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The view along the Purdy Sand Spit may change in the next year after efforts to save and restore the old Wauna post office were halted.

Photo by  
Rodika Tollefson

## Light goes out on restoration effort

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Two opposing parties came to a Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District in January prepared to argue why commissioners should vote for or against supporting restoration efforts of the historic Wauna post office. But by the time the meeting ended, the subject of the conflict became a non-issue.

The Purdy Sand Spit, where the building is located, is currently owned by Pierce County Parks, but will likely

become a property of the KPMPD, now that some of the county's funding goes to the local park district. The commissioners held the public hearing before they would vote on whether the MPD should support restoration efforts when — if — it acquires the property.

Nancy Lind, representing the Friends of Wauna Post Office group that has fought for the project for two years, was outnumbered at the hearing by a handful of neighbors, who have long

(See **WAUNA PO**, Page 24)

## Not taking life for granted

### A young woman's long road to recovery

By Karen Hale  
KP News

Mirahna "Roni" Amrhein will be setting off metal detectors for the rest of her life. Nearly two months after an accident that nearly killed her (see Key Peninsula News, January 2005), two permanently placed steel rods in her body hold her arm and back in place. But despite an extraordinary change in her life, she keeps optimistic.

On Dec. 2, she was almost home, driving on Whiteman Road, when she saw a deer in the road. Swerving to



Photo by Karen Hale  
"Roni" Amrhein recovering at her home.

miss it, she turned on the wet road into the gravel on the side and her brand-new Kia Sportage went over the

(See **RONI**, Page 24)

## PSD asks to continue levy tax funding

By Danna Webster  
KP News

Nineteen percent of the Peninsula School District budget was supported by a levy tax passed in 2002, which is about to expire. In order to maintain the current budget for 2006-09, voters must approve the continuance of the levy for the next four years. The replacement levy will not increase taxes, according to Peninsula District officials, and at an estimated \$2.25 per \$1,000 of assessed property value the first year (\$2.17 thereafter), they say it is the second lowest school levy tax rate in all of Pierce County.

The request to approve the replacement levy will be on the ballot Feb. 8 for Gig Harbor and Key Pen voters. There is no organized opposition to the levy replacement proposal but there must be a 60 percent registered voter turnout to validate the election.

The levy money budget of about \$14.8 million per year is monitored by an audit committee comprised of community members. "The Peninsula School District audit committee assures accountability for the expenditure of all levy dollars," says Marcia Harris, PSD deputy superintendent. It is the committee's job to check on how the dollars are spent and on the results. The levy-spending plan for 2006-2009 budgets top dollars for curriculum, district operations (maintenance and technology support), and workforce support (office, paraprofessional and professional support and development).

"Levy funding provides salaries for 25 teachers, 50 percent of custodial staff, 60 percent of clerical staff and instructional assistants, 80 percent of technical support staff and health technicians for every school," according to information from Citizens for Peninsula Schools, a group that promotes the election with the slogan "Great communities support great schools."

Information about the levy election is available at [www.supportgreatschools.com](http://www.supportgreatschools.com) or by calling the district at 857-3500.

# Local residents join efforts to help tsunami victims

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

People around the world have been watching in horror over the last month as the death toll from the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami in Asia soared to nearly 300,000. The disaster at first appeared too daunting even for large, experienced aid agencies. But while the scope of it can barely be comprehended or described in simple words, the tragedy has shown a glimpse into the human spirit — that is, the desire to help the desperate and the devastated with a blind eye to geography, skin color, faith, military might or government structure.

Thousands of miles away from the devastation, on the Key Peninsula, the plight of those affected couldn't seem further. But that didn't stop the local community's efforts to help the victims as if they were simply across the street.

"It renews your faith in the American people, it shows you what good hearts they have," said Judy Hardin as she sorted clothes outside the Key Peninsula



Photo by Frank Slater

Above, Brian Comb receives a check from students of Vaughn Elementary for an orphanage in Sri Lanka. Also shown are teacher Marci Cummings, counselor Laurel Young, and presenters Haley, Caleb and Ashley, first graders.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Left, Judy and Ty Hardin sort donations that were delivered by KPCS to World Concern.

## Local efforts

KPVI will collect items through the end of February at the Fire District 16 headquarters in Key Center, Moreland & Sons auto repair shop, Peninsula Market at Lake Kathryn, the Home Store, KP Lutheran Church in Lakebay, and at a special trailer parked in the parking lot of the Purdy shopping center. Needs include clothes, towels, sheets, fabric, blankets, and new undergarments. For information, call 884-4551 or 884-4407.

You can also donate to the local chapter or Red Cross (see related story on page 17).

food bank on a nippy January day.

Hardin and her husband, Ty, were part of a small group of volunteers who spent long hours over three or four days sorting through clothing and supply donations that poured into the KP Community Center. Considering

the very short notice, it was an incredible outpouring of support.

"I wanted to do something to help; we asked what can we do in the community, and the community just came through," said Cristi Watson, KPCS executive director. Five days after the

tsunami, Watson and her helpers put up flyers, called other church and group leaders, and asked everybody to spread the word. Her deadline? The following Wednesday, Jan. 5, at 4 p.m.

Wednesday morning, barrels and boxes filled with everything from clothes, shoes and blankets to medical supplies were being sorted and loaded in a moving van, donated to the center by Hill Moving Co. several months prior.

"I figured it was a good cause so it was worth it," said Sharon Rikansrud, who spent a few days to gather items from her home, and with husband John dropped off a small load on the way to the seniors' lunch at the center.

The local ward of the Latter Day Saints Church was among those who responded to the KPCS call. In two days, church members gathered several dozen blankets, quilts, hygiene kits (tooth paste, soap, hand towels etc.), along with diapers, clothes and medical supplies.

"It was a wonderful response," said Virda Lawrence, organizer of the church's humanitarian activities.

By the time the KPCS van made its way to World Concern in Lynnwood just a week after the flyers were made, it was filled. Never mind that the trip took double or triple time on the icy roads. The volunteers who made the delivery were in good spirits.

So were the students at Vaughn Elementary on a recent Friday, when their school handed over a check for \$2,507.41 to Brian Comb, a representative of Faith International. The money was collected by students in every classroom through a coin drive. School counselor Laurel Young found out that one of the parents was planning a trip through Faith International to build and rebuild orphanages in Sri Lanka that were affected by the calamity, and suggested the idea.

The help efforts continue. Key Peninsula Veterans Institute members also started a donation drive and will hold it through the end of February. Clothes, blankets, shoes, sheets, and other items are being collected for delivery to World Concern, and can be dropped off at several area businesses.

"The people are very generous. This community is noted for that," said the group's Eileen Young. "We are collecting as much as we can. It could have been us, here, instead of them."

## Peninsula KEY NEWS

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# Dream park depends on funds appropriations

By William C. Dietz  
KP News

Park supporters are hopeful that the Key Pen will get a brand new park in the north side of the peninsula sometime during 2006. That's if Governor-elect Christine Gregoire supports the idea — and if the Legislature appropriates sufficient funds.

The parcel of land, more than 300 acres in all, is located near 144th and State Route 302, and has been eyed by a parks acquisition committee for a few years.

Bonnie Bunning, executive director for policy and administration with Department of Natural Resources, says, "There have been various harvests on the property over the years, so the existing trees are of various ages, depending on when they were planted."

When Bunning refers to "harvests," she means that the land has been logged from time to time, producing revenue for the Washington State School Construction Account. The state's 2.1 million acres of publicly owned forested trust lands, plus 1.2

million acres of agriculture and grazing lands, generate about \$87 million per year, used to construct K-12 schools throughout Washington. (A formula determines how costs are shared with local school districts.)

How could the state-owned land be transformed into a park? And how would that impact schools, not to mention other state programs? "The process is called the Trust Land Transfer program," Bunning said. "The Legislature appropriates general fund money to buy the value of the remaining timber and the value of the underlying land. The value of the timber is put into the School Construction Account. You can think of that as a virtual harvest. The school account gets the value of the trees without actually cutting them down. The value of the land is put into another account and reinvested in productive natural resource lands or commercial properties at other locations."

But will the transfer actually take place? "I think it has a decent chance," Bunning said. "But it's all about the amount of budget that the Legislature is willing to devote to land preservation

and parks. And, as you know, there are a lot of competing needs... This is parcel No. 12 on a list of 20 parcels. It would take an appropriation of \$52 million for the Horseshoe Lake property to be transferred this biennium."

As for when the transfer might take place, Bunning says that the funding (if approved), wouldn't be in place until July 1. Then, depending on how long the administrative process takes, the actual transfer could occur by mid-2006.

At this point it isn't absolutely clear which governmental body would oversee the new park, but Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Commissioner Kip Clinton says, "We'd be excited...and hope to be the recipient of it."

When asked how the KPMPD might proceed were it to receive the land, Clinton said, "I know the old park commission (KP Parks and Recreation District) held hearings. At that time the public wanted trails and perhaps a fairgrounds. But first you have to get the land before you decide. Then we would hold hearings to find out what people want. Our budget will determine what is possible as well."

## Key Pen Lions Club plans park additions

By Connie Harris  
KP News

At the February meeting of the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, the Lions Club will submit a design proposal for new picnic shelters, one for Home Park and two more for Volunteer Park. The project was chosen after club members met with KP Parks and Recreation District Commissioner Mike Salatino, and after discussing community needs. George Robison, vice president of the Key Peninsula Lions Club, said the group will hold a fund-raiser to help pay for the roofing materials and concrete.

After approval from the KPMPD and the acquisition of the necessary permits, the construction of the shelters will begin with the help of community volunteers. Robison hopes to complete this project by the end of the school year.

The Key Peninsula Lions Club invites members of the community to join the organization, dedicated to helping the community. Anyone interested in helping with the project or learning more about the organization may contact Robison at 853-2721.

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## Editorial

### One more piece of history to be left for the books

For more than 100 years, a building stood at the entrance to the Key Peninsula, quietly greeting visitors to Wauna and beyond. Erected soon after Wauna’s official birth, the White/Goldman store later became known as the Wauna post office. During the early days, visitors came by water; when they started coming by car, the building was turned to face the road.

In recent years, the view had become more and more unsightly, as the aging building started falling apart. When Pierce County, which owns the property, decided the building looked better in the history books than on its site, several local groups banded together to stop the wrecking ball.

Someone said that “one of the greatest pains to human nature is the pain of a new idea,” and this one was no different. Following months of outcry from neighbors, the driving force behind the preservation effort —Nancy Lind, representing Friends of Wauna Post Office—called it quits. Though the building had been left standing, this is likely to change in a year or so.

Local historians say the building, which is on the county’s historic register, was perhaps the last piece of heritage that showed “this was Wauna.” The Friends group promised to find private funds to restore the site and clean up the area, making it a true welcome mat to the Key Peninsula, as it was several decades ago. But no amount of passion and persuasion could convince the nearby residents, who cited a list of concerns ranging from sanitation to safety and traffic. Most of all, the building was simply an eyesore, they said.

As the neighborhood lets out a collective sigh of relief, some old-timers note nostalgia at the thought that yet another tangible piece of our past goes away. After outliving several generations of visitors and residents, the structure will leave behind a gap in the skyline and a new stretch of beach. But as baseball great Yogi Berra said, “It ain’t over till it’s over.” Only time will tell whether tearing down the past makes the future better.

For those who put their hearts and souls into keeping the restoration alive, the dream of saving something worthwhile is gone. For others, the dream of getting rid of what they see a nuisance will probably come true. Yet somehow, the nagging feeling remains that much more than an old building is been destroyed in the process.

## Letters to the Editor

### More about Friends of Key Center Library

Thanks for the wonderful write-up about us in the January issue! Readers need to know that anyone is welcome and urged to join the Friends. The fee of \$5 per year will help support all the activities and donations we sponsor to enhance the Key Center Library.

Applications are at the checkout desk. During 2005 we will be celebrating our more than 20 years in the community and honoring our dear friend Dory Myers, guiding organizational spirit of the Friends for all that time. The next general meeting of the Friends will be March 9 at 7 p.m. and is open to all. We hope to see our numbers grow.

*Mary Watson, Membership Chair; Dennis Duncan, President; Britta Brones, Secretary; Andrea Hale, Treasurer; Margaret Campbell, Board member-at-large*

### Reader thanks Key Pen residents

You’ve done it again, Key Peninsula. On Saturday, Dec. 11, we had another successful food drive at Peninsula Market in Key Center. It is so appreciated that so many of you took time out your busy schedules, especially at such a hectic time of year. It is such a blessing to know that we live in a community where there is so much compassion for other people.

I want to congratulate everyone who donated food and money because without your support many would be going hungry. Without the help of Molly Meyers, and my girls Lauren and Kennedy, I do not know if Saturday could have taken place. Their dedication has been remarkable, willing to help for such a worthy cause. Thank you again to Kip for allowing us to have the food drive at Peninsula Market. I would also like to recognize the people who go to the food bank and donate directly, you help so many, and you do not go unnoticed. The food drive has shown me that we are taking a stand and fighting hunger together. It saddens me to know that there is a need for the food drive, but it brightens my day to know that you all care. Thank you all so much for your support and generosity.

*Kristen Herold  
Lakebay*

### Commissioner weighs in on Wauna post office

Let us take a moment for the passing of the old Wauna Post Office. Its existence carried the dreams of early residents but with time those dreams along with the Mosquito Fleet died, giving birth to bridges and freeways and a new generation of hopes and dreams.

Proposals have been made to move the aging structure to a new location until such time that State Route 302 has been moved and the Purdy Sand Spit becomes a primary Central Sound marine park; another proposal suggests the creation of a site monument designed by the Key Peninsula Historical Society, funded by the community and erected by the newly forming Metro Parks District; but there is always that third thing, to simply let history die and be gone.

I encourage the citizens of Key Peninsula to not forget their heritage and in some form monument the legacy of trade and commerce that brought the outside world to our doorstep; after all how many historical sites does Key Peninsula have left and what kind of stewards will we be if no recognition is paid to our past.

*Caril Ridley  
Community Planning Board Member;  
KPMPD Commissioner, KP Trails Chair*

### 4-H Club members help out

Local youth donate time, talents and resources to benefit others in their community. In November, kids and parents provided meals to twenty people for a strengthening families workshop at Hawkins middle school in Belfair. Christmas gifts were purchased for a Key Peninsula family in partnership with the Angeltree Tree Project. TCC student and 4-H Club member Holly Wiltfong sewed and donated a collection of hats to Children’s Home Society. Thanks to all who participated.

*Noah Roddy, eighth-grader  
Vaughn*

### Trees of Sharing thank you

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute again thanks the community for the generosity toward the veterans of American Lake. Nearly 300 veterans were remembered during Christmas thanks to our community and our own “Santa” Wally Corman who delivered in

time for the big day.  
Our thanks also to the businesses that contributed the space for the trees.  
*Floyd Sanders  
KPVI*

### Resident addresses funding priorities

Council member Terry Lee, Thank you for working on our behalf and for communicating via your newsletter. It is the best effort to connect with the District that I have seen, and should improve chances of re-election if that is your desire.

Since you took the time to communicate with us, I thought you deserved some feedback. You said, “... Residents of the Key Peninsula still deserve the basic public services of police and fire.” You are right, I am excited to hear that we will have police deputies available 24/7, this has been a priority of the peninsula for some time. The homeowners’ associations in this area have resorted to hiring security officers to make up for the lack of county resources.

So that you are not confused, the reason that we turned both tax increases down, is that the money is there, it is just misused. By shuffling budget priorities, the County Council was able to provide for the basics. The basics should always come first.

“Additionally, the county budget was too lean to fully staff or completely open the new jail facility,” you said. This would seem to be a priority for the safety of the community. However, you have set aside funds to staff a Community Planning Board to preserve the rural way of life. What good is that if we have the highest crime rate in the state?

Now it is being proposed to acquire 520 acres of new parkland. I love parks, wildlife and the outdoor activities that they allow. It is amazing how the money is there to obtain, develop and maintain this new parkland, but not enough to fund the basics without tax increases. In addition, these 520 acres would no longer be able to produce tax revenue for the county. If we continue to see the misappropriation of tax revenue, you can bet that you will not get the next couple tax increase initiatives passed either. Please use your elected position of responsibility to ensure that the needs of our community are properly prioritized.

*Perry Baycroft  
Longbranch*



# Brothers recognized for *heroic* act

By Danna Webster  
KP News

There was an unexpected addition to the Martin Luther King, Jr. program at Vaughn Elementary on Jan. 14. Principal Mike Benoit introduced two firemen from Fire District 16 and explained there would be a special presentation. The principal handed the microphone to Division Chief Paul Bosch, who began to tell a story about a night in December when Mathew and Christopher Wisberger took heroic action to save their mother.

Chief Bosch said, "On the evening of Dec. 13, Mathew and Christopher's mother was driving their car when she had a medical problem. She was able to pull the car into a parking lot in Key Center before she became unconscious."



Photo by Connie Harris

Fire District 16 drove up in style to present an award to two Vaughn Elementary students who rescued their mother. L-R, Firefighter Ken Foss, Division Chief Paul Bosch, Ken and Jessica Wisberger; front: Mathew (10) and Christopher (8) Wisberger.

He explained that unconscious meant that a person is asleep and cannot wake up.

"Mathew set the parking brake in the car and Christopher moved the gear shift into neutral so that the car wouldn't roll anywhere," Bosch continued the story. "After trying to contact his father on the cell phone, Mathew went into a nearby business to get help. At this business was Sheryl Mirenta, who happened to be one

of the family's neighbors. Meanwhile, Christopher remained in the car and held his mom's head up while she was unconscious, so she could keep breathing.

"Mathew and Sheryl returned to the car and Sheryl called 911. Paramedics arrived and began treating Mathew and Christopher's mom. She was taken to the hospital by the Medic One ambulance. When the paramedics came back from

the hospital, they told me about the outstanding job that Mathew and Christopher did to help their mom. The paramedics wanted me to give them an award. I couldn't agree more. So, it's my privilege to present Mathew and Christopher these certificates that read: 'In recognition of meritorious action to assist someone in need of emergency medical care.'"

The Wisberger boys were asked to come up front and firefighter Ken Foss assisted Chief Bosch in presenting the certificates. Two very serious young boys stood before the assembly and accepted the applause.

When the boys' mother, Jessica Wisberger, tells about that December night, she says it was the boys' calm and confident manner that made it clear to people that there was an emergency and that help was needed. She had to stay in the hospital overnight and was released the next day, which happened to be her birthday. At first she thought it was a terrible way to spend a birthday but immediately realized that being alive and well, thanks to the heroics of her boys, was indeed the best possible birthday she could have.

*Special thanks to FD 16 Division Chief Paul Bosch for allowing the use of his speech.*



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# KP couple helps with Strykers BBQ

By Hugh McMillan  
KP News

Key Peninsula's Larry and Betty Mayer and their large rolling barbecues joined six other civilian volunteers and their barbecues to cook up and serve a scrumptious feed to the families and troops of a Stryker brigade recently returned to Fort Lewis from Iraq. Larry is a U.S. Navy veteran.

The Washington Beef Council donated 2,500 pounds of beef for the event. Tim's Cascade contributed chips; Shawn's, gallons of vanilla ice cream; and others, money.

"All the food was donated free of charge," Betty Mayer said. "On Sunday, seven barbecue pits arrived at Fort Lewis with crews of volunteer workers to get the beef ready to barbecue. Use of a reefer truck and a freezer truck had also been donated and were filled with the beef and other foods. Barbecue people cut the beef into big roasts and seasoned them and got them into the pits. Within an hour, smoke was wafting out over the fort as the meats cooked. When the first



Under an awning Stryker troops recently returned to Fort Lewis from Iraq and their families eating BBQ ribs prepared by, among others, Larry Mayer of Key Peninsula's Citizens Against Crime/Citizens' Patrol.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

batch had slow-barbecued for several hours, it was taken out and wrapped in foil and the rest of the roasts were put in the pits."

Many pit owners slept in their rigs overnight. The next day, when the other volunteers returned, a group of six women mixed up many pans of coleslaw with dressing. By 10 a.m. a team of six men were chopping up the barbecued beef, filling more pans,

Mayer said.

At 3 p.m., tables and food were ready for the soldiers and their families. "As we thanked the troops and their families for serving our country, they thanked us for coming to serve them the meal," Mayer said.

The Mayers, who are Citizens Against Crime members, do lots of barbecue cook-offs and, said Betty, "we'll help feed people at Fort Lewis as often as we can."

## Civic Center considers options for saving costs

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Looking for a way to stay solvent with the ever-increasing insurance costs, the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association is considering several options. The most cost-saving one, according to board members, would be to join forces with the KP Metropolitan Park District.

Becoming part of the MPD could save the Civic Center more than

\$20,000 a year in operating costs due to lower insurance and property taxes. Phil Bauer, president of the KPCCA, said an agreement could work in several ways, but most likely the Civic Center property would be transferred to the KPMPD, with a lease contract keeping the KPCCA in full control of the center and all its programs. (The KPCCA is the owner of Key Peninsula News.)

Bauer said the contract would be

written in a way that would not impact any of the center's programs and operations.

Paula DeMoss, KPMPD chair, said a partnership would be a tremendous opportunity for the community, allowing both groups to build on one another and expand programs. "It could be a way of uniting the community," she said.

Discussions between the two organizations have only started, but the idea was welcome by the KPMPD commissioners, who heard a presentation by Bauer at a January park board meeting. They voted for the KPCCA to initiate a draft document for the transfer, stating that the way the contract is written would make a difference in whether the transaction moves forward.

If a partnership cannot be worked out, the Civic Center could join a nonprofit insurance pool as a way to cut its insurance costs, but that option has considerably less savings and no property tax relief, Bauer said.

The KPCCA welcomes comments regarding these discussions; call Phil Bauer at 884-9172.

### News briefs

#### Community planning board sets February meeting

The next meetings for the Key Peninsula Pierce County Community Planning Board's Natural Environment Committee are scheduled for the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of February. The dates are Wednesday, Feb. 2, and Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library.

The Natural Environment Committee is working on policy development for the Key Peninsula Community Plan. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the committee meeting. For more information, see [www.piercecountywa.org/landuse](http://www.piercecountywa.org/landuse).

#### Key Pen skateboard park project needs volunteers

Efforts to establish a skateboard park on the Key Peninsula are swinging into gear. The kickoff for the project is expected to happen in March. The design will include both aspects of a skateboard park, featuring a bowl and leading into a street scene complete with grind rails.

Organizer Chuck West is asking for help from people with special expertise for the initial fund-raising stage. The project needs legal assistance to establish a non-profit 501(3)c organization, computer assistance to set up a web page, and general contributions to establish the \$5,000 funds necessary for the design. Contributions can be made at the Sound Credit Union to the Zech and Adrienne West Memorial account. To help with the project contact: Chuck West 884-1366.

#### Free farm workshops offered

The Pierce Conservation District, a local nonregulatory state agency whose directive is to help landowners protect natural resources, will hold a free farm management workshop series at the Peninsula Light in Purdy on March 16, 23 and 30, at 6:30-8:30 p.m. This series of three workshops will help livestock owners learn best management practices for mud, manure and pasture management, including varieties of pasture grasses that grow well in the area, soil sampling, and how to build and use sacrifice areas and compost bins. Each night will review a different topic.

Call Erin at (253) 845-9770 to sign up for the workshops.

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# Food bank gets unexpected offer

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

John Van de Brooke has never met Key Pen Community Services Executive Director Cristi Watson. He doesn't even live on the Key Peninsula any more.

But in January, he sent Watson an unexpected offer: For every person she could get to donate \$100 to the KPCS building fund, he would donate \$100 himself.

While he's only heard about Watson from the local newspapers that he still subscribes to, he's all too familiar with Watson's fight to raise funds for the food bank. A former volunteer with the center for more than 12 years, including several years as board president, Van de Brooke used to do much the same: knock on doors, ask for donations, try to do a lot with little.

"I know what it's like to raise money on the Key Peninsula," Van de Brooke said in a telephone interview from Nevada, where he moved five years ago due to his late wife's health.

"The center has a big soft spot in my heart. They do good work there," he said. "There is a need out there and they are filling it."

## If you'd like to help

John Van de Brooke said he is not looking for donations from groups taking up collections or organizations, but rather from individuals. For everyone who donates \$100 by Feb. 14 to the KPCS building fund, he will donate another \$100. People can donate more if they wish, but he will only match \$100 for each donor.

If you'd like to respond to the challenge and send in your donation, call KPCS at 884-4440.

**"The center has a big soft spot in my heart.**

**They do good work there.**

**There is a need out there and they are filling it."**

-John Van de Brooke

After reading about the center's struggle to raise money for its building fund — which would allow for the expansion of its outgrown space — he sent Watson a check and a letter he hopes would help kick off a small campaign. "For everyone you can prod, cajole or influence to donate \$100 between now and Valentine's Day, February 14, 2005, I will match their donation," he wrote. "I have many friends on the Key Peninsula and perhaps this will spur them to donate to your building fund."

Part of the offer, he said, was a way to honor the memory of his wife, Diane, who passed away in November.

"I served on the KPCS board with John for several years. I always admired his dedication to those less fortunate but this just blew me away," Hugh McMillan, a well-known KP resident and volunteer to many organizations, said after reading the letter.



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# PHS students show off skills with senior projects

By Christina Moore  
KP News

Peninsula High School provides students with the opportunity to prove some of the skills they have learned throughout their 12 years of schooling. Through senior-year projects, students could apply those skills. The projects, chosen by the students themselves, can be done through written, oral and visual methods.

Brian Tovey, a teacher and the senior project coordinator at PHS, arranges the students into different classrooms for presentations. Approximately five students

are placed into one classroom with two PHS teachers or staff members and one member from the community, invited because of his or her involvement with the school district. Students are evaluated on professional attire, preparedness and what they learned, among other things.

The projects have some limitations. Whether students choose to learn a new skill, teach a skill to others, do community service, or build/create something, each project must involve a challenge of some sort, to prove that something was indeed learned.

David Engstrom wanted to involve his life-long drawing skills for his project, but was not sure how to go about doing it. His friend, Kyle Murphy, suggested that he create and draw a picture of the school mascot, the Peninsula Seahawk.

The challenge for Engstrom was to step out of his usual genre of the anime art style and draw a personified Seahawk. As an anime artist using only pens and pencils to create black and white drawings, he had to familiarize himself with colored pencils in order to produce his first colored drawing.

After going to a small local company and making 20 copies, he sold the drawings at PHS during all three lunches. "I hoped to donate a ton of money and be remembered but I failed in that aspect," Engstrom said. He donated the \$11 profit to the senior class.

If given the chance, he said he would definitely do it again. "I don't like having to do this sort of thing, but when I look back on it all, I kind of got a taste of the real world. I guess this is the ever-fabled 'learning experience' teachers go off about... I couldn't have done this without my friends and teachers."

*Christina Moore is a PHS senior.*



*Illustration courtesy of David Engstrom*

PHS senior David Engstrom drew this personified Seahawk—the school's mascot—as part of his senior project.



*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

KPMS Community Spirit club members during a regular after-school meeting with their adviser, Tim Vanderveen.

## KPMS after-school club learns community spirit

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

A small group of Key Peninsula Middle School students have been building a name for themselves around the community. The students are part of the Community Spirit Club, under the KPMS After 'OURS program.

After 'OURS meets for two hours every day, first hour being spent on homework and the second on elective activities that vary each semester but range from music to cooking. Three years ago, school psychologist Tim Vanderveen decided to create a community service club "to teach them about the importance of giving to others and community service, and how that feels."

"It empowers the students; they feel like there is something they can give back," he said.

Part of the goal is to teach the kids about volunteerism and discuss ways to help others, while the other is actually doing it. Community leaders are often guest speakers during the club meetings.

One of the group's biggest focuses is on Companionship, a program under the county parks that provides recreation and leisure for special-needs children. KPMS students can frequently be seen participating in the Companionship

**"It empowers the students; they feel like there is something they can give back."**

-Tim Vanderveen, organizer

activities, which have included a Halloween haunted house, skating, and movie nights.

During a recent club meeting, the kids shared some stories about their involvement. Sixth grader Mackenzie Boswell recounted helping with the doughnut eating contest at the haunted house, while sixth grader Nicki Rossberg said she helped make the house then stood behind a curtain "scaring kids."

"I joined the club because I wanted to help others," said Chris Miller. "I like helping other kids." Added Mackenzie, "It makes me feel good to help people and to see them laugh."

The club had a full agenda for upcoming weeks, planning to attend a Companionship scavenger hunt at a mall, a Valentine's Day party, and a skating night; as well as discussing the possibility of holding a book sale and a tsunami victims fund-raiser.

"I am so impressed and proud of these students," said Jan Siburg, the After 'OURS coordinator at KPMS. "They are truly shining stars."

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# Vaughn student wins Peninsula Idol contest

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

A "Peninsula Idol" contest held at the Peninsula High School in January had many winners. There were, of course, the winners of the first four prizes, who impressed the judges with their talents—including Vaughn resident Destiny Rossa, a PHS freshman

who won first place.

But there were other winners as well—Carl Reneman, PHS student and KP resident, who organized the event as part of his senior project, all his helpers including family members, teachers and students, and the KP Family Resource Center, who received the modest proceeds.

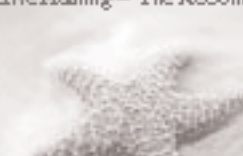
Reneman kept the theme family-

oriented, so all the contestants had to choose songs from Disney movies. "Everybody did their best," he said. The top winners' prizes included a Starbucks card and movie tickets, which Reneman had to solicit through donations.

Rossa received a recording session with a studio. A singer all her life, Rossa is no stranger to talent contests, winning others in the past.

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# Focusing on priorities: An interview with Rep. Patricia Lantz

By William C. Dietz  
KP News

Rep. Patricia Lantz has served the 26th Legislative District since 1997—and was reelected to another term last November. Now, as a new legislative session begins, Key Pen News spoke with Lantz about her views and priorities.

**Key Peninsula News:** I'm guessing that the budget shortfall qualifies as the most pressing issue that the state faces. How can that be dealt with?

**Pat Lantz:** Well, one has to make decisions. We start off with a priorities-based process. Then you have to look for where there are more efficient ways to do things. This is the third budget in a row where we have had major gaps in funding. I'm not talking about new programs — I'm talking about maintenance. Many factors, like the growth in the population, are beyond our control. Which has the highest priority? Education or health care? The choices become more painful as we move along. Inevitably there will be things like looking at new user fees. There isn't anyone down here who thinks that won't be painful.

**KPN:** What about new taxes?

**PL:** Well, there has to be a public will to accept that as a necessity. We have to

balance that carefully against the potential danger to our recovering economy. How do you find the balance? One of the best things to do is generate new jobs... because that will make the pie bigger. But that's long range.

**KPN:** Given the fact that Democrats will control both the Senate and the House during this session—how will that play into budgetary decisions?

**PL:** It means we will want to make certain that we are doing the right thing for the long term, and not find ourselves in the situation when the Democrats had the majority in the past, and made mistakes that the public didn't like. Especially where taxes are concerned. That's one of the reasons why I think it's unlikely that you will see major tax increases.

**KPN:** What is your focus right now?

**PL:** I'm signing onto a bill that would require all state agencies to submit to regular performance audits. It passed the House the last year—but was killed by a Republican Senate. That means it could pass this time around.

I'm also supporting a periodic review of all tax incentives to look at whether



LANTZ

they deliver the benefits that they were supposed to when they were passed. We're looking at court funding and what we might be able to do to relieve some of the burden on county courts, thereby improving the overall system.

**KPN:** What about the Key Peninsula? What are the priorities out here?

**PL:** On the Key Peninsula, we need to pay special attention to early childhood development. The second issue would be the healthcare system. It's a crisis of access and funding. What can we do to better cover the health needs of our citizens? We have a crisis we can't put off much longer. The budget crisis makes it more difficult.

The other thing is that we're on the road to economic recovery but we need to focus on the right things. The Key Peninsula needs to have job opportunities. Transportation is a part of economic development. Good roads get you to good jobs.

**KPN:** What about the Trust Fund

Transfer program that allows the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to exchange, transfer, or sell certain parcels? Specifically a 360-acre property near 144th & State Route 302 that has been discussed as a potential park? Do you support that effort?

**PL:** I'm really excited about that! This is a nifty deal. Trust Fund Transfer is a means of transferring the value of the timber into the School Construction Fund. You don't take the timber, but rather the value of it which benefits schools.

**KPN:** Do you think the transfer will take place?

**PL:** It is going to happen because it's high up on DNR's list. It's something I want, something that Rep. Derek Kilmer wants, and something that Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee wants. I met with DNR Commissioner Doug Sutherland and he was very positive. (For the complete story on the status of the proposed park see "Dream park depends on funds appropriations," on page 3 of this issue.)

Rep. Lantz can be reached at 360-786-7964. For more information about Lantz, and an email template, visit her Webpage at [www1.leg.wa.gov/house/lantz](http://www1.leg.wa.gov/house/lantz).



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## GOALS FOR 2005

As we start the New Year, one thing that always comes to mind (besides taxes) is goal setting. Many of us make New Year's resolutions or set goals for something we wish to accomplish during the coming year – as an individual, as a family, as a business, and as part of our community.

Our goal, as a business is to provide you on the Key Peninsula with the very best real estate service available. With thirteen competent agents who all live and work on the Key Peninsula, we think we can do that better than any other agency. We know the Key Peninsula! And, with our wonderful Windermere tools such as the [www.windermere.com](http://www.windermere.com) website, we have the backing of a terrific, serviced oriented company – one, which also gives something back to this community from every transaction we close. Our goal this year is to be a part of every one of your real estate needs.

As for the community goals, we have people in our office who are also involved in community goals. Lori Deacon is a board member of the Key Peninsula Community Plan and Joyce Tovey as a member of the Key Peninsula Community Council. If your goals include becoming more involved in your community this year, we would urge you to investigate either of these groups.

**Fact** – Highest price home sold in Pierce County this year was on the Key Peninsula – Waterfront Estate and 37 acres – sold for \$4,168,500.00.



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# New realty office opens doors

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

Green Acre Homes Realty has found an ideal new home at Minter. Formed five years ago by Ava Campbell and Larry Bentley, the office was located in Gig Harbor until last October.

Since much of the property they handled and many of their clients were on the Key Peninsula, they decided to move their base of operations here.

Campbell, an education graduate from Washington State University, includes in her job resume finance manager for Boeing Credit Union and Boeing budget analyst. Twelve years ago, she began working in real estate. Bentley dubs himself the silent partner and construction "ditch digger," but is also a realtor.

Four realtors work from the Minter office, and next door Country Gardens proprietor Terry Thomas is a mortgage lender, so clients can receive full



*Photo by Colleen Slater*  
Ava Campbell outside her new office.

service in one stop.

Campbell notes they do some development of land, but mainly they handle real estate sales.

Green Acres is visible from State Route 302 in the revitalized commercial area at Minter.

# Purdy center undergoes major facelift



*Photo by Karen Hale*

Work was in full swing in January to get the Purdy Shopping Center exterior renovated.

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

The Purdy Shopping Center, built in the 1970s, is undergoing its first major facelift. By the time it's done, shoppers will see new walkways, improved parking, a new façade and other changes.

"We wanted to modernize it and make it more appealing," said Dave Morris, a managing partner with the Purdy Shopping Center, LLC. Depending on the weather, the work is expected to be finished by March, he added.

It took about nine months to get

through the permitting process, Morris said. Reviews were needed not only from Pierce County but also from the city of Gig Harbor, because the area is within the city's Urban Growth Boundary (which means an area that could at some point be incorporated into the city limits).

"We've been getting a tremendous amount of compliments," Morris said.

Meantime, a new business was getting ready to open inside the Bridgeway Market called Rib Ticklers. The new eatery was being added at press time inside the market, which reduced its produce space to accommodate the deli.



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# Annual dinner for KP business association a capital success

By Irene Torres  
KP News

The dining hall at Camp Seymour felt warmer than usual on a rainy winter night. On another evening, that ambience might have come from the fire in the 35-foot glacial rock fireplace or the Washington wines. In this case, it came from the friendships formed within the Key Peninsula Business Association as members and guests joined for the association's annual dinner on Jan. 17.

The eyes of Master of Ceremonies Chuck West welled with emotion and his voice quavered slightly as he spoke. The Wests lost their son and daughter-in-law in an automobile accident this past summer. West took the opportunity to publicly express his appreciation to all who had supported his family during a most difficult year.

Keynote speaker Derek Kilmer, newly elected representative from the 26th Legislative District, described his experiences during his election campaign, his first few days in office, and his commitment to serve his constituents, particularly those on the Key Peninsula. His



L-R: KPBA officers, Treasurer Dennis Taylor, Past President June Williams, President Bek Ashby and Vice President Jeff Harris. Mrs. Kilmer is in the background.

Photo by Danna Webster

## "Work force development and economic development go hand in hand."

-Derek Kilmer, representative 26th Legislative District

agenda includes economic development, family wage jobs, small business tax breaks, and working to reduce red tape in county code compliance.

Kilmer also addressed the work force shortage. "In addition to bricks and mortar, the best capital investment is human investment," he said and noted

that only 8 percent of Microsoft employees were educated in the state of Washington. Businesses have difficulty in finding good workers and the new Franciscan hospital planned for Gig Harbor will struggle to find good nurses.

"Work force development and economic development go hand in

The KPBA meets at 7:30 a.m. on the first Fridays of the month at LuLu's Homeport Restaurant in Home and at noon on the third Fridays at Blondie's Bar and Grill in Key Center. For KPBA information contact Bek Ashby at 851-9787 or visit the association Website at [www.kpba.org](http://www.kpba.org).

hand," said Kilmer, suggesting a direction for educational needs.

After introductions, outgoing President June Williams installed new officers: incoming President Bek Ashby, Vice President Jeff Harris, Secretary Barbara Heard and Treasurer Dennis Taylor. Ashby, with North Bay Mortgage, described goals for the KPBA for 2005. At the top of the list is to encourage the community to buy locally. A marketing committee is being formed, and volunteers are needed to participate in the development of a brochure for the KPBA. She invited potential members to join and attend meetings on the first and third Fridays of the month.

Camp Seymour's staff received a round of applause for the excellent dinner and service provided that evening.



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## Key Peninsula Community Fair 2005

The KPCF Association has begun preparation for the 2005 Key Peninsula Fair scheduled for Aug. 19-21 at the Key Peninsula Sports Center and Fairgrounds.

Several vendors and food booths have signed up to join the excitement this summer. New President Pam Libstaff hopes for an increase in local businesses and crafts people participating. "Our goal is to bring the community together and provide a place where all residents of the Key Peninsula can gather at one time in a spirit of community," she says.

Pre-sale tickets will be a better value this year, the cost has been discounted to \$12 "and we're bringing in a new carnival this year, Great American Carnival, with some pretty exciting rides," Libstaff said.

This year's board is already in motion to make this the greatest fair yet. Newly elected Vice President Ruth Bramhall was featured in a major article in the Key Peninsula News about her outstanding contributions to so many programs on the Peninsula; Barbara Heard continues in the position of secretary, and several other community leaders fill the board.

The KPCF board is looking for a new treasurer. If you have the background and the desire, you could fill a very rewarding position in the community and have a great deal of fun helping to bring the Fair to fruition. For information call Fair Board President Libstaff at 253-884-5934 or 884-4FUN (4386).

## KPCS holds board elections

Key Peninsula Community Services is holding its annual Board of Directors election on Feb. 25. Three positions are up for re-election. If you are interested,

please call 253-884-4440 or stop by for an application. Qualifications are: You must live, work, or own property on the Key Peninsula and wish to make a difference in the happenings in your own back yard.

—By Cristi Watson

## Bayshore Garden Club agenda

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at the Longbranch fire station Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. The hostess is Dolores Argabright. The theme program will be presented by Marguerite Bussard. Conservation discussion will be presented by Ann Waldo and the Design of the Month will be by Doris Boudreau. Guests are welcome. For more information call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

## Key Peninsula Writers' Guild meets Saturday mornings

The KP Writers' Guild is a peer group of local writers who meet to share their work and write together. Join them at the Key Center Library on Saturdays from 9-11 a.m. For details call Danna Webster at 884-6455.

## Bicycling opportunities on KP

Bicycling group meets 2:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Longbranch Community Church. For information contact Drew Gazabat 884-1260.

## Angel Guild invites new volunteers

Have you been in the Angel Guild Thrift Shop since the grand reopening?

Have you seen all the new stock that was put in the store? Do you know that it is restocked daily? That there are daily specials?

If you are looking for something different for your Valentine take a look at Angel Guild. Our profits stay on the peninsula.

The dedication of the members of Angel Guild to the many hours of sorting, stocking and selling in the shop is very admirable. We have members who have been ill, are recovering from surgery, and many other reasons that mean they are unable to work. However, there are always those who step in and work an extra shift. If have some time that you would like to fill for a good cause and a good outlet for yourself, check out Angel Guild.

—By Betty Barkubein

## Play bridge at the Key Center Library

The Key Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club meets every Tuesday 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. We are seeking new members. If you have not played duplicate bridge before, it is easy to learn. For more information call Loretta Jewett 884-4811 or Dick Bates 884-2663.

## Day Camp for Art Kids

This day camp is offered for kids first through fifth grades during Feb. 21-25

from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The cost is \$195 and will offer art activities that include ceramic masks, origami, bookmaking, painting and more. This camp is a fund-raiser sponsored by Venture Crew 220. Limited space is available and applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students must provide their own sack lunch. For reservations and information contact Christine Burris, Crew Adviser, at 857-2357. Applicants may mail reservations with a \$20 deposit to: Crew 220, P.O.B. 642, Vaughn, WA 98493.

## Civic Center news

Karate classes will start at the Civic Center on Feb. 7 and will be held every Monday and Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. in the gym. Dog obedience classes are also new, and will start on March 5. Offered by a new business called That Canine Place, the classes are offered by licensed companion animal therapist Chris Fitzgerald.

Find out what is happening at the Civic Center, attend the next board meeting on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore room.

For information on any Civic Center events or rental fees, call 884-3456.



# Volunteer spotlight

## Kristen Bottiger

Working as the secretary for Two Waters Art Alliance is keeping Kristen Bottiger busy these days. She enjoys her work for the artists' organization.

"Every year we just bloom a little more," she says. Right now the focus is on the Feb. 26 Spring Fling, which Bottiger is co-chairing. Arrangements and plans are taking shape for the live music entertainment, an artist display and refreshments.

Bottiger became an active volunteer when she and her family moved to Lakebay about 13 years ago. The family left Tacoma for the opportunities of peace and quiet, and living on the water. She has served on the PTA, KPCC boards and works as an advocate for the school levy elections.

"I enjoy volunteering because it makes me feel good. I have a lot of friends out here because of it. I like to be behind the scenes, taking care of business."

The president of TWAA, Kathy Bauer,

**"Every time we need a volunteer, Kristen shows up with a smile on her face, a positive attitude, willing to be there on short notice and get the job done."**

-Kathy Bauer, TWAA president

says, "Every time we need a volunteer, Kristen shows up with a smile on her face, a positive attitude, willing to be there on short notice and get the job done."

Bottiger is a gourd artist who also works with beads and jewelry. She likes to hang out at the Art Barn for the inspiration she receives from the other artists. Her other great inspiration is for the volunteers of the Key Peninsula. "Our volunteers hold our community together," she says and adds that KP volunteers have really big hearts. Those hearts have a lot of volunteer opportunities to choose from, according to Bottiger.



*Photo by Connie Harris*

Kristen Bottiger stands in front of the Art Barn, where she "hangs out" for inspiration.

## Volunteer opportunities

### Children's Home Society

Ongoing need for clothing bank volunteers, and for data entry/office tasks. Contact Edie Morgan at 884-5433.

### Communities in Schools of Peninsula

Adult mentors for elementary age children for new Math Mentor program at Key Peninsula Middle School. Also need after school Reading Mentors at Vaughn and Evergreen Elementary Schools. Spend one hour a week helping a student be more successful in school. Contact Colleen Speer at 884-5733.

### Key Peninsula Community Services

Volunteer needed for Administrative Assistant position.

No pay. Lots of work. Warm fuzzy feeling in your heart to help with your sore feet. Contact Cristi Watson at 884-4440.

### Key Peninsula Middle School AFTER 'OURS Program

Individuals interested in helping as academic tutors in academic classes or offering to teach a class such as automotive care, mechanics, dance, photography, arts, and more. Contact Jan Siburg at 884-4800.

### TCC GED program

By volunteering just four hours of tutoring a week, you can help others on the Key Peninsula achieve their goals and improve their lives. Tacoma Community College offers a GED class in the KP area and students need your help. Call Jenny Jesch at 851-2424.

## Help us give kudos

Do you know an extraordinary volunteer who serves on the Key Peninsula? Let us know.

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You can go online to [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com) or email us with any other news tips to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com).

## Obituary

### B. Muriel Bantolino

B. Muriel Bantolino (Ramsdell) was born Oct. 27, 1926 and died Dec. 17, 2004 in Roundup, Mont. She was born in Tacoma and raised in Lakebay. She leaves behind her children: Allen Harper (Vicki and Nick); Elisa Simpson (Larry); Elena Fergusson (Roger); Lori Fergusson;

Jamine Bantolino; Robert Bantolino; Heidi Hanson (Ed); 18 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; three brothers: Henry Ramsdell (Alberta); Dale Ramsdell (Linda); Fred Ramsdell (Mary); and many nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her dog, Daisey.

Muriel fought a long courageous battle with cancer. She worked at Key Peninsula Community Services as a cook for several years and made many friends.

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# A new 'Moon' rising above the Key Saloon

By Danna Webster  
KP News

It has been 16 years since Tracy Manning bought the Key Center Saloon, and now she is ready to hand over the keys to a new owner. The new owner is a local man from Glen Cove who doesn't intend to make any big changes. Most things will stay the same except for a new beer on tap called "Blue Moon," and a new name for the saloon, "The Blue Moon," which are all references to the new owner's nickname picked up in the Marines, "Moon" Mullen.

One morning at the saloon, G. "Moon" Mullen interrupts his repair chores, puts down his drill and says, "I don't know why I did this...Something told me I should go ahead and try it." Mullen gratefully acknowledges his family team that is supporting his latest venture. His wife, Suzanne, is a special education teacher in Minnesota but commutes to the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport often, thanks to free ticket opportunities afforded by Mullen's retirement from Northwest Airlines as an airline captain.

His stepson, who is studying computer graphics in Wisconsin, is also contributing to plans and designs that will make the building a little "nicer." The biggest plan on the idea table is to pave the parking lot. That would be a great improvement to parking on the outside and keep the floors clean on the inside; but Mullen is quick to note that pavement is only in the planning phase. He can't make any promises about when that might happen. He has just begun the ordeal of trying to reach compliance with

all the county and state regulations.

Although Moon Mullen intends to keep the friendliness and all the best aspects of this old-fashion country bar, the sale agreement signals the end of an era. Owning a business is a 24/7 commitment and the saloon and Tracy Manning have been together since 1989. In that time, the saloon became much more than a mere establishment that served beer. It is a hub for social and family interaction. Here celebrations are a priority. It is the place to learn the latest news and gossip around town. It is an entertainment center and often through the day and nights, it is a place where friends, all on a first-name basis, seek advice and share confidences. Customers hover around Manning with questions about their aging dogs, their neurotic dogs, the feeding habits and training of their dogs and often asking some advice about their own latest ache and pain. No questions, requests for attention or pleas for sympathy and understanding are turned away.

Manning brought to the saloon her vivacious and talented personality acquired as a singer and dancer in Las Vegas and a former winner of the Miss Whisky a Go-Go in Hollywood. She shared her love for her family. Here she raised two boys. They are both wonderful chefs, she explains, because her home cooking had three items on the menu: chili, spaghetti, and goulash. She also brought to the saloon her devotion to pets, wild animals and her enthusiasm for Iditarod dog-sled racing.

Manning intends to develop her animal rescue endeavors and perhaps establish a



Photo by Danna Webster

Tracy Manning and "Moon" Mullen.

kennel business with that focus. By her count, she and her staff at the saloon have placed over 400 dogs in adoptive homes. She is a strong wildlife advocate and concerned about the plight of KP wildlife as new residents and development take hold. She particularly would like to see a wildlife veterinarian clinic on Key Pen. She tells a recent story of getting a call about a young fox hit by a car (see related story on page 25). She could find no authority that would attend to the matter so she sent Glen and Russell from the saloon with a kennel to get the fox. They covered it with a blanket, put it in the kennel and drove to a clinic in Gorst. After the fox healed, it was released in the wild and Manning was given a picture. "We need a wildlife vet. Lots of times they (wild animals) don't make it," she says. "Maybe if we bark loud enough, we can get help."

She has a wealth of people stories from her days as the saloonkeeper and says she misses the good old days. "I miss the first 10 years: The brush pickers, the loggers...were true friends...good people." And, she misses the flavor of unforgettable characters like Woodcutter

Al and Bobby Jackson. She says one of her first improvements to the saloon was to panel the walls with knotty pine. She used "the real McCoy," not panel siding, and she trimmed the windows with solid oak because "people out here respect wood."

It will be hard to walk away from the saloon, although Manning looks forward to resting for awhile. "When you work 16 years on anything you believe in, it is hard to let go," she says.

This year there were several interested buyers for this "primo corner on the uphill side of the road," as Manning calls it. "If I could have put in my order for someone to take over this place, I couldn't have picked a better guy. He's local...and his wife, Suzanne, is a great lady, with a great sense of humor." According to Manning, Mullen watched the prospective buyers come and go for a couple of weeks, and then "Moon said, 'let's get this over with,' and he put down the earnest money." One day soon, the sun will set on Manning's Key Center Saloon and that's the night the saloon will see a Blue Moon rising.

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# Red Cross volunteer shares experience

Logistically, in-kind donations cannot be handled in the first stage of a disaster, explains Maroney. In-kind donations help in later stages, when people return to more permanent housing and shelter. He emphasizes that the greatest needs for the Red Cross are volunteers and money to local chapters. Contributions to the local Red Cross chapter will serve all needs—local, national and international.



# Celebrating Vietnamese New Year

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

Lóc Meeker gets excited about the Vietnamese New Year, Feb. 9 this year.

"Three days of freedom, eating and gambling," she says with a smile, "... a time to leave anger and troubles behind, and just be happy."

The Vietnamese women cook well in advance of the New Year, the biggest celebration of their country, as food is the most important thing for this holiday. Friends and family drop by, giving and accepting gifts, and sharing food.

On the first day of the New Year, the Vietnamese children are dressed in all new clothing. Even the poorest families find new clothes for the children. When the family elders, such as grandparents, come

**"Three days of freedom, eating and gambling. ... a time to leave anger and troubles behind, and just be happy."**

-Lóc Meeker

to call, the children line up according to age to give and receive greetings of long life, health and happiness. They then choose a Li Xi, a decorated envelope containing money. The envelopes, one for each child, have different amounts of money in them. They are fanned out, with the oldest child selecting first. The money should be crisp and new.

Most people are discouraged from going calling before noon, in case of carrying bad luck into the household, but some, like Lóc, are welcomed early in the day. Her name means good luck, and that is what everyone wants in their homes for the



Lóc Meeker displays items used to celebrate the Vietnamese New Year.

Photo by Colleen Slater

coming year.

Children go out and play, something they do not have much time for on school days. Every neighborhood has at least one game of Bàu Cua Ca Tom going on. The dealer, also considered the banker, can spread the playing board or cloth anywhere and wait for players to appear — from two to 100. The dealer must have sufficient funds to be able to pay the winners before collecting money from them. Three cubes with various symbols are shaken in a box or covered bowl. Players bet on which symbol will turn up on top, and place money down. The symbols include the "best" ones of Bàu (squash), Cua (crab) Ca (fish) and Tom (horse) as well as two others. A player betting on the Cua will receive that amount of money if one cube displays the crab. If two cubes show crabs on top, those players who chose it receive double their money, and so on.

When the children are tired of playing or get hungry, they head home and find a good array of food available. There is always a large pot of Thich Kho, or meat

stew. This is made of pork, eggs, fish sauce and coconut juice, and served with hot rice, green pickle and bean sprouts — a delicious meal, says Meeker.

Besides hot tea with the meal, some of the older men like white sake, although a traditional drink is white rice whiskey.

Other traditional New Year's food includes watermelon, pumpkin or watermelon seeds dyed red, and Bank Tet — a

concoction of meat, beans and sweet rice, wrapped in banana leaves, cooked over an outside charcoal fire for three hours or so, and later hung in the kitchen. These are the "must have" food items.

Assorted sweet, dried fruit is also eaten, which may include caramelized nuts and sesame seeds, candied squash, lotus, sweet potato, ginger, water chestnut, melon, carrots and sour sop, a tropical fruit.

If food or anything else is dropped on the floor during the three days of the New Year, it is to be left there. No sweeping is to be done during this time, in fear of sweeping out the good luck that has come in.

Firecrackers are another important part of the New Year celebration, symbolizing that bad luck is thrown away.

Meeker has no Vietnamese family or community nearby to help her celebrate the special event this year, but she will decorate her home with red and gold, eat special foods, share with any friends who drop by, and relive all the memories of those happy childhood New Year holidays she knew in Viet Nam.



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# Wild turkey club helps preserve habitat

By Irene Torres  
KP News

Al Prante is an animated man. He is a perfect pitchman for the Narrows Strut Busters Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf). When asked, "What is a Strut Buster," Prante took on the stance of a turkey as he explained, "Everybody's heard the expression, 'strutting your stuff,' right? When the male turkeys (toms) display and try to attract females (hens), they fan out their tail feathers, puff up their chest, tuck in their head, make their wing feathers rigid, and prance and dance."

As he spoke, these characteristics came to life as he demonstrated each one, without inhibition, in front of the customers at Shear Magic Beauty Salon in Key Center. Prante continued, "This is always accompanied by an unmistakable sound that we call spit and drumming, and half the time by a lot of gobbling. When we harvest a bird, that busts his strut. That truly makes our members Strut Busters."

Prante, who lives in Vaughn, grew up on a large family farm that harvested deer and elk to supplement the "regular table fare." He found an interest in occasional Outdoor Channel shows about turkey hunting. After attending a beginning turkey hunting seminar in 1999 at a sportsmen's show, his interest grew.

"I learned that the state had started planting wild turkeys here in 1960 and that the first turkey hunt was opened in 1965. I couldn't believe that I had never heard of this," he said. In 2000, he was off hunting.

"On my first morning out scouting, I found fresh sign shortly after the first light of day. I blew on a crow locator call, and instantly got a tom to shock gobble just 50 feet below me in a ravine," he recalled. "Now let me tell you this...on a beautiful spring morning when all is quiet and still...well, that thundering gobble seemed to just reverberate forever. Just unbelievable. I had heard bull elk bugle and their cows mew, bucks grunt and wheeze, but that gobble almost dropped me to my knees."

The experience of that first day — working three gobblers into about 20 feet — got him hooked. But he wanted to make sure he gave back "as much or more than I would take from the sport," he said. Joining the NWTf would afford



*Photo courtesy of the Strut Busters*

Group members delivered turkeys to several area food banks during the last holiday season.

**"Our chapter voted unanimously to purchase 100 large frozen domestic turkeys. We started planning in early 2004 to distribute 20 turkeys each to five separate food banks in the communities that we represent."**

**-Al Prante**

him that. The NWTf is the nation's most progressive and successful nonprofit conservation organization (5-star rated) and for over 31 years has been dedicated to the preservation of all wildlife and their habitat. Their main focus is the wild turkey.

In 2001, he discovered that Gig Harbor had a chapter and joined it. About a dozen members live on the Key Peninsula, but only three of those actively volunteer in the chapter.

"Giving back to our communities is near and dear to our hearts," Prante said. "Our chapter voted unanimously to purchase 100 large frozen domestic turkeys. We started planning in early 2004 to distribute 20 turkeys each to five separate food banks in the communities that we represent (Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor, Belfair, Port Orchard, and Bremerton)," he said.

"We raised money by participating in a Regional Winner Take All 4 Gun Raffle, co-sponsored by four other local chapters, and by having our own local chapter gun raffle. We called each food bank and a store, explaining our intentions, hoping to minimize any problems for them," he added. In November, they made the rounds to each one.

Prante said, "It has been a pleasure for me to be the chapter president for the last two years. To a person, the NWTf volunteers I represent are the greatest people one could associate with."

NWTf boasts over 2,000 chapters and 550,000 regular members in the United States, Canada and 11 other countries. Partnering with federal and state agencies, private companies, and through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, it has helped to increase the wild turkey population, nearly extinct in the 1930s, to over 6.4 million today.

"The members of the Narrows Strut Busters are avid, ethical, and experienced hunters who firmly believe in the ideas and programs of the NWTf. They are passionate about preserving our wildlife, preserving the hunting heritage, and sharing the opportunities we enjoy with our families, friends and fellow citizens," Prante added.

In addition to conservation efforts, the NWTf runs several educational and outreach programs to promote fun, safe and responsible use of outdoors for youth, women, and the disabled, and provides college scholarships to conservation-minded youths.

David Lund, the chapter's conserva-

## Strut Busters

Narrows Strut Busters activities include two \$500 college scholarships for graduating West Puget Sound seniors interested in the field of conservation; three free conservation education boxes provided last year to elementary schools in Purdy, Vaughn, and Belfair; and adopting a local family of three through the Christmas Angel Program, filling their entire list, plus a \$75 food certificate.

The chapter is looking for corporate sponsors to fund more educational boxes (\$50 each) to provide this valuable tool to teachers and children throughout the area.

Upcoming events include the Annual Hunting Heritage Banquet and main fund-raiser on Saturday, March 19, manning and co-sponsoring the Maritime Gig Children's Festival Free Youth Fish Tank in June, and many more.

Tickets are now available for the March 19 dinner, which will include games, raffles, silent and live auctions and door prize.

To join the National Wild Turkey Federation, help as a volunteer, or make a tax deductible donation to their endeavors, contact Al Prante, PO Box 616, Vaughn, WA 98394-0616.

Call 253-884-9663, email [turkey-dancer@centurytel.net](mailto:turkey-dancer@centurytel.net), or visit the Narrows Chapter Website at [www.gigharbornwtf.org](http://www.gigharbornwtf.org).

tion chairman, said, "I have never hunted wild turkey but might someday. I have strong feelings about conservation though. As a father of two small children, how could I not get involved with a group like the NWTf. I am preserving what we have now and making it better for my kids."

Vice President Lance Newland said about Prante, "This man eats, sleeps, and breathes the efforts of the NWTf. He spends countless (hours) giving to this effort, even while working a full-time job that requires constant overtime. Despite this, he still finds time to send out emails, organize club events, travel across the state to meetings, and man information booths at sportsman shows, fairs, and businesses. I would challenge anyone to find a more dedicated volunteer and I am pleased to be his right-hand man."

# From Pioneer Stock Fenton farm still in family hands

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

Arthur Fenton, a transplanted pioneer, started life in Iowa, but lived the last 40 of his 90 years on his beloved farm near Minter Creek.

When Arthur was 12, his parents, brother and sister boarded a train "tourist car" with all their belongings, and lived in that car until they reached Yakima, Wash. A year later they moved north of Seattle to build a home and a farm. Arthur constructed loft and flight pens for 150 pair of Squab Homer pigeons he raised to provide money for schooling.

He attended the University of Washington and was a member of the Cadets, forerunner to ROTC. By his third year, he commanded a company of men. He also served in the National Guard during his university years.

Arthur spent summers working, sometimes for as little as 25 cents for a 10-hour day. While at school, he worked after classes and on weekends.

He graduated after three years, with a degree in mechanical engineering, in the midst of a depression with no jobs available. He spent a year in Alaska, long shoring, firing tar pots at 5 a.m., driving a coal wagon, and whatever else he could find to do. Spring and summer he worked on a dam out of the capital, Juneau.

That fall, he applied as draftsman at the Navy yard in Bremerton, where he stayed for over 31 years. He felt he was overpaid at \$3.28 for a seven-hour day when he was used to working 10 to 12 hours for much less.

When World War II started, he wanted to join the service, but the shipyard would not release him, as his was an essential civilian job.

Arthur and Hazel Fenton bought 250 acres along what is now 118th Street. The original house was built by Dick White, who was willing to sell but didn't want to leave his home, so the Fentons said the Whites were welcome to continue to live there, which they did until Mr. White died.

This gesture was typical of Arthur and



*Photo courtesy of Dixie Fenton Lodholm*  
Haying time on Fenton farm; Arthur Fenton upper right in hat.

Hazel Fenton, a couple with generous hearts.

The Fentons raised four children on the farm as well as an amazing variety of animals.

These included milk cows and goats, beef cattle, sheep, chickens, pigeons, ducks, geese, pigs, rabbits, horses, and dogs. Some were for work or food products, some for show, and some just for pleasure.

Arthur retired at 55 to be a full-time farmer. He maintained membership and

volunteered his services in a wide spectrum of organizations. Forestry and farming associations, Kitsap County Sheriff's Posse, soil conservation programs, fire district secretary, and assorted work for state fisheries department all had a share of his time.


After his retirement, the couple operated a livestock auction sale and a lunchroom, where Hazel sold her famous pies.

Arthur developed a field corn, which yielded well on his farm, and invited the whole family to help at harvest time.

He kept careful records and daily journals, a special legacy to his descendants.


Hazel, perhaps best known in the area as a Cootiette who held national offices, also picked brush for sale to florists because she enjoyed being in the woods, and later was receptionist in son Dick's office.

The elder Fentons were delighted when all of their children and most of their grandchildren made their homes on or near the farm in the 1960s. Arthur was involved as the various children built their own homes or remodeled the old farmhouse. The four children — Eddie, Dixie, Art and Dick — had each been given 50 acres, and much of that land is still owned by the Fenton children and grandchildren.



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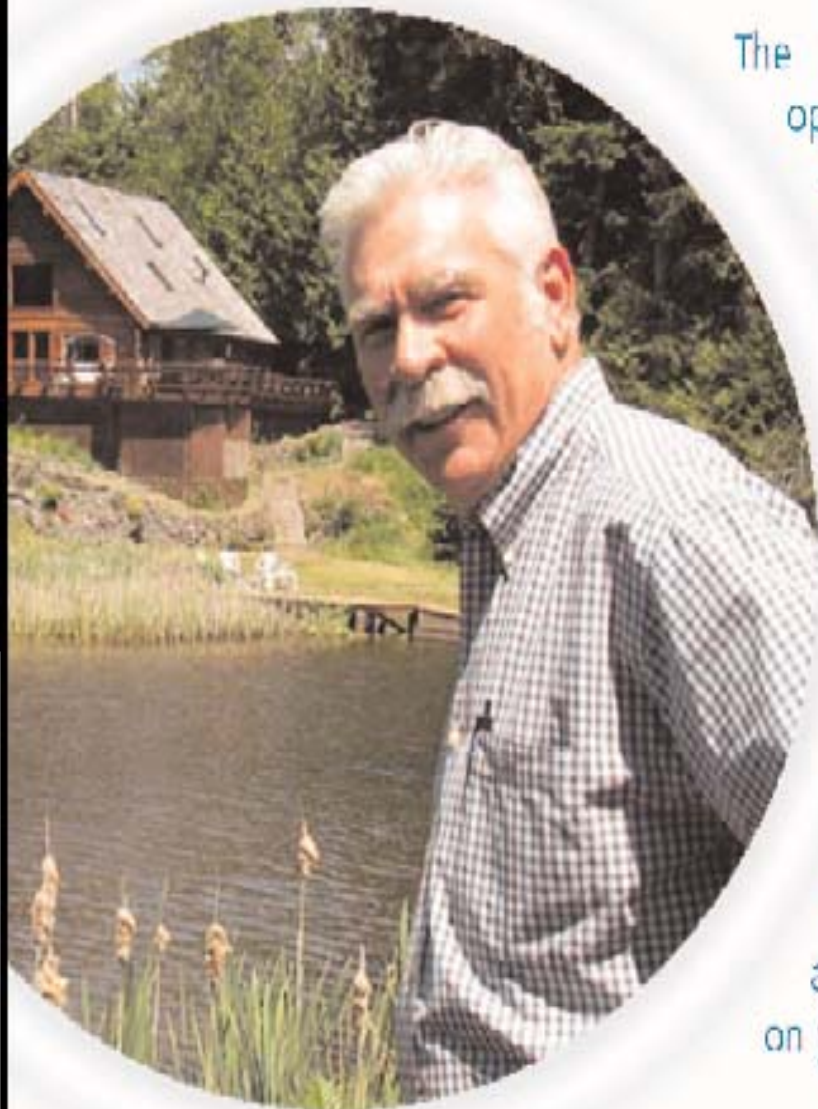
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## County uses new anti-icing program

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Key Peninsula drivers may have noticed regular-looking stripes on the road in early January when the temperatures dipped below freezing levels, causing icy conditions. One local resident noted that the marks looked too regular to be actual tracks in the frost, and inquired whether the county may have been using some substance to help the roads defrost faster.

The Key Peninsula News set off to find out.

Pierce County is using a new anti-icing liquid this year, said Bruce Wagner of the Public Works, confirming that the white marks were indeed signs that county crews have sprayed certain roads before the icy conditions started. Staff keeps a close eye on the forecast, he said.

"If we get a forecast of black ice in the morning, we've identified the problem areas and we spray those proactively," he said, calling it a "just in time application," done the day before the ice is expected. The high-risk areas include hills, main arterials and school zones, but the list is expanded to more problem areas if the forecast predicts worse weather.

What's different this year, however, is the chemical used. For the first time, crews are using sodium chloride, which is actually just another name for salt. In Western Washington, the product has been tested for several years, Wagner said, to measure its corrosiveness, impact on the environment, and the slickness it may cause.

The state Department of Transportation has also piloted a study to see how salt brine — a mixture of salt and water at 23 percent concentration — performed on several roads. Sodium chloride washes off easily with precipitation, causing less corrosiveness, does not make the road slicker, as is the case with some chemicals, and does not impact fish habitat or other environmental consideration negatively, Wagner said.

"We've been experimenting with various products since '95 and this is the first one we're really excited about," he said.

Sodium chloride works well to minus 7 degrees, but heavy rains will negate its performance. It can also be applied to compact snow and ice to help break it up.

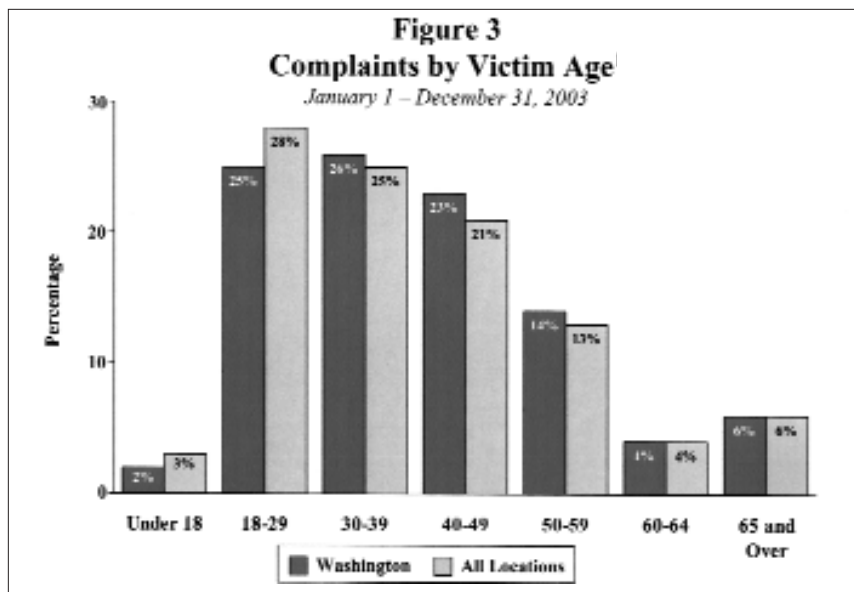


# Battling ID theft

By Karen Hale  
KP News

Mail theft is a huge problem, especially in rural areas like Key Peninsula, and it has never been so easy for criminals to empty someone's bank account because of mail fraud. According to Detective Dave Startup of the Washington State Patrol Identity Theft Unit, identity theft happens in many ways; however, 80 percent of the victims have no idea how the criminal obtained their information. Washington state ranks No. 10 in the country in ID theft, with almost 5,000 cases reported in 2003. Breakdowns in cases investigated by the WSP ranks King County as first in ID theft, followed by Kitsap and then Pierce. The Pierce County Sheriff's Department has identified 17 ID thefts that occurred on the Key Peninsula alone, and 300 in all of Pierce County excluding Tacoma last year.

The vast majority of identity thefts are used to obtain new credit card accounts, followed closely by manipulating existing accounts and opening new wireless phone accounts. This is something Key Peninsula resident Donna Daily knows about. A few years ago, she tried to open a new Verizon cellular phone account. The company already had her social security number listed under the name Donna Bailey and marked as a high-risk account not allowed to open new service. Daily was one of the



*Illustration courtesy of the Federal Trade Commission.*

lucky ones. She found out a year after the attempt that someone had tried to use her social security number and a bad Tacoma address — but because of the wrong name, that attempt failed. It didn't cost her any money, but she had to do some serious arguing to get the company to understand what happened and to take her name and social security number out of that status.

Another way to suffer ID theft is by losing a medical ID card, or being hospitalized. Incredibly, there have been cases of medical workers taking information off charts and opening credit card accounts under the name of someone who has been in their care. Someone can also use it to obtain medical care. Never sign a blank

insurance form.

A person who suspects ID theft must first file a police report. Get a copy of the report and have the report number handy for questions from creditors, agencies and banks. If you suspect that it is someone you know, you need to notify the authorities as soon as possible. In some cases, activity could be tracked, helping catch the thief. You also need to send a copy of the police report to the three major credit reporting agencies so they will block information on your credit report that you have identified as resulting from identity theft, which they are required to do by law.

You must report the theft to your financial institutions and creditors. They will tell

you what to do according to their policies. You can also tell the prosecuting attorney that if the identity thief is convicted, you would like an Order Correcting Public Records. You can send copies of this document to all involved agencies.

Overall, identity theft is one of the biggest headaches that can happen to someone. It is a lot of stress, paperwork and sometimes even money. If you have been a victim, you can get help and information on what to do next by calling your local police department.

(Sources: Washington State Patrol; Pierce County Sheriff's; Federal Trade Commission, [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov); state Attorney General's Office, [www.wa.gov/ago](http://www.wa.gov/ago))

## Avoiding online ID theft

By Christina Moore  
KP News

Over the years the Internet has become a place of instant messaging, email and easy-access shopping. You can have your groceries delivered to your door, hold conversations with people across the nation, and keep in contact with family and friends. In short, the World Wide Web has become quite a convenience though inevitably there is a catch. Identity theft is a growing problem of Internet users, but there are ways to prevent someone from stealing your identity.

If your computer is not subscribed to any virus protection such as Norton Anti-Virus or AVG, then consider subscribing or at least downloading a free edition. Having up-to-date protection keeps your computer safe from viruses that are capable of total system meltdown and sending personal files or other stored information. When strangers email you

hyperlinks and files to download, delete them immediately because they are most likely ridden with viruses and spyware—programs that get downloaded without your knowledge and keep track of your online activities for marketing purposes among other things. If you use a laptop, be sure to keep financial information off it because if someone happens to steal it, they have complete access to your personal files. Occasionally you may receive an email from a company that asks you to follow a link to verify your account. If you should ever receive such an email, do not click the link but rather, directly contact the company to see if there is a real problem. It could just be someone trying to gather your account information.

Do you have an email account, an online banking account and/or accounts at online shopping sites? Passwords are required in all these places and it is very important that you choose your passwords wisely. The worst passwords that you could use are family member and friends' names, street addresses, maiden name, and even your own name. The best pass-

words are those that combine both letters and numbers because there are programs available that try to crack people's passwords by automatically trying every word in the dictionary. Memorize your password and be sure to change it regularly. Many Websites offer to remember your password, but it's safer to decline those offers.

Is Albertson's delivering groceries to your door? Did you sign up for Netflix to receive DVDs in your mail with no late fees? What about those vintage clothes you bought from eBay? Although these companies are reliable, there are companies out there that take advantage of consumers. Before you give out your personal information to companies, be sure that you know and trust them. To see whether the company is licensed or registered, check with the state consumer protection agency.

Some online companies have been known to suddenly disappear without a trace. That is, after they take your money and information. The safest bet is to order with a credit card because credit card charges can be disputed, unlike money

orders or checks.

ID theft can result in a maximum of 15 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 so why do criminals take this risk? Because they know how to manipulate personal information into such things as opening a banking account in your name and writing bad checks or buying cars. They can give your name to police during an arrest and if they are released and don't go to the court hearing, an arrest warrant will be issued under your name. They could establish new credit card accounts, file for bankruptcy to avoid paying debts from under your name, switch your mailing address so when they run up charges on your credit card it takes you much longer to realize something is wrong.

For more information, see "Site-Seeing on the Internet: A Traveler's Guide to Cyberspace from the Federal Trade Commission" at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).

(Sources: National Crime Prevention Council, [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org); and Computer Identity Theft, [www.keenconsumer.com](http://www.keenconsumer.com))

*Christina Moore is a Peninsula High School senior.*



# Longbranch couple tie the knot on the beach

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

All brides wish for something memorable for their wedding — and Robin Bailey was no exception. She wanted to remember the moment she said “I do” to her love, Douglas Gould, forever. Who wouldn’t?

But while most brides dream themselves walking down the aisle dressed in gorgeous white dresses, Bailey’s vision was a little different. The Longbranch couple would tie the knot under the blue sky using the Penrose State Park beach as a backdrop, they decided.

The most special part, however, was in getting there.

On Jan. 5, Robin Bailey and Douglas Gould made the journey to their wedding on their tandem bicycle, riding for about 3 miles from their church, the Longbranch Community Church, accompanied by best man Drew Gazabat. Retired pastor Virgil Iverson, also of Longbranch, joined



Robin and Doug Gould after being married on the beach, with their tandem bicycle that was part of the ceremony at Penrose State Park.

*Photo courtesy of  
Gerry Colleen*

them on his bike not far from the park. At high tide, in near-freezing temperatures but with a brightly shining sun, Iverson joined the couple in matrimony.

“The bicycle was pretty special because riding a tandem takes working

together,” Bailey said. “For us, it was symbolic of our compatibility.”

The pair had been bicycling together for a few years, often joined by Gazabat. During a trip to San Francisco, the couple rented a tandem bike and rode across the Golden Gate Bridge. After

that, regular bicycles simply wouldn’t do.

“It takes a total and complete cooperation to be on a tandem bike, and they’ve ridden it in complete harmony and unison,” Gazabat said. “If you can work together on a tandem, you can do anything (together).”

Gould was living on his sailboat on Filucy Bay about three and a half years ago when Bailey sailed in on her 42-foot schooner. She has been sailing to the area with her family since she was 12 years old.

Besides sailing, bicycling and kayaking together, they own a custom-sewing business, making specialized clothing, drapes, marine canvas and other items for homes and boats. At the wedding, each person received a scarf with the symbolic tandem bike embroidered on it.

There was no rehearsal, no big crowds — just a small family gathering including Bailey’s friend and matron of honor Pamela Colleen. It was the special moment the couple envisioned.

## Couple celebrate 60 years together

Stan and Audrey Paul of Horseshoe Lake celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Jan. 16.

The former Audrey Whitfield of Vaughn became the bride of Stanley Paul of Home on Jan. 16, 1945. Stanley was serving in the U.S. Army at the time. They were married at the Vaughn Church.

They spent many years as brush pickers in the Lakebay-Key Center area. They are avid bottle collectors and spent time in years past digging old homesteads and dump sites (when you could still do that).

They would love to have phone calls or cards. Due to Stan’s health concerns, there will not be an open house, as the couple had hoped.

Submit a milestone of your own. Engagements, wedding announcements and anniversaries may be submitted with a photo to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com).

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**Membership Drive:** Annual membership renewal and new memberships for Two Waters will be held at the Spring Fling  
**Spring Programming Preview:** March through May  
**Scenic Painting:** with Paul Marbury  
**Landscape Woodworking:** with Lynn Byrdell and Jan Eddy  
**Travels in Journal Writing:** with Nikki Schuster

**Beginning Drawing:** with Marty Lantz  
**Introduction to Watercolor:** with Beverly Anselmi  
**Framing and Mounting:** with Jennie Pedersen  
**Continuing Anatomy "Tense":** with Melissa Korman  
**Henna Body Art:** (for your body or home) with Marc Stutz  
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(From RONI, Page1)

side, rolling seven times. She doesn't remember anything after the swerving, because her seatbelt popped off, the air bags did not deploy, and she went through the windshield.

Amrhein was later told by the investigating officers that they believed the car rolled over her right upper arm, crushing it the last time it went over. This accounts for her other injury, beside the one that ruined her back.

In mid-January, the doctor re-evaluating her condition gave her some good news. Originally, it was thought that her spinal cord was severed. This would have meant permanent paralysis. However, it now appears her spine was thrown to one side of her body as much as four inches at the farthest arc, and the spinal cord was pinched shut from that violent movement. The spine has now returned to its original correct location and her spinal cord is swollen to the point that evaluating for injury is still too early. Next month, the doctors hope to get a better picture of what will happen in her future. She will be able to take off the body brace in mid-March.

Amrhein is reporting sensations in several places below her injury. Her daily pain is very intense, but she is very positive about her future. A hard worker, she held two jobs before the accident. She plans on working just as hard at walking again.

Amrhein's 3-year-old son, Derek, has a difficult time not being able to play with mom or have her crawl into bed with him. She is helping him try to understand that it's just for a little while. She also now gets help in taking care of her ill father from her friend, Robert, who has taken her place as his caretaker through the COPEs program. This is a huge help for Roni, as her biggest challenge these days is paying all her bills after no longer

## If you'd like to help

Peninsula Market co-workers set up an account at Sound Credit Union in the name of Mirahna Amrhein to help her family, and anyone is welcome to contribute.

being able to work two jobs.

Christmas was wonderful at their house, thanks to co-workers at Peninsula Market, spearheaded by Toni Petredis as well as the Children's Home Society. Amrhein wants to send out a huge thank you! to everyone who made sure Derek had a Christmas.

Maury Povich has even shown an interest in Amrhein's situation. She has been called by his show and asked to submit a letter of interest in telling her story.

The young woman has had some hard times in her life. She lost her mother at 11 and has been her father's main caretaker through his lifelong illnesses ever since. She has taken it all in stride. The main thing she says these days is, "The life lesson here is never to take anything for granted because life can change on a dime like it did for me. I left the house walking and came home in a chair."

Pretty wise for a 21-year-old.

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(From WAUNA PO, Page 1)

protested the idea. Most supporters of the restoration, Lind said, were attending the KP Business Association's annual dinner scheduled for the same night. She named several other groups that could sponsor the restoration besides the MPD, although the Friends group was not asking for financial support and was planning to raise all the funds needed.

Unlike some previous meetings on the issue, this one had a quiet if not cordial atmosphere. After Lind's presentation, neighbors and others took three minutes each to tell the park board why they opposed the restoration idea.

By the time the comment period had ended, the meeting took an unexpected turn.

"I'm not going to pursue it any longer," Lind said. "This is my final night. If you don't want it, I say, 'Tear it down.' It's your park, your neighborhood, your business...But I give up."

The evening, it seemed, has achieved what two years of petitions, loud meetings and angry letters could not: It convinced Lind that saving the landmark was not worth it.

Lind has tried to argue the benefit of having a dedicated group oversee a park and building restoration by drawing a parallel with her experience at the Rocky Creek Conservation Area and the Home Park, both of which were filled with an enormous amount of garbage before they were cleaned up and turned into parks. Both efforts succeeded largely due to the efforts of Lind, along with several other volunteers who still maintain the two parks. The arguments fell on deaf ears, as residents drew concerns about traffic, safety, parking, water and others, and questioned costs and funding.

Although neighbors had been welcoming of Lind's project until then, she drew a round of applause after the announcement and recognition of her

extensive community contributions.

Despite the outcome of the hearing, the Wauna post office issue is far from being solved. The building is on the county's historical register, which means the Pierce County Landmarks Commission would have to approve the removal — a move the commission denied two years ago when the county requested it, said Jan Wolcott, the county parks director who also attended the hearing.

"The landmarks commission will not let it be removed until there is no hope that it cannot be restored or moved, and as long as there is an effort to have it restored," he said. With the Friends' group conceding, the removal discussions are likely to start again, and residents stated they would approach the county about the next step.

Even if the removal is approved, the question of cost remains. Asked if the county had funding to tear down the building, Wolcott said he did not know. He said later in an interview that there was no money in this year's budget for it. Although he couldn't estimate a timeline of how long it would take to get approval from the commission, he guessed that it could be a year or more before demolition would be possible. That's if another group doesn't start restoration efforts.

The KPMPD board has indicated that if discussions were to start with the county regarding transfer of park ownership, the removal of the building would be a condition, since the Key Pen board doesn't have removal funds either.

Lind wrote supporters after the meeting, "It has been two years since we started this and I have gone as far as I can... Without full community support...the neighbors are the final arbiter... I will never drive by there without nostalgia and regrets that it should have been otherwise."

She later told the KP News, "I don't regret the experience. But if the building goes, it's going to be tough."

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# KP Citizens of the Year speaker seeks peace

By Hugh McMillan  
KP News

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Larry Seaquist will be the keynote speaker for the Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year awards dinner to be held in March. He invests his energies in the design and demonstration of practical new methods of peace building and conflict prevention.

He and his writer wife, Carla, moved to Gig Harbor two years ago from Washington, D.C., to reconnect to their Pacific Northwest roots. A former U.S. Navy warship captain, his four commands included the battleship USS IOWA.

## Awards ceremony

The KP Lions Club's Citizen of the Year awards dinner is Saturday, March 12, at the Civic Center in Vaughn. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dinner starts at 7. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids 6-12 and free for kids under 6. To purchase, call 884-3485 or 884-3319.

Working ashore as a Pentagon strategist, he served on the staff of the secretary of defense and directed the secretary's policy planning staff, with the focus on the design of conflict prevention and deterrence strategies. Upon retirement, he continued

that peace building work, founding the Strategy Group, an independent, international think tank built around a multinational corps of experienced peace building professionals. Funded by UNESCO,



SEAQUIST

USAID, the Canadian and British governments, and others, he pioneered the use of "PeaceLabs" and "PeaceGames" in at-risk or at-war communities in South and Central Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America, as well as in the United States and Canada.

He and his colleagues are now working with an expert group at Ohio State University and at Evergreen State College to create an international center to train and support local peace builders. The "Ohio Project" is conducting a series of ground-breaking pilot projects to refine innovative techniques for enabling local communities to create and conduct strategic peace building and problem-solving campaigns. At work on a book, he and Carla are regular contributors to the international newspaper The Christian Science Monitor.

*Hugh McMillan is a member of the KP Lions Club.*

# A fox tale

By Edie Morgan  
Special to KP News

How many humans does it take to save one red fox? The answer: many more than you might think.

Last September, we found a severely injured red fox in our neighbor's driveway. She had been hit by a car and appeared dead at first, until we got closer and spoke to her. She lifted her head and looked at us, and we knew we had to do something quickly to help her.

We learned there is no 911 system for wild animals. Our first call to a local veterinarian yielded the information that by law, very few people are allowed to treat wild animals. We were given the phone number of the All Creatures Animal Hospital in Gorst, where we were instructed to call the Island Wildlife Shelter in Kitsap County for authorization for the vets to receive and treat the fox. While waiting for the shelter to call back, we asked the vet if there was anything we could do to find immediate care, and they suggested we get her into a box in preparation for transportation.

We then learned we were not prepared by experience or good intention to actually handle an injured wild animal. When my husband, Tom, tried to cover the fox with a wool shirt to keep her warm, she drug herself away and back into the road. That day there seemed to be an extremely high number of large dump trucks running up and down the Key Peninsula Highway, and it was imperative that Tom herd her back to the side of the road, which he managed to do. We were worried that she might bite



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The little red fox after her release.

us, or run back in the road, or die of shock. We called several people we thought might know what to do, without any luck. Finally, a distant memory of the local dog rescue efforts of Tracy Manning came to mind, and we called her for advice. She sent us two brothers, Russell and Glen Eaton, who arrived shortly with an old bed sheet and a dog crate. They covered the fox with the sheet and, moving quickly but gently, set her into the crate. Soon, we were on our way to Gorst with our precious cargo.

When we arrived they immediately took her for assessment and we sat in the waiting room. We had, of course, already become emotionally attached to "our" fox, and the wait was difficult. We learned that the fox appeared to have a dislocated hip and perhaps a fractured pelvis, and other miscellaneous injuries. They would be treating her for shock and re-assessing her condition as she stabilized, and she would probably have surgery that evening. We were told that we would not be charged for her care, which was a blessing, as it was clear she was going to need extensive medical care in order to survive. In fact, her survival was not yet assured.

Dr. Kathryn Krueger, DVM, treated the fox at the animal hospital. Over the

ensuing weeks of recovery time, Dr. Krueger performed multiple surgeries, the staff took multiple radiographs, and Dr. Krueger made many personal visits to provide hours of care. The injuries the fox had suffered included the dislocated left hip, a huge laceration that nearly encircled her left leg, laying open a big skin flap, and a severed flexor tendon down the back of her left leg, among many other injuries and fractures.

A few days after the fox's first surgeries, when she had stabilized, Sandy Fletcher, director of Wildlife Rehabilitation for the Island Wildlife Shelter at the Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island, picked up the fox and took her to the shelter for recovery and rehabilitation. This process turned out to be a challenge in itself, as the multiple treatments required were intensive and very difficult for the fox to endure. As a wild animal in captivity, she was so anxious that her fragile condition was exacerbated by her anxiety. She caused herself further injury in her efforts to escape confinement. She required sophisticated sedation, a careful balance of medication that allowed her to be alert and "almost normal," while protecting her from the effects of her own fear and anxiety. Dr. Mel Richardson, of the Winslow Animal Clinic, with many years of experience working with zoo animals, was able to prescribe and manage the necessary drug regime. As Sandy Fletcher stated, "We could have never pulled her through such a prolonged and complicated recovery process without the use of these drugs."

Over the course of 10 weeks, the volunteers of the Island Wildlife Shelter cared for the little red fox. Sandy Fletcher herself gave the many medical treatments that were needed round the clock, and passed

One reason to share this story is to acknowledge and thank the many human beings who worked together to save the little red fox. Another reason is to inform others who might come across an injured wild animal, to avoid delay in finding help. To that end, take note of the following information: Island Wildlife Shelter, at the Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Island, can be reached at 206-855-9057, or online at [www.island-wildlife.org](http://www.island-wildlife.org), which also has information about wildlife rescue.

up the opportunity to attend a favorite Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in order to provide the care.

After the final sutures were removed, the fox had to prove her ability to hunt live prey, such as mice and rats, over a two-week period. She passed the test, and her release back to the wild was arranged for Saturday, Dec. 18. A group of volunteers from the shelter gathered in Longbranch and trudged uphill to the pre-determined location, as far as possible from the road where the fox had met her near demise. We were thrilled to join this dedicated and knowledgeable crew for the release.

As her crate was opened, the little fox emerged, and Tom and I saw her for the first time since the accident. She looked somewhat worse for wear, a little mottled and patched together. But she was alive and about to return to her home on the hill. She moved forward a few steps, then turned and very slowly gazed around the group of well wishers positioned behind her, before moving off into the brush. It was a brief, but powerful, moment of connection in the garden of life. We are very thankful to all those humans who helped the fox survive.

# Two Waters Arts Alliance begins New Year with a splash

By Jerry Libstaff

Two Waters Arts Alliance, 2004 winner of the prestigious Margaret K. Williams Arts award from the Pierce County Arts Commission, bursts into 2005 with renewed passion for presenting art to our Key Peninsula community.

The season begins with the highly regarded Spring Fling on Feb. 26 at the

Key Peninsula Civic Center. The annual event has become a fundamental part of the Peninsula experience. Local artists display their work while live music fills the air. Hors d'oeuvres and wine are available. The program was so successful last year that Two Waters had to move the event to a larger venue to accommodate the number of attendees. This year, "Jazz Musette with Lorraine Hart" will provide the entertainment and many of the most notable artists of the area will have their work on display.

Two Waters has also prepared its spring class schedule. Classes titled Pine Needle Basketry, Sumi Painting, Lampwork Glass

Bead Making, Beginning Weaving, Travels in Journal Writing, Beginning Drawing, Intro to Watercolor, Framing and Matting, Continuing Anatomy "Torso," Name Board Carving (for your boat or home), Large Cement Garden Leaves and Chinese Brush Painting will be available. The ongoing Acoustic Jam Session and Writing without Teachers programs will continue.

Brochures will be available prior to the start of the spring season and you can pick one up at the Spring Fling. Classes are taught by renowned local artists. The experiences are both extremely rewarding and fun. The prices can't be beat, either.

In additional news, Two Waters Arts

Alliance will continue the Artists in Schools program this year. Paddy Gilson again heads up the series, in which local artists join with Peninsula School District teachers to provide hands-on art classes and enhance the district's curriculum. Artists in Schools was so well received last year that it has grown to accommodate the needs and desires of additional teachers.

If you have any questions concerning Two Waters Arts Alliance Spring Fling contact Kristen at 884-5420 or email GardenKB@centurytel.net; Artists in Schools, Paddy at 884-9200; and classes, Brynn Rydell at 884-2029 or email her at brynnfoss@harbornet.com.



The Genuine  
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# Out & About

Right, Vaughn Elementary fifth-grader Michele McCormack spent some time over winter break to help her father, John, wash up his school bus. John McCormack is a Peninsula School district driver.

*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

Below, Some Key Pen areas looked more beautiful than others during the brief snow in January.

*Photo by Connie Harris*



*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Key Peninsula Lions Clubs members and friends recently took three visiting foreign exchange students to Seattle. Pictured are Peruvians Alexia Bances and Sandra Albino and Australian Lil Slapp with Janice McMillan, KP Lions Vice President George Robison and wife Cindy, and the Robisons' neighbor Lola Zeth. Zeth's husband, Don, and Lions member Hugh McMillan also accompanied the students on the trip but were busy taking photos.



Left, Three Namibia school educators visited Minter Creek Elementary during its Martin Luther King, Jr. assembly in January. The school has ongoing ties with Namibia and has contributed portable libraries for the country in the past. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Below, Fire District 16 shift chief, firefighter Tom Lique, at the scene of a car crash on Tiedman road in January. The driver was lucky to escape without major injuries despite the car rolling over more than once. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



17th

## Mark your calendar!

The new Key Pen News deadline for unsolicited admissions, announcements and press releases is the **17th** of each month.

17th