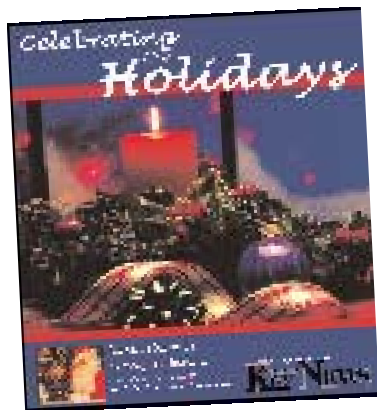


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New county regulations affect Key Pen shorelines

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

At public meetings Oct. 26 at Peninsula High School and Nov. 17 at Key Peninsula Middle School, Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee explained new proposals to identify and protect critical salmon habitat along marine shorelines. Also discussed was an amendment to the Pierce County Code to eliminate the Shoreline Density Exception along fresh-

water and marine shorelines.

Previously, the Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board found that Pierce County's proposed protections were not adequate or in compliance with state law. Subsequently, Pierce County's consultant, Pentec Environmental, conducted nearshore habitat assessments of marine shorelines through the use of aerial photography,

(See **HEARINGS**, Page 25)



Photo courtesy of Mike Baum, Vantage Point Photography

An aerial view of Vaughn Bay's shoreline. New regulations expected to be in effect in March will impact how property owners can develop their waterfront land.

Taking care of man's best friend

Animal control, licensing of pets undergo transition

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

When Waneen Marks moved to the Key Peninsula earlier this summer, she was startled when on the first day out for a walk — to get some exercise — she was threatened by a dog on a public road in Vaughn. On the second day she was bitten by another dog, which resulted in punctured skin and a bruise. Since then, she says she has encountered as many as eight to 10 loose neighborhood dogs in one outing.

"I didn't call (animal control) because I'm not trying to get people in trouble. I'm just trying to get some exercise. It would be nice to be able to walk without fear of attack of neighborhood dogs," she said.

Mark's experience is far from unique. Out of the 19,442



Jackie-Marie Luckenbill, Jacob in the background, with the family's beloved dog, Judah. For many families, pets make wonderful companions and are treated as part of the family.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

reports investigated by The Human Society for Tacoma and Pierce County in 2004, 4,781 were for aggressive dogs. It is against the law to allow a dog without a leash beyond a person's

(See **DOGS**, Page 23)

Bea's produces fruit in Guatemala

By Paula Moore
KP News

For many years motorists coming out to the Key Peninsula have seen the signs, "BEA'S FLOWERS U-PICK." At Bea's home on Creviston Road, there grow row after row of gorgeous dahlias, of every

color and size. The Morrison family just leave a jar for people picking the flowers to leave their contribution. This gives owner Bea Morrison extra pocket money to help the family, plus fulfills her love of flowers and for gardening.

But the impact of the money left behind by customers for the beautiful

dahlias goes far beyond the Key Peninsula — it travels the globe on a special mission the Morrison family has adopted.

Several years ago Morrison and her daughter, Linda Brewer, were presented with World Vision's adopt-a-child program at their church, Chapel Hill Presbyterian in Gig Harbor. They asked

(See **GARDEN**, Page 24)

Mayo Cove herring pen dispute process continues

By William C. Dietz
KP News

The frequently controversial herring pens in Mayo Cove belong to Lakebay Marina owner Derwin Hostetler, and when his attorney was killed in an automobile accident in late October, Pierce County put all legal action on hold so Hostetler would have time to find another lawyer.

Since that time Mike McKafy has agreed to serve as Hostetler's attorney, opening the way for a meeting planned for Dec. 12, according to Mark Luppino, code enforcement officer for Pierce County.

"The county will meet with Mr. Hostetler, his new attorney, plus the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, representatives from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and the Planning and Land Services Department," Luppino said. "We'll put everything on the table and see what happens."

If all parties are able to reach agreement, the long-running dispute could be settled then and there. But, if no resolution is forthcoming, a new hearing date will be chosen and the legal process will continue.

News brief

Clinton, Yanity win local elections

Incumbent Kip Clinton was elected for another term as a commissioner for Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District. Clinton won 60.79 percent of the vote (in unofficial results with all ballots counted) over challenger Russ Humberd, who received 38.42 percent of the vote.

Al Yanity pulled ahead of Ben Thompson in the bid for Fire District 16 commissioner, filling the spot of Fred Ramsdell who did not run for re-election. Yanity won 54.74 percent of the votes, while Thompson garnered 44.94 percent.

Results are not official until certified by the Pierce County auditor.

KP skate park more than gleam in the eye

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

A dinner dance and auction in a beautifully decorated Key Peninsula Civic Center in November welcomed a full house of supporters of a skate park to be built in the memory of Zech and Adrienne West on KP Metropolitan Park District property.

The untimely loss of the then-newly-weds to a tragic accident in the Cascade Mountains last summer prompted Zech's dad, Capt. Chuck West of the KP Fire Department, to resolve to bring to fruition Zech's longtime quest for such a park in the KP community. Zech was an accomplished skate board enthusiast.

Planning for Saturday's event began almost immediately following the tragedy. Family, friends, members of the fire department, and many others poured themselves, their time, talents and resources into making it a real success. An excellent dinner catered by La Gomache of Port Orchard was served by a polished staff made up of volunteers Linda Owen, Phyllis Krueger, Holly Medlock, Cheryl Mirenta, Jessica Weisenberger, Bill Jones, Bronson Jones, Mary Collins, Denise Collins, and Bob Isabell. The Wests give special credit to Claudia Jones and Lupe Clarey "for pulling this together."

The Wests thank Victoria Hawkins and her mom, Debra Allen, an interior decorator, for preparations including acquisition of auction items and decorating the center, and John and Amy Marerro for "all their hard work right from the beginning."

The Almost Handsome Band made up of fine jazz musicians from Gig Harbor and Peninsula high schools,



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Cindy Johnson and Ruth Bramhall welcome state Rep. Patricia Lantz as organizers Sharon and Chuck West seek some errant paperwork at the dinner dance and auction to raise funds for creation of a permanent skate board park on the Key Peninsula.

Sponsors made event a success

The fund-raiser organizers said they received donations from many people and businesses who made the event possible, including Beach House, Blondie's, Affairs, On the Way Deli, Susanne's, Albertsons, Harbor Kitchen, Le Bistro, Harbor Inn, Brix 25, Judson Street Café, Harvester, Peninsula Market, Trading Post, Bill Tarver, Ship to Shore, Capitol Lumber, Moreland's, the KP Firefighters Association, Laura McClintok, Bev Pedersen, NW Snowboards, Old Town Bicycle, Allstar Guitar, the Tides, Home Depot, Tim Kezele, Cutter Bug, Always Bloomin', Melissa Turner, Kim Bauer, Jesse Michener, Les Schwabb of Gig Harbor, Sound Charters, Harbor Rock Café, Shubui Sa, TNT Nails, Greatest Car Wash, Wesley Inn, Charboneau Construction, Marty Marcus and Ann Waldo, Dr. Darryl Roundy, KP firefighters Mike Reigle and Zach Johnson, and many other cash contributors.

Dan Minter, leader and sax; Andy Ostericher, bass; Erick Hastings, drums; Briant Boyer, keyboard; and John Broback, guitar, provided music for listening and dancing to the delight of all.

"So many people made this happen," West said. "We are so grateful to them and I hope we'll be forgiven for not attempting to list them all, wanting not to risk inadvertently leaving out any names. Thank you, thank you."

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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Production: September Hyde
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Unsolicited submissions deadline
including press releases: 17th of
each month

www.keypennews.com

Key Peninsula News is published monthly by the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn, Washington. Copyright 2004 with all rights reserved. Reproduction of editorial or graphic contents in any manner without permission is prohibited. Annual subscriptions (12 issues) are available for \$20.00 and are mailed first class. Copies are mailed presort standard to residents and post office box holders of the Key Peninsula. Single copies are available at the newspaper office in the basement of the Civic Center annex and at various distribution points located on the Key Peninsula. Approximately 18,000 people live in the distribution area.

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WSDOT holds meetings to discuss upcoming tolls

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

A small group of about two dozen people came to Evergreen Elementary in November to give Washington State Department of Transportation officials their opinion on the particulars of the toll collection system for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The toll will be in effect in 2007, when the new bridge opens, even as the current bridge will be closed for repairs for about a year. According to WSDOT, one lane of the current bridge may remain open, potentially as a reversible lane, to provide additional capacity to the new bridge — so the toll can begin.

Unlike the preceding meeting in Gig Harbor, which was attended by a large group of people who reportedly took that opportunity to express their frustrations with the tolls, the Key Peninsula meeting was low key. Items discussed ranged from how the transponder card (the electronic form of payment) will work and what fines should be imposed on those who drive through without paying, to what categories of users (such as emergency vehicles responding to calls) should be exempt.

The Tacoma Narrows Bridge toll will be the

For more information about the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr16narrowsbridge.

first toll collected by the state in 20 years. "What we know is what other states have done. We would rather create a program that is reasonable...for this part of the world," said Claudia Cornish, WSDOT media relations manager for the project.

The initial toll for repaying \$800 million worth of financing bonds will be \$3, collected only eastbound, and is anticipated to increase after two years. Gov. Christine Gregoire will appoint a citizen advisory committee next spring that will make recommendations on rates and other toll considerations.

Drivers who prefer not to stop at the tolling booth will be able to use a transponder — a device similar to a credit card that stores information electronically and is affixed to the windshield — and periodically refill their account. The possibility of automatic replenishment from a bank account is also being considered. The transponder essentially works as a pre-paid calling card. WSDOT will provide account statements that will include balance as well as a breakdown of the dates the

transponder was used.

The toll plaza will have workers collecting the fee from those who don't have a transponder. One of the questions discussed at the Evergreen meeting was whether residents feel only cash should be accepted, or whether a debit or credit card option should be offered.

A camera will be on hand to take a photo of the car license in the event a person goes through the transponder lane but the reader system does not detect the device. Violators will receive notices and fines in the mail. The WSDOT's discussion at the meeting included what would be a reasonable fine amount and how the enforcement system should work.

A Key Pen resident who commutes on the bridge five days a week to work will end up paying around \$800 during the first year. Those who have to make several trips a day, travel to children's sports games, doctor's appointments and so on will pay much more.

The topic of discounts was brought up at the meeting. "The state is obligated to pay bonds back at a certain rate," Cornish said, which means too many discounts will not allow the revenue goal to be met. "We are very aware of the real or perceived financial burden the tolls will have" on people's lives, she said.

• • •

A Key Pen resident who commutes on the bridge five days a week to work will end up paying around \$800 during the first year.

• • •

"We are very aware of the real or perceived financial burden the tolls will have."

-Claudia Cornish, WSDOT media relations manager for the project



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Editorial

KP youth set the example

It's been said plenty of times that today's children are tomorrow's leaders. Two separate groups of local youth are demonstrating they already have what it takes for that role.

The groups, Teens Empowered Against Meth, or TEAM at Peninsula High School, and the Key Peninsula Youth Council that has members from PHS and Key Peninsula Middle School, are taking the initiative to make a difference in other people's lives.

The work of these teens, and their adult leaders, is commendable. TEAM is following an ambitious goal to fight methamphetamine by attracting the attention of pharmaceutical companies to the problem. The Youth Council is planning a survey of their peers, so they may better understand the needs of young people on the Key Peninsula.

They are not only role models for other young people. They are role models for adults too. Next time you see one of these youngsters collecting a petition or asking for other help, make sure you encourage them and commend them for their work.

Letters to the Editor

Scout troops thank community

Thank you to all who contributed to the Troop and Venture Crew 220 food drive to benefit the Key Peninsula's food bank.

On Sunday, Nov. 6, Scouts and Crew collected over one thousand items from the following neighborhoods:

Wind and Tide.....	292 items
Bell Mar.....	60 items
Emerald Shores.....	78 items
Green Tree	340 items
Lake Minterwood.....	140 items
Lake Holiday.....	400 items

Grand Total.....	1310 items!

Christine Burris
Venture Crew 220 adviser

Civic Center thanks party contributors

I want to thank everyone who made this year's Halloween a success, our donors and our workers. It was my first year running this, with the help of

Narrows bridge commuter's lament

By Bill Trandum
Special to KP News

I don't think I'm a FOWSDOT (Friend of the Washington State Department of Transportation), but I am a daily commuter to Tacoma.

After attending the recent public workshop on bridge tolls, I couldn't help but conclude that the important decisions regarding the bridge had already been made. Citizen participation in the workshop amounted to a charade wherein the appearance of obtaining valuable input from the local citizenry could be documented by WSDOT. On film no less.

Questions WSDOT posed included: Should first-time toll offenders (people who fail to pay tolls) be given a warning? Or should they be fined? Should WSDOT offer free electronic chips as an incentive to get people to use that method of payment (as opposed to paying cash for each trip)? Should anyone (other than police, fire and other FOWSDOT) be given free passes?

You get the drift. What we witnessed was the PR gang conducting workshops about trivia to create the appearance that the public had input to bridge decision making.

Local citizens did ask questions about important stuff:

Toll amounts: WSDOT told us that rate setting would be done by someone else (the governor's commission). I suspect rates are already set. The rate will be \$3 round trip for everybody (except FOWSDOT) unless someone's lobby group wangles a discount in return for future votes.

Toll start date: The new bridge will be opened and one lane of the old bridge left open to create the fiction that both bridges are in use so WSDOT can start collecting tolls in April 2007. WSDOT made statements about such decisions being up to the private partner. They also suggested that perhaps lanes on the new bridge would be reversible. I see no construction activities or facilities that

would indicate the addition of lane-closing devices to create reversible lanes on either bridge. Besides, if a reversible lane would solve the problem, why build a toll bridge in the first place?

It's hard for me not to be cynical. Especially since published reports show 70 percent of those who live west of the bridge rejected the toll project. WSDOT and a friendly Thurston County judge expanded the voting area to include King and Thurston counties to achieve a 53.4 percent approval vote.

Please, Mr. WSDOT, don't patronize us by soliciting input about trivia. We are all pretty smart people.

P.S. If you really want to serve the Key Peninsula, address the growing off-ramp backups on State Route 16 at the Purdy exit. And give us your plan and a date for a new SR-16 exit north of the Burley Lagoon that feeds onto State Route 302. One that can handle future traffic loads without stoplights.

Bill Trandum lives in Vaughn.

Jena Henak, the Civic Center manager. I know not everything went smoothly but a fun time was had by all, I hope. We even ran out of bags for our kids but no one was turned away, we made do with making up more bags. The costume contest seemed to be a big hit. I'm looking forward to having a better time next year with more time to plan.

Also I want to invite all the people who helped make this a success to our Civic Center board meetings on the second Thursday of each month. Next meeting will be on Dec. 8.

Gloria Bowman
Civic Center Events Committee chairperson

Candidate thanks voters for elections support

I wish to sincerely thank the voters of the Key Peninsula who voted for me in the recent election for fire commissioner. It was a long and demanding campaign, but also very rewarding because of the many opportunities I had to visit with and get to know so many wonderful people.

I am especially grateful to my many close friends and acquaintances who encouraged and supported me and

who spent many hours campaigning on my behalf.

And last, but certainly not least, is my sincere gratitude to the Professional Firefighters of Local No. 3152 who provided such overwhelming support for my candidacy.

I am hopeful that the commissioners will give some consideration to my campaign objectives of enlarging the fire commission from three to five members and to the development of responsible and realistic long range financial planning for our fire district.

Ben Thompson
Wauna

Mother of teen killed in KP accident expresses thanks

I wish to thank everyone that was involved in expressing their heartfelt condolences to my family during our mourning time with losing our son and brother, Donny Jackson. No mother should ever feel the pain of not knowing the whereabouts of her child, then hearing people's views of what had happened.

I am thankful to the Pierce County police for their investigation and truth-

fulness of what really happened, showing compassion toward my family, defending my son, Donny, and allowing my son to have a voice.

We will always and forever miss Donny's smile and laughter and his precious sense of humor. We will miss his thoughtfulness and caring personality. I will miss Donny rescuing animals, big or small; I will miss Donny sneaking cookies before dinner; I will miss Donny flashing that smile to get his way. I will miss his sweet, precious soul and his warm, loving hugs.

R.I.P. Donny 07/15/1989 to 02/19/2005; 15 is way too young to die.

Doris Jackson
Tacoma

Author appreciates well-written story

It was a huge relief to have my story told accurately... I truly loved the way you told my story. The article in the paper ("Author follows a story of 'Courage, Confidence and Silence' in book," November 2005) has gotten me a lot of attention: the right kind, too.

Judy Woods-Knight
Wauna

News briefs

Stop light expected to operate in December

Equipment delays postponed the operation schedule for Key Peninsula's first stop light, but the Washington State Department of Transportation anticipates the light to be in operation before the end of December. The controller for the signal was being tested in a laboratory that simulates extreme conditions in cycles. At press time, the testing was expected to conclude

at the end of November, allowing the contractor to start installation work on site this month, according to WSDOT Project Manager John McNutt.

The installation will follow field testing and inspections. "When everything is right, we'll turn it on," McNutt said. "Everything else is ready...We're just waiting for this one piece."

KP planning group makes land use decisions

The Key Peninsula Community Planning board has received more than

a dozen rezoning requests from citizens as part of the board's land-use element, and were making decisions in November on which approvals to grant. At press time, discussions were expected to continue at the end of November, but according to a board member, many of the requests so far were slated for denial.

Residents, organizations and businesses shared their dreams and plans for their properties with the board during October meetings. The reasons for the rezone requests ranged from opening a lavender farm and building a senior living facility to creating a boat storage facility and expanding a church facility. But Pierce County Senior Planner Mike Krueger, who is facilitating the creation of the community plan, told the board they should not be looking at the requests based on what the potential plans are, but rather how the new zone would impact the area and fit in the overall zoning discussion. Many of the requests also did not meet criteria for the requested use.

The board is scheduled to complete the land-use element in December. For information, agendas, and schedule, visit www.piercecountywa.org/landuse or call 798-2700.

Citizens invited to discussion of new park plans

By Irene Torres
KP News

A meeting in October brought interested citizens together to begin discussion about options for the 360-acre park that is due to be transferred to the Key Peninsula Metro-politan Park District by the Department of Natural Resources sometime next year.

The meeting was attended by about a dozen community members and some of the park board commissioners, all interested in the future of the property.

Attendees introduced themselves, expressed their areas of interest, signed up to work on the committee, and set the schedule for upcoming meetings. Beginning in November and at subsequent meetings, the planning committee will establish its mission, set goals and objectives, establish a budget, hear reports from members, align its "wish list" with the previously adopted comprehensive park plan and overview survey development.

New potential stakeholders have made contact with the KPMPD since the initial planning meeting. Parks Director Scott Gallacher said, "Not a lot happened since our first meeting other than setting up some future meeting dates." Those dates include Dec. 19 and Jan. 18 at 7 p.m., with meetings held at Key Center Fire Station No. 2.

"Our public hearing dates have not been set yet. We are still wanting and encourage more public representation," Gallacher said.

Contact Gallacher at 884-9240 to get involved in making decisions for the 360-acre park property.

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December 11
Christmas Musicals Concert, 4pm

December 24
Christmas Eve Services
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News briefs

Citizen honorees wanted

The Key Peninsula Lions Club is seeking nominations for the 2005 annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards dinner. Nominees must be residents, or property owners, or employed on the Key Peninsula and be selected for their volunteer activities in support of the KP community whether on an ongoing basis or for a special one-time accomplishment. Nominations should be mailed to PO Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394 or emailed to hmcnp1000@cable-speed.com. Include the name, telephone number, and mailing address of the nominee, a brief statement describing the nominee's contribution to the community, and the name and phone number of the person making the nomination. The club requests that nominations be received by Jan. 3.

KIRO Radio's Dave Ross will be the event's keynote speaker at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn. (Date and time to be announced.) The sponsoring KP Lions Club advises that "the event, as always, is open to everyone, particularly friends and relations of the nominees," and encourages "everyone to attend to demonstrate appreciation to these citizen

volunteers who make ours such a fine community in which to live."

For questions, call 853-2721 or 884-3319.

Fair holds logo contest

Do you like to draw? Do you like to make up company logos? The Key Peninsula Community Fair wants want to hear from you. The nonprofit fair organization is looking for a new logo and is inviting the public to participate in the contest.

If you have a creative idea that you think would make an attractive logo to replace the current fair logo of apple, berry, and grape, please send your renditions to the following address, and include on your entry your name, address, phone so you can be contacted if your design is chosen, and mail to Key Peninsula Community Fair Logo Contest, P.O. Box 520, Wauna, WA 98395.

The logos must be submitted on a white sheet of 8x10 paper and can be in color or black and white. The winner will receive \$100. All submissions will become the property of Key Peninsula Community Fair Association, and all decisions of the Board of Directors are final. The deadline is Dec. 30 and the winner will be announced after Jan. 5.

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KPCC welcomes the Key Peninsula Youth Council

By KP News staff

The Key Peninsula Youth Council, created earlier this year under the auspices of the Key Peninsula Community Council, are developing a survey of priorities to be conducted in December at the Key Peninsula Middle School and Peninsula High School. Student participation in the survey will give the youth council information about

what their Key Peninsula peers want to occur in their communities.

The council is comprised of students from both schools and is guided by the KP Community Council's Human Services Committee. Students from all grades were selected, based on their interest in civic involvement, a proven history of responsibility, and good character.

The Key Peninsula Community Council recognizes the need for Key Peninsula youth to have a voice in peninsula issues, said committee Chair Barb Trotter. The youth council may also identify community projects they could pursue with the community council's assistance.

The 13 members of the Key Peninsula Youth Council are Nater Youngchild, PHS, grade 10; Elizabeth Soule, PHS, grade 11; Nicole Rodman, PHS, grade 10; Aaron Love, PHS, grade 10; Veronica Farley, KPMS, grade 8; Nick Fandel, PHS, grade 10; Joel Fandel, KPMS, grade 8; Kayla Erickson, KPMS, grade 8; Jamie Clark, PHS, grade 11; Lennon Chalk, KPMS, grade 8; Keifer Chalk, KPMS,



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Members of the Key Peninsula Youth Council, wearing T-shirts with a logo they designed, with their advisers Barb Trotter and Terry Fandel.

grade 8; Amy Bloch, KPMS, grade 8; and Sarah Baum, PHS, grade 9. Their advisers are Trotter and Terry Fandel, with administrative support from Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets. The council meets monthly at Peninsula High School.

Council members designed their own T-shirts with an original logo created by members Aaron Love and Jamie Clark.

All members were present at the KPCC November public meeting, where they introduced themselves. Trotter and Fandel said they believe these young people are the community leaders of tomorrow, and what they are doing and learning today, through involvement and commitment, will benefit us all in the future.

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Show & Tell



Photo by Karen Hale

Peninsula School District Superintendent Jim Coolican speaks before a PSD elementary schools' All-Choir Concert at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor. Included in the photo are students from the Key Peninsula.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Ethan Carlson, Key Peninsula Middle School sixth grader, along with his dad Rob and mom Cheri, are "designing" a ship's environmental systems during a hands-on NASA project at KPMS. The Carlsons were among several families who participated in the pilot project, for which KPMS was one of 10 schools selected across the country.



Above, Following a rousing rendition of "It's a Grand Old Flag" by the combined first grade classes of Mrs. Huysman, Hein, Hughes, and Ribary, first grader Justin Grosshans leads the assembled students, parents, and veterans in the salute to our flag during Veterans' Day opening ceremonies at Minter Creek Elementary School in November.

Middle left, Fifth grade teacher Charlotte Hirsch watches her students as they listen to VFW member Jerry Davis explain "Taps" from its Civil War origins at Minter Creek's Veterans Day assembly. *Photos by Hugh McMillan*



Bottom left, Peninsula High School sophomore Lyndsi LaRose, junior Hilari Haase, and senior Ashley Coats, the event's chair of the annual PHS Boosters' dinner auction at Canterwood Country Club, anxiously hope for money-contributing participants to respond to auctioneer Curt Scott's exhortations.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

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Preschool classes give tots early education boost

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Every week for an hour, Evergreen Elementary School hosts some very special students. They are only learning how to talk, but these tots are already attending classes, with their parents, to learn a variety of skills.

The Kids' Corner classes are being offered at Evergreen for the second year, as a way to give young children an early start on their education.

"It's really helped her be able to socialize with other children," Jennifer Baxter says of her 3-year-old daughter, Lily.

"Lauren is shy by nature," says another mom, Carie Trivette. "It's good for her to be with a group and interact with kids. It's a good way to help her transition to preschool."

Being ready for preschool is the goal of the program, according to Evergreen Principal Jacque Crisman. Kids' Corner has two separate classes, one for infants from birth to 18 months and another for toddlers 18 months to 3 years old.

"We are trying to be proactive in getting kids ready for school," Crisman said. "They are learning. Their little brains are like sponges."

The program has a dual purpose — one is to give the children an early start, and the other is to help parents guide their children's early learning process. Every visit includes tips given to parents by language teacher Beverly Hopper and Vicki Biggs of the Children's Home Society, who are conducting the classes.

"It's all about providing the kids different experiences like touching and feeling, all those things that help kids learn," Biggs said.

A usual hour in the toddler class includes arts and crafts, play with sensory toys, singing, a healthy snack provided by parents on a rotation schedule, advice from the teachers, handouts to take home, reading and more. The parents are an integral part of the class, role modeling and interacting with their kids.

"Everything we do is based on early childhood development and developing language skills," Hopper said. "And we have fun."



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

Moms and kids are singing "I'm a little teapot" under the direction of Evergreen language teacher Beverly Hopper and Vicki Biggs of Children's Home Society (not pictured). Right, Lauren Tribette, 2, is "shaving" a pumpkin while mom Kari helps her out during one of Evergreen Elementary School's preschool classes.



"They are learning. Their little brains are like sponges."

-Jacque Crisman,
Evergreen principal



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Teacher uses reach background for travels through time and imagination

By Paula Moore
KP News

Vaughn Elementary schoolteacher Ernie Donehower has been one of the students' "favorites" for 18 years. Donehower's rich background of globe-trotting has given him an edge in teaching his special classes in Cultural Enrichment.



Cultural Enrichment is a trip through America and the world via folklore, folk music and dance, folk art, games, plus examination of artifacts. Donehower's goals of learning are drawn from the school's existing curriculum in social studies and art. His experiences in traveling have given him many stories (which he never reads, but dramatically tells), photos, artwork, artifacts, and music resources to share with his students. During the year he will meet at least once, sometimes twice a week with various grades. In the first class Ernie Donehower will include geography, folklore, and artifacts, the second time the class will do an art project.

The Enrichment program is also designed to help the children become cognizant of their heritage and that of others.

"We look for elements of culture that make each of us unique as we find common ground that makes each of us part of the same human family," Donehower said.

An example of this idea is shown when groups from other cultures come to the



school, where they see the mature attitudes the children exhibit, with polite questions and respectful understanding.

Following a flexible schedule, with one culture studied every two months, Donehower, known around the school as "Mr. D," takes the children around the world. During September and October this year, they became part of the Native North American lifestyle. Art projects included making "Owner Sticks" that people left on different articles to show others that it belonged to them; "Moon Stick Calendars," based on the 13 moons of the year; canoes and tee pees made from sticks, skins, and everyday materials, then painted with paints made from bark, berries and other natural things.

Donehower incorporates the resources of the physical education and music



teachers into these sessions. Each group uses the gym to learn Native American games, which stimulate their thinking skills and dances, accompanied by musical instruments. Each child works on his or her own project, and the projects are taken home. Students are encouraged to use their skills and learn new ones. Having "fun" in learning is a primary goal for all. Parents often are asked to come and share their family's culture with the class.

He hopes to "tour" Europe with the students during November and December, Asia from January to mid-February, Africa mid-February to March, Polynesia and Pacific Islands during April to mid-May, finishing up in Latin America and the Caribbean in June.

Several times a year assemblies are held,

Editor's note:

We have many unsung heroes in our community who are making a positive impact. Among those heroes are numerous teachers who are making a great difference in the lives of our Key Peninsula youth. In a series of ongoing articles, the Key Peninsula News will bring you portraits of these men and women who are leaving imprints on our future leaders.

Far left, Vaughn Elementary fifth graders in Mrs. Smith's class are making "royal crowns" under the direction of Cultural Enrichment teacher Ernie Donehower. The crowns, created in one class period, are part of the students' learning about the institution of monarchy in Europe.

Left, Ernie Donehower combines both storytelling and hands-on activities during his classes.

Photos by Mindi LaRose

which incorporate a theme with a skit costumes props and scenery, including music, singing and dancing. A few years ago the music teacher, P.E. teacher, Mr. D and students made a movie using an Oscar Meyer jingle, which won the school \$10,000 for new musical instruments—and a visit by the famous Oscar Meyer Wienermobile itself. The musical instruments are still being enjoyed and used today in the enrichment and music classes.

Donehower enjoyed traveling to China the last two summers, and plans to continue going around the world and bringing home new artifacts. He says, "The house is crammed full of my things I have collected on my travels." And his classroom, too, is filled with fascinating objects he shares with the students.

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PHS club hopes to be heard by pharmaceutical companies

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

A handful of Peninsula High School students are embarked on an ambitious journey: They want to ask the world's five leading pharmaceutical companies to start manufacturing pseudophedrine-free ingredients, and they hope to attract their attention.

The students, who are part of T.E.A.M.

or Teens Empowered Against Meth, have set the goal of collecting 5,500 signatures by April for a petition asking the pharmaceutical companies to manufacture alternative medicines that don't contain pseudophedrine — the main ingredient needed to make the extremely addictive drug methamphetamine.

"If you dry up pseudophedrine on the market, you dry up meth," said Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets, one of the group's two advisers.

Pierce County has led the state for a long time in the number of meth labs. On the Key Peninsula, there were at least 27 identified drug labs in November, according to data from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. The majority of those are meth labs. In 1995, the entire county had 17 reported meth labs — a number that had increased to 318 by 1999, and much more since then.

"It's tearing up the community and it's a biohazard," said PHS 11th grader Makki Dinsmore, one of T.E.A.M.'s 10 members. "I heard of a lot of kids at school who have gotten caught up with it."

The teens have been going to public

events such as the KP fair as well as to various schools to collect the signatures. Along with the petitions, they plan to send cover letters to each of the five companies accompanied by letters of support from law enforcement personnel and elected officials.

"I think it's a great project. I hope they (the companies) look at the petitions and realize we have a big problem," said Aaron Love, PHS 10th grader and president of T.E.A.M.

The law enacted by the 2005 state Legislature that imposes stricter control on the sale of products containing pseudophedrine is already hitting the profits of pharmaceutical companies. The 7-11 convenience store chain announced in November it will discontinue carrying those products due to the burden on the stores brought by the new law. The law now requires all medicines containing pseudophedrine to be sold behind pharmacy counters or secured in some other way; there are limits on the quantity that can be purchased; and the retailers are required to verify identification as well as record and keep track of the buyers' information. The data

How you can help

If you agree that meth is a scourge hurting our communities, you can support the efforts of the Peninsula High School students by signing the petition online at www.petitiononline.com/TEAM/petition.html; for information on where to sign a paper petition contact Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets at 884-7899.

collected could be used by law enforcement agencies in conducting drug-related investigations.

"They are losing money because people can't find it on the shelf and they are buying alternative products," Taylor said.

One leading manufacturer already pledged to make its products pseudophedrine-free, and another is taking steps toward it. The efforts of T.E.A.M., Taylor said, plays into those trends that are happening on the global scale.

"Meth is out there and it's causing more and more problems," Dinsmore said. "Our main goal is to get them (the companies) to listen to us."

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Gray 'Habitat' house is 'green'

By Frank Slater
KP News

One of two new Habitat for Humanity houses at Palmer Lake is being built to be energy efficient. The Russell Family Foundation gave a \$10,000 grant to help fund this project, with the provision that it be "green."

The centerpiece of this effort is a Wirsbo radiant heating system. The heating unit is a propane-fired demand water heater, which also provides hot water for household use. It turns on when a hot water faucet is opened, or the house temperature falls below the thermostat setting. There is no hot water tank to cool off between times of demand.

The hot water is circulated by pumps through a manifold that regulates its flow, so rooms with higher demand get more heat. The water is carried through tubes fastened to the bottom of the subfloor.

Each joist pocket has its own loop of tubing. When this is in place, insulation is put in below it to keep the heat against the subfloor. The subfloor is the agent that carries the heat into the house.



Habitat volunteer Bob Delaney installs tubing into joist pockets for the water heater.

Photo by
Frank Slater

Bob Delaney, chairman of volunteers for the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, said the initial cost of this type of installation is generally higher because of the labor required to install the tubing in each joist pocket. The cost would be offset by lower costs for energy. In this case, the costs were about the same because he has volunteer labor to do the installa-

tion. Delaney said his understanding is it would take about two years for lower energy costs to pay for the additional labor.

Joe Purdue, the plumber on site, estimated less than 100 watts of power are needed to circulate the water. This is about what it takes to operate one ordinary light bulb. The main amount of energy required is provided by propane,

and any small generator should be adequate to operate the system in case of a power outage.

Purdue pointed out that with radiant heat there were only a few degrees difference between the temperature of the air at the floor and at the ceiling while with forced-air heating there might be a difference of as much as 30 degrees. He also noted that a large closet the plan called for as a mechanical room had been converted to a general-purpose closet, and a much smaller closet was to house the heating pumps and controls. This is an important consideration in a house this size.

The plan calls for, 15 to 16 inches of R-38 insulation to be blown into the attic, R-21 in the walls and the floor. The windows are insulated and have an area of less than one-seventh of the floor space. Even the shape of the house is energy efficient. It is 32-foot square with an area of 1,024 square feet. A rectangular house, 24 feet by 40 feet, would have the same amount of outside wall to heat but have an area of only 960 square feet, or about 8 percent less floor space.

Delaney said each house is planned individually. He does not know if future houses on the Key Peninsula will follow this energy efficient pattern.



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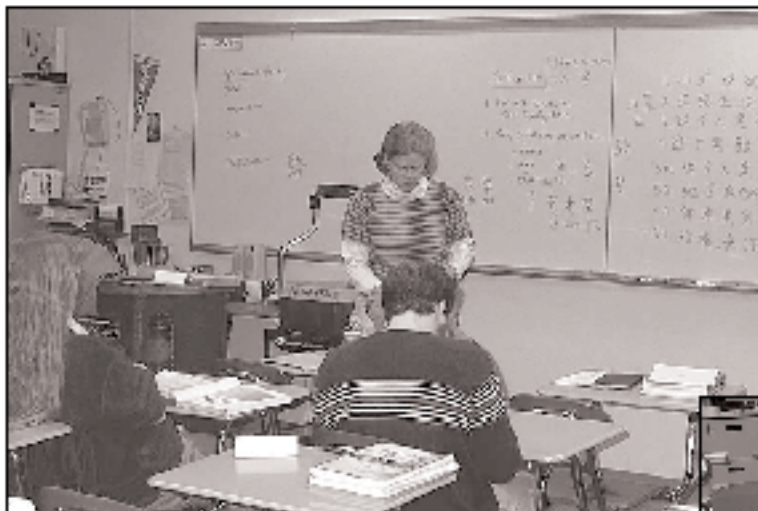
Students at Peninsula and Gig Harbor high schools have embraced a new opportunity to learn the Chinese language, which was added to the World Languages curriculum this year.

'It is important that we prepare our students for the 21st century,' says Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching Bob Connelly. 'There are many indicators that China is quickly becoming a major partner in the world economy, including that of the United States. Knowledge of the language and culture of this important and populous country is necessary to prepare our students for their future.'

Teacher Heidi Steele uses a college-level textbook as a foundation for the classes, and then builds on the material in the textbook with interactive conversation, games, songs, poetry, and storytelling. Students are learning all four aspects of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

'There is great value in learning to write characters from the beginning because the written language provides an anchor for spoken Chinese,' Steele says. 'The pacing of the class is based on how fast the students are acquiring the language.'

Next year, a second-year course will be introduced, and several students have expressed their interest in continuing



"It is important that we prepare our students for the 21st century."

Bob Connelly,
Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching

Chinese teacher Heidi Steele uses a combination of writing, reading and oral instruction in her lessons at Gig Harbor and Peninsula high schools. Insert: Peninsula High School 11th grader Elizabeth Soule writes captions in Chinese for photographs of her family. Students are learning to talk about their family members as part of learning basic conversation skills.



their studies.

'I've been interested in Asian cultures and languages,' Peninsula High School ninth grader Dennis Tanner says, adding that learning the characters has given him a glimpse into the Chinese art and culture.

'It's an absolutely fascinating language,' says Elizabeth Soule, an 11th grader at PHS.

Steele says Chinese has become an important language to know, especially with the trade relationships being built between China and the United States. 'Nationwide, there is real momentum right now to learn Chinese,' she says.

December events

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 3 & 4 | TideFest at GHHS
Sat. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| 5 | PHS Fall Band
Concert 7:30 p.m. |
| 8 | Goodman Middle
School Band Concert
7-8:00 p.m. |
| 14 | School Board Regular
Meeting 6:30 p.m.
ESC |
| 19 - Jan 2 | No School
Winter Break |

January events

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 12 | School Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. Purdy
Elementary |
| 16 | No School - Holiday -
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day |
| 26 | School Board Study
Session 6:30 p.m.
District Office |

Weekly KGHP Shows (89.3, 89.9, 104.5) LIVE

Classic Rock Connections
Monday 5-7 p.m.

Blues with Simon
Wednesday 5-7 p.m.

Kelly's Heroes
Wednesday 7-9 p.m.

BD's Book and Friends
Thursday 5-7 p.m.

Jazz with Marc Alan
Thursday 7-9 p.m.

Musical Memories
Saturday 8-10 a.m.

Kaleidoscope
Saturday noon-3 p.m.

Saturday Rock Hot Mix
Saturday 3-6 p.m.

Live from Lincoln Center
Sunday 4 p.m.

Photo of the month



Bands from all four PSD middle schools and two high schools performed at an All-District Concert Band Festival, with guest conductor Richard Byrnes, at the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church on November 15.

Did you know...

The school nurse's primary function is to strengthen the educational process through interventions and protection of the health status of children.

At a glance...

The purpose and goals of the federal Title I Program and the state Learning Assistance Program (LAP) are essentially the same. Both programs seek to improve the educational opportunities of students who are academically at risk for mastering the material set forth within the state content standards.

Holiday fun with the Key Singers

On Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. the Key Singers will be at the Key Center Corral Christmas Tree Lighting to welcome Santa.

On Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, they perform a Christmas musical program as a gift to the community. Canned, packaged food, and monetary donations are gratefully accepted for that program. The Community House food bank will be the recipient of your generosity.

On Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. the Singers are participating in Chapel Hill Church's annual Christmas Musicale.

On Dec. 14, they will sing at the Longbranch Improvement Club's holiday meeting.

The Key Singers always welcome new members, especially basses and tenors. We meet at the Longbranch Community Church on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.

After the holidays, we'll be working on music for our spring programs.

—By Barbara Bence, publicity chair

KP Planning Board sets December meetings

The next meetings for the Pierce County-Key Peninsula Community Planning Board are scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 7 and Tuesday, Dec. 13. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library. The Community Planning Board is working on policy development for the Key Peninsula Community Plan regarding land use and zoning. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the meetings. For more information, see www.piercecoun-tywa.org/landuse.

Angel Guild expansion means more choices

The new Angel Guild Thrift Shop in Key Center now displays some furniture, as well as a selection of beautiful antiques. New stock is brought in daily Wednesday through Saturday, 10 to 4. We are a work in progress, smoothing out the kinks as we go, please bear with us. The store has many Christmas items, including decorations, nearly-new stuffed toys, and precious holiday dresses for little ones. We have good selections of gently used clothing for all, from infants to oldsters, and snuggly flannel sheets. Our prices are right; shoppers won't find better bargains anywhere.

Angel Guild would like to thank Sharon Hicks for repainting the "freebie bin" at the front of the store. Anyone looking for free

Troop 220 holds open house

Photo and story by Hugh McMillan

In addition to building a teepee type mount for a swing the young men enjoyed swirling around on during a slight drizzle, boy scouts and cub scouts of Key Peninsula's Boy Scout Troop 220, Cub Pack 220 and visiting Gig Harbor Cub Pack 282 gathered on the stage of the Key Peninsula Civic Center in November during Troop 220's Open House to discuss basic backpacking skills and equipment with Troop 220's Senior Patrol Leader Colin Hill.

As a culmination to the evening's activities, the youngsters enjoyed a feast of apple crisp prepared in an over and under charcoal fired Dutch oven. Scoutmasters Bill Macaras, Mark Burriss and Lethaniel Ray, who whipped up the feast to show their young charges how to prepare a delicious dessert with the most basic cooking equipment, confided that, "It's really simple to make. You just cut up some fresh apples, place them in the Dutch oven, cover them with the contents of a package of cake mix, park the thing on hot charcoal, place hot



charcoal on top of the lidded oven, and wait about half an hour," before sending the kids into lip-licking ecstasy.

Anyone interested in scouting can contact Scout Troop and Venture Crew 220 leader Bill Macaras at 884-3133. He advises that Venturing is for boys and girls, 14 to 20 years of age, and Boy Scouts is for boys 11 to 18 years.

They meet at the Civic Center every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Said Macaras, "Everyone is welcome to stop in and see what we're all about."

magazines or technical books can find them there.

Angel Guild proceeds assist groups located on the peninsula. Requests must be submitted no later than the 10th of the month before they are needed, sent to P.O. Box 172, Lakebay, WA 98349. They are reviewed by the board of directors, and voted upon by the general membership.

Our shop will be closed Christmas Eve. Happy Holidays to our many friends and customers.

—By Betty Barkubein

S.A.V.E. Thrift Store Holiday open house

Each year the S.A.V.E. Thrift Store in Purdy begins its holiday shopping season with an open house. This year's event takes place on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The store features holiday decorating and gift items, as well as festive clothing for the entire family. Cookies and punch will be served. S.A.V.E. Thrift Store patronage benefits scholarship and activity programs at Peninsula High School. The name "S.A.V.E." stands for Seahawk Academic & Vocational Education.

The shop is located just below the school on Purdy Drive. Store hours are 10-4 six days a week. Call the store at 857-2800 for

information. Customers, donors and volunteers are always welcome.

TOPS, #1019, Vaughn new meeting location

Join us at our new location at the Wright-Bliss Fire Station No. 5 (corner of Wright-Bliss Road, and Hwy. 302, across from the Union 76 station) on Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m. Weigh-in starts at 6 p.m. "Taking Off Pounds Sensibly" is an approach to eating and exercise focused on group support and encouragement, along with good information and fun. Learn ways to avoid the holiday "sabotage" that happens every year. Get great recipe ideas and tips on keeping your holiday eating healthy. Get a head start on New Year's resolutions and join us for the information, encouragement and support you need to get that slimmer, healthier, happier you! For more information, please call 253-857-8959.

—By Renee Peavey

Bayshore Garden Club holiday festivity

The Bayshore Garden Club meets at Ann Waldo's home for a potluck luncheon at noon on Dec. 2. Meet Peggy Robertson at the Longbranch Fire Station at 11:45 a.m. on that date to caravan to Waldo's

home. Robertson will provide a turkey for the meal. Please bring a small gift for a gift exchange. For information, call Sylvia Retherford at 253-884-2487.

Seniors' Christmas Day party shares holiday spirit

Again this year, Mike and Joyce Salatino are hosting a Christmas Day party for seniors. Festivities include a delicious turkey dinner, sing-along, and visit from Santa with a gift for every guest. Participation is by invitation only, as space and resources are limited. The Salatinos request that community residents knowing of a senior who would otherwise be alone on this special day contact their volunteer coordinator, Marlies Van Cise, at 884-5608. This community help is much appreciated and will enable the Salatinos and Van Cise to extend invitations to this special group of residents. For other questions, call Mike Salatino at 851-4556.

KP Veterans Institute sponsors 'Trees of Giving'

The Key Peninsula Veterans' Institute again sponsors its annual "Trees of Giving" benefiting hospitalized U.S. veterans at American Lake Hospital in Lakewood. The Bridgeway Market in Purdy, the Peninsula Markets at Lake Kathryn and Key Center, the Homeport Restaurant in Home, and the Shell station in Home each display a "Tree of Giving" decorated with envelopes containing a suggested small personal gift, such as shaving accessories, etc. Persons wishing to make a gift need only take the envelope, purchase the item, and return the envelope and gift to the business where the envelope was found.

Members of the Key Peninsula Veterans' Institute appreciate the generosity of local residents, and will collect the gifts and deliver them to the American Lake facility in plenty of time for Christmas.

Friends of the Library host event, project

Join in the true spirit of celebration at the Key Center Library with the strings of Gabrielle's Harp. Musician Gabrielle Marina Miller was trained at the Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts, and performed at the famous Tanglewood Institute. In addition to playing music of many traditions, she will share the history of the harp. One of her students will join her to add to the evening's enjoyment. This community program takes place at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8 at the library.

—By Mary Watson

• Lee Stiles was an active, vibrant member of the community who contributed time and resources to many organizations. When she died nearly a year ago, she wanted any donations in her name to be made to the library in Key Center. The Friends of the Key Center Library are honored to request bids from local carpenters to construct a library display/storage cabinet in Lee Stiles' memory. Interested persons can call Margaret Campbell at 884-5426.

KPCCA elections results

The Civic Center board held its elections at the last meeting. The results are as follows: President Phil Bauer, 1st VP/Maintenance Loyd Miller, 2nd Vice President Bruce Macdonald, Treasurer Ed Taylor, Past President Betty Kelley, At Large #1 Ben Thompson, At Large #2 Bill Fors. The secretary position is still open.

Key Peninsula Community Council agenda

The Key Peninsula Community Council meets on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at Key Peninsula Middle School. The agenda includes an update from the newly

formed Youth Council, and information regarding Pierce County's proposed Community Advisory Board. The council encourages and welcomes public participation.

News from the Civic Center

Well, we did it! With the guidance of contractor Mark Ambler and the able assistance of Loyd Miller; Gary Gebo, Don Henak and myself, we were able to get our baskets and supports up in about eight hours. They are beautiful! Again, Thanks to the Mercers' for their very generous support.

Now, all we need are some basketball players, so the Civic Center, along with our Metro Parks, will be sponsoring a Pee Wee Basketball program for boys and girls ages 4-7 that will commence in late January 2006. In addition, we will be adding adult leagues and open gym sessions. All youth and adults interested, please contact one of the following people: Scott Gallacher; Metro Parks Director, 253-884-9240; Phil Bauer, Civic Center Program Director, 253-884-9172; Jena Henak, KPCCA Facility Coordinator, 253-884-3456, 1:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday – Friday.

In October we had two very successful events, our Oktoberfest Dinner/Dance in which we were able to clear over \$4,000, money badly needed at our center, and on Oct. 31 a Halloween Fun Night. Thank you so much for all your support.

My last topic is our "entry carpet." We will be able to purchase and install a top

quality nylon carpet for \$6,000. This is about \$3,000 less than we estimated last month. It is necessary that we replace it as soon as possible. Therefore, I am asking for financial support from our community. If you can help, please do so and thank you very much and if you can't thanks for your continual support.

—By Phil Bauer, President

Volunteer spotlight: Anna White

Story and photo by Chris Fitzgerald

There is one person Pat Latshaw, president of Citizens Against Crime/Citizens' Patrol, can call day or night when she needs someone — now. That person is Anna White.

A charter member since the group formed on Jan. 11, 1988, White is one of two members remaining of that original gathering. In the ensuing 17 years, she consistently donated her time, automobile and gas to patrol the Key Peninsula from the Purdy Spit to Devil's Head.

She prefers the wee morning hour shifts. "I'm up half the night anyway. And it's usually kind of peaceful out," she said.

CAC/CP members patrol in teams of two, do not use or carry weapons, and do not intervene in observed criminal activity. They are the extra eyes and ears of the Pierce County Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment. Calls from them for immediate police assistance are quickly routed to the appropriate responders. White's team has monitored traffic with miles-per-hour electronic signs, helped direct traffic, and provided auxiliary security for events, including the Key Peninsula Fair.

White started volunteering when her



Anna White with friends DeeDee and Neil.

sons needed Cub Scout help. Today she also belongs to the Eagle's Auxiliary. She is a grandmother of three and a great-grandmother. She has four-legged kids at home, two border-collie pups, DeeDee and Neil. And, she adds with a laugh, "a cockatiel who calls everybody 'turkey.'"

White has no plans to scale back her commitment to keeping the peninsula safe. "I get a good feeling helping people," she said. Adds Latshaw, "Rain or shine, Anna's always there. We're lucky to have her."

"I'm up half the night anyway. And it's usually kind of peaceful out."

- Anna White



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Fast food 'Home' style

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

The bright green fronds of an inflatable plastic palm tree wave merrily beside the L'il Beach Hut, sitting next to the south wall of the Home Laundromat. After ordering at the window, patrons can stroll to an outdoor picnic area down a walkway of wacky beach flotsam and jetsam donated by customers and friends.

Mark and Laurie Jones' new eatery has been open since early September. Three years ago, the Jones' were looking for a peninsula business venture, and purchased the two acres included with the laundromat and Home water system. Originally, their idea was to expand the laundry facility or convert the building to another commercial use. The new owners were encouraged by residents not to remove the service business, in operation since 1968. The Jones set about improving the existing facility, while not giving up on their idea of creating something new at the site.

During renovation, they brainstormed several ideas. "We are community-oriented," Mark said. "We wanted some kind of business local people would use

and enjoy; one that could offer part-time jobs to kids. We also wanted something to complement, not compete, with our business neighbors."

During an 18-month permit process with the state Labor & Industries and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, the Jones' found officials from both jurisdictions to be patient and helpful. "Their requirements are tough, but attainable," said the owner. "We had to put an employee bathroom in the building; our other utilities were just fine."

Wanting to focus on the quality of their menu, they opted to begin with a "rolling kitchen," as Jones calls it. The 1993 mobile food service van was located, purchased and driven up from Texas. Under the watchful eye of regulators, they retrofitted the vehicle to meet stringent food service and safety regulations. "Our licenses and permits equal those of a full-fledged restaurant," Jones said. "We could provide food service for other venues, but that's not in our plans."

The van sat quiet and closed next to the laundromat while the permitting process continued, causing speculation among local residents. Espresso stand? Ice cream? Nancy Lind, president of the Home Social



Photo by Mindi LaRose

The L'il Beach Hut in Home is popular both with walkers and drivers.

Club, remembers that at their annual meeting in June concerns surfaced among residents regarding potential commercial development in the area. Of primary interest was a site affecting A Street. Claude Gahard, Home resident and member of the Key Peninsula Planning Board, recalls members had no concerns about the Jones' venture, as the site was already commercially zoned.

From the beginning, the Jones' received practical support for their venture from area restaurants, one of which helped acquaint them with their fickle ice cream machine. "With two state parks down the road, and Herron Island ferry traffic turning in, we've had a good start," Laurie

said. "We've tweaked the menu a bit; and we're seeing repeat business already." Mark added that being open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day helps increase traffic, along with positive word-of-mouth advertising.

"We wanted to see how our rolling kitchen idea did before considering diving into construction," Mark said. "We knew the public would let us know if they wanted us here. We're pleased with local response." As the business grows, they want to include a canopied winter-picnic area, and more picnic tables so patrons can look out over the water as they dine.

Currently, six teens work after school at the Hut and are trained by the Jones' son, Patrick, who manages the business. They hope to increase their employees to 12 in time. Hungry commuters can call in orders while miles away. Knowing their Bongo Double Bacon Burger sizzles on the grill and someone is watching for their car to turn in could perk up any tired driver. No roller skates at the Hut though — it's got a sand-in-your-shoes beach out front, surfing music on the radio and enough donated water skis to build a picket fence.

"Hey," said Mark Jones with a smile, "life's a beach."

It must be true. It says so right on the front of the official L'il Beach Hut T-shirt.



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Happy Holiday and A
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New owners bring new plans to Key Center building

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

After more than 30 years of turning old, unsightly stoves into beautiful items, Key Center Trading Post owner Don Fegley will be retiring from his stove restoration business — following the purchase of the building by Gig Harbor's Ira and Alisa Specter. The couple, who purchased the building earlier this year, plan to turn it into a new professional services and retail center called "The Landing" sometime next year.

The couple, who own Next StepSystems, Inc., didn't set out at first to buy a building for renovation. They were simply looking for a place to store their "faucet beanies," a faucet cover product they market. As they looked around for a building, they found the Key Center Trading Post, which was for sale, a good fit.

"We thought we could restore the building and make it available to others," Ira Specter said. Restoration is not new to the couple, who have lived in Gig Harbor since 1996. They previously restored their own home, which used to be a farmhouse.

The plans entail moving the entry to the center and



Gig Harbor residents Ira and Alisa Specter are the new owners of the Key Center building that currently houses the Key Center Trading Post.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

adding an inside courtyard. Retail spaces and offices will be created on the left and right sides. The building will be wheelchair accessible, and the spaces could range from 150 square feet to 1,500.

Specter said they are currently in discussion with potential tenants, and will start work on the interior at the end of January, when Fegley is scheduled to be out of the building. Potential tenants could be a healthy foods store, thrift shop, real estate office, massage

therapy, ice cream shop, pottery studio and others. If all goes as planned, the renovations should be complete in April, with The Landing to open doors in June.

"I think it will fit very well" in Key Center, Specter said. "I think it will blend rustic and modern. Our vision for the old trading post is taking it a dramatic step forward... The community will be pleasantly surprised perhaps. They'll be able to enjoy the building in a way they haven't before."

The Landing

To find out more about the concept for The Landing, visit www.gonextstep.com/Landing/Intro.html.

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"Much gratitude and many blessings to my new friends and clients who have made this year so rewarding in so many ways. May your holidays be joyful and the new year filled with peace."

Chris Fitzgerald



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"In the Heart of the Key Peninsula"

There seems to be quite a bit of talk these days about the housing bubble. Everywhere we look we hear a new forecast of the bubble bursting. Think of those potential homeowners who in 2001 decided to hold off on buying a new home until prices leveled out - the amount of money these folks lost by not buying then is astounding!

The housing market, especially in our area, remains strong and the forecast is for another banner year in 2006. The job growth rate for Washington in 2006 is forecast at 2.6% - 5th in the country behind Nevada, California, Arizona and Colorado. With the continuance of a strong job market, we can look to real estate to still be a wise and strong investment.

Interest rates are still at historic lows and the new Federal Reserve Chief, Ben Bernanke, has stated that he will continue to fight inflation and keep the economy growing when Mr. Greenspan leaves the Chair in January '06. All of this is good news - whether you currently own a home or are looking to buy your first or second! As of this writing, interest rates for 30 year fixed rate is 6.125. Rates should remain low and the economy and job market are both looking to favor the real estate market.

Heath Nicholls, Guest Columnist
Vice President, Branch Manager
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Sales this month:

35 sales on the Key Peninsula

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Once again we will be using our Windermere Foundation Funds to sponsor several families through the Holiday Helper Program at Children's Home Society. These funds are contributed by the agents at Windermere /Key Realty from every transaction they close and are all put back into the Key Peninsula Community.

We wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season!
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LAKE MINTERWOOD \$116,000

This wooded .26 acre lot with 60 ft of lake frontage is one of the few remaining waterfront lots left at desirable Lake Minterwood on the Key Peninsula. Enjoy the safety of motorless boating, swimming, and fishing in this trout stocked lake. Only 10 minutes to the freeway and new shopping center. Make an offer and be ready for summer fun in 2006! MLS 25051873



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HOME SWEET HOME \$120,000

This 3 bedroom/2 bath home has vaulted ceilings, custom paint, new carpets, master suite w/walk-in closet, vinyl windows and a bright sky lit kitchen! You will enjoy the large sunny lot or relax on your deck overlooking the timbered open space beyond. Private out-dasac location. Don't miss out—call now. MLS 25048677



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People International – Coming to you from Vaughn

By Karen Hale
KP News

Since 1997, there has been an office for a worldwide Christian ministry called People International in Vaughn. Tucked away on the back of a farm on the idyllic Key Peninsula, its workers are dedicated to introducing Christianity to central Asia.

According to Jim Ball, interim director/coordinator of the Vaughn office, People International was founded in 1979 in London, England, and currently has eight offices worldwide including the U.S. office located in Vaughn.

The area of central Asia that is part of the outreach includes most of Kazakhstan, Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan and Western China. About 400 million people live in these areas, and many of them have never heard of the Bible. Many of them feel they would be persecuted by

their governments if they change their religious faith. This is the case with one of the current Vaughn workers, Shohrat, pronounced Shokrat (the Key Pen News is not disclosing his full name). After he became a Christian, he said he was threatened, lost his job, his family was threatened, and eventually they all had to leave the country. It was years before they made it to America. He is dedicated to bringing the news that changed his life to his fellow countrymen and women.

One of the ways People International can reach this many people is through its radio ministries. Sermons written in English are translated, and Shohrat, who can translate into Turkmenian, will transmit to a receiving station in Germany. The station in Germany broadcasts throughout central Asia. These network facilitators know how to use today's technology to reach, in large numbers, people previously unreachable.

For safety reasons, the people who actually physically work in these countries are

Want to know more?

People International will do presentations to church groups. Call 884-1933. For more information, go to www.peopleinternationalusa.org.

If you would like more information on being a worker in central Asia, visit the Website or call 884-1933.

not called "missionaries"; they are called "workers." They consider themselves field personnel, and are all overseen by the London office. Ball says the organization describes itself as "an international, interdenominational office of a world mission organization for evangelical faith, sending workers into central Asia."

How did they get an office in Vaughn? The short version is Key Peninsula resident and Vaughn Community Church pastor Chuck Odegard found out about People International while looking for a mission to serve. Because of this, his church has known about the organization for a long time, and many people affiliated with Vaughn Community Church serve with People International. As word has gotten out about the outreach, many in the community and other churches have joined in. Lakebay Community Church has also been a big part of this ministry.

As with any other nonprofit organization, the need for donations is always present, and finding workers is hard. As with any business, money is always needed to keep things going. People International is always looking to keep the ranks full and tries not to have hard times financially in order to keep the workers in the field and the radio transmissions in the air.

All those involved with People International seem to know their place, and one can tell their heart is in what they are doing. Their faith, along with hard work, is what they believe will help change the world—one person at a time.

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Your Opinion Counts

At future workshops you'll join one of several small group discussions to help us design guidelines for toll collection, customer service, payment methods, enforcement and more.

Watch for future announcements here and on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project web site, www.tacomannarrowsbridge.com



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Television show brings 'Extreme' challenge to Burley



By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The Key Peninsula neighbors in Burley, just a few miles past the Pierce-Kitsap county line, had quite a commotion happening, on their streets in November. The Extreme Makeover: Home Edition television show brought its crew of designers and a little Hollywood drama to the neighborhood — all for a good cause.

The show selected the Kirkwood family of seven to build a new home for them, after their old one was infested with mold. The problem was so bad, they had been living at the Best Western Wesley Inn in Gig Harbor for two months when show star Ty Pennington and his crew showed up with their famous “Good morning, family” knock on the door.

The family knew when the day of the “knock” was scheduled, but what they didn’t know was whether their door was the one to get the knock — out of three families — according to close friend Amy Muhlbaier.

“We were hoping and praying they were coming,” said Muhlbaier, a Key Pen resident and co-owner of A&B Transport, a door-to-door airport shuttle service.

Muhlbaier was one of several Key Pen residents and businesses who contributed time or supplies for the show, including the Harvest Time Country Store in Wauna, which donated food to feed the work crews.

“I thought it was neat how the whole community pulled together,” said Muhlbaier, who volunteered to shuttle workers from the staging area to the site. When she wasn’t driving, she donated the use of her transporter van.

The entire neighborhood was quite a sight. Nearby streets were blocked, dozens of trucks hauled materials, vans shuttled crews and spectators back and



“I thought it was neat how the whole community pulled together.”

-Amy Muhlbaier, KP resident

forth, and workers dressed in blue T-shirts with the show’s logo swarmed the site, with dozens of them working at once and simultaneously on various parts of the project — the landscaping, the wiring, the plumbing. It was like watching the building of the home in fast-forward motion, with jobs that normally take weeks being done in a few hours, and jobs that normally take a few hours stretching into a couple of days.

The demolition started late, a merciless rain poured the day the concrete was being cured, tradesmen had to leave in droves one night after waiting for long hours for their delayed turn. Those who volunteered on the site — many for 24-36 hours straight — used one word to describe the scene: chaos.

But the hundreds of businesses and the volunteers, some of whom drove for a few hours to get to Burley, pulled it all off nearly on time: just a few hours late. In the end, of course, it’s the show’s stars who get the credit and the thank-yous, but those who truly made the dream happen said they weren’t there for the glory anyway. It was a true barn raising, albeit show-biz style.

Far left, “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” star Ty Pennington and the rest of the production team from the television show don hazmat gear during the first day of filming in Burley. The home that was being rebuilt was contaminated with mold. Below, Pennington is being filmed on site before the demolition work begins.

Photos by Mindi LaRose

Left, on the second midday of construction, the volunteer crew gets close to having a roof on the house. The site was swarming with workers from different trades that normally don’t co-mingle.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson



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Obituary

Rodger D. Hickel

Rodger Hickel, 63, a 12-year resident of Key Peninsula and previously of University Place, died as a result of an auto accident on Oct. 4, 2005.

Hickel worked at Boeing for 27 years as an aircraft electrician, and was a member of the Machinist Union Local 751. He was a retired U.S. Air Force



HICKEL

master sergeant, and a Viet Nam veteran. Many will remember him for his endless love of cars.

Family members include his wife, Suzanne; daughters Deanna Groom (Bert) of Yelm, Marie Carol Lynn (Allen) of University Place, Janna Karr of Bonney Lake and Katie Lee Schrupp (Craig) of University Place; sister Ina Mae Jeffries of Ridgefield, Wash.; brother Dennis F. Durfee of Eugene, Ore.; grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. His grandson, Michael, preceded him in death.

The funeral service was held on Oct. 9 at Faith Presbyterian Church in Tacoma.

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THANK YOU!

The annual Halloween Fun Night was another success thanks to the following organizations and volunteers who helped this special event for the community. We couldn't have done it without you!

Boy Scout Troop #220; 4 - Differences; TOPS #WA 1325, Lakebay, Jeff & Marcia Harris Key Medical Center; Home Feed & Grocery; Key Center Shell; Safeway; Karen Hale; QFC; Ron Nelson; Peninsula Market; Key Bank - Borgen Blvd. Branch; Country Expressions; Ballie & Associates; Aspen Land Survey; Angel Guild Thrift Store; Albertsons; Ace Hardware; Bayside Animal Lodge; Morford Hallmark; John & June Mercer; Chris Fitzgerald; Target; Ann & Marty Marcus; Sharon Kaffer and Group; Mustard Seed Florist; Historic Vaughn Bay Church; Key Peninsula Historical Society; Two Waters Arts Alliance; Dale & Claudia Loy; Phil & Kathy Bauer; TOPS #WA 1019, Vaughn; Sarita Simon; Sharon Cavanaugh; Kym Williams; Key Peninsula Lions; Sharon Claassen; Safe Streets and Home Shell Gas Station. We once again want to again say "Thank you"! If we missed identifying you please accept our apologies beforehand. If you are interested in helping out on this big event next year, please contact the office.

Gloria & Jena

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(From **DOGS**, Page 1)

property, and there are even laws against dogs that threaten people on a public sidewalk. While aggressive dogs are a priority for animal control officers in Pierce County, those officers are “spread very thin.”

The Pierce County Sheriff’s Department took over animal control duties from the Humane Society at the beginning of 2005. While the Humane Society had eight officers in the field, the county only has three, with a fourth one to be hired soon.

“We’re not able to respond to all minor calls in a timely manner,” said Sgt. Ron Cox, supervisor of the newly created animal control unit with the sheriff’s office.

Cox said if it weren’t for the skilled animal control officers, the situation would be worse. “If they weren’t such quality people, we’d be in trouble,” he said. The Key Peninsula is perhaps lucky — one of those officers, Brian Bowman, is a local resident, and often responds to the local calls before heading off the peninsula during his shift.

The department will be requesting an increased budget for 2006 that would pay for an additional officer, which would allow for double coverage per shift. Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee said he was not aware of a request yet but that the council was very supportive of providing improved animal control serv-

ices.

“The residents are still paying taxes. The community should still expect service regardless of who’s providing it,” said Tom Sayre, spokesman for the Pierce County Humane Society.

The Humane Society has provided animal control services under a contract with the county until 2005. The agency decided to discontinue those services in all counties beginning in 2006 in order to focus on animal welfare issues and education, he said. Injured, abused and abandoned animals will continue to be a priority, Sayre said, with a major focus on spaying and neutering.

“Pierce County has the worst overpopulation (of animals) in the state,” he said.

Much of the problem is due to people who don’t realize how much work animals, especially dogs, require.

“I think people need to realize dogs need love and emotional attachment. They take a lot of commitment,” said Maureen Gomez, who moved to Palmer Lake from San Francisco six months ago with husband Dan and dogs Griffin and Lily. They found Lily abandoned on a street about 10 years ago and adopted her.

The dog showed signs of abuse, and still has difficulties with loud noises, strangers, and sudden movements. But the couple said despite the fact it took a long time to help Lily overcome some of her fears, and the special care she’s needed, they can’t see giving her up. “All

her good attributes outweigh the extra work,” Gomez said. “Her quirks are part of the deal.”

But not everyone shares the commitment the Gomezes have for Lily and Griffin. Last year, the Humane Society received more than 23,000 unwanted animals. “We have a serious problem in Pierce County,” Sayre said.

A big part of that is due to lack of spaying and neutering, he said, which is why the agency will focus on public education and outreach. The Humane Society will also continue to provide sheltering services to the county for the animals picked up by officers, but in 2006 the other remaining contract—for licensing—will also be transferred to the county and will be a function of the assessor’s office. After next year, the animal control unit may also become part of the assessor’s office.

Asked whether there would be a change in licensing fees once the shift occurs on Jan. 1, Lee said, “All fees in Pierce County are constantly being discussed. It’s always a work in progress.”

In the meantime, the animal control officers are “just trying to make do,” Cox said. And they try to respond as much as possible to the time-consuming nuisance calls, which usually involve disputes between neighbors about their dogs. Many neighbors, unlike Waneen Marks, do call about loud barking, loose dogs and other problems. As for Marks, she said she loves her new neighborhood and

Animal laws

According to information provided by the Humane Society, the following are some of the illegal activities involving pets:

—Dogs must be on leash at any time when they are off private property.

—Breeding dogs and cats for sale requires a kennel license.

—Female cats and dogs that are in heat must be confined in a secured enclosure such as a building unless the animal is used for planned breeding.

—It is against the law for dogs to chase vehicles on public roads or jump and threaten pedestrians on public sidewalks.

—Animals cannot be confined in a motor vehicle in excessive heat.

—It is illegal to sell, barter or transfer animals (like kittens) in a public area without a license.

For animal control problems, call the animal control officers at 798-PETS (voice mail); calls are answered based on priorities.

For low-cost mobile vaccination services, call 800-772-6361.

will continue walking, but encountering all the dogs doesn’t create a very welcoming feeling.

“We encounter several dogs that seem very aggressive,” she said. “Not knowing the animals, it’s kind of scary.”

Puppies...cute but require big commitment

By Chris Fitzgerald
KP News

Somewhere on the peninsula, a Christmas wish list includes “a puppy of my own.” On Christmas morning, a well-intentioned gift-giver will grant that wish, without fully realizing the implications of the giving.

Puppies are some of life’s great delights. They create smiles just by being themselves. A puppy’s innocent face prompts a promise to attend a dog training class, take daily walks, fence the yard. Later, promise forgotten, sometimes the growing puppy seems less cute, becomes an irritation that requires feeding, vet care and grooming; too much attention in a too short day.

A dog’s puppyhood generally lasts until about 18 months of age, depending on breed, gender, personality, and environment. Puppies, like toddlers, thrive when given reasonable boundaries. Puppies teethe, lose their baby teeth, and need to chew. His person’s familiar scent makes a

pillow, slipper, the newspaper, eyeglasses sitting on a low table irresistible to a young pup with gnawing on his mind. Scolding him six hours later is useless; he’s forgotten all about it. He begins to trust his unpredictable leader less.

There’s no getting around it. Puppies puddle in all the wrong places. With consistent visits outside, and patience, these young ones learn some things are best done outdoors. Still, accidents happen. The puppy can’t help it, and how his people respond creates behavior that lasts a lifetime, for better or worse. He trots four paws in and out of the house. Paws that cannot wipe themselves on a doormat. Muddy paws that excitedly jump on people and furniture, and smear against windows when looking out.

Bored dogs usually sleep; bored puppies howl and cry loudly to attract someone, anyone, for relief. They chew anything and everything, from books pulled from shelves to electrical cords, with sometimes deadly results. Occasionally they become

so miserable, they self-mutilate or develop other neurotic behaviors that become difficult to redirect.

Dogs are social animals. They require the company of others in their pack. When a puppy comes into a human home, the people become her pack. She needs to be taught the skills necessary to become a lifelong family member. A Christmas puppy welcomed and doted on during the holiday week is often left alone all day when her people go back to work and school. Lonely and unsure they will return, she teaches herself. She is not a wise teacher; yet she has no choice, because she must learn.

Sadly, puppies who grow into self-taught young dogs fill animal shelters. They arrive with grim-faced people who write “behavior problems” or “needs more attention” or “needs a fenced yard” on surrender forms. By the time these people realize they never really had time for a dog, it’s often too late for a happy ending.

A confident, well-mannered dog is the

result of a commitment to education and companionship that begins the day the pup comes home and continues for a lifetime. She is like a traveler in a foreign land and must learn the language, customs, diet, rules and limitations of her new environment. Every single time a puppy or dog interacts with humans, she is gaining an understanding of her pack, her place in it, and what is expected of her. When those who take her into their care cannot realistically provide what she needs, her journey will be a broken one.

Adopting a puppy is too important to be left to Christmas wish lists. In the spirit of this compassionate season, give instead one of many fine books or videos about living with dogs, visit a dog park or observe a training class and talk to people there, volunteer at a shelter, talk to friends who live with well-adjusted dogs and ask what they did. Soon, it will become clear if there is time for “a puppy of my own.”

Chris Fitzgerald is a canine behaviorist.

(From **GARDEN**, Page 1)

for a little girl in Guatemala. Bea said, "We didn't even know where Guatemala was, maybe an island?" They received a packet asking them to give money to a girl named "Silvia." The whole family enjoyed writing to her, sending her money and some day hoped they could meet her. Letter after letter, hope became an exciting goal. But they wondered how they could ever earn enough money to make such a trip.

In the meantime, the family heard about Argos, a nonprofit foundation founded by Skip Li, a diplomat's son, who wanted to build the lives of Mayan Indian descendants instead of seeing them destroyed by the military war that raged during 1980-90. His vision was a five- to seven-year plan, where the natives, with other people's help, would buy land and develop it into a self-sustaining village. Then this group would pay back the money borrowed, and it would be given to a new group to build another village. The Program is called "A Journey with a Village."

Bea and Linda with her sister, Carla Cameron, and aunt, Linda Wilcox, were excited. They would've really wanted to help the village, La Esperanza, meaning in Spanish "The Hope." Perhaps if they went to Guatemala to help this village they could also visit Silvia.

They began to brainstorm on how to finance such a trip, and came up with the idea to set up a flower and produce stand, selling their flowers and produce from the local area. This money would go toward sending the four of them to Guatemala. After three years of hard work and prayer, the group left in January 2004 with people from three area churches to see their dream come true.

In Guatemala, the women saw cities with old and beautiful buildings that were in complete contrast with the malnourished and always hungry people and animals. Each day the group had breakfast, got into



Left to right:
Carla
Cameron,
Linda Wilcox,
Elaine
Barkhoff, Bea
Morrison and
Linda Brewer
will be visiting
Guatemala in
January.

Photo by
Mindi LaRose

trucks and rode out to the villages to do hands-on work with the natives. Their work consisted of helping the women pick corn, their main food source for the year, real backbreaking work. The women have to do it because most of the men are away working in the coffee fields to bring home for the winter a mere pittance of pay.

Other manual labor included helping repair roads so villagers could get back and forth to the market to sell their wares. Part of the group examined people and gave out glasses. All was not work, but time was taken to get to know the families, play with the children, put on skits and give out musical instruments to help the school.

Brewer said, "Wow, we had fun! We sang some songs and the kids played their instruments in a discordant, yet joyful din."

Despite all their hardships, tragedies, and heartache of the war years, with many barely surviving, the people were always open, friendly and generously shared all they had with the group from America.

After the four women finished their project with Argos, they still had one more goal to fulfill. They would go to see Silvia and her family. This visit was a happy but

sad time.

The World Vision leader informed them that Silvia's family, which had been separated many times, was now together. But the job working for a farmer barely gave them enough money to survive and a shack to live in. Everyone was malnourished and their 2-year-old son was so ill that he might die if the family were forced to move again. This could happen at any time, depending on the whim of the owner of the farm. The meeting was climactic. Silvia and her siblings were dressed in their best clothes, food given by the village was cooked and shared, and a holiday atmosphere pervaded the small home. The family was so glad to meet the women who were helping them. The father, especially, was overwhelmed they had actually come and wanted to share in his family's life. He had never known anything but poverty, sadness and fear, since he was left an orphan at 5 when the army killed his whole family.

He asked how they came to pick Silvia. Brewer answered, "We didn't, and God did. And He provided a way for us to come and see her." After giving the family

"Our awareness of people in a Third World country and how much material things we have in this country that we can share with others has been heightened."

-Linda Brewer

a gift of a Bible, they had to leave. But each woman was wondering how they could help this family even more.

When the World Vision representative told them it would take \$1,000 to buy land for a home and World Vision would provide the building material and labor, the women really got excited. Returning home, they were so fired up that they, with their church, had a plant sale that raised the money for Silvia and her family. Due to delays, Silvia's family just received their new home in July of this year. Their second plant sale this year provided Argos with nearly \$1,600 to buy medical equipment for their clinic.

However, the four women did not rest on their laurels, but continued throughout the summers to sell flowers and produce to earn enough money to go on their second trip of love to Guatemala. They will leave in January. Again they will be working with Argos in La Esperanza. Because of Hurricane Stan and the resulting mudslide that killed over 1,400 people, they thought they would not get to see Silvia and her new home. But they have been given the green light to go ahead with their plans.

"Our awareness of people in a Third World country and how much material things we have in this country that we can share with others has been heightened," said Brewer.

Whenever or wherever these women see dahlias, they will be reminded of Guatemala and how they were able to help its people produce fruit in their own lives.

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From Pioneer Stock Dave Stratford

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Dave Stratford is a third generation Vaughnite, living on his grandfather Freeborn's property.

Lyman Freeborn came as a young man from Sault Sainte Marie in Michigan to Tacoma, and bought a grocery store there. In 1920, he moved to Vaughn with his wife, Margaret, and their only daughter, Geraldine (Gerry), who was 9.

Freeborn bought the store on Vaughn Bay from Albert Nicholas Van Slyke and became postmaster, too. The store projected over the water on pilings, on the north side of the current boat ramp. Small living quarters were at the back.

Freeborn had a home built on west-facing waterfront between Dutcher's Cove and Vaughn Bay. The house still stands, but is no longer owned by the family. The store operated a lot on credit, with customers



Photo courtesy of Key Peninsula Historical Society
The Freeborn store on Vaughn Bay.

settling their bills on paydays. During the Depression, Freeborn extended credit to many. When he was ready to have his house built, some of the people who owed him paid their accounts in work and materials.

Dave's father, Robert (Bob) Stratford, lived in Grapeview since he was a teen. They had come from Wichita, Kan., where Mr. Stratford was a tent maker. In Grapeview they raised chickens and grew grapes.

Bob worked on the power lines in the Key Peninsula area. He and Gerry signaled each other from beaches across Case Inlet,

and he rowed across the water to court her.

The marriage of Bob and Gerry at the Congregational Church (now the Vaughn Community Church) was noted in Josephine Welch's 1939 book, "The Chapel by the Sea."

Bob later worked with his father-in-law in the store. They decided to move their store to the site of the former Wolniewicz garage, where the previous Vaughn post office still stands. They thought it would be a better situation for business. Bob built an apartment on the back for his family, by then including Julia, David, and Connie. The roof from the warehouse near the original store was used for the apartment roof.

Bob managed the store and was postmaster for two years beginning December 1951.

The Stratfords later spent two years in McMinnville before returning to Vaughn. They stayed in a beach cabin below Freeborn's home while they built a new house.

Dave loved water skiing and sailing every summer as he grew up. He no longer sails, but maintains the skiing. Wes Davidson

used to take him stream fishing, and Dave sometimes went up to a local lake to fish early in the morning before he went to school.

One winter, while Bob and Gerry were visiting Connie's family in Maryland, a section of the bulkhead was lost. Between high tides and heavy rain, the house was flooded.

Dave pumped out 80 gallons of water. Driftwood was piled clear up to the parking lot, but local friends had it cleared away quickly.

Dave's parents had gone to Arizona before returning to Vaughn, and Bob died there, so he never saw the devastation at their home.

Dave and wife Sabra were able to build their own home on the beach site 10 years ago, but had to put it 15 feet farther back. They used a few of the original stones from the previous house for their own massive fireplace.

"It's still a peaceful place to live," Dave says. A view of water and mountains, memories of childhood, and a place of his own on his grandfather's land make a good existence.

(From HEARINGS, Page 1)

boats and underwater cameras to identify high value salmon habitat areas. Of approximately 179 miles of shoreline assessed west of the Narrows, only 545 parcels, or about 11 percent of all parcels lying in the Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor areas, are directly affected by newly proposed amendments to critical area regulations of the Growth Management Act, according to Pierce County Special Project Coordinator Debby Hyde.

Feeder bluffs, high bank properties such as those found along Narrows Park, account for about 86 percent of the 545 parcels identified by Pentec. These are subject to natural erosion carrying nutrients to the beach. This material supports forage fish upon which salmon feed. New regulations replace a 50-foot minimum ordinary high water mark setback with a 100-foot minimum setback. Almost all of these feeder bluff parcels already support existing structures, and many of the remaining 100 or so are small strips adjoining larger pieces. Feeder bluff lots are often so steep and fragile that they require extensive geotechnical and environmental studies, and adherence to the shorelines code as well, posing further restrictions.



LEE

The remaining 14 percent of the 545 parcels contain high concentrations of eel grass, nutrient-rich salmon habitat. These parcels lie along several shorelines, including parts of Burley Lagoon, Mayo Cove, Filucy Bay and Dutcher's Cove, among others. They include salt water marshes and estuaries. No new development will be permitted on these parcels within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark, according to Lee.

At the Oct. 26 meeting, Hyde said that unless a waterfront parcel lies in a floodplain, the county will help an owner find a way to build on it. A few options open to critical-area property owners include meeting current county code setbacks, requesting a variance, or a reasonable use hearing. If an owner's property is on the critical areas list, it will remain on it until the county code changes. At the Nov. 17 meeting, Lee suggested that if owners of affected parcels wanted to take advantage of existing regulations, they should have their permits approved prior to the adoption of the new ordinance.

The proposed new amendments to the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), approved 7-0 by the Pierce County Council Nov. 15, will be submitted to the Growth Management Hearings Board by Jan. 12. The board will hold a public compliance hearing on Feb. 17, at which time no testimony will be taken. If final approval is obtained without a board counterproposal, new regulations will go into effect on

A map of the 545 parcels affected by the proposed amendments to critical area regulations of the Growth Management Act, and their identification by parcel number, is available online at www.piercecountywa.org/pc/abtus/ourorg/council/majorlegislation.htm.

March 1.

The Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board also found that Pierce County Zoning Code's Shoreline Density Exceptions constitute inappropriate low-density sprawl in rural areas, and ordered the county to amend this provision. On the Key Peninsula, 346 parcels will feel the effect of this change, according to Lee. The new amendment permits one dwelling per 5-acre shoreline parcel, based upon zoning. According to Lee, no exceptions will be made to this regulation. Prior to its elimination, only about 5 percent of shoreline properties were large and wide enough to be considered for subdivision under the exception, even though they did not meet the 5- or 10-acre zoning requirements applicable to inland properties. The remaining 95 percent of shoreline parcels are not of sufficient size to be affected by this amendment.

The proposed elimination of the Shoreline Density Exception in Pierce County will be submitted to the Growth Management Hearings Board prior to Jan.

31, with a compliance hearing to be set sometime in February. If accepted by the board, this amendment will also become effective March 1.

Audience reaction to the proposed amendments were mixed, impassioned, and volatile. At both meetings, greater interest and resident testimony focused on the CAO. At PHS, the entire room applauded loudly when a citizen, pounding the podium, railed against the county for "taking" his right to use his own land without compensation. Fewer people supported a woman who spoke passionately in favor of these regulations, and even adding more, in order to protect shorelands for future generations and the environment. A smaller gathering at KPMS did not mean fewer concerns. Repeatedly, the county was accused of ignoring facts and proceeding with preconceived actions. Landowners, both on the shoreline and inland, listened attentively throughout the discussion; many left with no conclusive answers, and more questions.

Lee said he knew of no groups coming forward to appeal either amendment. He said environmental groups such as Citizens for a Healthy Bay, Department of Ecology and Tahoma Audubon hoped for greater restrictions; development groups hoped for fewer. The council found support for the new proposals from members of both sides of the issues. "Governance is satisfying the irritated without irritating the satisfied," he said.

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Have a Happy Holiday season from the staff at KP News!

Out & About

Customers line up to get into the new expanded Angel Guild Thrift Store in Key Center in October. The new location, just next door to the old store, is much larger, and has improved lighting. The opening day was one of the biggest sales days in the history of the Angel Guild Thrift Store.



Photo courtesy of Mary Ramsdell



Photos by Hugh McMillan

Above, the Key Peninsula Civic Center was bursting with happy bratwurst munching, beverage of choice imbibing, babbling conversation, and swinging to the music attendees at the annual KPCC-supporting fund-raiser at the end of October.

On a rainy late October Saturday, Key Peninsula's Metro Park District took over the KP Civic Center in Vaughn to stage its first ever indoor soccer program designed just for little guys and gals ages 3 to 5. About 30 youngsters participated in the program under the guidance of KPMPD Director Scott Gallacher.



Photo by Hugh McMillan



Photo by Frank Slater

Members of the Narrows Strut Busters, Gig Harbor chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, made their second annual delivery of 30 frozen turkeys to the Key Peninsula Community Services for Thanksgiving baskets. This group of men, who also made cash donations, are from Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility at Bangor. Pictured left to right are Mike Helms, David Lund, Bruce Buckell, Danielle Buckell, Jon Rauschenberg, John Feddock, and Kevin Looney.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Left to right, Loyd Miller, Jena Henak, Scott Gallacher, Phil Bauer, Ed Taylor, Gary Gebo, June Mercer, Gina Liebergesell and Sylvia Haase gather beneath a recently installed 8-through-10-foot height adjustable basketball hoop made possible thanks to a contribution of \$5,000 by a Key Peninsula Civic Center supporter. The Civic Center and KP Metro Parks will sponsor a PeeWee basketball program for boys and girls ages 4-7 in January, adultclass as well as open gym sessions.