

The Farm,
page 9



KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



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Wauna, WA 98395
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Genuine
ARTicle,
page 22

www.keypennews.com

Vol. 39 Issue 5 • Circulation 9,000

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PHS student dies in crash

By Marsha Hart and Scott Turner,
KP News

A single-car accident April 24 near the Narrows Airport in Gig Harbor claimed one life and sent three other teens to area hospitals.

According to Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One, the call came in as a rollover accident. Two medic rigs, two engines, an extraction rig and a command rig responded. A front seat passenger was taken to St. Joseph's

Hospital in Tacoma, and two other passengers were taken to St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor.

Noah Turgman, 16, was killed in the accident, which was reported at 12:50 a.m. Turgman was a junior at Peninsula High School.

Peninsula School District mobilized a crisis team over that weekend and was ready to meet with staff and students the Monday after the accident.

For more on this story visit keypennews.com.



Photo by Scott Turner, Special to the KP News

Danielle McCready receives a hug from a friend as other Peninsula High School students and friends of Noah Turgman mourn his death.

Bears find new home

KP garbage station reopens

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Four black bears were seen at the Key Center Transfer Station on Key Peninsula Highway, and that facility is operating on a day-to-day basis. It was closed April 21-23, and re-opened April 24.

The county contracts with Pierce Co. Recycling Composting and Disposal based in Puyallup to operate the Key Center Transfer Station. Rusty Cole, operations assistant manager for the company said they are working closely with Department of Fish and Wildlife and following its recommendations.

"We left the decision up to them, it's their call," Cole said. "They said the mother and one cub have been caught, and the department of wildlife felt the potential threat was minimal."

Two of the bears were caught the week of April 19 and taken to Mason County, as far away as possible to ensure the bears don't return, Summit said.

Pierce County Public Works and the Washington Department of Fish and



Photo courtesy of Jeff Summit, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

4Free once more, this bear was seen at the Key Center Transfer Station on the Key Peninsula in April. It was one of two bears trapped on the property and released into the forest in Mason County.

Wildlife are aware that the bears have been on the property.

"We're working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to make sure it's safe and help the bears not become acclimated to the surroundings and smells,"

said Steve Wambach, solid waste manager for Pierce County. "I understand they have captured two, and there are two still in the vicinity," he said.

(See **BEAR**, Page 9)

Yanity refuses to resign, opposes August EMS levy

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Key Peninsula Fire Commissioner Allen Yanity declined an offer of \$10,000 or more to resign from the Fire District 16 Board of Commissioners. The offer was facetiously made in an open meeting of the commission on April 13 by local businessman Ed Taylor.

“Mr. Yanity, I thought you agreed to resign as soon as Mr. Bosch left the commission,” said Taylor from the audience, referring to former Commissioner Jim Bosch, who stepped down at the end of last year after losing his reelection bid to Claudia Jones.

“Bosch is out of office and I’ve been waiting for you to resign,” Taylor said.

Yanity said he’d never promised to resign if Bosch left.

“I wouldn’t even consider that, that sounds like a bribe to me,” said Yanity.

Once political allies and good friends, Yanity and Bosch began publicly quarreling on the fire commission immediately after Yanity took office in 2006. Their feud culminated with Yanity assaulting Bosch in April 2007 in the now infamous Coffee Mug Attack, in which Yanity said he was defending his wife.

Yanity was charged with felonious assault but convicted of fourth degree misdemeanor assault and ordered to

pay court costs and serve two years’ probation. A felony conviction would have barred him from serving on the commission.

Fire Chief Tom Lique attended the April 13 commissioners meeting.

“He started at \$5,000, then I heard a comment about \$10,000,” said Lique referring to Taylor’s offer. “I heard a couple other people say, ‘Well, I’ll throw in some cash.’”

That’s when Commission Chair Ruth Bramhall stepped in, saying the board understood Taylor’s point and was ready to move on.

“It was a joke,” said Taylor, who explained later that the continuing failure of fire levies Yanity has campaigned against are costing him money, so why not pay Yanity directly to stop it.

“The serious part is I’m concerned about what’s going to happen to property insurance rates if this levy doesn’t pass,” Taylor said, referring to the 10 year EMS levy due for renewal in August. That levy provides \$1.2 million to the fire department, or over 25 percent of their budget.

Lique said that without the EMS levy, the department will layoff at least 12 firefighter/paramedics — almost half the staff — and stop transporting patients, relying instead on private ambulances

that patients would pay for out-of-pocket, which would affect homeowner and business property insurance rates.

Emergency transports for Key Pen residents are now covered by the fire department by the EMS levy expiring this year. The department bills patient insurance, if any, and absorbs whatever costs aren’t covered.

“They need to get their act together up there and get that levy passed, and they can’t have one of their members out there putting up signs saying don’t pass the levy because we’ve got all these bad people in here, because all that does is confuse the citizens and they’re gonna vote no,” said Taylor.

Recall petitions were circulated in 2007 in an effort to recall Yanity after the assault.

“The voters had a chance to get rid of me,” said Yanity. “If they really wanted to get rid of me, there would have been more that signed the petitions that were going around here a couple years ago.” That effort failed to garner the minimum number of signatures required to put an initiative on the ballot to recall Yanity, or 1,762 registered voters (35 percent of the total Key Pen voters in the election Yanity won in 2005).

“If this levy doesn’t pass, they say it’ll mean 12 layoffs,” said Yanity. “I say, no,

it’ll mean 100 percent layoffs because then it will be very easy for me to put an initiative on the ballot and go to a managed system,” he said, referring to privatizing the fire department.

Privatization is not something Lique believes would cut costs.

“I’m not sure exactly what type of organization that he’s talking about,” said Lique. “You pay a private company to manage the department, they hire employees, they put them in the stations. I don’t know how that is a cheaper alternative.

“I would hope that the voters out here see that that’s not necessarily a good direction. There is something to being able to influence your fire department on a local level as opposed to having it run by some outside company that’s headquartered in Florida or something.”

Yanity reiterated his reasons for opposing the levy.

“If they would go with random drug testing, I would support the levy,” said Yanity.

“I will put physical fitness improvements on hold for one year,” he said, referring to his Responsibility First campaign against past levies, which includes higher physical fitness standards for firefighters. “I will win one

(See **RESIGN**, Page 28)

Census time, scams on the rise

Staff Report

Telephone scams are on the rise again. That can mean identity theft and financial losses. To prevent telephone fraud,

be alert and guard personal information. Don’t give information to anyone you don’t know.

Because it is a census year, there have been reports of the U.S. Census

scam. This scam involves a caller who claims to be working for the Census Bureau, IRS or other government agency. The caller wants personal financial information, donations, or social security numbers. These scammers can also use a device that displays a government agency name on the

caller ID, such as “U.S. Census.”

Although a Census worker may phone to verify information that a household member has entered on the forms, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, they will never ask for financial information or social security numbers.

Source: CenturyLink

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS
 www.keypennews.com
 Unsolicited submissions deadline including press releases:
 15th of each month

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Key Peninsula News is published monthly by the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn, Washington. Copyright 2009 with all rights reserved. Reproduction of editorial or graphic contents in any manner without permission is prohibited. Annual subscriptions (12 issues) are available for \$25.00 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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Did You Know?

That running an extra refrigerator or freezer in your house can add hundreds to your utility bill over the year?

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A family remembers, takes part in memorial

Photo and text by Dale Goodvin

On March 30, 2010, a ceremony took place on Bainbridge Island thanking those who contributed to the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, a memorial in honor of those Japanese Americans who, 68 years earlier, were forced to leave the island. The Memorial includes a wood and stone Memorial Wall curving along the path walked by those who were exiled.

That long-ago day, 227 Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans, guarded by the U.S. military, were driven from their homes, farms, businesses, possessions and friends and taken to the Manzanar Internment Camp in the desert in the shadow of the California Sierra Nevada mountains — a journey of three days on a train with window blinds shut.

They were then moved to Minidoka Internment camp in the harsh Idaho desert where they were forced to endure brutally frigid winters and scorching summer heat with howling dust storms.

They would not return to Bainbridge Island for four long years.

Three Home, WA residents were involved in the Memorial Project: John Buday, project manager; his wife, Jan Buday; and her mother, Mayme Semba, herself an interned Japanese American.

Buday, consulting to Johnpaul Jones of Jones & Jones Architects, was instrumental in the conception, design, and building of the Memorial Project (as a part of a Timber Framers Guild project).

John hopes that those who view the memorial will see themselves in the story, "allowing them to see the internment in the light of today's world and that this would help them to prevent this kind of thing from ever happening again."

Jan folded 276 origami cranes in honor of the internees and for all of the Japanese Americans who lived on the island at the time of the internment.

She said that her experience as a child of internees helps her to feel compassion for all of those who have suffered and to understand our shared humanity in this world. "I hope people learn the survivors' stories and come to understand that they



Mayme Semba was sent to Tule Lake Internment Camp in California as a young woman. She remembers the dignity of fellow internees and their perseverance.

"Dignity"

Survivors

Men, women, children, babies

Walking through the day and night

Suitcases filled with bare essentials

Quiet steps leaving home

Leading to desert exile

Gentle people treading

Through harsh realities

Hearts still aglow with quiet love

In a world of fear

— Dedicated to Mayme Semba,
a woman of dignity

were simply our neighbors and our friends, that there are real people behind the stories."

Mayme Semba was in her early 20s when she was sent to Tule Lake Internment Camp in California. Her main memory of the train ride from home was how "quiet" it was, a simple waiting in silence to find out what was happening. She was impressed with the "dignity of the people who were being treated in such a shocking way" and with how the internees used sayings amongst themselves to help them survive their internment ("It can't be helped" and "Persevere, keep going" and "Be Brave"). She remembers feeling so sad because she did not know if she would ever be allowed to return to her life in Washington.

Visitors can travel to Bainbridge Island, to walk the path that so people were forced to take as they were driven from their homes and to meditate on the morality of simple decency and fairness.

EDITORIAL

The community is mourning the loss of one young man, and his friends are dealing with the physical and emotional injuries after a tragic car accident April 23.

Just as spring arrives and teenagers are looking forward to dances and parties and summer break, tragedy has struck.

We may never know exactly what happened. Some can blame speed, which was reported as a factor in the single-car accident, but we can't know for certain why the car was going so fast.

We do know that young drivers under 18 receive an intermediate driver license, which restricts the number of passengers, their age, and the hours the driver is allowed to drive for one year.

But these are rules.

We also know that the latest data from the Washington Transportation Safety Commission shows that between 2004 and 2008 there were 1,003 fatal crashes involving a driver between the age of 16 and 25. Those crashes included 1,124 deaths and account for 39 percent of all traffic deaths during that time. The highest percentage of accidents, 20 percent, occurred between midnight and just before 3 a.m.

Numbers.

But Noah Turgman was a real person, a son, grandson, friend, student, and neighbor. Now as his family and friends remember all that he was, he is added to the list of numbers, and his family, friends and community are left to only imagine what this talented young man could have become.

CORRECTIONS

In the story "Foodbank gets facelift," in our March edition, a mistake was made in the name of the organization that donated money for the renovations.

The story should have stated that Boeing Employee's Community Fund donated the money.

In that same story, there was a mistake on the name of the business providing the paint and labor. It should have read Tracy's Quality Painting, Inc.

The Key Peninsula News regrets the error.

Part of Nature

I have blown up two lawn mowers since moving to the Key Pen, one while I was riding it. The first incident occurred when I ran an electric push mower into a bunch of blackberry vines. Rather than carefully backing it out, I gunned the throttle and the motor burst into flame.

I returned to the house with a new respect for blackberries, which I tried to convey to my wife. She listened in silence, then asked, "So, what are you going to do about them?"

"I'm doing it," I said, and went fishing.

Then the moles came. They were the only living things in the large empty space surrounding our new house. The ground was covered with dead or dying moss, scorched blackberries, and molehills.

My wife invited a militant gardener friend to consult. "You need clover," she pronounced. "Stat."

"Isn't that, like, a weed?" I offered.

"Lawns kill," she said, glaring at me through dreadlocks, then chanting some ancient curse: "You poison nature to grow your grass, you plant clover to save you're a..."

"Will that get rid of the moles?" I asked.

"They're part of nature," she said, which I took to mean 'no.'

After an infusion of organic

Ted Olinger
KEY NATION



compost, purified fishmeal and righteous watering, things began to grow: dandelions and moss. The moles, too, were reinvigorated and pushed mountains of dirt up all over the yard like so many volcanoes.

By now I had a new riding mower, and with nothing else to mow I

decided leveling out the mole hills would be a good start to reclaiming these badlands. I was doing fine ruining the blades and throwing rocks in every direction, until I hit a mole hill at speed and rolled the mower onto its side, spilling fuel which immediately ignited. My wife and 5-year-old boy ran over to admire the flames. "It happened again!" said our boy, delighted.

"It's just part of nature," I answered, but I knew I needed help to regain control of my yard.

Goat blood, I was told, and lots of it. That, or bobcat urine. Desiccated, of course. Good for the grass, bad for the moles. And little windmills pounded into the ground to drive the moles insane. But putting any of these things in our yard seemed more likely to drive

us insane, or at least attract the attention of curious bobcats and angry neighbors.

Bags of clover seed began appearing on our porch. Instead of following the directions, the boy and I chased and pelted each other with handfuls of the tiny gold pellets that would stick to our hair and clothes for days.

Still, by the end of that first summer, clover was sharing the yard with wild flowers and grasses we had not planted and wildlife we had never seen.

A teenaged neighbor rebuilt my blown up mower and did something to the muffler to make it whine like a race car. When I climbed aboard the first time, my wife followed with a fire extinguisher and our boy carried a video camera, as if I really were climbing into a race car.

I gritted my teeth and turned the key. Nothing happened. The battery was dead. I stood up and jammed my hands into my pockets, in frustration. I felt something gritty. I pulled my hands out, covered in clover seeds. The boy zoomed in. "What is it? What is it?" His tone was so full of hope. Is it pirate gold? Diamonds? Lost Legos? I hold out my hands. "Oh, yeah!" he says, and scraped some clover into his free hand.

"It's part of nature!" he said, throwing the seeds at me.

A focus on children's mental health

May is Mental Health Month, and the and the National Mental Health Information Center is urging parents and caregivers to support children's emotional health and well-being.

Congress recognized May as Mental Health month in 1949. Everyone can help by learning more about the mental health issues that afflict children, and their well-being, foster self-worth and independence in children, help them express their feelings, promote mutual trust and respect and recognize their strengths.

Parents, teachers and caregivers can help maintain a child's mental health by encouraging their individuality and unique talents, help them set goals based on their ability and interests and show confidence in their ability to handle problems and new experiences.

The Caring for Every Child's Mental Health Campaign is part of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services Program for Children and Their Families of the federal Center for Mental Health Services. Parents and caregivers who wish to

learn more about mental well-being in children, please call 1-800-789-2647 (toll-free) or visit the Web site at mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/child to download a free publications catalog (CA-0000) or bookmark with nurturing tips (Order No: CA-BK-MARKR).

Source: The federal Center for Mental Health Services is an agency of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Purdy spit closed to shellfish harvesting

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Purdy sand spit beach is closed to clamming and oyster harvesting, and a swimming and shell fishing advisory are in effect.

Since October 2008 the Purdy spit has had a permanent swimming advisory. The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department closed the spit to recreational shell fishing and has posted signs advising beach users against swimming.

The advisory was issued due to seven failing sewage systems on the western shoreline between the Purdy sand spit and Minter Bay. Minter Bay is not affected. The Purdy Spit advisory will be in place until those systems are repaired, said Jessica Archer, at the Department of Health and Ecology.

However, because of the tidal exchange, Bob Woolrich said the Burley Lagoon is not affected, even though the water from Purdy spit travels under the Purdy Bridge and into the lagoon.

"Environmental engineers looked at the transport of waste and it is not a quantity that would threaten health if

someone ate the shellfish from Burley Lagoon," Woolrich said. "Burley Lagoon for all intents and purposes, is a separate area. There is a tidal exchange so by the time it's washed that way it's diluted. It doesn't affect them."

Seven failing systems have been identified, five of them in 2008 and two in 2009, said Ray Hanowell, environmental health specialist with Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

While doing routine water quality testing, the Washington State Department of Health department found a completely failed system, and Hanowell said that led to a concern about the other properties along the shoreline.

"We undertook a project to check the systems for all of those properties," he said.

"The property owners have been great to work with. We're working on an individual basis."

The health department has helped some of the homeowners secure low-interest loans for the repairs or replacement of their systems, he said. Some of the repairs will cost home-

owners \$30,000 or more.

"Sometimes it takes longer to repair a system than we'd like," Hanowell said. "These are pretty small lots and there are a lot of constraints, so it's taken a lot of work on everyone's part to come up with a system to provide the treatment we need. It's a pretty significant expense."

Two of the systems are on holding tanks, he said. Some need minor repairs; others don't have a viable system at all.

Increased pathogen and fecal bacteria levels in the water can come from both shore and inland sources, according to a news release from the Department of Ecology.

Contact with fecal-contaminated waters can result in illness such as gastroenteritis, skin rashes and upper respiratory infections.

Young children and the elderly are especially vulnerable to waterborne illnesses.

"This will protect water quality and public health," Hanowell said.

A version of this story was reported in our April Online Edition at www.keypennews.com

DNR launches web-based forum, first topic: geoducks

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is launching the DNR Forum, an online public conversation May 3-7 where participants may share their perspectives regarding a specific natural resources issue. The DNR Forum is an opportunity for people from all parts of our state to offer ideas, opinions and information to DNR about a specific topic," said Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark. "It is also a chance for DNR to engage citizens to examine the various points of view of the public on a specific issue."

Each day the forum is active, a 'conversation starter' will be posted on the forum to prompt deliberation about important aspects of our natural resources. While ideas from a broad range of contributors are encouraged, the forum will be moderated for appropriate language and topic relevancy. Generally, the DNR Forum will spotlight an issue for one week and post moderated public comments during regular business hours Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. DNR will also provide information to help inform and guide the discussion.

Watch for the DNR Forum on DNR's media center for updates and information. If the forum is successful, DNR hopes to have more online conversations in the future.

The first DNR Forum topic will be geoduck aquaculture on state-owned public tidelands. DNR wants to engage a broad range of people including scientific, aquaculture, environmental, tribal, and other interested residents of Washington State to hear what people think about the potential of geoduck aquaculture on state-owned tidelands.

Background information about DNR's discussion, and links to a wide variety of sources regarding research and information about geoduck aquaculture can be found on DNR's geoduck aquaculture forum page.

For more information visit www.dnr.wa.gov

Source: Washington Department of Natural Resources

The Mustard Seed Project

We're building an elder-friendly Key Peninsula where our friends & neighbors can age in place.

May 2010~Third Thursday Community Forum

May 20th, 10-noon, Branes Room, Key Center Library

Community Creative Thinking: "Visualize Ideal Aging

on the Key Peninsula, Part 2" Our February Forum Follow-up!

Bring your personal vision of "aging in place." Share your ideas, concerns & dreams. (Email edemarym@themustardseedproject.org for minutes from Part 1)

~AND~

Take a look at our New Volunteer Opportunity Catalog!

- Assist low-income seniors with housework or meal preparation
- Help with yard work and garden chores
- Drive a workload of seniors to the Senior Center for lunch
- Paint a low-income senior's home
- Help an elderly neighbor record their life story
- And many more possibilities

Call our Volunteer Coordinator at 253-884-2216

Or call the Key Senior Information Center at 253-884-9814

to access information, services & programs for better senior living!

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BRIEFS

news

Friends send S.O.S.

The Friends of the Key Center Library is in need. The organization needs books and people who are willing to get involved. Friends of the Library provides many special events and has raised funds to purchase library furnishings.

Outgoing president Chris Fitzgerald said she will not seek re-election, and elections will be held May 13. She fears the group could fold if no one steps up to lead.

"So far I have received no nominations for the position of president and that is worrisome," she said.

Offering quality programming, the Key Center group is recognized throughout the county library system. To continue to offer interesting and free programs to the community, the organization needs community members to get involved.

Vice president, treasurer and member-at-large positions are open as well.

A permanent book sale is located in the lobby of the library and the proceeds provide year-round events for adults and children, she said. However the bookshelves need replenishing.

"We usually have ample book donations, but lately our resources are very low," she said. "We would like to encourage people to bring to us the gently used books they no longer use."

All of the Friends of the Library events are free and open to the public.

For information about Friends of the Key Center Library, or information about becoming a nominee for one of the open positions, call Chris Fitzgerald at 884-9560 or email her at cfitzgerald@centurytel.net.

Fire Chief declares candidacy

Chuck West has declared his candidacy for Pierce County Council District 7 representative. West is a Division Chief of technical services with the Key Peninsula Fire Department, which he has served for 24 years.

West grew up on the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas and has served on various boards and commissions

regarding schools, Metro Parks, disaster preparedness and community health.

West lives on the Key Peninsula with his wife and daughter. He is running for the position as a Democrat.

Key Fest talent show auditions

The talent show auditions for the Key Peninsula's Key Fest will be June 6 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Entering the contest is free to anyone who lives on the Key Peninsula, and parents of contestants 5-16 also get in free. Large groups can audition for free as long as one member of the group lives on the Key Peninsula. Audience members will pay \$2 admission.

Performers will be judged by a panel of three, and winners will compete again Aug. 27 where six will be chosen. Those six will compete for first, second and third place on Aug. 28. Performers must be ready by 1:30 p.m. to register.

All performers will compete against each other, no categories, no age limits.

Anyone interested can email entertainment@keyfair.org or sign up the day of auditions. Anyone 5 and above is welcome to perform.

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THE HOMEPORT
884-3743

1509 Key Peninsula Hwy N. Home, WA.

The merry, merry month of May

May 1 Opening Day

Celebrate the beginning of boating season by visiting the Longbranch Marina for free family events beginning at 8 am. Drop by and admire the view of Mt. Rainier, cheer on the sailboat regatta and enjoy the fresh salt air and (hopefully) sunshine. Call the LIC Dockmaster at 884-5137 for details and moorage information.

May 19 General Meeting

Join your friends and neighbors for a potluck dessert buffet and meeting. We'll have the latest news on the Marine bridge project. 7 pm in the LIC Clubhouse or visit the website at www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

May 29 Memorial Weekend Dance featuring OASIS

Be prepared to get your groove on and get down with Oasis, local favorite. They're back for a rockin' night at the LIC, 8 pm to midnight. Tickets \$12, 21 and older, please.

Get a team together for LIC Croquet Tournament July 18

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TWAA's highest priority is providing arts education and appreciation for the children of the Key Peninsula through Artists in Schools and programs for school assemblies. Secondary is our commitment to providing opportunities for Key Peninsula residents of all ages to create and experience art at many levels.

WHO IS TWO WATERS?

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WHERE & WHAT DO WE DO?

Board meetings are held at the Key Pen Civic Center at 7pm, the 1st Thursday of every month. We welcome you to join us as a supporting member. Next meeting is May 6th.

Artists In Schools classes, events & programs are held at Evergreen Elementary, Minter Creek Elementary, Vaughn Elementary & Key Pen Middle School.

ARTS HIGHLIGHTS

Seussical the Musical is coming to Minter Creek Elementary! The crowning performance will happen at the end of May!

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Details can be found online at www.twowaters.org.

BEYOND THE BORDERS is in the planning stages now, for August. World Music and Food for all at the LIC.

Sign up for our free **E-NEWSLETTER** by contacting us at twowaters@hotmail.com!

Food storm brews on Key Pen

By Kelly Maxfield, KP News

A new idea is gaining strength on the Key Peninsula that would marry farmers and food producers with the consumer to create a food cooperative. "Fresh Food Revolution: A Key Peninsula Food Co-op" a concept being explored by Holly Hendrick and Barb Schoos, will focus on food grown and produced by farms and businesses on the Key Peninsula.

Hendrick and Schoos want to give local residents a choice when selecting fresh, locally grown crops and food products. The idea was born after the recent decision by the Key Peninsula Farmers Market Board to turn over management to the Gig Harbor Farmers Market.

The co-op could create a problem.

The KP Farmers Market board members signed a "no-compete" clause for three years under the agreement with the Gig Harbor Farmers Market. The idea was to give the newly formed Key Pen market a chance to grow and thrive under the guidance of Gig Harbor management.

Hendrick is a former board member but resigned before the agreement was reached and signed. This could possibly open up the agreement for interpretation.

"The co-op is not meant to compete with the newly formed farmers market. It is simply another avenue for local folks to connect with Key Peninsula producers directly," Hendrick said.

The co-op project would give local farmers and producers another outlet to sell their crops directly to the consumer without leaving the peninsula.

A website was created to inform growers and potential co-op customers of the idea and to get a feel for the feasibility of the project, Hendrick said.

Initially an announcement was emailed to a small group of local vendors and growers. Word of mouth has created a buzz and interested parties are contacting Hendrick.

The co-op website is <http://fresh-foodrevolution.org>. The organization has also created a Facebook and Twitter page to spread their message. There are two online surveys currently available, one for farmers and one for potential consumers of the co-op on the website. The links for the surveys are

<http://bit.ly/FreshFoodMembers> and <http://bit.ly/FreshFoodProducers>. The survey questions vary from frequency, location, and annual membership costs to what products are desired and the ability to volunteer time with the co-op. Does the consumer wish to meet with the farmer's directly or should there be a pick-up only distribution process? There are many details to be worked out, Hendrick said. Results calculated will help determine the formation and direction of the co-op's operations for both producers and members.

According to Hendrick, approximately eight local food producers expressed interest in the co-op including Del Tierra Farm, Gentle Giant Meadows Ranch, Herron Hill Dairy, Jake's Brew, Kaukiki Farm, Willows Farm, and two new food producers including a baker and a hummus maker. She is hoping to hear from more producers in the coming days and weeks, which could expand the local food selection available to members. In addition to a purchasing option through the co-op, Hendrick would like to offer educational and outreach events to consumers on a monthly basis if there is interest from the membership.

Most, if not all, of the logistical details still need to be decided upon using the results of the online surveys, she said. Permits and licensing requirements will need to be hashed out with the county as well once a location is determined.

"This is still a work in progress," according to Hendrick. "At some point the hope is to become a non-profit status organization but that can take years to achieve."

The recent decisions to disband the original KP Farmers Market and reunite under the GHFM umbrella was met with some confusion and anger on the Key Peninsula. The fear was the market would lose its local flavor and bring in too many outside vendors. According to former KPFM board member Danna Webster, "The proposal was positive and very strong, concentrating on vendor growth and cultivation of businesses. They brought the experience, flexibility, and diversity from several years of presenting their market to the public. I hope the new market will influence people to appreciate it for the well-run organization that it is."



Winks Seafood is a portable business in Purdy, off of Purdy Drive NW, across from the entrance to Peninsula High School. Winks Seafood received a letter from Pierce County, and could close this month.

Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Local seafood shop receives warning from county

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Winks Seafood in Purdy could close by May 15. Steve Lodholm and his wife Becky, operators of the three-generation family-owned business of Winks Seafood, have received a letter from Pierce County Public Works and Utilities with a warning. The Lodholms used to sell fresh seafood from their home in Minter, and moved to the Purdy location two years ago after getting what they believed were the necessary permits.

Their facilities are portable. There are no permanent structures in place, and longtime customers like their new location.

They planned to turn their "back yard" on the lot into a place where visitors could sit or stroll, watch the seabirds or small boats come in, bring a picnic lunch or purchase fresh cooked seafood to consume there. Their plan is to make improvements as they can afford them.

They'd like to eventually have a dock where small fishing boats can tie up and visitors can watch them bring their fresh catch in.

With encouragement from neighboring businesses, they hope to put a gravel path from Winks to the Local Boys' market, so people can access the various stores without fear of traffic.

Becky envisions historical plaques telling the story of the area, as well as colorful flowers in planters.

"I've lived here for 18 years and my

husband grew up here," she said, "but I'm just starting to learn about a lot of local history."

Lodholm recalls when he attended Peninsula High School, George Palo, marine biology teacher, had a hands-on program for students in that Purdy business district. It was also where former governor Dixie Lee Ray carried out her soft crab research.

"Purdy was always a hub," he said. The Lodholms would like to keep it that way and be a part of it.

The letter from the county cites lack of shoreline, building and business sign permits, violation of the sign code, and claims their sign is a public nuisance.

Steve Lodholm said they were never told they needed those permits to set up their business.

"That sign structure has been there for 40 years," Steve said. He improved the way it looked with a fresh coat of paint.

Winks is on a sewer system, and they carry away their own garbage on a daily basis. There is no odor of seafood trimmings.

Trucks with fresh fish arrive Friday afternoons. Regular customers keep tabs on what's coming when.

Their products, according to season, include salmon, halibut, crab, scallops, oysters, prawns, lobster and clams. They also have farm fresh eggs from their home farm.

Lodholm spent 20 years as a commercial

(See **WINKS**, Page 19)

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The Farm has a new partner

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Farm at Wauna has taken on a new life this season.

Owner Mike Salatino has a new partner, Dan Bruno of Fox Island, who is learning the business from the ground up quite literally. He is eager to meet old and new customers.

Bruno, who has dabbled in many things, including a hitch in the Navy, construction, and caregiver, wanted to expand his home garden, but had little space left at his home.

He's learned about transplanting starts in "plugs" of soil to larger pots, taking cuttings of fuchsias, watering, fertilizing, and everything else that goes along with growing and selling plants and produce.

Salatino is in charge of ordering from his growers, but Bruno made some specific requests for particular varieties of tomatoes and peppers he prefers.

Bruno's knowledge of construction helped get the greenhouses back in good shape.

They plan to plant the field again



Photo by Colleen Slater, KP News

Dan Bruno and Mike Salatino have formed a partnership at The Farm in Wauna.

this year with peas, beans, corn and pumpkins.

Meanwhile, lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes, peppers and various herb starts are ready for customers in assorted sizes, and fuchsia baskets are compact and healthy.

The Farm currently has honey available, and eggs will be available soon.

Hours are from 9 a.m. to dusk, with Salatino working sales in the mornings, and Bruno doing double duty of sales and plant care in the afternoons.

Street racing accident sends couple to hospital

By Irene Torres, KP News

A car that had been racing on the streets of Lakebay April 10 struck a young couple's car at 2800 KP Hwy North.

Witnesses reported to Fire District 16 that they saw two vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed just before the accident. One of the driver lost control and entered the oncoming lane, striking the young couple's vehicle head-on. Paramedics transported the couple to a Tacoma trauma hospital.

KP Fire District 16 reported that a sheriff's deputy transported the driver of the racing vehicle to jail, but cannot disclose the driver's identity due to privacy laws. Washington State

Patrol handled the accident investigation, but calls to WSP were not returned by press time.

Key Peninsula resident Jake Jacobson saw a car of the same description on several occasions; Jacobson said after the accident that he had three encounters with a the same car on three separate days. He said two days in a row the driver was tailgating him very closely from Purdy to Wauna. The third incident was when the car cut Jacobson off in traffic at the intersection of Purdy and the Purdy Spur (near the Bridgeway Market).

Finally, Jacobson said he saw the car sitting in the ditch after being involved in the accident.

(From BEAR, Page 1)

Humane traps were placed at the site.

"Our traps are big live traps. We bait them with sweets and when the bear walks in they hit the trap, the door closes behind them and there's nothing that injures them," said Jeff Summit, fish and wildlife officer for Gig Harbor.

"This has happened several times," said Donny Martorello, the carnivore section manager for the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. "Bears just came out of their dens in the last month or so, so they're searching for food and this is a lean time of year for them."

Bears will go to what smells good to them, and Martorello said it is usually a temporary problem until their natural food supply is plentiful.

"From May to June is when we see a period of people and bears mixing a lot and most of it is related to trash," he said.

The transfer station neighbors The Key Peninsula Sports Complex, also known as Volunteer Park. Though bears have been around, Scott Gallacher, executive director for Key Pen Parks said he isn't concerned.

"We've posted our signs 'Bears in the Area,' and we live in the woods," Gallacher said. "We have not cancelled activities because of the bears."

There are signs that the bears have been on the park property, he said. One of the Key Pen Parks staff saw a bear in the horse-shoe pit area, he said.

If anyone encounters a bear, Martorello said it is best to give the bear plenty of room to retreat without feeling threatened.

"Bears are afraid of us, and they usually come around at night or first thing in the morning," he said. "If they've been there already and got a great reward of food, they'll stay. We need to hear about the bear when tracks are found, or there's a scratch on the wall, not when it's progressed to where you can't chase the bear away."

Once a bear is comfortable with a site, Martorello said it is difficult to deter the behavior.

Homeowners can take steps to prevent bear visits, and they include keeping barbecue grills clean, rinsing out trash cans and generally getting rid of any odors that could attract bears. Bird feeders are a big problem, Summit said.

"Make sure you have the bird feeders down," Summit said. "They're like a barbecue for bears."

The Key Center Transfer Station schedule is on a day-by-day basis.

Key Peninsula residents can take trash to the Purdy Transfer Station on 144th Street at 54th Avenue in Gig Harbor.

For more information visit www.pierce-countywa.org/solidwaste, or call the hotline for up-to-date information at 253-798-2179.

To report a bear sighting call 1-800-477-6224, or 360-249-4628. For emergencies, dial 9-1-1.

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Vaughn Bridge: Snapshots of history



Concrete bridge built 1966

Vaughn Bay Bridge connects 92nd Street and South Vaughn Road. It runs next to the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn, and spans Vaughn Creek.

The old Vaughn Bridge had five spans and two piers with six pilings each in the water. The new bridge has a single span. The post tension spliced girder technology allowed the pilings to be removed from the water under the bridge, and the new 219-foot span makes it a more environmentally friendly bridge. It was completed ahead of schedule.

With an anticipated opening for April, Henry Gertje, construction engineering supervisor, said the grand opening March 24 was a success.

"It was substantially completed," he said. "We had to put a handrail on, and we now have to wait until September for the temporary pilings to be removed because of the fish window that the permits require."



Vaughn Bridge Dec. 09



Later in December the large beams arrived, making for interesting navigation through Key Center and on to 92nd Street.



Vaughn Bay Bridge Construction 3-18-10. By March paving had begun on the bridge.



Photo by Danna Webster, KP News

A 1932 Chevy hot rod Roadster was the first car to cross the new Vaughn Bridge. Vaughn resident, Jessica Bock, rode in the rumble seat with her children Karst (5) and Galena (3). The car was driven by Bock's parents, Dave and Janet Robertson. The roadster was an original purchase of Dr. Ed Olson of the Sunnycrest homestead family in Vaughn. Janet Olson Robertson drove the Roadster to college in the 1960's when restoration of the vehicle began. The 10-year restoration was completed by Janet and her husband Dave Robertson.

A mother's story

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Maureen and Bruce Morlang have lived on the Key Peninsula more than 30 years. Their farmhouse is a big, eclectic affair that began as a renovated log cabin, and now looks like two or three different houses joined into one. Even the dining room table is unique, sloping down a little and wider at one end.

"You can see it was made in middle school wood shop," said Maureen. "I told the shop teacher we never could get that table straightened out, and he said, 'Oh, it's got character, just like all those kids you put around it.'"

The Morlangs have been foster parents for 27 years.

"We've had hundreds of kids," said Maureen. "Some stayed 15 minutes, some emancipated [turned 18] with us."

The Morlangs also have two children of their own, now 43 and 39. Their oldest was 16 when the first foster child came home. "Our kids grew up in foster care too, it just happened to be in their own house," said Maureen.

"As the family grew, the house grew," she said.

The Morlangs have six beds but just five children living with them, and only one of those is long term. "I've got my plate full at the moment," said Maureen. "Social Services is doing such a great job of finding relatives that if the child is anywhere near manageable, then the aunt's going to take them."

"I go through a washing machine almost every year," said Maureen. "I had one girl that broke the washer, the dryer, the computer, her bed, and stole my flute when she left and she was only here six months."

"A lot of times when you read the newspaper you get all the bad press about what the system does if they make a mistake, but you don't realize all the times that they don't make mistakes, all the good things they do, and how hard they work to maintain placements," she said.

Maureen said that many of her former kids stay in touch, come home for holidays, and bring their own children for visits.

"The success of the children that have

grown up in your home is one of the things that keeps you going, because there are what you or I might call 'failures.'"

Maureen still maintains relationships with "failures," her foster kids who are now adults and may wind up in jail from time to time or have other troubles.

"A long time ago I learned to separate myself from what someone else chooses to do," said Maureen. "If I took all that personally, I'd been ruined long time ago as a person."

That attitude has yielded a lot of success, but it didn't come easily.

"I had one boy one time that came here when he was 15," said Maureen.

"We fought, argued about everything. But he was a huge healing factor in my life because he brought out glaring things that I had trouble with. He changed me in ways that I'll always appreciate."

On another occasion, Maureen took in a teenaged girl another foster family couldn't handle.

"She emancipated here," said Maureen. "She grew up here, graduated high school, went on to college, she won the National Merit Scholarship. She just needed somebody who could focus her."

But not all children want that encouragement.

"[Sometimes] I'm told 'You're not my mother, you can't tell me what to do.' I'm in that position, but that's a threat to them because they don't want me doing all these things for them; they want their own mom," said Maureen. "They hate you for it."

Maureen had this problem with another boy that lived with them for six years. "He said two words to me every day: 'Hi, Maureen.' No matter what I did, I couldn't crack him," she said. He rejoined his biological mother after graduating from Peninsula High School, but came back about six months later to visit his siblings, who were still with the Morlangs.

"We talked until two in the morning," said Maureen. "He said, 'It was never about you, it was about my mom. I could not believe that they took me away from my mom.'"

(See **MOTHER**, Page 12)



An avid gardener, Maureen Morlang has also devoted her time to raising children. She and her husband Bruce have been foster parents for 27 years and have parented hundreds of children.

Photo by Ted Olinger,
KP News

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County invites nominations for property conservation funding

Pierce County is accepting property nominations for the Conservations Futures program, which buys land or development rights to protect open space, timber and agricultural lands, wetlands, wildlife habitat and recreation lands. Nominations are sponsored by nonprofit groups, cities, towns or County agencies, and by individuals who do not have interest in the land. The deadline to submit for 2010 funding is 4:30 p.m. on May 28. The Conservation Futures program is administered by the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department. More information and sponsorship applications are available on the department's Web site: www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/parks/cfutures.htm. Property nomination applications also are available at the Parks and Recreation office, 9112 Lakewood Drive SW #114, Lakewood.

Source: Pierce County.

(From MOTHER, Page 11)

Maureen wanted to become a foster parent because of her own childhood.

"I was in two or three different foster homes," Maureen said. "I think I must've been a really bad kid. I spent a lot of time standing in a corner."

"I remember the very day my dad came and picked us up in a Model T car where you crank the crank and I was standing in the window, and he said you're gonna live someplace else, and we drove off and ended up at the orphanage," said Maureen, referring to herself and her two sisters.

"I was very, very young when I was first there. I remember going to school holding onto a rope with a ring on it, and holes in the bottom of my shoes which I put cardboard in," she said.

"There were 50 girls in this wing, 50 boys in that wing, and 25 five- and-under in the nursery," said Maureen, describing life in the Loyal Protestant Home in West Vancouver, Canada.

"We got one outfit of clothes for a week, one bath a week. There were laundry people, there were kitchen people, we all had jobs to do," she said. "I remember my turn peeling potatoes,

I never saw so many potatoes in my life. That was back in the 1950s when canned salmon was the big thing. They used to feed us that canned salmon with the bones in it. I can't stand fish to this day."

Her mother occasionally visited Maureen and her two sisters. "Of course, I hated my mom because I had to have some place to direct all that anger because I wasn't at home. I hated it even when she came to visit."

When Maureen turned 10, her mother remarried and brought Maureen and her two sisters to a new home. "When she took us out, my stepdad became the father I never had and we were close until he died," she said.

The types of kids and their needs have changed dramatically since Maureen and Bruce became foster parents.

"I've had 9-year-olds with the same behaviors as sexually aggressive teenagers," said Maureen. "Contrary to what most people think, they don't just need love and a stable home."

"I think if people will stop looking at numbers of kids that move and go back upstream, so to speak, to look and see why these moves are taking place and change that, then they'll stop. We as a

“Contrary to what most people think, they don't just need love and a stable home.

— Maureen Morlang, mother

”

society have young parents taking drugs, alcohol, there's prostitution of little kids. You can look at it on paper but you have no idea what the effects of those behaviors are until you deal with it everyday, every minute."

And just as other parents eventually decide to stop growing their family, the Morlangs see that day coming soon for them.

"There's been a lot of kids in and out of here the last three years, because we can't find the right ones to settle down and be long term," said Maureen, "so we've set a goal for ourselves that when [our current teen] graduates high school we need to retire. I'm almost 66. It's time to pass the baton."

Maureen has been trying to retire for eleven years, she said.

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KP Livable fair, family event

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The ninth annual Livable Community Fair will be held at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on May 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and admission is free.

Forty or more non-profit organizations are signed up for tables in the gym. There are still tables available for interested groups. This is an opportunity for the Key Peninsula community to know what's out there for interest and assistance in many areas.

Folk musician Cameron Snyder opens the entertainment on the stage at 11 a.m. The Minter Marimbas, made up of fourth and fifth graders from all Key Peninsula elementary schools will gather for their part of the program shortly after noon. Both groups are under the direction of Paula DeMoss.

Coffee by Ravensara, an event sponsor, and pastries by Three Clouds Bakery will be available for sale inside, as well as some food and beverages to buy from the kitchen.

The Key Peninsula Parks will repeat



Photo courtesy of Hugh McMillan

Penrose Rangers Dan Christianson and Janis Shonk were on hand at the Washington State Parks table at the 2009 Key Peninsula Livable Fair.

their Touch-a-Truck display, with two additional vehicles available for visitors to see, climb aboard, and in some cases, honk horns and pretend to operate. A U.S. Army truck and a Vac-truck from Pierce County are included in the

nearly dozen vehicles, said Chad Harvell. A couple of local emergency vehicles will participate in the show.

Bright blue Touch-a-Truck T-shirts will be for sale by Key Peninsula Parks and the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association.

The Fish Pond will be open for eager young anglers.

Master Gardeners will have a table near the entrance to answer questions and provide information.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society and the Key Peninsula Historical Society will both have plant sales from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. or until plants are gone.

The Fuchsia Society celebrates their 15th year of day-before-Mother's-Day sales, with many plants of varying sizes spread around outside. Jacquie Crossman, who grows the fuchsia baskets and many starts, will be on hand again this year.

Society member Sharon Miller says besides both hardy and non-hardy fuchsias, they'll have their shade or sun flats of annuals, a popular addition last year,

as well as a good variety of vegetable starts. Tomatoes include a heritage variety, plus Sun Cherry and a new introduction — Red Alert. Fat & Sassy bell pepper plus Numes, a medium hot pepper, cucumber and squash plants will be available.

The Historical Society sale focus is on Heritage plants — those our grandmothers grew, many of them descendants from those early KP pioneer homesteads.

The museum will be open during fair hours, with their new display of Key Peninsula marine life, as well as Historic Bridges of Vaughn Bay, celebrating the opening of the new bridge.

Tim Kezele, general chairman, who has been involved in all of the preceding fairs, says volunteers are needed for help with parking, setting up and taking down. Call the office to sign up or for more information.

The Livable Community Fair is a family friendly event, with items of interest to all.

Applications are available online at www.kpciviccenter.org or call 884-3456 or stop by the KPCC office Mon – Wed. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thurs. and Fri. – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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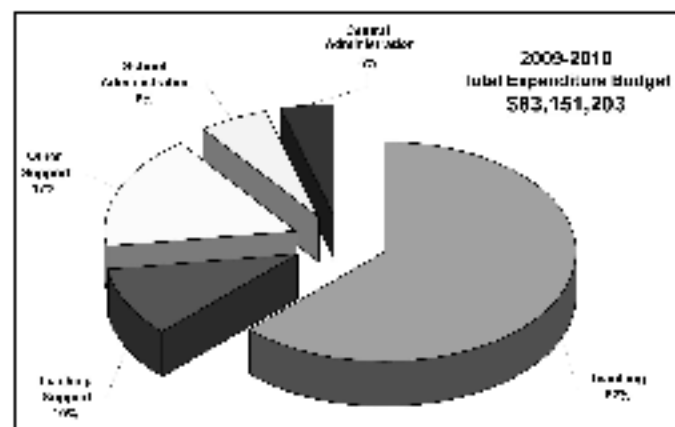
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District Faces Tough Decisions After More Budget Cuts

The Washington State Legislature made more cuts to education funding during this past Legislative session, which resulted in further reductions in operating funds for Peninsula School District.

PSD has already reduced its budget by about 10 percent in the past three years, eliminating a total of \$9 million. With another reduction of \$1.4 million in the latest state budget, and with 85 percent of the PSD budget going toward human resources, the district is facing more tough decisions.



"We are looking at everything — where we can enhance revenue, reduce expenditures, and use one-time infusions like federal stimulus money," says PSD Deputy Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetta.

District administration has been gathering input in the last few months at community forums hosted by Superintendent Terry Bouck. The public is also invited to a budget forum on May 17 to provide input on budget cuts.

"We've stayed away from schools while cutting \$9 million in recent years, but we can't promise that for next year," Bouck says. "We look at every penny, nickel and dime, and that adds up too but not to \$1.4 million."

The district is being creative with its budget strategy. One example of resource conservation is a recent energy-savings grant received from the state through federal stimulus money and a utility rebate from Peninsula Light. Although utility costs are going up, energy savings resulting from projects funded by the grant will offset the new costs.

The school district is confident in its ability to balance next year's budget; however, further reductions are anticipated from the state in future years. "This will be the third out of four years where we're making budget reductions, and the next year doesn't look any better," Cuzzetta says. "We have to look at all our programs in the long term, from class size and transportation to special education."

Kindergarten Registration

4-day, all-day tuition-free registration will continue throughout the school year from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. We look forward to meeting you!

Succeed on Your Terms!

Peninsula School District is excited to introduce a new online education option for high school students: Peninsula Internet Academy. PIA is a fully-accredited program that gives you the ability to go to high school online and graduate on time with a PSD diploma. The online program is designed for students in grades 9-12 who take 5-6 classes per semester. If you want to study anytime and anywhere you have Internet access; use Animapix, Flash Animation, Interactive Media, Video Presentations, Audio Narration and Games; plan school hours and commitments such as sports, travel, medical needs or community service; and get personalized assistance and support for your online classes at a school in your community, then this is the academy for you! Contact JB Fitzpatrick: jfitzp1@psd401.net or 530-3704.

Did You Know...

Five citizens serve on the Peninsula School District Board of Directors, each representing one of the districts that make up the school district. They are elected for four-year terms. Members of the Board of Directors are volunteers: Jill Uddenberg, President (253-1546); Matt Wilkinson (884-1128); John Earl (858-9507); Jill Guernsey (851-6402); and Wendy Wojanowicz (858-6969). For more detailed information refer to the school board scroll down menu at www.psd401.net.

May Events

- 2-8 Teacher Appreciation Week!
- 4 Superintendent Forum—third in a series of four forums to be held at Key Peninsula Middle School Library beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- 13 School Board Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at Evergreen Elementary School
- 17 Budget Forum 6:00 p.m. at Peninsula High School Library—we welcome your input
- 31 No school—Memorial Day observed

June Events

- 1 Superintendent Forum—fourth in a series of four forums to be held at Kopachuck Middle School Library beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- 10 School Board Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at the District Office
- 11 Henderson Bay High School graduation ceremony 7:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill
- 13 Graduation ceremonies at the Tacoma Dome for Gig Harbor 1:00 p.m. and Peninsula 4:30 p.m.
- 17 Key Peninsula Middle School moving on ceremony
- 18 Last day of school—early release

Superintendent Forum May 4

The third in a series of four unstructured forums inviting community members to provide feedback, raise issues and ask questions pertinent to the Peninsula School District is scheduled for May 4 at Key Peninsula Middle School from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The meetings are held at middle school sites to afford community members the opportunity to visit their neighborhood schools. One final forum for the 2009-2010 school year is planned for June 1, 2010 Kopachuck Middle School, 6:30 p.m. The evenings are hosted by Superintendent Terry Bouck and everyone is invited to participate—you do not need to have a student enrolled in the District. We look forward to hearing from you!

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COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to news@keypennews.com • Deadline 15th of the month

Now-GED classes

Key Peninsula residents are able to complete a GED. Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon at the Home Fire Station. For more information, call Tracy or Linda at 253-460-2355 or stop by during class hours.

May 1- First aid class

A First Aid/CPR Class is offered from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. 884-2222

May 1-Lyme disease information

Find out about Lyme disease, how it affects people in the community and support community members with Lyme disease from 3-6 p.m. at the KC Library. Robert, hunt11er@yahoo.com

May 3 – Travel club

The KP Travel Club meets at 7 p.m. at the KC Library. No officers, no dues, just information. 884-4697 or 884-3937

May 3, 10, 17, 18, 24-Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile is at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. every Monday and at the Peninsula High School Gym from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18. For other dates and locations see keypennews.com.

May 4-Superintendent's forum

The Peninsula District School Board hosts a Superintendent's Forum at 6:30 p.m. at the KP Middle School.

May 4-Kindermusik classes

Key Pen Parks offers Kindermusik, which will feature African music in classes for ages 4-6, from 4:30-5 p.m. on Tuesdays until May 25 at the Volunteer Park office building. Kindermusik helps sharpen listening, attention skills, and finding



Photo courtesy of Lisa Larson

Easter treats

Key Pen Parks thanks the community for attending and enjoying the 2nd Annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt at Volunteer Park. The sponsors-PETCO, the Gig Harbor Kennel Club, and Brookside Veterinary Hospital-are appreciated for their continued support. The Pierce County Humane Society educated folks about better service to our furry friends.

audio patterns. Fee is \$49; minimum of 5, maximum of 12 kids. KP Parks, 884-9240

May 6-Fuchsia club

The Lakebay Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Their fuchsias are available at the Livable Community Fair on May 8. Contact Ginnie, 884-9744

May 8- Livable community fair

The Key Peninsula Civic Center will host the 9th Annual Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 17010 S. Vaughn Rd KPN. This open house for area non-profits and organizations supporting and based on the Key Peninsula also includes the Lakebay Fuchsia Society's plant sale, kids' craft area, and entertainment. Key Pen

Park's "Touch-a-Truck" activity returns this year, inviting kids and adults, to get up close and personal with local and regional service vehicles from Peninsula Light, Fire District 16, Pierce County, and more.

May 11 Knit or crochet group

Loving Hearts, volunteers who crochet or knit items for non-profits in the community, meet from 1-3 and from 7-9 p.m. on May 19 at the WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave KPN. The group welcomes new members and donations of yarn, buttons and needles. Contact lovingheartsonkp@aol.com or Virginia, 884-9619.

May 12-Pee wee T-ball

Pee Wee t-ball for ages 3 1/2 to 5 will be

offered on Wednesdays at Volunteer Park, 5-6 p.m. from May 12 to June 16. Adult involvement is required during the sessions. Cost is \$43. Register with Chad, KP Parks, 884-9240.

May 13- Eat and meet at library

The Friends of the Key Center Library host a potluck and general membership meeting from 6-9 p.m. The meeting includes election of officers and will be followed by speaker John Harrington. The Friends welcome new members and would like everyone to bring ideas for programs and activities for a short brainstorming session. Please RSVP to 884-2242.

The Friends are grateful for all the generous donations of books and media that support their ongoing sale in the library lobby. There is currently a shortage of hardbacks, paperbacks, movies, and books on tape. All donations are much appreciated. (No magazines needed at this time, please.) Remember to bring your receipts from either Peninsula Market to the library. All of the Friends' proceeds finance free programs for adults and children and also support the library.

May 15- Noisy tales

Wacky fairy tales twist and turn about with sound effects, funny voices and zany humor by Charlie the Noise Guy at 10:30 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Free family event for ages 5 and up. 884-2242

May 16-Singers sing into spring

The Key Singers present their 12th annual spring concert of "Sing into Spring with the Key Singers" at 3 p.m. in McColley Hall at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Musical selections include show tunes, spirituals, and numbers from the Beatles. Special guests include Chosen Vessels, a gospel group from Port Orchard. Cabaret seating and light refreshments are available.

MAY PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Lions Club, May 5 w/Derek Kilmer & May 19, 6 p.m. social, 6:35 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting, KP Civic Center
- KP Metro Parks, May 10, regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, May 11 & 25, 3 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Council, May 12, 6:30 p.m.-business meeting, KC Library
- KP Civic Center Board, May 13, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room
- Peninsula School District Board, May 13, 6 p.m. regular meeting at Evergreen Elementary; May 27, 6 p.m. study session at district office
- LIC dessert potluck meeting, May 19, 7 p.m. Longbranch Improvement Club

Prices are \$8/adults and \$5/seniors and teens. Donations for Community House Food Bank are encouraged. 884-5615

May 19-Volcano anniversary

The Key Pen Parks are venturing to Mt. St. Helens to recognize 30 years since the eruption. Silver Lake, Hoffstadt Bluffs, and Johnston Ridge Observatory will be visited. Bring a sack lunch or money to buy lunch at Hoffstadt Bluffs. Dress for the weather and bring a camera. The trip is from approximately 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Register by May 12. Cost is \$43 and participants (18 and older) must be at Volunteer Park by 7:45 a.m. Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

May 20-Community forum

The Mustard Seed Project's Third Thursday Community Forum will refocus on "Community creative thinking: visualize ideal aging on the KP, part 2!" at a meeting from 10-12 a.m. at the Key Center Library. This is a continuation of the February forum and the observation of Older American Month. Bring any ideas and visions you have of "aging in

OFF THE KEY

May-VFW changes

The Gig Harbor Herman Uddenberg VFW Post #1854 has changed its meeting place, time, and date effective in March to John Paul Jones Masonic Temple, 3025 96th Street, Gig Harbor. Contact Commander Dale Goheen, 858-7569 or Gary Helmick, 884-2442; ghelmick@centurytel.net

April 30-May 9- Play presented

The Paradise Theatre presents "The Importance of Being Earnest," Oscar Wilde's classic comedy, on weekends. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m. Call 851-PLAY for tickets or go to www.paradisetheatre.org

May 7-23- "Rent" presented

The Encore! Theater presents Jonathan Larson's "Rent" on weekends. The Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. The show involves adult subject matter and is recommended for audiences 16 and older. Tickets are \$18/adults and \$14/seniors, teens over 16 and military. www.encoretheater.org.

May 8-Cystic fibrosis fundraiser

The 2010 Great Strides Walk to

benefit Cystic Fibrosis will be held at Rush Companies, Park Plaza, 2727 Hollycroft in Gig Harbor. The walk is free and will be on the Cushman Trail for 4 miles. Collect \$100 in donations and get an event T-shirt. Check-in at 10 a.m. and walk at 11 a.m. Call Jenny, 253-691-4397 with questions. CFF Foundation, 800-647-7774.

May 20 - PYO open house

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra hosts an open house from 4-6 p.m. at the Harbor Covenant Church, 5601 Gustafson in Gig Harbor. The PYO is an educational and recreational opportunity for students 9-19 years or grades 3-12. Some scholarships and instrument rentals are available. Early registrations and auditions for the 2010-2011 season will be held on June 10. Call 253-534-5384 or www.harborpyo.org

May 21-Free movie

A free movie will be hosted by the Gig Harbor Welcome Club at 10 a.m. at the Galaxy Theatre. Coffee and discussion will follow the movie. 238-6490

May 22-Perfect farm workshop

A "Finding the Perfect Farm Property" workshop will be held from

1-3 p.m. in Gig Harbor. The opportunity to raise a few animals, grow your own food and play in the dirt has developed an increasing affinity. Spring is a prime time to scope out new property to help one meet these goals. Enter into the market with a better idea of what to look for in raw land or farm property to help maximize the potential for success. In this workshop, soil capabilities, buffer restrictions, planning out-building locations, and matching animal density with farm productivity will be studied. Online tools to help one research properties and provide one with a contact list for follow up questions will be reviewed. Contact Erin to register and receive directions: erine@piercecountycd.org, 884-9474

May 26 - Garden gurus meet

The Garden Gurus of Gig Harbor hold monthly meetings at 1:30 p.m. at the Peninsula Retirement Center in Gig Harbor. The meetings feature gardening tips from master gardeners and a featured gardening guest speaker from the Pacific Northwest. The group welcomes new members. Call Lynn Lawrence [253]-514-1049

June 19- Victor flea mart

The "Famous Victor Flea Mart" will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in Victor behind the fire station. Besides lots of great stuff, there will be a raffle, bake sale, plants for sale and great hamburgers. Debby Englund, 360-275-1364

place." 884-9814 or ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org

May 29 - Scrapbooking

Scrapbooking will be from noon-6 p.m. in the Whitmore Room of the KP Civic Center. Learn how to turn a four-page spread into an eight-page spread. Registration is \$15 and space is limited. Register with form on www.kpcivic-center.org or call 884-3456.

May 30-Vets honor vets

The annual "Aisle of Honor" will be sponsored by the Key Peninsula Veterans

Institute at 1 p.m. at the Vaughn Cemetery. The event will include over 280 casket flags flying, a roll call of names, music, laying of a wreath and a memorial ceremony. Come join the activities and honor our local and worldwide military veterans. Mike Coffin, 884-9852 or kpvetrans@kpveterans.com

June 3-Track and field meet

The Hershey's Track and Field Meet, presented by Key Pen Parks and KP Middle School, is a free event for boys and girls aged 9-14. The free check-in will be at Volunteer Park at 2:45 p.m. and the events run from 3:15-5:30 p.m. The top

two finishers will qualify for the opportunity to advance to state. 884-9240

June 5- Single moms' car care

Lakebay Christian Assembly sponsors Single Moms' Car Care Day for single moms or wives of deployed service men who live on the KP. Free oil changes will be provided. Sign up for an appointment by June 3. Sharron Dean, 884-9948

To submit an event for Community Works, please email to news@keypennews.com. Briefs must be submitted by the 15th of the month.

Fire Department Open House

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Over 100 visitors of all ages toured the Key Center fire station and participated in various activities during the District No.16 open house designed to provide the community with information about the district, [and offer services].

Sparky hugged willing visitors and waved at passers-by, while fire personnel and young assistants encouraged everyone to register to vote. Free immunizations for children for seasonal flu as well as H1N1 shots for all were offered in one room.

The antique engine, in the truck bay, was open for inspection, while other vehicles outside were prepared for moving out if a call came in.

Fire department stickers, fire hats and booklets for kids were spread out with pamphlets of information on a variety of topics.

Large charts compared Pierce County fire district levy rates, assessed valuations for 2010 and tax levies per person were on display.

Clam chowder from On the Way Deli and sandwiches from St. Anthony's were available, as well as cookies provided for sale by the Ashes auxiliary, an organization that raises funds to help firefighters. "We supplied the new Jaws of Life," Marguerite Bussard, an Ashes auxiliary member said.

Girl Scout Troop 40956, under the direction of Sheri Medley and Audra Garcia, meet in the room, and offered their services to greet people and help clean up afterwards.

Cathy Gerhard and Phyllis Henry offered information on The Mustard



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Kaela Dahl, a first grader at Burley Glenwood Elementary, is thrilled by a hug from KPFD's mascot, Sparky.

Seed Project, a non-profit organization that helps elders live at home. There were jars of their special brand of mustard, with general information on the organization and life support.

The weather allowed good attendance for the outside car extrication drill and fitness combat challenge demonstrations.

Fire commissioners Ruth Bramhall, Claudia Jones and Rick Stout attended, so with a quorum, opened a special

meeting with no business, and closed it when one commissioner had to leave.

The rescue truck, newest of the vehicles, carries a portable power plant, with a hydraulic power plant on board and pre-connected hoses for the pieces of equipment needed for various emergencies.

Firefighters Ann Nesbitt, Doug Gelsleichter, Paul Pavolka and Todd Van Scoyk used power tools on vehicles donated by Horseshoe Auto Wrecking to show how they remove doors and windows as needed.

Fire Chief Tom Lique said the company brings over as many cars as needed, the firemen take them apart for drill, then the company comes back and picks up the pieces.

Volunteer Bill Jones notes that with an experienced crew, they can get a car roof off in one minute.

Zach Johnson commented on the weight machines and other equipment in the exercise room. Each shift determines a fitness goal for a month, and work on a different muscle group each day. Their workouts include cardiovascular, martial arts, yoga stretching, and other methods to improve strength and endurance.

Johnson demonstrated a routine: 25 push-ups, then flip a 200-230 pound tire 75 feet, followed by carrying a 200 pound dummy 150 feet, pull one of the tires with a rope 75 feet, then use a five pound sledge hammer 15 times.

When they finish that, almost too tired to wiggle, they may have a knot tying drill.

Almost all personnel, career and volunteer, work out daily in some way when off duty.

The fitness policy requires that each

year, in their birth month, the men and women give blood at the local clinic, then run through a four-part flex/cardiovascular series of exercises at the Exercise Science Center in Fircrest.

Dr. William Roes checks all of the results to determine the fitness of each one.

Want to advertise in The KP News?

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(Ad space must be reserved prior to May 14th.)

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Pee Wee T-Ball
This program is designed just for the little guys and gals ages 3 1/2 to 5 the opportunity to learn and improve their skills and fundamentals of baseball. Scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all kids. Adult involvement is required during the weekly classes. Mitts are ok, but no bat or balls are needed. Fee includes t-shirt, certificate, and ceremony last day of program.

Ages: 3.5-5
Location: Vol Pk (Upper field)
Day/Date: Wednesday nights, 5/12-6/16
Fee: \$43
Time: 5:00-6:00 pm
Min/Max: 10/30

Hershey's Track and Field Meet
This free event is for boys and girls ages 9-14 as of December 31, 2010. Top two finishers will qualify for an opportunity to advance to state and possibly the national finals!

Location: Key Peninsula Middle School track
Day/Date: Thursday, June 3rd
Time: 3:15-5:30 pm
Fee: Free

Note: Check in will begin at 2:45

"City of Dreams" Port Townsend
Port Townsend is regarded as the one of the best-preserved examples of a Victorian Seaport in the United States. While in Port Townsend you will enjoy the historic downtown district, which has been honored with the "Great American Main Street Award". Bring lunch money for one of the many restaurants & quaint shops!

Location: Volunteer Park
Age: 18 +
Time: 9am-4pm
Date: 6/23
Fee: \$40
Min/Max: 5/7

Note: Deadline to register July 16th

"Ditch the workout, join the party" Zumba
Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program that will blow you away. The goal is simple: We want you to want to work out and get hooked. Zumba fanatics achieve long-term benefits while experiencing an absolute blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage, and captivate for life.

Location: Whitmore Room, Civic Center
Date: June 12-July 17th
June 5th (Free Demo Day)
Time: 9-10am
Fee: \$47
Min/Max: 5/20


Note: Deadline to register June 9th

Mad Science Camp: Claws, Codes, & Constellations
Let your scientific imagination soar as we explore animal life and habitats, follow scent trails, solve chemical mysteries and look for clues. Crystal creations and cool tasty treats, secret slime formulas and slimy creatures what could be more fun! Help us create a design to launch an egg into outer space (or maybe into the parking lot!)

Age: 5-12
Location: Volunteer Park Concession Building
Date: June 28th - July 2nd
Time: 9-12pm
Fee: \$77
Min/Max: 12/17

Note: Deadline to register June 24th

For more information contact
Key Pen Parks at 253-884-9240 or
chad@keypenparks.com



Key Pen Parks
"The key to your next adventure"

Stitching some cheer for those in need

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

Members of the Gig Harbor Quilters Club have been making colorful quilt designed pillowcases for the Harbor Quilt Store, on Pioneer Way, or that donates them to charities. The pillowcases go mainly to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Madigan American Heroes as a way of brightening their rooms.

One Million Pillowcase Challenge is a national project started by Better Homes and Gardens in the fall of 2009. Sue Luster of the Harbor Quilt Store said 90 pillowcases have been donated so far.

The project is open to anyone who likes to sew, and there is no need to be a member of any sewing group.

Pat Semon, a volunteer at Mary Bridge Hospital in Tacoma said the pillowcases are delivered to the children once a week on a cart. The children get to choose their pillowcase and take it home when they are released from the hospital.

Some of the cases are also delivered to the oncology department at Tacoma General Hospital.

The Gig Harbor Quilters Club started about seven years ago with members from

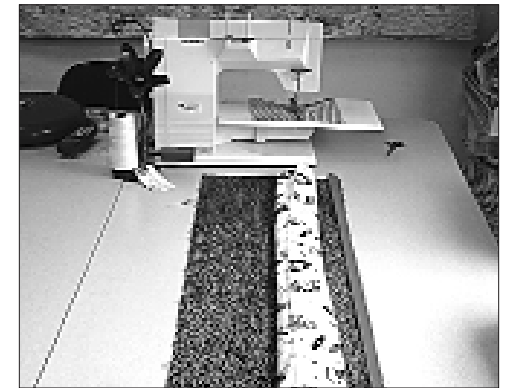


Photo by Eleanor Walters, KP News

Harbor Quilt, Inc. in Gig Harbor accepts handmade pillowcases from customers and others in the community.

the Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor, Tacoma and Puyallup. Luster said she challenged a group about a month ago to sew one pillowcase each month. The Harbor Quilt Store provides instructions and suggestions for making the pillowcases, and includes a French seam versus a raw edge, or unfinished seam.

For more information visit allpeople-quilt.com, or the Harbor Quilt store at 7716 Pioneer Way, Gig Harbor, or call the store at (253) 858-5414.

(From WINKS, Page 8)

fisherman, including owning his own boat for a while. He now goes out with friends as a deck hand or boat operator and returns home with part of the catch.

Fresh is the operative word for Winks. Live crabs, seafood practically off the boats, or salmon frozen in Alaska and flown down. Clams and oysters come from Thorndyke Bay on Hood Canal, where the water is flushed out twice a day. Lodholm says they're the only oysters he's ever found without grit.

He relies on word of mouth and signs for advertising. When he came home with a fresh catch, he'd set out signs in Pierce and Kitsap counties, and by the time he got home, half a dozen cars would be waiting for him.

Highway 302 is busy in the summer, and folks from Seattle would see the signs, question "Who'd have live crabs in the middle of the woods?" and have

to check it out. Most bought something and returned on their next trip.

The Lodholms hope they can work with the county to make adjustments that are needed rather than have to spend thousands of dollars they don't have to move everything to some other location or truly be a mobile business.

They've built a reputation for good products at reasonable prices.

They'd like Purdy to be known as a good place to come, a place to hang out and relax, a good place to shop locally, he said.

Mark Luppino, code enforcement officer for Pierce County, said the various permits and a public hearing are required to establish new businesses.

As long as the Lodholms show good faith in working toward obtaining the permits, they may remain open for a time.

Key Peninsula dog places at Westminster

By Karen Lovett, KP News

After Cheryl and Roger Ozbirn's car and home were both broken into in Tacoma, the family moved to the Key Peninsula to get away from crime. An intruder entered through the door of their new home and they decided to get a dog for protection.

Researching dog breeds on the Internet, they settled on the French Mastiff, known for being non-aggressive but very protective of family members. A working breed, they were originally used to pull carts. The French call the upturned lip and pouty facial expression the sour look. Smooth-coated, they come in all shades of one reddish color from fawn to mahogany.

She researched the breed on the Internet and talked to the secretary of the Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America, the parent club in the U.S.A. The breed originated in France, but is widespread throughout Europe. A top-producing kennel in the Netherlands has provided some of the finest animals in this country.

The Ozbirns fell in love with their first purchase, a pet named Rusty. They soon added a female, Zoe. Cheryl started showing in 2007. The French Mastiff was not an AKC recognized breed at that time and was shown in United Kennel Club, Miscellaneous classes or in specialty events. The UKC recognizes more breeds than the American Kennel Club. Some participate in contests including the Agility Challenge for Eukanuba.

French Mastiffs were recognized by the AKC in 2008, and Cheryl began actively showing in July of that year, handling her own animals. An easy care, wash and wear breed, a nail trim, bath and towel dry before the show is the only grooming necessary. In the top 20 the first year, her goal was to be number 1 in 2009.

The Ozbirns purchased a male from Colorado. Their female Indy, Champion's Evergreen Indigo Sky, they are currently showing, is from a top kennel in Puyallup.

Her dam (mother) is from the Netherlands and was a 2008 national Best of Breed winner. Her sire (father) is American. His parents are from the

The UKC recognizes more breeds than the American Kennel Club. Some participate in contests including the Agility Challenge for Eukanuba.

Netherlands.

She was the No. 1 female for the breed at Westminster in 2010 and No. 3 for both sexes in the breed. Her sire, Hugo Boss was No. 2. Four of his progeny, three females including Indy and her brother were entered. Best of Breed for 2009 was a male from Florida, winning for the second year in a row. Nineteen French Mastiffs competed at Westminster, 12 males and seven females. The Ozbirn's dog was one of top five dogs invited to attend, the rest were accepted by lottery.



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Gig Harbor Soroptimist International grant awards



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Peninsula High School senior Loretta Velaachaga Klugger and her mom, Beatriz Klugger. Loretta received a Soroptimists' \$250 award to on behalf of the PHS S.A.V.E. Thrift Store for PHS scholarships.

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Cottessmore's Harbor Place hosted Soroptimist International of Gig Harbor as it presented two \$250 Violet Richardson awards to Anna Guenther and Loretta Velaachaga Klugger and a \$1,000 Women's Opportunity Award to Christina Romo.

SIGH President Lynn Jabs and vice president Louise Olson officiated and key note speaker, Robin Echtle, Executive Director, Tacoma Community College Foundation, gave a supportive speech on TCC's appreciation of its partnership with SIGH.

Soroptimist is an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities throughout the world. Almost 95,000 Soroptimists in some 120 countries and territories contribute time and financial support to community-based and international projects benefiting women and girls. The name, Soroptimist, means "best for women."

"That's what the organization strives to achieve," said SIGH Vice President Louise Olson. "Soroptimists have helped women be their best since 1921. Members belong to local clubs, which determine the focus of volunteer work to their communities. Projects range from renovating domestic violence shelters and providing mammograms to low-income women to sponsoring self-esteem workshops for teenage girls.

"Members participate in organization-wide programs including the Women's Opportunity Award, the Ruby Award, the Violet Richardson Award named after the first president of the first Soroptimist club," said Olson. Soroptimists also have a 'STOP Trafficking' program and a 'Teen Dating Violence Awareness Campaign.' Clubs participate in the 'Live Your Dream Campaign,' which encourages all women to live their dreams while helping others do the same."

Concerned with special challenges facing today's girls and young women, Soroptimist launched the Violet Richardson Award program in 2000 as a way to recognize girls for volunteer service to their communities. The program honors young women between the ages of 14 and 17 whose volunteer efforts include helping other disadvantaged girls, fighting drugs, crime and violence, cleaning up the environment, and working to end discrimination and poverty.

Jodeen Carlson, SIGH's 2009 WOA winner, described how the award helped her, what Soroptimist has meant to her, and how SIGH saw her and fellow WOA recipient Christina Romo as "risks worth taking," she added that SIGH funds do not necessarily, "go to 4.0 students performing at the top." Carlson and Romo also received two year complementary SIGH memberships.

On her behalf, Guenther's \$250 was received by Gig Harbor Pen Met Parks Executive Director Marc Connelly. On Klugger's behalf, her award went to PHS' Seahawks Academic and Vocational Education Scholarship Fund's Supervisor, Deborah Langley-Boyer.

Connelly told how tirelessly Guenther has donated her time since the inception of Pen Met Parks in 2000. "She is very active in park and trail maintenance and has helped to make the annual Easter Egg hunt a reality and success," he said.

Langley-Boyer praised Klugger for being so dedicated to S.A.V.E., doing anything that needs to be done, training new volunteers and performing other managerial duties.

Romo is enrolled at TCC pursuing a Respiratory Therapist program. A single mother, her daughter and son came to see her recognized. In her acceptance speech she said, "This means I won't have to pick up extra hours to pay for school and I can spend more time with my kids."

Carlson, who attends WSU through its distant degree program, said, "Through this program I can complete my bachelor degree as an on-line student, as well as attend seminars throughout the state. It's a wonderful experience which has allowed me to work from home while raising my three boys."

Her study is in Criminal Justice and Sociology.

"After graduation, my plans are to work in the rehabilitation process with offenders, possibly as a correctional counselor," said Carlson.

Each year, more than \$1 million is disbursed through cash awards at various levels of the organization. Recipients, many of whom have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol abuse, may use the awards to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education.


(See AWARD, Page 30)



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Pristine territory inspiration for artist



Photo by Colleen Slater, KP News

Robin Peterson, a Key Pen artist, explored the Gates of the Arctic National Park in Alaska. Her book "Notes from the Noatak," is available online through blurb.com.

By Jerry Libstaff, KP News

Local Artist Robin Peterson released her latest book, "Notes from the Noatak," in April.

The book chronicles her travels as a National Parks Artist in Residence. Peterson spent time exploring the Gates of the Arctic National Park in Alaska, north of the Arctic Circle last summer.



The Genuine ARTICLE

"Notes from the Noatak" is a compilation of sketches, paintings, photographs and information from her journal that illustrates one of the most remote areas remaining in the entire world.

Gates of The Arctic National Park consists of more than eight million acres of isolated area established as a National Park in 1980. The park was named a Biosphere Reserve in 1984, an internationally designated protected area.

Peterson joined the Artist in Residence program in 2006 when she was chosen to sketch at Glacier National Park in Montana. There are approximately 26 parks, nation wide, that offer the position. The Artist in Residence program provides professional writers, composers,

musicians, and artisans of all types the opportunity to pursue their art in premier wilderness settings. For the Gates of the Arctic program, Peterson had to submit samples of her work, confirm physical ability to attempt the journey and possess skills and experience necessary for extended, rigorous wilderness travel.

She returned to Glacier National Park in 2007 by request. They specifically wanted an illustrator again.

Peterson was chosen as the first non-Alaskan to fill the position at Gates of the Arctic. "This park is far different from most national parks," she said. "There are no trails or signage anywhere. Some of the mountains and rivers have never been named."

She says the only way to visit the area is by floatplane and the most practical mode of travel is by river.

To make her way to the program, Peterson flew to Fairbanks at her own expense. From there the Parks Service provided a flight to Bettles, Alaska. No roads go that far north. From Bettles they provided an air taxi into the park.

A floatplane placed Peterson, Jing Zhou a graphic artist and photographer from New Jersey, and their two guides, a Park Ranger and the ranger's husband, at a lake near the Noatak

(See ARTIST, Page 25)

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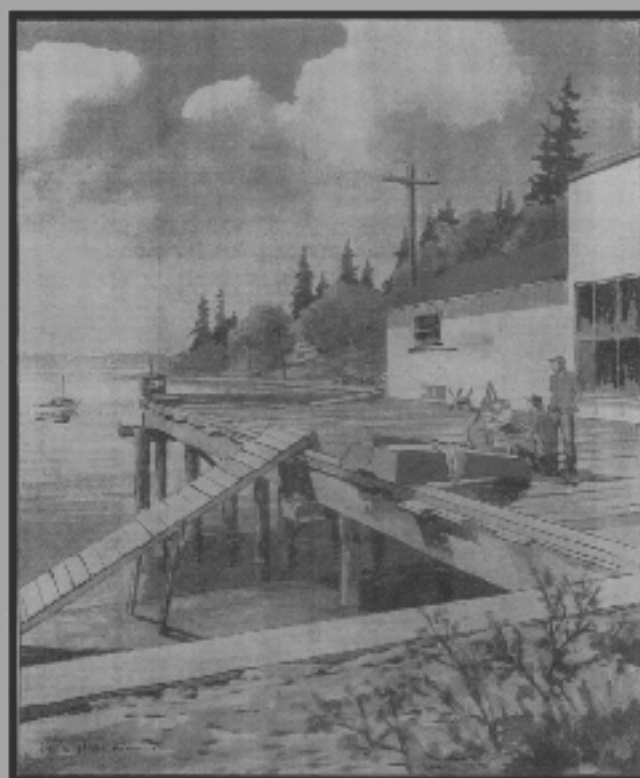
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Peninsula Light Co.



(From **ARTIST**, Page 22)

River. The floatplane then disappeared, leaving them to survive using only their knowledge, skills and the gear brought with them, she said.

They made their way to the river where they proceeded to travel by canoe and camp for 14 days. The Noatak cuts through more than 400 miles of absolute wilderness, moving westward from 8,000 foot Mt. Igipak to the Chuckchi Sea.

The purpose of the journey is to document the area for future generations. Along the river, indications of animals are found everywhere.

"At our first stop, it almost looked as though the area had been staged for our benefit," Peterson said. "There were caribou antlers and bones on the bank. It was amazing."

The Central Brooks Range has relatively short summers with 30 days of continuous sunlight. A variety of climatic zones and highly variable and unpredictable weather exists in the park. Peterson's trek took place in mid August, generally considered the height of our summer.

"It was beautiful. During those two weeks it looked as though someone had poured cans of paint across the land. Everything changed to the most beautiful fall colors," she said. They even experienced snow once.

Peterson's enthusiasm about her encounter with one of the last truly natural places on earth is addictive. She wants future generations to have the opportunity to experience the natural world.

"Lots of kids from cities have never really seen the stars. It's important to preserve some of this world for them and their children," she said.

"Notes from the Noatak" is an engaging book. The photographs, sketches, paintings and information are inspiring. The book takes the reader along with Peterson on her journey and provides hope and encouragement for those who would like to do something similar, even if it's in their own back yard.

An excerpt from the book: "Creativity, imagination in action, flourishes in the sanctuary of wilderness. Not all those who wander are lost."

To learn more about "Notes from the Noatak" and to see Peterson's art, visit www.fernwoodstudio.com.

"Notes from the Noatak," is available online at blurb.com.

KP home to best school for future engineer

By Marsha Hart, KP News

It was a childhood filled with learning, but Morgan Ruddy never learned a thing in school until he was 16. For Morgan homeschooling was the perfect fit. His mother Lisa and father Kurt were committed to what they call a home-schooling lifestyle.

"We made a decision that we were going to sacrifice, we weren't going to drive new cars," Kurt said. "Lisa was going to homeschool the kids."

Noah is 19, and sister, Tara is a certified nursing assistant.

Now 21, Morgan is graduating in May from Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana, one of the most prestigious colleges in the country for engineering. He will enter graduate school at the University of Arkansas where he has been awarded a fellowship for one year. Morgan will help teach public school students, do research in his chosen field of nanotechnology, and will have all expenses paid, plus a salary.

"I have to get a Master's before I can get the Ph.D.," Morgan said. "It's an excellent school."

Morgan exudes passion for his field, and his excitement is contagious. He is a self-starter by nature, and already knows what he wants for his future. In fact, he has known since the age of 12 that he wanted to be an engineer, Kurt said.

"He always wanted to go to MIT, until he got into Olympic College and one of his professors said Rose Hulman was rated number one," Kurt said.

His mother Lisa said as a child Morgan loved Legos, was always building something, he loved learning, and devoured math. She never followed an outside curriculum for any of the children, but instead took the job very seriously, devoting hours to her own ideas for a curriculum, preparing the environment at home and making sure books and materials were available.

"We've lived here 26 years," she said of the acreage on the Key Peninsula. "I just created the environment for them, and they had lots of forts to build, lots of time to play and explore and Morgan loved to read. He was a voracious reader."

Morgan and his parents agreed the homeschool environment fit him well.

"I was quiet and reserved," Morgan said, "I would have been the one to get

“ We made a decision that we were going to sacrifice, we weren't going to drive new cars.

— Kurt, father

”

picked on, I think. And I wouldn't have had the same opportunities."

The opportunities included a lot of homeschool group activities and field trips, one that took him to Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, where he was allowed to extract DNA in a lab.

His first formal math class was Calculus 1, he said, at Olympic College where he participated in the running start program at age 16. He graduated with an Associate(s) Degree from Olympic while his peers were graduating from high school.

While his commitment to his education has propelled him to where he is intellectually, Morgan cites his homeschool background for providing a sense of community.

"People don't understand a sense of community anymore," he said. "One of the best things about being homeschooled was learning that sense of community."

Growing up, he and his siblings were involved in homeschool groups on the Key Peninsula, involved in church and very connected to family, Lisa said. The family remodeled two residences on the property with the help of the children, especially Morgan.

"At 17 he did the shopping for wiring the electricity of the second home on the property," Kurt said.

Lisa said the children learned how to run a household and what it means to be a family.

Morgan said he learned all of that, and was able to set his own goals, something he doesn't believe would have been possible in a school setting.

"I have a vision of things I'd like to accomplish and I want to do everything the best I can," he said. "I really think in the long term, five, 10, 20 year plan."

He graduates with an engineering degree from Rose Hulman May 29 and begins his fellowship at the University of Arkansas on June 4.



Morgan Ruddy, pictured with his father Kurt and mother Lisa, was homeschooled until age 16. He is preparing for graduation from Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana. He studied engineering and will enter the University of Arkansas in June to pursue his Master's Degree.

*Photo by Scott Turner,
Special to the KP News*

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Key Peninsula spring recreation options abound

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Spring is here, but that means more than jump-starting the lawn mower and chasing groggy bears from the bird feeders. For most kids on the Key Peninsula, spring means sports.

The newly renovated Volunteer Park is busy with ball games, disc golf, and dollar hot dogs. And you don't have to play to enjoy: there is no better local entertainment than the opera that is Key Peninsula Little League.

The Key Pen Parks Department has also brought back its popular summer classes, starting in June. Registration is already open for Mad Science, Cheertastic Cheer Camp, Kindermusik, Art Camp, British Soccer, Skateboard Camp, and the Pierce County Sheriff's Junior Academy Camp.

For the adult crowd, Key Pen Parks presents Zumba classes starting June 12 at the Key Pen Civic Center (free demo

June 5). To register for park classes or for more information, call 884-9240, or go on line to: www.keypenparks.com.

The civic center also hosts an array of other activities produced by a variety of organizations, including tennis, traditional clog dancing, Tae Kwon Do, and Mixed Martial Arts.

The Children's Home Society of Washington runs the Indoor Park program at the civic center with activities for toddlers and their families. The Little Buddies program, also run by the society, brings older children together with high school students as mentors for recreation and social activities.

For more information or to register for a class, contact the civic center at 884-3456, or go on line to: www.kpcivic-center.org.

Of course, life on the Key Peninsula is all about the water, but plan before you go.

The Purdy Spit County Park beach is

closed to clamming and a two-year-old warning against swimming and shell-fishing is still in effect, especially for children and the elderly, because of contamination from failing septic systems on Henderson Bay and inland.

Penrose and Joemma State Parks are still with us, thanks in part to the voluntary \$5 donation so many people have paid when registering their vehicles since last September. However, there is no clam or oyster harvesting allowed at Penrose this year to allow those populations to recover. Joemma will be open for crabbing in June.

Pitt Island occasionally accessible at low tide just north of Filucy Bay is closed.

Open season for the freshwater lakes on or near the Key Pen vary; for example, the season for Bay Lake is not the same as Carney Lake.

Consult the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for dates at www.wdfw.wa.gov.

PHS coach Malich marks 400 wins

By Kelly Maxfield, KP News

Though the Seahawks lost 11-4 to Enumclaw March 24, there was still reason to celebrate. The local baseball community gathered to celebrate local coaching legend Marco Malich's 400 win mark as a high school coach. The Peninsula High School baseball skipper won his 400th game last season but doesn't remember the exact date it happened. The crowd came to honor Malich's contribution to the community and to present him with a sign that will be mounted on the PHS baseball field fence. A commemorative "400 win" baseball from Baden Sports was presented to the coach along with the sign, which reiterates a favorite saying of his: "It's a beautiful day to win a game."

Assistant Coach Pete Weymiller emceed the event with a brief overview of the coach's history with the Peninsula School District. Malich began as a volunteer at Goodman Middle School 30 years ago. The district was unable to pay him at the time but he willingly gave his own time for the game and players. Eventually he moved into a paying position as the Peninsula High

coach and began the successful program that he still heads up today.

Many former players attended and the variety of baseball logos gave credence to Malich's influence upon the Gig Harbor baseball community. Spotted in the crowd were former and current Peninsula Seahawks, Narrows Baseball Club players, and even a Gig Harbor Tides graduate who took a bit of ribbing. Several generations were represented as fathers and sons who both played for Malich at PHS came to celebrate the achievement with their coach. The scoreboard displayed a "400" while the crowd congratulated Malich, ate cake, and took pictures. His wife Sandy and daughter Wendy were present to celebrate the moment with the coach.

While Coach Malich prefers to focus on his players, he did take a brief moment to address the crowd.

"This is a great tribute to Peninsula High School and the Peninsula School District. We have a good crew right now and they are fighters. We took a tough loss today but we will be back."

He thanked everyone for attending then melted into the crowd to talk baseball and celebrate 30 years of memories.



Photo by Eleanor Walters, KP News

Peninsula High School baseball coach Marco Malich is so comfortable on the field, and used to winning, he couldn't remember the exact day of his 400th win. Family, friends, fans, players and alumni helped celebrate the milestone in March.

KP Citizen of the Year banquet honors businessman

Side by side, Key Peninsula residents and political dignitaries dined at the annual Key Peninsula Lions Club Citizen of the Year Awards dinner at the Key Peninsula Civic Center March 20. More than 200 were in attendance.

It was the 26th year for the event, and each of the 29 nominees were honored, with the winner, Mike Salatino, announced at the end of the evening.



SALATINO

Salatino's win was a first in the history of the Citizen of the Year award.

The votes proclaimed an overwhelming win, said George Robison, president of the Key Peninsula Lions Club. Only Lions Club members vote, and no Lions Club member can be nominated for the award.

Dressed in a black suit, Salatino gave a brief acceptance speech.

His years of service to the Key Peninsula community include acting as a long-time member of the board of directors for the civic center, including the office of president, planner of the KP Community Fair, leader of Pioneer Days, serving on the KP Parks and Recreation Board, and for 30 years he and his wife Joyce have hosted the annual Christmas Day Dinner at the civic center for senior citizens who otherwise would spend that day alone.

Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy served as the keynote speaker, and said she was impressed with the Key Peninsula community. The event, she said, is something not seen in other parts of Pierce County.

Though each nominee invites guests to fill their table, there were many from the community who attended on their own, filling every table in the room.

— Staff Report



Photo by Vic Renz, KP News

Helping hands

There were about 50 people helping to connect three different trails in the middle of the 360 Park with the outside perimeter trail April 24. Volunteers also helped build a log bench along one of the trails. It was Parks Appreciation Day and volunteers from around the Key Peninsula helped clean up their parks.

(From RESIGN, Page 2)

battle at a time."

Yanity has continued to demand accountability for physical fitness standards, something Lique said the department spent thousands to address.

"Part of the issue is there's such a huge trust issue in working with him," said Lique, referring to Yanity. "The organization, the labor group, is just not ready to jump on board and say, 'OK, we'll do this.'"

Lique said one reason for this distrust is they've been down this road before with Yanity, referring to his continuing criticism of the department's physical fitness standards.

"Since 2006, we've been spending \$40,000 a year to evaluate the health and fitness of each member," Lique said. "We work out at least an hour everyday and that progress is quantified by fitness specialists and doctors we've contracted with. It's a more demanding system than most districts have. We designed the program to address his [Yanity's] concerns. But he still says it's not good enough. He doesn't like the appearance of some of our members, and that's not an accurate measure."

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OBITUARIES

Earl Summerfelt, born on a houseboat in Longbranch in 1927, died on March 16 after a stroke. He graduated from Vaughn Union High School in 1945. Earl lived in Edmonds for 60 years where he raised his family, but loved to come back to the Key Peninsula area to visit family and friends. After serving in the Merchant Marines at the end of WWII, he worked for 40 years in the sawmill industry. He closed a chapter of Seattle history by dismantling the city's last two sawmills as the last employee for both Seattle Cedar (Ballard) in 1974 and Seaboard Lumber (Duwamish) in 1982. He lost Delores, his beloved wife of 59 years, last year. He was her sole caregiver for 45 years as she lived with Multiple Sclerosis. Survivors are sons Trev (Robin), Todd (Jane) and daughter Tami Nelson (Mark); grandchildren: Jay, Caleb, Daniel, Ellen and Janet Summerfelt and Seth and Sara Nelson; brother Don (Marjorie), sisters Janette Petersen, Millie Niemann, all of Vaughn, and Linea Lind (Don) of Longbranch. Earl was a devoted husband; an encouraging

father and friend, a tireless worker; and a model of strength and integrity. Memorial contributions: National MS Society, PO Box 4527, New York, NY 10163 or www.nationalmssociety.org/donate.

Alma Ellen Freeman Ruppert was born on June 5, 1917, on the family farm in Killarney, Manitoba, Canada and passed away on April 2, 2010, at her home in Vaughn, Wash. with her family at her side.

She was one of nine children, born to Thomas and May Freeman. Alma attended Tacoma General Hospital School of Nursing, graduating as a Registered Nurse in the class of 1940.

She married Earl W. Ruppert in 1941 and they settled in Tacoma, raising three daughters. Her strong, compassionate and nurturing spirit led her to a long and fulfilling career as a pediatric nurse, retiring in 1981.

She was active in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, PEO, Eastern Star, Allegría Dance Club, PTA, Tacoma General School of Nursing Alumnae Assoc. and Girl Scouts, serving as St. Albans Camp nurse. She



RUPPERT

enjoyed beach activities and entertaining family and friends at her Vaughn home. Her hobbies included painting, making porcelain dolls and knitting. Alma was an avid reader.

Alma is survived by her daughters; Judy Mills (Don), Jane Glundberg (Bruce), grandchildren; Matthew Mills (Lisa), Michael Mills (Kris), Martin Mills (Robin), Blake Glundberg (Janna) and Melissa Glundberg, great grandchildren; Kelson, Mackenzie, Gabriel, Zachary, Ruby and Bailey Mills.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Janice, and Earl, her husband of

56 years.

A family service and interment will be held at the Vaughn Cemetery with The Reverend Martin Yabroff and Deacon Sylvia Haase officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials for Alma may be made to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, 317 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma, Washington, 98405.

The family, especially daughters, Judy and Jane, appreciated the support of fellow caregiver Martha and also the Franciscan Hospice team of Suzanne, Robb, Rachel and the many caregivers who were so kind to Alma.

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Homes for Sale	#235
Homes Sold (ytd)	#45
Average List Price (price per sq ft)	\$336,600
Average Sold Price (price per sq ft)	\$201,400
	123

WATERFRONT REPORT

WF Homes for Sale	#39
WF Homes Sold (ytd)	#2
Average List Price (price per sq ft)	\$289,000
WF Average Sold Price (price per sq ft)	\$417,500
	\$176

This data provided to assist buyers and sellers in determining real estate values and will be updated monthly.

(From **AWARD**, Page 21)

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Graduate

LaVerna Williams, a Key Peninsula resident, a Master of Science in Psychology degree with a specialization in Counseling Psychology from Capella University.

The commencement celebration was

March 19.

She is seeking a practicum while pursuing a doctorate in psychology. She hopes to one day provide counseling and psychotherapy services on the Key Peninsula.

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Out & About

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Above, Longbranch Marina receives a streak of rainbow color on a cloudy day in April.

Photo by Dale Goodvin, KP News

Right, With a short blooming season, the trilliums are a treasure on the Key Peninsula. Growing mostly in wooded areas in partial sun, they can be found on trails throughout the area.

Photo by Ron Cameron, Special to the KP News



KP News 'Where in the World'



Photo courtesy Dan Whitmarsh

Dan Whitmarsh, a columnist for the KP News, was stuck with his family in Sweden when airlines canceled flights due to volcanic ash from airline cancellations from the Iceland volcanic eruption of Eyjafjallajökull. He took time out to pose in -2 degree weather at the Rejkavek Airport with his copy of the KP News.

This photo feature is sponsored by:



Boy Scout Troop 220 first class scout Jon Crane and his buddy, tenderfoot Mitchell Nelson enjoy meeting the Easter Bunny (who wishes to remain anonymous).