they'd like to retire there, why not live there then. They arrived



Photo courtesy of Betty Boyd

Betty and George Lamb at their grandmother's Wauna home.

with six children and no job prospects.

"There was a living room, kitchen, bedroom, one bath, two tiny little bedrooms under the eaves, and an unfinished basement," Boyd says. They revamped the basement for the three boys, the girls moved into the upstairs rooms, and another large room and new bathroom were added.

Milt taught in Bremerton as a high school special education teacher, although his training was in music and drama. Before long, he got a position at Peninsula High School, where his name has become history: The auditorium, which he helped design, was named for him.

Betty Boyd has albums of her grandfather's photographs and poetry, photos and memorabilia from her father's theater years.

A large photograph on a wall is from a motorcycle trip to Alaska with Milt. "We covered every state and province, plus Mexico," she says of their motorcycle excursions.

A prized photo she took herself is of a bald eagle on her back porch. She's not sure if cat food drew the eagle, but after she snapped the picture and took a few steps to get nearer, it flew away.

"You can tell it's not a stuffed bird because of the way the cats reacted," she says with a smile.

She has a large collection of items her grandmother used, considered antiques by some. The beaded walls and memorabilia in the kitchen remind visitors of their own grandmothers' homes.

Although her children and their families are spread out, they visit the old home place, and Boyd says they plan to keep it in the family for more generations to enjoy.

Blondie's Open Mic nights

bring out the music lovers

By Karen Hale
KP News

Since March of this year, Billy Farmer has been the guiding hand leading local musicians in open mic nights at Blondie's every Tuesday night.

Farmer opens at 7 p.m. with some talking and tunes and gets everyone into the mood. At 8 p.m., he will call up anyone in the audience who is willing to show their stuff. Depending on who is present, people will either do solos, or Farmer will play along with them. Farmer does all the introductions, leads the applause and encourages singers and musicians to perform. The format is acoustic as opposed to a strictly electric guitar sound, so more of the undertones and voices can be heard. Local songwriters are also encouraged to come and play their lyrics.

The genre is pretty open — rock, blues, folk, bluegrass — in Farmer's words, "earthy." He said, "It's a Bob Dylan, John

Prine, Neil Young meets Fleetwood Mac kinda thing." Farmer himself is a big fan of Norman Blake, who is an astounding bluegrass picker.

Farmer has been in the music business since he was a teen. Growing up in the Tacoma area, he went on the road at 15 and has been at it ever since, but recently decided to come back to his roots. Farmer currently appears in two bands: When he's with The Ramblers, a trio with band members Jay Douglas and Tommy Taylor, he plays rock, country, blues and classics. When he's in Acousticussion, a duo with partner Lem Durant, he plays, in his words, "Latin Country. A kinda Johnny Cash meets Desi Arnaz."

Farmer said, "The gift of music I've been given — I consider it a privilege to be able to do this. I've been doing music professionally since I was 18 years old and am now 44. Music is young and lively to me. When I wake up every day, I want to figure out a melody first thing... Music is a true



Photo courtesy of Billy Farmer

Billy Farmer at the Tuesday night Open Mic at Blondie's.

comforter to people in the world." More personal goals for Farmer include teaching himself banjo and staying healthy.

Farmer's future goals for Blondie's include to eventually do live remote as well as record the participants and make compilation CDs for yearly recordings (with permission). Farmer would like to see special events come to Blondie's, such as inviting singer/songwriters, quasi-

famous and/or "almost-knowns." Broadcasting on KGHP either from Blondie's or through recordings would be another venue.

Farmer plays other functions as well. He can be heard at Narrows Landing, Merrill Gardens and "Can Jams" in Gig Harbor for the Fish Food bank during their events.

For more about Billy Farmer, go to www.billyfarmer.com.

Memorial skate park plans move ahead

By Danna Webster
KP News

"Tears in Heaven" is the major fund-raising event for the Zech and Adrienne West Memorial Skate Park project. It is a project conceived by Sharon and Chuck West to honor the life of their son, Zech, who was a skateboard enthusiast.

Zech's love of skateboard skills began when he was 12 and continued with his free-lance demonstrations in Italy while he served his tour of duty in the U.S. Navy. A year ago, Zech and Adrienne, his young bride of three weeks, were killed in an auto accident in the Cascade Mountains. The West family turned from the grieving process to a process of building a memorial that would celebrate the lives of the young couple.

There have been other fund-raisers for this popular project but "Tears in Heaven" is regarded as the major kick-off fund-raiser for the skate park. The evening will feature dinner, dancing and live and silent auctions. Guests will dance to the tunes of the Almost Handsome Jazz



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The Almost Handsome Band will provide the entertainment for the "Tears in Heaven" fund-raiser.

Band and the dinner entrée is a choice of prime rib or basil chicken. Auction items include artwork by local artists, antiques and a date with a firefighter. Attire for the evening is semi-formal and advance-only ticket sales are available at \$50 per person.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.

The work on the skate park is moving steadily ahead. Most funds raised so far will contribute to the design costs. The

"I'm in it for the long haul."

-Chuck West

Seattle company Gridline will design the project. According to West, Gridline has built skate parks all over the world and several in the Puget Sound area. The project is active in the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District's decision-making process for the new 360-acre Department of Natural Resources parkland acquisition (see related story on the cover) and also hopes to contribute a small half-pipe skate area on the tennis courts at Volunteer Park.

West recognizes that the project will take a great deal of time to complete. "I'm in it for the long haul," he says and notes that the project is "not going to have the property for another year."

Information about the "Tears in Heaven" fund-raiser and the skate park project is available by calling Chuck West at 884-1366.

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(From LULU, Page 1)

vaguely that she's lost her way, but has she actually lost her mind when her 13-year-old self appears in the backseat of her car? Her 13-year-old self is dissatisfied with the adult she has become. In an effort to get rid of the 13-year-old in the back seat, the main character walks into a bar; the bar is Homeport. Her child character, played by actor Maggie Brown, peers through the window and watches as her adult self, played by actor Amber Hubert, has a drink among the locals, played by Lakebay residents Phyllis and Art Olson.

"We were scenery," says Art Olson. "All we did was sit and the action took place in front of me." Olson guesses they shot the same scene about 32 times. He and Phyllis had to sit with imaginary drinks and Art had to smoke a cigarette. He told the film crew, after all the retakes to get the scene right, "I'm gonna die of lung cancer."

When asked if this might be his Academy Award nomination, Art says he doesn't think so. That prompted Homeport owner, LuLu Smith, to say, "He's a big star around here anyway."

Smith had nothing but praise and appreciation for the film producers and crew.

"All very nice," she says. "You expect those people to be stuck up or something but everyone was very nice. I can't believe they can do all they did in such a little space."

The real-life Homeport bartender, Bobbie Trudgon, is the prettiest girl in town, according to Art Olson. Trudgon describes that day in April as a "big mess out here, though plenty exciting."

Smith, Trudgon, the Olsons and a few local residents looked on as the film crew worked their magic. They produced an episode in the story where 23-year-old Kate picks up with a fellow

"He's a big star around here anyway."

-LuLu Smith, Homeport owner

in the bar, leaves with him, and walks up the street. Meanwhile, the child character, who watched through the window, is filmed outside walking in the rain and despondent.

"We Go Way Back" was written and directed by Lynn Shelton, a filmmaker, editor, actor and a product of the Art Institute of Seattle. She attended graduate school at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and worked with prominent New York experimental filmmakers. She has produced an award-winning documentary and her films have been screened at dozens of festivals and venues.

The Film Company is an initiative of The Northwest Film forum of Seattle. According to Joy Fairfield, production manager, the company is dedicated to energize and support the independent film community. It collaborates with innovative artists in the production of a yearly season of new work. The Film Company is the nation's first nonprofit film studio.

In late August, "We Go Way Back" was submitted to the Sundance Film Festival. The results will be known around the first of next year, before the festival.

"Independent films are all about festivals," says Fairfield. "You high profile them as much as you can. The distribution company comes to see the films (at festivals like Sundance). (Its) future is determined by festival play."

In addition to the Sundance Film Festival, the film will be submitted to festivals in Germany and the Netherlands. Fairfield says she will report the festival results to the KP News.



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(From **GOVERNOR**, Page 1)

assembly attended by a variety of dignitaries and community members, ranging from city of Gig Harbor officials, school principals, and Key Peninsula Community Council directors to firefighters, educators and state Rep. Derek Kilmer. A NASA public relations representative remarked during a pre-assembly reception for the visitors how unusual it was to get such a great number of community leaders for this kind of event.

"I come to say to you, 'Dream.' Let no door be closed to you," Gregoire said in her address to the students. "I am here to ask every one of you to go as far as you can go."

Gregoire praised the school for its increased Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores last year. She shared her experience during her recent trip to China, and said the state is no longer competing with its neighbors Oregon and Idaho — it is competing with countries like China.

"If you don't do your homework, if you don't get your diploma" and get as much education as possible, "your future job will go to that kid in China or Japan or India," she said. Gregoire also shared her personal experience in achieving her dreams and setting out as a young woman to live up to the great expectations set for her by her mother. During the speech, Gregoire asked the adult audience to give a standing ovation to the students.

"I want the Key Peninsula Middle School to be rated one of the top schools not just in this state, not just in this country, but in the whole wide world," she said. "...If you are from the Key Peninsula Middle School, you have what it takes."

Bergeson, who also addressed the students, said she selected KPMS this summer as one of three schools in the state to spotlight during her annual

report. She said she had followed the school's progress since attending the kick-off ceremony last year, and noticed a difference in the school's strengths and confidence of staff and students.

"You are a model for the whole country. You are a model, clearly, for the state," she said.

Two special speakers at the assembly were NASA's Mark Leon, director of education at the Ames Research Center, and Dr. Jim Rice, an astrogeologist who's been working on the Mars missions.

"You are the best, that's why we're here," Leon said. "Everything you do, it's built on math."

Both Rice and Leon shared their struggles as students. Rice was inspired to become an astronaut as a child while watching the Apollo missions. He fell a bit short of becoming a NASA astronaut, but instead became one of the key people in the Mars Rover exploration missions. He recalled being discouraged by teachers to dream about space because he was not a very good student (who failed algebra), but he didn't give up.

"This country to me is built on explorers and dreams, and people who don't give up," he said, making a parallel between the discoveries made by Columbus and discoveries being made today.

The assembly marked the beginning of the second NASA Explorer year at KPMS. Science teacher Kareen Borders, credited with bringing the opportunity to the school, told the KP News plans for this year include continuing the family night program, which was very successful last year, and increasing the community outreach. The first community outreach event, a lecture by Dr. Chris McKay, was held in September, and similar events will be planned. The school was also one of 10 selected to pilot a "Lunar Challenge" program, which will involve 15 sixth-grade students and their parents.



Ames Research Center Education Director Mark Leon chats with students Leanna Chenoweth and Tricia Floyd, who greeted all the special visitors to the school.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Above, Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson visits with KPMS teacher Kareen Borders and eighth graders April Carbone and Nick Mullins before the NASA assembly.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Left, KPMS choir students entertained the audience during the program.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Sitting in the audience among the special visitors, KPMS Principal Sharon Shaffer, Gov. Christine Gregoire, science teacher Kareen Borders, Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson, Peninsula School District Superintendent Jim Coolican, Dr. Jim Rice of NASA, and Ames Research Center's Mark Leon.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

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Author follows a story of 'Courage, Confidence and Silence' in book

By Paula Moore
KP News

Judy Woods-Knight sits in her home in Wauna, with the beautiful bay and majestic Mount Rainier as her background. She is bubbling over with excitement and joy as she shares her tale of how she came to write her newest book, "Courage, Confidence and Silence."

Four years ago, soon after the Sept. 11 attacks, Woods-Knight was meditating over the violence and chaos left by this great tragedy. She wished she could share her thoughts with her husband, Jim Knight, who retired from the Army as a full colonel. But she couldn't. Knight, who is now a consultant for the Army, was far away on assignment overseas.

Suddenly, she remembered Mount Angel, a Benedictine monastery, in Salem, Ore. This would be a place where she would find comfort with others seeking understanding and peace. Woods-Knight called and set up a retreat for the next day.

When she got to Mount Angel's, she received a shock. After asking, "When will the other people be arriving?" she found she had signed up for a "private" retreat. Woods-Knight says she reacted like most women would, when presented with a similar problem: She went on a "shopping spree" at the monastery's gift shop.

The rest of the day she was kept busy with the six calls to worship that the monastery performs. It was only after Woods-Knight's favorite call, Compline, where the monks call back and forth to each other blessings for a good night's sleep, that she was finally able to relax. She began to shuffle through the many books she had bought that day. One called "Making of Saints" by Kenneth L. Woodward caught her eye. As she began to read, she learned the story of a young rich woman, Cornelia Peacock Connelly, who left everything to marry Pierce Connelly, an Episcopal minister. She became so entranced by this story that she read through the night, even though she knew the Vigils began at 5:20 that morning.

In the following days, Woods-Knight looked through many books in Mount Angel's library. She found references to Connelly, but none were newer than the last half-century, and none gave all the information she wanted about this fascinating woman's life.

Woods-Knight realized she was hooked, and when the retreat was completed, she



Judy Woods-Knight stands with a full-size replica of Cornelia Peacock Connelly (the subject of her book). Woods-Knight created this replica of the nun's habit, which was designed by Connelly, and hand-sewn and worn by the sisters of her convent. While speaking at functions about her book, Woods-Knight wears the habit and authentic nun's shoes.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

"I admire her, because she worked in the confines of uncertainty, and always with never enough money."

-Judy Woods-Knight

knew she must find out more about Connelly. She was on a mission, and had to write a book about her.

Woods-Knight, who went to Catholic schools most of her life in the Salem area, said, "I was not one of the nun's favorite students, so it was a surprise that I would be called to write such a story. It hit me like a bolt out of the blue."

When she came home, she looked in several libraries, and was given a book written in 1956, "Case of Cornelia Connelly" by Juliana Wadham, who had attended Cornelia's school in England. Woods-Knight received a clue from this book and contacted the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in Philadelphia. They were very glad to assist and gave her many materials that helped her learn more about CC, a title Woods-Knight began to use when thinking or writing about Connelly. However, she found she still needed a timeline to be able to decipher CC's life. She applied to the Vatican in Rome to ask for the privilege to search the archives to read her "positio," or position, to find the truth. This is a privilege very rarely granted, so Woods-Knight was totally surprised to

learn she was invited to Rome.

She met her husband in Germany, where he was stationed, and the couple proceeded to the Vatican. Judy found herself ill with a bad case of bronchitis, which plagued her the whole time she was researching the "positio." In the archives, she found a personal diary spanning decades of CC's life. While reading, she discovered a drawing in one corner of a page where CC had scribbled in an image of J M and J woven together in a symbol that she recognized from her school years as the abbreviation of the Jesus, Mary, and Joseph novena. Cornelia had drawn this symbol on the page, noting that was the day her child had died after a horrible accident. CC had held the child for 43 hours before his death.

Woods-Knight asked if she could photo-

copy the symbol, but was told she could only take hand-written notes. She quickly drew it on her notepaper, and then feeling more ill because of the damp and dusty atmosphere, she went back to her hotel. Preparing to lie down on her bed, she noticed the hotel's stationery had a crest on it that was the same she had seen in the diary. This seemed to confirm to her she was being called to write this very important story to share with the world.

This book is a "must buy," a captivating story about Cornelia Connelly's incredible life and trials. Soon after her marriage, Cornelia's life begins to resemble a roller coaster, as her husband, Pierce, decides to leave the Episcopal Church to become a Catholic. He struggles with his faith and decisions, causing heartache and tragedies, even coming to the place where he kidnaps his own children. However, CC perseveres to become the founder of her own order, the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, and an innovative teacher who was a pioneer in the educational field.

Woods-Knight said, "I admire her, because she worked in the confines of uncertainty, and always with never enough money."

For the next four years, Woods-Knight traveled to Drexel Hill, Pa., Mayfield in England, Grand Coteau, La., and on another trip to Rome, as she lived out the story she was to write. She went to see not only the places where CC lived, but to meet sisters who are part of her heritage.

Woods-Knight is thrilled that her and CC's book, "Courage, Confidence, and Silence," is now in bookstores. She will have a signing at Borders in Lakewood on Nov. 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. She will be wearing a replica "habit" (a religious dress nuns wore during the era) that she made herself, and sharing this joyful, exciting story.

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At a glance...

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Where do general fund monies come from?



Minter Creek Elementary celebrates 20 years



Several of the school's original staff members were honored at a special assembly.

Minter Creek Elementary, the youngest of the Key Peninsula's three elementary schools, celebrated its 20th anniversary in September with a special assembly. Several original teachers and staff members were honored at an open house, and special recognition was given to parents who were former students and now have their own children enrolled at Minter.

'Technology has changed quite a bit, but a lot of things are similar. The community atmosphere and the family culture have stayed the same,' says Minter's Principal Steve Leitz, who has been with the school for eight years and is the building's second principal since it opened.

Leitz says the highly trained staff contribute to the strength of Minter Creek Elementary. Many of the teachers have advanced degrees and are longtime school employees. 'The staff models lifelong learning,' he says.

School counselor Ann Olson is among three staff members who have worked in the building since the 1985 opening. 'I always enjoy the exuberance of the students,' she says. 'I've loved my job.'

Olson recalls the school having only 200 students 20 years ago, but says even through its growth Minter has maintained its family atmosphere. 'It has a staff that's very cohesive and has high expectations—and the students live up to them,' she says.



November events

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 5 | PHS Booster Auction
Carnewood |
| 9 | School Board Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m.
District Office |
| 11 | No School
Veterans' Day |
| 14 | PHS Fall Band
Concert 7:30 p.m. |
| 15 | District Band Fest
Chapel Hill Church
7:30 p.m. |
| 16 | PHS "A Little Nite
Music" 7:00 p.m. |
| 24 & 25 | No School
Thanksgiving Break |
| 26 & 27 | WinterFest at PHS
Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. |

December events

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 3 & 4 | TideFest at GHHS |
| 8 | Goodman Middle
School Band Concert
7-8:00 p.m. |
| 15 | School Board
Regular Meeting
6:30 p.m. ESC |
| 19 - Jan. 2 | No School
Winter Break |



Recreational swim open to
the public at PHS

Wednesdays 7-8:30 p.m.
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Photos of the month



Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson visits with Peninsula High freshmen, former KPMS students, Jessica Henderson and Ashley Torres, before a special NASA Explorer school kick-off assembly, which was also attended by state Gov. Christine Gregoire and other dignitaries and community leaders.



Gig Harbor Mayor Gretchen Wilbert talks with Dr. Jim Rice, the keynote speaker of the KPMS assembly, who has worked with NASA's Mars missions.

Retired librarian feels 'at home' in her former building

By Danna Webster
KP News

Before 1981, there was no Pierce County Library System branch in Key Center. The first official PCLS branch on the Key Peninsula was established in 1946 in Vaughn. The Key Center Library moved into the present building, built by a HUD grant, in 1981, after having been through several buildings and mergers.

In 1982, Dory Myers accepted a job with the 1-year-old Key Center Library. She left her reference librarian status in Lakewood for a nonprofessional, supervisory clerical title because she lived here and "loved it."

"It took a long time to find just the right job for me. My other work was enjoyable but this was a perfect fit. I never had a boring moment...never looked at a watch in over 20 years," Myers says. Her official retirement date was Dec. 31, 2004.

Myers has loved the Key Peninsula since the time she moved here with her husband, Bill, in 1968. She commuted to Tacoma, where she worked in the Pierce County library headquarters and eventually became head of the reference department at the Lakewood branch.

A few years before moving to Key Pen, Myers received a master's degree in Library Science from the University of Washington while working full-time in the UW library and attending classes.

Myers brought two formative principles with her to the Key Center Library. First was her perception of the importance of public libraries to a democracy.

"I think libraries are one of the most important democratic institutions in the U.S., in any country, when there is free access to information," she says.

The second principle was her belief that

the library staff must know how to help people from toddlers to seniors. There should be an attitude, on the part of the staff, to help people get what they want.

"One of my goals, and I think I accomplished this, was to make everyone coming into the library feel this was their place to be. Just like it was their place to be in their own homes," she says.

A former president of the Friends of the Library, Keith Stiles, recognizes Myers' goal for the residents of the peninsula. "It is their library. Dory always wanted it to belong to the people who live here," he says.

Over Myers' 22 years of service, many changes were realized. The library staff doubled and changes required training at every step of the way. According to Myers, technology goes out of date quickly but the staff absorbed all the new formats.

Tax laws changed and sent budgets into a downward spiral. Each budget year, the library considered "what would be the first thing we'd drop." "You always know somebody is going to want that (what was changed or dropped)," Myers says.

The music collections changed from phonographs to cassette tapes to CDs, and now DVDs are on the horizon. And there have been changes in book circulation statistics. In 1981, the book circulation was 29,458. In 1982, the circulation increased to 40,616. When Myers retired in 2004, the circulation was 167,192.

Changes and workload did not slow down with the transition, in 2005, to the new Community Branch Supervisor Rosina Vertz. The circulation statistic increased by 21.4 percent between April 2004 and April 2005. Vertz's experience working with the Key Center branch since the 1990s helped with the transition. She felt "pretty confident that being acquainted with the community and with how the Key Center branch is working

would help," Vertz says.

Patrons like Rachel Bigford agree that the library has kept all its finest qualities. She comes to the library sometimes four days a week. She brings her daughter, 4-year-old Ashley, to the storytelling program, which Bigford describes as "awesome." "(Ashley) has started getting more friends. And it's great for me not to be in the house all week...great for the kids, too," Bigford says.

Bigford is moving to Ollala but she tells the staff at the check-out desk, "I'll still come here. This is the best."

The door-count of visitors to the library support Bigford's opinion. The library is recording between 11,000 and 12,000 trips through the doors per month. With such a door-count, the library may qualify as the entertainment capital of Key Center.

Myers still comes through those doors on a regular basis. During the two years prior to her retirement, as Bill Myers' health failed, her husband became her priority, which eventually necessitated her retirement. "The library was such a passion for me that if I had to leave under any other conjecture, it would have been so emotional," Myers says.

The recent death of her husband has brought more changes to her life. She has always been inquisitive and it is natural for her to turn to the library for answers. "So now I'm literally soul searching and trying to figure out (what's next)," Myers says.

She reads everything from light to serious, fiction to nonfiction, and watches movies to kill time. She searches online for new information and is appreciative that the library provides the use of the Internet for free. The principles that Myers set for the library have returned to serve her. As a great institution in our democratic society, it is providing free access to information in an environment where she feels as comfortable as in her own home.



MYERS

The history of the library

The Vaughn community began to organize its first public library way before the official establishment of the first PCLS branch on the Key Peninsula in 1946. According to Dorothy Fields, author of "Vaughn Bay History," in 1892 the Vaughn Bay Public Library Association met once a month during the full moon. The moon provided light to facilitate the night walks to the library meetings at the schoolhouse. The association collected books from the community, ranging from Shakespeare to over 150 years of literature, and housed them in a corner of the post office until a public hall and library were built by volunteer labor. The new Vaughn hall and reading room opened in 1894 and served as a public library for 63 years.

In 1957, Pierce County cooperated with the Vaughn Library Association and moved the library to the Key Peninsula Civic Center building. The Vaughn Library eventually merged with other community libraries from Home (est. 1899), Longbranch (est. 1906), Herron and Lakebay. The book collections were merged, thanks to extensive help from the Friends of the Library group, and were housed in the Evergreen School until 1979. In 1981 the library moved into its current location.

The time gap between the closing of the Evergreen Library and the move into Key Center is explained by a difference in opinion between Pierce County and the Friends group about library service to the Key Peninsula. Pierce County favored a bookmobile service and the Friends wanted a consolidated permanent library building. The position of the Friends group prevailed though it was not an easy accomplishment.

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(From **PARKS**, Page 1)

is currently unnamed.

KPMPD Director Scott Gallacher told the KP News, "When I took this position, one of the items that intrigued me was the possibility of the property and its potential development. The acquisition of the 360 (acres) will be a great asset to the community. At the present time, it is a blank canvas, but the size of the property will enable it to possibly be a regional park with a wide variety of either passive or active recreational opportunities for all. The possible uses could be trails, fields (soccer/baseball/multipurpose) skate park, equestrian, outdoor recreational vehicles, fairgrounds, event site, just to name a few."

Gallacher says the park district will seek to learn the community's vision for the park. "Some ideas will be reasonable and some will not, based upon the constraints placed upon the property," he said. "We need to have public involvement to complete our Comprehensive Plan in order to seek grants."

A Park Development Committee has been formed to bring ideas to the park commissioners. Core group volunteer members include Kurt Self (representing Key Peninsula Little League and soccer interests), Ron Cleveland (Renaissance

Faire owner), Chuck West (spearheading the development of a skate park), Ben Thompson (former commissioner of the now dissolved KP Parks and Recreation), Taylor, park commissioners and Gallacher.

"We anticipate having more individuals on the committee who will represent other interested parties/groups (trails, ORV, equestrian, etc.)," said KPMPD President Paula DeMoss. "The role of the committee will be to provide the board with input from the community and research the community's needs and wants. They will be preparing dates for public forums, public surveys, inquiring about different user groups that want to be considered as the park forms."

The park district anticipates the transfer to be complete next year. The property is listed as No. 12 out of 25 properties under the 2005-2007 Tax Land Transfer (TLT) Property List that was approved by the state Legislature during last session.

"As I understand the transfer conditions, the property has to be used for recreational purposes. This is a complex issue, and I am sure that we will be educated upon conditions or covenants that may or may not be allowed," Gallacher said.

DeMoss acknowledged that one of the

most serious concerns that will be considered is the traffic issue. Due to the property layout, some additional property access possibilities exist. The committee is working on two alternate access routes. One is through private property off 115th on the west. The other is an undeveloped county right of way off Oust Road, through private property on the northeast to 94th.

At a recent meeting, Cleveland presented his plans for the DNR 360 acres. He had a contract with the old park district, which he feels KPMPD should honor. He requested 80 acres in the northeast corner of the property be designated for an amphitheater, camping facility, parking, jousting arena, and eventually a permanent interpretive medieval village — all of which he plans to permanently fence off from the rest of the property. In exchange, in addition to yet-undetermined rent, Cleveland said he would install three wells with filtering on one. His proposal includes a circular gravel road — meeting county standards — following existing logging roads, with a right turn lane on westbound State Route 302 onto graveled 144th Street. He plans neither a left turn lane nor a traffic signal.

Events in his plan include the Renaissance Faire, Shakespearean festivals, highland games, equestrian events, Mountain Man rendezvous, rodeos, folk festivals, bluegrass festivals, scouting jamborees, orienteering competitions, and Civil War reenactments, among others, putting the property in use 35 to 40 weekends per year. Cleveland wants limited access to the north 80 acres because of his investment in the property and paid admissions to the site. He would like to see a permanent facility be built within 10 years. He wants a very long-term lease because of the commercial development he proposes. He claims that his proposal may have a \$10 million impact on the Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas, and says he needs a minimum 25 acres of parking, but he wants to keep the site as natural as possible. He believes his entrance off SR-302 will not be a problem because most of his events' traffic will come from the east, but he still plans on hiring flaggers.

Cleveland said he would pursue grants for Ren Faire to be used for a theater and other capital projects. He projects a cost of about \$1 million to run his facility annually.

DeMoss said that KPMPD has decided it should ask the public's input on the property's use before it can negotiate with Cleveland. She said Cleveland should expect to address questions in

Park district looking for properties

Like a modern day Christopher Columbus, KPMPD Land Acquisition Committee Chairman Ed Taylor is looking for land. "I encourage property owners to consider donating their land to the park district," he says. "Representatives of the park district will be pleased to privately meet with anybody interested. They can contact me at 884-3600 for additional information. The property owner would deed his property to the park district now and receive possible tax benefits now. The property owner would reserve a life interest in the property, which may or may not include the right to continue to use and occupy the property until a certain time in the future. This agreement could be very easy or very complicated, and I would not want to recommend such a transaction to the board unless I was sure the property owner was well represented by professional legal and tax advisers."

More information on the Key Pen Metropolitan Park District is available online at keypeninsulaparks.com. For information, contact the park district at info@keypeninsulaparks.com or by calling 884-9240.

public hearings.

The facility has brought forward many dreams. Committee member Ron Self said soccer and Little League would also like facilities on the 360 acres. He feels the community needs to be involved in a decision this large and no decisions should be rushed. Ross Bischoff, KPMPD commissioner, said the KP needs a horse facility and fairgrounds. West continues to work on the development of a skate park and feels the new park could be a good site for the facility. He says a permanent facility could cost between \$150,000 to \$250,000, which could be paid by raising \$100,000 and applying for matching grants.

DeMoss said, "The KPMPD is very interested in what the community wants to see in the 360 and it will be the community's response that will determine the priorities of the park. We want to know what the community wants it to look like, what is their vision? This is a very difficult job because at our current meetings we have few community members in attendance. In fact, at Monday's meeting (Oct. 10) the only people in attendance were three board members and our park director. This concerns me."



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Out & About



'Bully' president comes to life at LIC

Photo by Hugh McMillan; story by Karen Hale

The Longbranch Players recently presented the play "Bully!" at the Longbranch Improvement Club, starring Rick May in a one-act play. May, a Kirkland resident, presented President "Teddy" Roosevelt as a highly motivated, humorous, witty and deeply feeling man. The audience watched this bear of a man go through the death of his mother and first wife on the same day, blow off political undercurrents during his tenure and into his retirement, and receive word that his son had been killed in action. The play, written by Jerome Alden and

directed by Ann Arends, had music and sounds provided by Steve Mitchell Productions. It was like watching someone's diary unfolding slowly and being reacted to. In two different scenes, Roosevelt stomped through the events full-speed ahead with a pistol in hand – and gunshots were fired. Of course, they were theatrical blanks, but everyone jumped nonetheless.

May, a longtime performer, told the KP News that he worked on the memorization of this play for three months before he had it perfected, and has been performing it for a year now.



'Unfortunate events' happen at the library

Photo and story by Hugh McMillan

Saturday, Oct. 15, during a performance of "Beware of Lemony Snicket" at the Pierce County Library in Key Center, members of the audience became instant actors who repeated lines fed them by "Presenter of Instant Plays" Holly Gwinn Graham of Olympia (pictured), to the delight of both performers and audience members. Those who didn't participate shared laughs, sad sighs and even some singing. The production was under the guidance of Graham, who led the cast made up of Vaughn Elementary School fifth graders Alex Tollefson, Mikki Olson and Erin Orr, Key Peninsula Middle School sixth grader Haydan Dickinson, and Peninsula High School junior Alexandria Olson (all pictured) as the main characters of the books "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events." They were later joined by dads Bruce Orr and Norman Dickinson, Sue Stuhau, and Vaughn fifth-grader Kendra Brown and mom Ellen Brown. The production was made possible by the Friends of the Key Center Library in consort with the Pierce County Library. Saturday, Nov. 19, "Puppets Please" will come to the library; marionettes will perform songs, music and audience interaction in the middle of a circle of children.



U.S. Navy Capt. Larry Seaquist (ret.) addresses the 10th annual Peninsula Schools Education Foundation fund-raising breakfast on Columbus Day at the Peninsula High School commons and asks, "Where will our students of today be 50 years from now and how will we prepare them to cope with and succeed in dealing with what will be a vastly different world than ours?"

Photo by Hugh McMillan