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## VFW DISTRICT FOUR'S HONOR GUARD CELEBRATES VETS

STORY & PHOTO BY HUGH MCMILLAN



Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Fourth District's Honor Guard take turns with other veteran groups to celebrate the service to our nation of fallen veterans representing the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard at the Tahoma National Cemetery, in a ceremony held several times each year.

**R**etired U.S. Air Force veteran Gary Helmick, the person largely responsible for creation of the Honor/Color Guard that originated with VFW Post 4990 of Key Peninsula, said recently, "Each month some servicemen are interred at Tahoma National Cemetery without any military honors. This happens because their families are unaware that honors can be performed or the veteran has no family to request honors or for any number of reasons. Ten times a year on a Saturday a special program is presented. (In September), our District Four Honor Guard was again called upon to perform military honors for (See **VETERANS**, Page 20)

## Rocky Creek park celebrates five years

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Rocky Creek Conservation Area supporters celebrated the park's fifth anniversary in October—and in true Friends of Rocky Creek fashion, "party" supplies included shovels instead of balloons. For the local volunteers who have turned the park from a garbage dump to a nice place to visit in these five years, there is no such thing as a party if it doesn't involve clearing more trails, hauling more garbage, or beautifying the grounds.

(See **CREEK**, Page 15)

## Fire District 16 seeks federal funds

By Irene Torres and Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Key Peninsula Fire District 16 applied for a major Federal Emergency Management Agency grant last spring, and the agency hopes that not being eliminated at this stage could mean good news.

FEMA's award of the \$334,680 grant is expected "sometime by the end of the year, and you can be sure the Key Peninsula will hear about it," said Tom Lique, EMT-paramedic and division chief in charge of medical services.

**"I am pretty confident we'll get some money."**

-Capt. Guy Allen

FEMA makes emergency preparedness funds available to communities each year. Various applications are eliminated at different stages during the highly competitive process. From the average 20,000 applications received, only about 5,000 to 7,000 are granted, said the district's Capt. Guy Allen.

"The chances of not getting the grant are high, but we haven't been bumped out yet.... I am pretty confident we'll get some money," Allen said.

The funding would pay for a computer system, bunker equipment, help improve dispatch communication and streamline the fire district's emergency response. Lique cited a recent accident near Lake Kathryn Village in which a dump truck rollover closed State Route 302.

"We had personnel out there rerouting traffic back through Kitsap County, in both directions," he said, adding that it was as frustrating for emergency staffers as for the inconvenienced drivers. "I learned a few new words that day."

With improved emergency communi-

(See **FUNDS**, Page 13)

# Renovation project gets county funding

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Friends of Wauna Post Office received good news last month: Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee has secured a \$10,000 grant from his budget for maintenance and renovation work of the historic building, located on the Purdy Spit.

Some of the immediate work will focus on winterizing the building, including covering the roof, restoring the underpinnings, patching some holes and possibly creating a retaining wall.

"We want to get the outside looking pleasant and stable, then we'll focus on inside work," said KP Historical Society President Tim Kezele, who has been leading the work with the help of many local volunteers.

In the meantime, discussions continue on future plans for the landmark, including its use. The KP Parks and Recreation District has entered into an interlocal agreement with the county to maintain and manage the property once it's preserved, with the KP Business Association



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

At a work party in September, volunteers cleared some vegetation around the historic Wauna post office and cleaned up the grounds, in one of many work parties still to come.

and the Historical Society collaborating.

Friends of Wauna Post Office meet every fourth Thursday of the month at 7

p.m. at the KP Historical Museum in Vaughn, and everyone interested is welcome to attend.

# Geoduck business battle continues

By Karl Anderson  
KP News

In September, Pierce County presented its side in the dispute between the county and Washington Shellfish Co.'s geoduck harvesting at Purdy. Owner Doug McRae will present his side of the case Nov. 3.

McRae continues to say that the county's handling of his land-use contract, including the recent cease-and-desist order, is completely baffling.

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee

was on vacation when the county's order was issued. He was not aware of an estimated \$4.8 million McRae's operation would have brought to Pierce County.

McRae said his studies had shown the vast majority of the revenue would have been channeled back to funding needs for Key Peninsula.

"To my knowledge, (County Executive) John Ladenburg never mentioned this," Lee said. Ladenburg acknowledged it was his decision to oppose the land use, and that many local residents have complained

about the operation.

"He (McRae) is stealing geoducks that belong to the public," said one of the dissatisfied residents, Marion Dumont of the Key Peninsula, a student at the University of Washington doing a thesis project on the history and development of the commercial geoduck industry. "He posted signs by using 50-gallon buckets with concrete and PVC piping warning people to stay away from the private property. He

(See **GEODUCKS**, Page 24)

## News briefs

### Little League receives \$30,000 boost

In September, Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee secured an agreement between the county and the Key Peninsula Little League, providing a \$30,000 grant "to pay off a portion of the debt incurred with installation of lighting for Little League" at the KP Sports Center Complex (Volunteer Park).

According to a witness, Paula DeMoss, Little League's president, "went weak in the knees," overwhelmed and relieved when Lee announced plans for this assist from the county.

"We are making final arrangements for the transfer of the funds," Lee said in a recent statement.

The league had been faced with a financial crisis in recent months.

### Key Peninsula information center launched

An Information Center was set up in October at the Key Peninsula Professional and Health Center, located in Key Center.

Featuring a variety of informational items from local groups, businesses and Pierce County agencies, this repository serves as an unofficial Visitor's Center, said Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets, who implemented the idea.

"We are building a hard-copy database that includes flyers, brochures, event notices, business cards—everything relevant to local residents," Taylor said. "There was a need for a central location for this kind of information and I wanted to fill that void."

Anyone interested to add information should contact Taylor at Safe Streets, at 884-7899.

## Peninsula KEY NEWS

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# CISP launches new programs, needs help

By Hugh McMillan  
KP News

Seven representatives of Communities in Schools of Peninsula last month attended a reception for Bill Milliken, president and founder of Communities in Schools, who addressed friends and supporters at the Emerald Downs' Turf Club. The event was a celebration recognizing the growth of CIS in the state, which has 11 CIS chapters.

CISP, established in 1999, is located in Vaughn and serves the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas. In the words of Executive Director Colleen Speer, CIS' mission is "to champion the connection of needed community resources with schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school, and prepare for life."

CISP is entering a new season by working toward that mission. In January 2004, CISP will have a full-time family advocate who will work with local schools to deliver services to children and families in need, primarily on the Key Peninsula, and especially identify youth who would benefit from outside resource help.

"It could be as simple as hooking up a

child with an optometrist who could provide free reading glasses so he or she could see the chalkboard," said Speer, "or as critical as linking a family in crisis to a shelter for domestic violence victims."

CISP is launching an after-school reading program for at-risk readers at Vaughn Elementary in November. Volunteer tutors for third through fifth grade students are needed. Speer said, "It will only be a small sacrifice of one and a half hours a week on a Wednesday afternoon."

Resources may already be in place within the community but, Speer says, "they're too often in the wrong place." Children and families must first locate, then travel to agencies scattered all over town, usually during school hours and with no way to coordinate the various services. CIS reverses this process, bringing resources to where children already spend their day — the public school. The resources are delivered in a caring, coordinated manner, often through direct case management.

Milliken founded CIS in 1977 in the bowels of one of the toughest sections of New York, where he'd been on a downward spiral involving narcotics, brushes

## Volunteers needed

If you are interested in helping change the future of a young life, contact Speer at 884-5733. An orientation session for the Vaughn program's reading volunteers will be held Nov. 4, with training Nov. 5. The program will kick off Nov. 12 and many more readers are needed to make it a success. The success rate will improve if each of the approximately 20 students can have one reader.

with the law and virtually everything designed to make him a young dead man. One day, while recovering from a bout with drugs, he decided to do something for himself and other youths who were on a death march of their own making.

In his inspiring all-spontaneous speech, he said people are quick to find fault with kids. "It's not the kids," he said. "It's the adults. Every kid has an opportunity to succeed. We must wonder at what that child is and respect what that child can become." He said he learned from an African tribal leader that the greeting in most tribes is not, "Hello," it's, "How are the children?"

## News briefs

### KP News heads for cyberspace

The Key Peninsula News launched a Web site at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com) that includes information about advertising, press release submission, staff, and an online form for submitting letters to the editor, announcements and feedback. The site will continue to grow and eventually include back issues, community information, links, and more. Suggestions about site content may be submitted to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com).

### County to study Home

Pierce County received a grant to survey and inventory the Home Historic District, in a project that will identify the town's historical features, physical characteristics, and other aspects, according to the county's Landmarks Commission. Local historians have been invited to contribute to the project. Three community workshops will be held starting later this fall that will inform residents of direction and progress.

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## Editorial

### Why stories go untold

Every month, we receive notes from our readers saying how eagerly they await the paper or enjoy reading about people and events on the Key Peninsula. Now and then, we also hear that some readers think we are too “touchy-feely.”

Lately, we have delved into some tougher subjects or controversial stories. We left many more untouched. It's not because we don't know about them or because we don't want to put in the extra work such stories require. But we have a unique mission that most other newspapers do not.

The big papers' primary mission is to inform their readers on everything that happens in their area. They are under pressure to sell more papers and pay off their investors. Controversy always sells.

Our news objective is slightly different. Our goal is not to provide breaking news or investigative stories, there are plenty of media that do that. Our mis-

sion is “to support and create community” by reporting news and providing a forum for local information. And so, some of the stories must be left for the others.

Does this mean you will never read about tough subjects in the KP News or that we will never ruffle any feathers? Absolutely not. It just means that every story that may affect a group or a person negatively must pass extra scrutiny by answering these questions: How does it contribute to creating community? Who benefits from reading it?

Frequently at our editorial staff or publishing committee meetings we discuss which stories may push the limit too far, and whether we can report them differently instead of leaving them unsaid. We look at those stories in light of their long-term impact — and for now, they wait.

As we continue our baby steps toward growth, we hope to find new perspectives on the less “touchy-feely stories” in a way that they will help the community instead of creating rifts between various sides. And we hope you, our readers, will help us along the way.

## Funding for criminal justice needed badly

By Terry Lee  
*Special to KP News*

Missing in the debate about Proposition 1 is how badly funding for criminal justice is needed. While the rest of the country's crime rate is dropping, Pierce County's continues to increase: We remain No. 1 in violent crime, meth-manufacturing labs, and auto thefts.

In riding along with a Peninsula-area sheriff's deputy, I saw firsthand what it means to have fewer deputies per citizen than in most other counties in the state. We lack 24/7 coverage in rural areas. Deputies respond to 911 calls with little time on-scene to solve the underlying community or family problems they encounter.

Recent tax initiatives have saved county taxpayers \$12 million, but these tax cuts

limited county government's ability to fund essential services. The county's budget is not even able to keep pace with inflation in salaries or add officers to keep pace with population increases.

Every solution for this high-crime problem begins with putting more sheriff deputies in our communities. Programs to reduce domestic violence and improve juvenile justice require deputies for enforcement.

The 3-cent sales tax on a \$10 purchase returns direct benefits in reduced insurance costs and lower business losses due to robbery. On November's ballot is a chance for voters to invest a dollar a month to end the county's crime spree. No amount of larger locks, gated communities, or bigger alarm systems can deliver the needed police protection like support for the proposition.

*Terry Lee is Pierce County Council Member for District 7, representing the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula areas.*



## Letters to the Editor

### Chief thanks community

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the citizens of the Key Peninsula for their support of the Key Peninsula Fire Department by voting and passing the Fire Truck and Equipment 4-year levy on Sept. 16. The passing of this levy guarantees the Fire Department over this 4-year period will be able to replace aging fire engines, a rescue truck, and other apparatus and firefighting equipment vital to our service.

Our priority is to replace the two fire engines at the career-staffed fire stations at both ends of the Peninsula. Along with the two new fire engines the department will replace the “Jaws of Life,” indispensable in extricating victims trapped in vehicles.

As an essential emergency service to the citizens of the Key Peninsula it is important the citizens understand that with the current shrinking revenues and the sky rocketing costs to operate the Fire District's fire and Medic One programs we could not, without voters' support, continue to maintain our current level of services and replace our aging fire engines and fire equipment.

The Key Peninsula Fire Department

has dedicated professional firefighters and paramedics available to assist you in your time of need. On behalf of all department personnel I want to extend our thanks for your trust and support. As the Fire Chief, I guarantee every dollar levied for this department will be used to its fullest value and potential to ensure well trained personnel and dependable fire equipment are available to meet our community's needs and expectations. Your Fire Department is working hard to be there when you need help. Again, thank you for your support.

*Eric R. Livingood Nelsen*  
*Fire Chief, Key Peninsula Fire Department*

### Reader says more youth activities needed

I am writing in response to the article in the October issue on page nine titled “The heart of the Key Peninsula is ailing financially, vows to keep doors open.” In paragraph eight it is mentioned that “Skate night, (is) one of the reasons why insurance is so high” yet there is no mention of the fact that skate night is one of the regular events that generates a regular income. In fact, skate night admission, recently raised, covers the cost of the insurance that allows the Vaughn Civic Center doors to remain open for those “few longtime tenants” whose rent

“remains flat” as mentioned in paragraph three.

One of those “few longtime tenants” that is described in paragraph nine as the “biggest event of the year on Oct. 4, the Flavor of Fall,” offers very little to interest the youth, yet it caused the revenue generating skate night to be cancelled Friday, Oct. 3, reportedly so the booths can be set up for Saturday?

The skate night crew spends their Friday evenings providing a safe environment for our youth. They stay late after all the children have gone home and clean the premises from floors to mirrors, often leaving the building cleaner than when they arrived early to set up for the evening.

I feel that making our children feel a part of this community, and giving them a place to go near home is very important. I think we should offer more youth activities, such as a teen night for the high schoolers who are excluded from the skate night. Without our youth feeling as though they belong to the community, the community will die off as the youth move on to communities that offer them, and eventually their children, a place to spend their leisure. The center was built for the youth of this community, and although the children that originally played on the gym floor are now senior citizens, I believe we should keep in mind that today's youth

are the future of this community. So instead of pointing out that the one weekly youth activity is “one of the reasons why insurance is so high” maybe we should schedule in many more youth activities to generate more revenue to support those “few longtime tenants.”

I, for one, would volunteer for that.

*Teri Lewellen*  
*Downtown Vaughn resident*

### Church thanks fund-raiser supporters

The Historic Vaughn Bay Church would like to thank the generous donors who have contributed to the account for Ion and Victoria Lozovanu of Moldova, who hope to be Key Peninsula residents by Christmas.

We understand there have been problems for some attempting to make deposits, so here is a clarification. The account is at Sound Credit Union, under Historic Vaughn Bay Church, and the number is 939-51.

You can also make contributions by mailing in care of Joe Dervaes, Historic Vaughn Bay Church treasurer, P.O. Box 1074, Port Orchard, WA 98366.

For further information, please call me at 884-5403.

*Colleen Slater*  
*Deacon, Historic Vaughn Bay Church*

## Spotlight on MVP Physical Therapy

# Keeping the community fit, happy and healthy

By Danna Webster  
KP News

The youngest patient at The MVP Physical Therapy clinic in Key Center is under 10 and the oldest is in his ninth decade. The clinic serves weekend warriors needing sports rehabilitation, chronically ill patients learning to manage their disease and many physical therapy needs in-between. The Key Center MVP is one of 16 Puget Sound locations providing physical therapy prescribed by doctors, but the clinic provides more than service to patients.

The clinic is multi-use: Patient care, personal fitness, health classes, aquatic aerobics, and massage are options for the general public. Personal evaluations can be made and athletic trainers can set up individualized programs. Bikes, body blades, stair stepper, Pilates machine and Theraballs are available at a monthly fee. Choose your weapons and get yourself fit.

In addition, First Aid, CPR, Yoga, Tai Chi, and Quigong are classes offered. The clinic is a happening kind of place.



Photo by Danna Webster

Spencer Drolette receives physical therapy services from Maria Bokor.

Director Maria Bokor has long work hours, as extended as her physical therapy

training and experience. Still, she is on a mission to pack her long hours with more clients in the clinic.

Heather Bauby, one of the certified athletic trainers, puts a smile on the faces in her aquatic aerobics class. She also works through the clinic as a trainer at Peninsula High, and teaches First Aid and CPR.

The office coordinator, Kristi Swensen, appreciates the calm and quiet of the clinic. Her caring remarks are heard routinely. "Got your keys?" she reminds one patient, then tells the clinic's most memorable patient, "Come down anytime you want and get your neck rubbed."

That patient is a "really cool lady" named Emma Dalton. She earned her title attending a Quigong class. It was a tired day for the Multiple Sclerosis patient. One of those days where it feels like everything is falling apart. Dalton laid down for the class, too tired to stand or sit but trying to follow the arm movements. At one point the class was taught to make a long tone using the word "song." The exercise was supposed to vibrate the body's energy.

Dalton remembers that the whole class went right on the note. It was just like hearing Buddhist monks singing. Together the class intoned, "sooooooong..."

And the really cool lady on the mat found the energy to join in. She sat up and sang, "sooooooong."

"Oh, that just rang my bell," she says.

Kathi Lupkes, the one who rubs Dalton's neck, adds another dimension to the clinic as the massage practitioner, and is trained in Swedish massage.

The staff aim to fulfill the goals of their mission statement, "Caring for our community by educating the mind, strengthening the body and lifting the spirit." They have offered free massages and a coffee break to firefighters, taught seniors at the KP Community Services "hand" massage for improving circulation, and provided First Aid classes at the high school.

"They are a wonderful crew," Dalton says. "I have a wonderful time there."

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# Couple balances family, work with new pizzeria



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Andrea Van Slyke and Mike Pope considered becoming entrepreneurs for several years—and after months of research and planning, the dream came true for the Key Pen couple, with the October opening of “In and Out Pizza.”

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Andrea Van Slyke comes from a long line of business owners. As a fifth-generation entrepreneur, she has watched family members’ businesses flourish. So it’s no surprise that her husband, Mike Pope, credits her ability to make things happen.

The couple have combined their experience with food service and business management, along with their desire to balance work with family life, and in October opened the doors to “In and Out Pizza” on Wright-Bliss Road.

Names, of course, are not always everything. In this instance, pizza is only part of what the restaurant offers, partly thanks to their oldest son, d’Aundrey, 10. Not as much a pizza lover, he said the shop should offer more—and so it does. Sandwiches, calzones, salads, and even desserts, everything prepared from fresh ingredients.

Van Slyke said the idea of having a pizzeria came from growing up around

the Peninsula—in those days, pizza delivery did not exist. “People have such busy lives, they don’t have time to cook,” she said.

Having so much family support has helped the couple, who have two other sons, a 4-year-old and a 6-month-old. But opening a business was not easy, they said, and the mounds of paperwork and research had left them discouraged on several occasions.

“We’ve had the idea for a while but needed to know how to move on it,” Pope said. “We dove in a year ago and started taking baby steps, and it just happened.”

In a true family affair, d’Aundrey helps out, as do Andrea’s mother and aunt and other family members. The shop also has a few part-time employees.

The couple says if it weren’t for the community support, they wouldn’t be able to see their dream turn into reality. Even though the shop has only been open for a few weeks, they say the encouragement from residents and groups has been great.



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# WASL results: Key Peninsula picture

By Irene Torres  
KP News

The Key Peninsula schools did well, according to state standards, on last year's Washington Assessment of Student Learning, results showed. But deciphering the results is somewhat complicated: There is more than one way to look at the data.

Ronald Engelland, assessment coordinator for the Peninsula School District, says, "The single most accurate predictor of a school's test results is socioeconomic (measured in Washington by the number of students on the Free and Reduced Lunch program). Other factors being equal, a school with a higher number of students on FRL will have lower test results... However, based on FRL results alone I would suspect their scores to be lower than they actually are."

Key Peninsula schools generally have more students in FRL compared to other district schools. When compared with other schools in the state with similar FRL rates and student enrollment, local schools frequently score at the top, achieving higher levels than state averages.

The challenge, however, comes from special education students being tabulated with the rest of the school for groups smaller than 30 students. Only Peninsula High School in the district meets that threshold.

"The WASL is a very difficult test and many special education students are in special education programs because they have a learning difficulty which interferes with

## WASL information

Ronald Engelland welcomes the opportunity to discuss the WASL. He may be reached at 857-8115.

Complete WASL results can be obtained at [www.peninsula.wednet.edu](http://www.peninsula.wednet.edu).



### Summary of Student Performance

#### Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)

*Reading is one of four subjects tested.*



Reading	Grade 7		
	State	District	Key Pen.
1997 % meets standard	38	54	48
1999 % meets standard	41	48	38
2000 % meets standard	42	52	36
2001 % meets standard	40	51	44
2002 % meets standard	45	62	42

Reading	Grade 4					
	State	District	Evergreen	Winnor Purdy	Vaughn	
1997 % meets standard	46	60	50	57	67	21
1998 % meets standard	56	72	64	74	62	72
1999 % meets standard	59	74	76	71	64	62
2000 % meets standard	66	78	70	87	73	64
2001 % meets standard	66	80	65	81	70	84
2002 % meets standard	80	78	78	80	86	75

Reading	Grade 11		
	State	District	PHS
1999 % meets standard	61	67	69
2000 % meets standard	60	61	65
2001 % meets standard	62	73	66
2002 % meets standard	69	66	63

their academics," Engelland says. "All students should be able to meet rigorous standards but it is not reasonable to expect all to meet the same rigorous standard. ...The most unfortunate part of this is that these groups of students get singled out as being the cause for a school having problems."

With the advent of the WASL, an interesting phenomenon has been noted: Not all students take the test.

The rate of WASL compliance describes the percent of students who did not participate in the WASL and, according to state guidelines, should have.

Every school has a yearly target for the number of students who meet state reading and math standards. Each student not taking the assessment is counted as not meeting the standard, the same as students who do take the test and fail to meet the standards. This can mean the scores for the school seem lower than they actually are.

That can bring consequences for schools not meeting the target. In the first year of noncompliance, school officials are notified. Failure to meet target two years in a row requires schools to develop an

improvement plan and notify parents. In some cases, parents are given the option to change schools.

Failure to meet testing targets a third year in a row means increasingly stringent measures, designed to increase the number of students meeting standards.

"Since the WASL has been administered we have been very consistent in our non-

tested rate, both as a district and for Key Peninsula schools. For Peninsula elementary and middle schools, the rate has hovered around 2 percent. The high school has averaged about 9 percent to 10 percent," Engelland says. "State high schools, because of their higher rate of noncompliance, are trying new strategies to get more students to test."

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EST. 1887

# Math for all ages



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Do math and fun belong in the same sentence? Absolutely! Evergreen Elementary School students and their families enjoyed an evening of mathematical explorations during October's Math Night. Students played games with their parents, grandparents and even siblings, and demonstrated some of the fun things they do during the day, while teachers and staff were on hand to discuss the new math curriculum and give homework tips.

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Thank you

# Students to shadow community council project

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Key Peninsula's young people will soon have their own chance to examine local issues. In a community council look-alike, the students of Key Peninsula Middle School will mirror the process and create a youth council that will address needs and issues from the students' perspective.

A special youth committee, chaired by KPMS teacher David Locey, is part of the Community Council organizing group, and has received support from the Peninsula School District for the project. A separate student group will create a template for the council's Web site.

"They will deal with real life issues at student level," said Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets, who launched the community council idea last year. "They will not only grapple with issues, but also look at realistic solutions."

The participating students are eighth graders in Locey's humanities honors class. As they tackle issues like the Civil

War, they will work their way to the new topic: a student council. They will examine council creation, boundaries, elections, representations, finances and assess community needs, all the same issues their adult counterparts have been

**"My job is to push them beyond what they think they can do. They will also learn about creating corporations and businesses. It will turn the classroom more into real life."**

-David Locey, KPMS teacher

addressing for the past year.

"We are trying to make it as real as possible," Locey said. "It's empowering students; but I also want people to be involved in their community and give back. You're not going to change adults, it's easier to create a mindset and build values at an early age."



Seth Parshall, seventh grade; Nick Mullins, sixth; and Annastasia Gallaher, eighth, volunteer time after school to work on a template for the future community council Web page, with the help of Ron Stark from the school district's Instructional Technology department. A fourth volunteer, seventh grader Richard Sutherland, is not pictured.

*Photo courtesy of David Locey*

Locey is still devising a strategy for how the class will work. He plans to bring to the students materials from the organizing committee, ask them to come up with solutions, invite organizing committee members for classroom presentations, and challenge students to present to the adults' committees. Public speak-

ing, he says, is one of the greatest human fears, and students will have the opportunity to overcome those fears.

"My job is to push them beyond what they think they can do," he said. "They will also learn about creating corporations and businesses. It will turn the classroom more into real life."

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# Peninsula 'newcomer' lends a gleaning hand

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Often times, regular visitors to the Key Peninsula Community Services leave with their hands full, carrying home food and other much needed items. But one weekly visitor to the center leaves empty-handed. Her car is full of goodies upon arrival, not departure.

She is Linda Marshall, one soldier in an army of gleaners—ordinary citizens doing extraordinary things, acting as ambassadors for food banks everywhere, or anyone else in need.

The gleaners' job is one many people shy away from. They knock on doors of businesses, asking for help, donations of food, and other items. Then the goods are passed to various organizations that open their arms to those less blessed or down on luck. Williams says that the many businesses who say "yes," again and again, balance the frustrations of hearing "no" from businesses that could really afford to help.

When she moved to the Key Peninsula six months ago from Tacoma, Marshall

## Glean for yourself

While most times gleaning is done on behalf of organizations, you can also glean some items for yourself. Call 253-964-3276 (fruits) and 253-627-8344 (salmon), and these hotlines provide information where the items are available (usually involves driving a distance).

was surprised to find out how little support the Community House received from grocery stores or food banks. The only regular donor, Fred Meyer, has helped for a long time. But their generosity was not enough to cover all the needs.

So she armed herself with the "Good Samaritan Act"—which basically says a company would not be liable for any donated items' quality—and went a'knocking.

Not that it was a new experience for her—she'd been helping people and groups in Tacoma for a while. But this was now her new community, and this is where she saw the need.

"No one was helping them," she said.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Linda Marshall with part of the weekly goodies—bread, bagels, tortillas, and even coffee cakes—she scouts and delivers to the KP Community Center.

"And now, it's just me and Fred Meyer."

A few months ago, Marshall found out about an organization called Tahoma Food Systems, a commodities gleaning program. Once she became a member and an "official" gleaner—with an actual ID card that enhances her credentials—she asked her supervisor to include the Key Peninsula.

"I pleaded with them to bring food here," she said, "so they created an outreach program."

And the bread just kept coming. Every week, she delivers a car-full of all sorts of baked items, from buns and tortillas to bagels and cookies. She went to Target and got a \$50 donation. She went to Home Depot and returned with a brand new lawnmower and an edge trimmer. She's working on getting tires donated

from Schucks for the center's van and is hoping to ask Wal-Mart for a vacuum cleaner.

"I can glean anywhere," she said, adding that being "official" has indeed helped. "I've been working on getting clothes, extension cords and other things for them. Whenever they need me, I go out."

But as any soldier, this gleaner needs help. Recently, another KP resident, Beverly Garlik, has joined her; but Marshall's dream is to some day have an entire outpost on this side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, to help Key Pen as well as Kitsap area.

"There are a lot of people down here hurting, and I've been fighting for them," she said. "I plead for everyone to help them."



### InStep Dance

Always wanted to learn how to dance? Now is your chance. InStep Dance is offering dance lessons at KPCC Thursday evenings, Nov. 13-Jan. 8  
6:30 p.m. West Coast Swing, Thursdays  
7:30 p.m. Tango, Thursdays  
\$45 per person per 6-week class session.  
Drop-ins are encouraged.  
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## From Pioneer Stock When the Montanans invaded

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

*Editor's note: This is the first installment of a two-part article. Next month, read more about the Lewis Lake residents and find out what the Lewis Lake community on the Key Peninsula is called today.*

**E**velyn Stinson tells a tale few may know — how the Montanans “invaded” the Key Peninsula.

In 1924, an entrepreneur named Joe Lewis visited Libby, Montana, with photographs of land for sale in Washington state — a lovely lake with evergreen trees, where people grew apples, potatoes, berries, and flowers in lush abundance.

The price was reasonable — a little down, as much as 20 acres available to a family, and Lewis enticed six families to head to Washington in a caravan.



Families included Ackermans, Nelsons, Van Laanen, Vitol, Winkenweder and Wolniewicz. Kelly Vitol (now Mrs. Lester Gulseth) was 8.

Three Stinson brothers and Mr. Dahl came by train as far as Tacoma, then made their way to Vaughn.

The people realized Lewis' photographs were not all taken at the lake. There was a rough road with a few houses along it. Trees, yes, but no orchards and rich gardens. Some bought, rented or built homes there, but most found places to live around Vaughn. Many lived in tents until they could build a house.

Jens Nelson and four close neighbors called their hill Snoosville, as the loggers all chewed snuff.

In 1926, Lewis traveled to Havre, Montana, with his showy photographs, including 4-pound potatoes. Stinson thinks the pictures were taken in the Puyallup Valley.

R.T. Arledge, in the book “Early Days of the Key Peninsula,” noted Lewis' brochure called Lake Lewis “The Land of Contented Homes.” It claimed the climate mild, the soil fertile, easily cleared, and near a transcontinental railroad (Tacoma!)



*Photos courtesy of Jane Van Slyke*

*Above: Mrs. Bradley, Halloween at Lewis Lake.  
Left: Jane Bradley, 4-years-old at Lewis Lake.  
Both taken in 1925.*

Avelyn Stinson was born in a log cabin on her grandparents' homestead in Montana. As a young adult, she legally changed her name to Evelyn, as that's what everyone thought it was, and she tired of fighting it.

The year she was 10, they lost their cattle in a cold winter and moved to Havre, “the windiest, coldest, most desolate

spot in Montana.” Her father, Joe Bigley, worked in a mill, and in 1926, bit on Lewis' sales pitch.

The Ackerman, Bigley, Flotten, Jaggi, Johnson, and Knapp families descended, to experience the same disappointment as the first Montanans.

The late Carol Bradley Krabler noted that raising chickens and grapes was promoted by Lewis. The Bradleys arrived in 1925 with other railroad families, Butterfields and Iversons. The women and children would stay and the men return to railroad jobs in Montana until retirement.

When the Bradleys' just purchased home burned down with all of their belongings inside, Mr. Bradley had to extend his railroad work.

Krabler wrote she felt “stuffed in” with all the trees and no big spaces.

The school had no band, no dance classes, not much music or art.

P. A. Peterson, followed by Mr. Elliott, ran a small store and drove the school bus, a black truck with a makeshift box, two windows, a door, and benches, called The Chicken Coop.

Lewis Lake Community Hall, a converted chicken house, was used for dances and meetings. Mr. Flotten played violin and his wife played piano for dances or other gatherings.

Almost all of these Montana families stayed in the area and many descendants still call the Peninsula home.



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## Angel Guild news

In October, we joined other community businesses and groups to help support TOPS #1019's Harvest Festival Halloween party for children at the Civic Center. We hope they all had a warm, dry, safe and happy Halloween.

Two good and valued customers made cash donations to the Angel Guild recently. Jean Morgan brought us cookies and a donation as a farewell as she left for her winter home. Mindy Broceros once again brought us the contents of her Micky Mouse piggy bank. And a proud grandfather brought in a bag of change his grandkids had earned selling seashells. Thanks to them all and to all of you who have brought us Peninsula Market receipts. It will all go to many good causes.

There is always room at the top, so consider becoming an Angel if you have spare time each month. We are ever in need of good reliable people to clerk in the store, sort in the shed, or both. Call Bonnie at 884-9333 or Nancy at 857-2321.

—Submitted by Mary Krumbein

## New programs unveiled for boys and girls

Introducing Royal Rangers to the Key Peninsula are Commanders Stephen Baldwin and Gil Woods. Royal Rangers is a nationwide program for boys ages 5-18, teaching them to live by the "Ranger Code," to be alert, clean, honest, courageous, loyal, courteous, obedient and spiritual. The boys are looking forward to some great activities and outings, such as the Pinewood Derby, Rocket day and campouts. Every meeting is packed full of fun, games, devotionals and an opportunity for the boys to earn badges on a wide variety of interests to them.

Senior Commander Stephen Baldwin has been teaching Royal Rangers since 1989. His philosophy is, "a boy's job is having fun!" Commander Gil Woods' involvement with Royal Rangers spans over 12 years. Both men have been through previous Royal Ranger leadership trainings. If you want your boys involved in something life-changing and character-building, get them involved with Royal Rangers. If you want to know more about Royal Rangers, call Stephen Baldwin at 884-0882.

Girls, we haven't forgotten you! Missionettes is a dynamic nationwide program, taught by Linda Hacker. Missionettes is a girls' program for ages 5 and up, with an emphasis on loyalty, virtue and purity. The girls have enjoyed earning their camping badge with a



## Dreaming high

Jessica Tkacs, 7 years old, has big dreams, and she's well on her way to achieving them. At the YMCA Family Camp, Jessica set incremental goals for scaling the climbing wall at Camp Seymour. Slowly, over two days, she climbed. Each climb took her a little higher, and even higher up the wall. Late in the afternoon on the last day of the camp season, KP News was on the scene as Jessica struggled against her fears. Coached by her dad, Brett, she stayed focused on her goal, and finally reached the top. Way to go, Jessica!

*Photo courtesy of Del Lathim*

camping trip, a campfire with roasted marshmallows. They will begin work on their sewing badge and are looking forward to earning such badges as cooking and outdoor adventures, while learning about the care of horses and riding. Linda is a terrific leader with over 12 years experience teaching Missionettes and training at district conventions. Girls, if you're looking for something out of the ordinary and want a challenge, Missionettes is for you! For more information, call Linda at 884-2550.

Both programs start at 7 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Lakebay Christian Assembly.

—Submitted by Cinda Baldwin

## Cowboy Church Int'l comes to town

Don't miss an opportunity to see Professional Rodeo Cowboy Preacher, pastor Coy Huffman. Coy and Donna Huffman have been blazing a trail for souls on the rodeo circuit for over 20 years. They are founders of Pro Rodeo Ministries and Cowboy Church International.

Come let Jesus use pastor Coy to speak to you, with an inspiring sermon that will touch your heart. Boots and cowboy hats welcome. Bring your best chili and join us for a down home chili cook off, and enjoy the fellowship of your local Christian cowboys and cowgirls. Even if

you're just cowfolk at heart.

We look forward to seeing you Sunday, Nov. 16, 10:30 a.m., at Lakebay Christian Assembly: 2406 McEwan Road KPN in Lakebay. Call 884-4854 for directions.

## Community Church offers Bible and science program

Vaughn Community Church will be hosting a Bible & Science program with Dr. Tom Hoyle Sunday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Each presentation features a colorful slide show, Q & A, and it's entertaining for everyone. For more information call 884-2269.

—Submitted by JoAnn Lofdahl

## Civic Center holds crafts bazaar and much more

It's time for our Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar, Nov. 22, from 9 - 4. If you haven't yet signed up, fill out an application and mail it in with your check asap. We have vendors coming from all over Western Washington to sell their homemade crafts. Since the holidays are just around the corner, now is a good time to do some early Christmas shopping. The kitchen will be open so you can purchase food and beverages, and Santa will stop by with Mrs. Claus. We hope to see you there!

The next big dance will be held on Feb. 7. Our dance instructor will be holding

free dance lessons half-hour before the dance starts. The band will be Casanova, and we are anticipating a great turnout like we have had at our past dances. Please come and join us for a night of good music and dancing.

If you are planning a Christmas party or any event for the New Year, now is the time to book. Friday night skate is up and running again. There will be no skating on Nov. 21 and Dec. 26.

## Little Buddies ready for weekly fun

The Children's Home Society Family Resource Center, in Vaughn, is currently recruiting Big and Little Buddies to participate in the Little Buddies program. This weekly program, beginning its eighth year, brings together high school mentors and elementary school students in a positive, enriching environment for companionship and fun. They eat snacks, play games, do crafts and other projects, and build friendships, with the guidance of a Family Resource Center staff member.

Training is provided for Big Buddies, who are carefully selected for their ability, enthusiasm and reliability. A minimum commitment of four months is requested of the high school students, with renewals encouraged. Community Service hours are possible. The program meets throughout the school year, Tuesdays, from 3 - 5 p.m., at the Civic Center. There is also a Thursday session at Evergreen Elementary, in conjunction with their After 'Ours Program.

If you are interested in this free, active and enjoyable program, please call Edie Morgan at the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, 884-5433. If transportation is an obstacle, please let us know.

## Bayshore Garden Club

The club will meet Nov. 7 at the Longbranch Improvement Club at 11 a.m. The workshop is Make a Wreath. Bring a brown bag lunch.

The meeting at 1 p.m. will be hosted by Jean Humphreys. Sylvia Retherford will discuss carnivorous plants, plants that "eat animals"; Peg Roberston will talk about horticulture, and Doris Hoover about design.

## KPVI presents Christmas Bazaar

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute will present a Christmas Bazaar at the Community House on Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Homemade items with a Christmas theme will be available to buy

and there will be a raffle for specialty baskets to give as gifts or use yourself. Tables are available by giving a donation to the Community House. Please call Roxy Wooldridge at 884-4407 to reserve a space. See you there!

### Veteran's Day 'Aisle of Honor'

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute will present the "Aisle of Honor" at the Vaughn Cemetery on Nov. 11 (weather

permitting). This display of beautiful flags from the veterans' families is truly a patriotic sight. There are 200 flags at this time, lent to KPVI to honor those veterans no longer with us. The flags will fly from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Please stop by and pay your respects to those who gave their lives to make us free.

*Do you have a holiday event or other news? Sends us a press release by Nov. 17 for next month's listing. Contact information is listed on page 2.*

## Vaughn Community Church



Sunday Morning Service 10am  
JourneyLand (3yrs - 5th)  
Nurturing Nursery

Youth Activities  
J.O.L.T. (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Mon. 7pm  
FREEDOM (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) Thurs. 7pm

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Thanksgiving Eve Service 7pm  
Email: [vaughnchurch@iuno.com](mailto:vaughnchurch@iuno.com)  
Phone: 884-2269  
(across from Vaughn Elementary)

(From FUNDS, Page 1)

cations, traffic could be rerouted sooner, and from a more strategic point. During transports to hospitals, the ambulance crews have to resort to cellular phones, which are not always reliable.

FD 16 recently received a \$2,400 trauma verification grant from the Washington State Department of Health, "which basically helps us recoup some of the costs of transporting patients out of the jurisdiction," Lique said.

"We're trying as many avenues as we can to make improvements to our ability to serve the local community," Allen said. "We'll be ecstatic if we receive the FEMA grant on top of the levy passing."

By law, the funds must be distributed by the end of the year, so news should be coming soon.

Last year, Allen said, the FEMA awards were delayed a couple of months because of the number of applications, and this year even more money is to be disbursed.

## arts alive on Key Peninsula

Join the fun in fall classes and events. Call 884-3456.



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Peggy Robertson

# SPINNER & WEAVER

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

**I**t all started when their daughter brought home an orphaned lamb, said Peggy Robertson of Longbranch.

"The lamb needs company," said husband Roger, and eventually they had 32 sheep, all needing shearing each spring.

A visitor pulled on a hanging fleece and began "spinning" with her fingers: "You need a spinning wheel."

Peggy learned to spin, and her mother taught her knitting and crocheting. A small rug on the floor of the den sports three shades of crocheted wool.

"The light color is from Baby, the medium brown Peaches, and the darkest Delilah. We named the sheep we kept."

Eventually skeins of yarn covered the fireplace.

"You need a loom," said a spinning friend.

Peggy thought she could learn to weave by reading a library book, but was dumbfounded to see the beginning instructions of "First sley your heddles."

Spinning and weaving have their own vocabulary as well as their unique attraction to learn ancient techniques to produce useful products.

She has spun since 1978, and belongs to the Northwest Registered Spinners Association, more than 600 members strong. She attends annual conferences, the last one in Tacoma.

Peggy used to carry a heavy spinning wheel to conferences, but now has a fold-up portable wheel, pounds lighter. She spins a variety of raw products, including Angora rabbit fur, silk, and even a 100 percent plastic, which worked up beautifully with a wool collar. New product samples are made from bamboo, soy and corn.

**Peggy thought she could learn to weave by reading a library book, but was dumbfounded to see the beginning instructions of "First sley your heddles."**

A recent purchase, a wool with silk noil carded in, was a disappointment. When washed, the silk colors disappeared. She's washed tons of wool, dyed small batches in the microwave, and experimented with different techniques, including felting.

She prefers to get her silk from cocoons, simmer them with washing soda and water,



Peggy Robertson spins her yarn and her tales at the August Old Timers' celebration at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Josh and Chris Loux and Karen Adams were some of the many curious people who stopped by.

Photo by  
Rodika Tollefson

and work the fibers into a "silk hankie."

Peggy enjoys checking out new products, but avoids cotton. She has tried various kinds of raw products and many dyes, including organic, and sticks with what she likes. Kool-Aid® is one of the best dyes around, with Berry Blue® her favorite.

It doesn't take long to weave a scarf. What takes time is the hours of spinning.

Peggy offers to teach beginners to spin, and has drop spindles and wool to start novices.

The Robertson home has samples of her work in every room, including the first piece she ever wove, and a "Pattern Dance" in which every block pattern is varied.

About 1,500 different patterns can be woven with one basic threading called The Rose. The difference is in treading the loom.

Peggy has four spinning wheels, including one antique, all in working condition. She has a "knitty-knotty" made in Issaquah for forming skeins of yarn, and an umbrella swift to hold the skein as it is wound onto a ball winder.

She no longer enters her work at fairs. Assorted ribbons line the back of a closet, a testament to her skills.

"All of this from one little lamb." She laughs, but is obviously pleased with what she's learned and accomplished over those years. Spinning and weaving hold a vital place in her world.

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## (From CREEK, Page 1)

So the annual anniversary event has a name that fits it well: "Make a Difference Day."

And that is what these residents, headed by park advocate Nancy Lind, have been doing all this time.

Lind was one of a handful of people who back in 1997 pushed for the former vacant parcel to become a park. The 240 acres were slated for development, a tradeoff between the county and a Gig Harbor developer who would have built a ballpark facility in Gig Harbor in exchange for the Elgin Clifton property — with plans to fill it with a housing complex.

"The place was covered in garbage," Lind said. "Four-wheelers were driving to the creek, there was drug activity and old cars, even shooting."

Newspaper accounts show that people who frequented the woods had threatened residents of the nearby community, Lake Holiday, and neighbors were intimidated in the area, feeling unsafe.

Those days are gone. Even four-wheelers are seen less around the area, the garbage mounds picked up by volunteers and by women from the Purdy prison

shrink every year, and a sheriff who lives just down the road seems to have served as a deterrent to would-be target-practice shooters.

But when the 224 of 240 acres were originally "dumped" into their lap, as Lind puts it, there were no clear plans for the future. The KP park district signed a 10-year lease with the county, for \$1 per year. After that, clearing a little space here, adding a new trail there—and things got rolling.

"I said, OK, I'll start. So we formed Friends of Rocky Creek," Lind said. "And we just started cleaning."

The cleaning turned out all sorts of finds, from car hulks and bikes to years-old diapers. The major cleaning took about three years. Individuals and groups came, asking how they could help. Students built one of the first trails. "When we saw it, we saw a great possibility (for the park)," Lind said. And trails grew.

Boy Scouts, the two high schools' environmental clubs, YMCA's Earth Corps, Tacoma Community College, the women's prison, salmon groups, businesses like Key Bank — everyone has banded together to turn the former dump into a tranquil area where fami-



Photo by Hugh McMillan

"Make a Difference" day brought the Boy Scouts of America Troop 80 from Magnolia, Seattle, to the Rocky Creek Conservation Area, where local trail advocate Caril Ridley coordinated new trail building.

lies can go for hikes, picnics (if only thieves would leave the table put), dog walks. One road winds down to a serene spot with a bench by the creek, where "the magnificent beauty" is like "being in the mountains, it's untouched," Lind said.

Dozens of people come to the work parties each year, and cleaning and trail building continues. There are many

plans for the future, including the expansion of the trail loops.

The success of the RCCA has inspired Lind herself: Without it, she said, she may not have been brave enough to take on the Home Park project. The Home Park, too, is another success story unraveling, and perhaps may inspire others to add yet another park or two to the Key Peninsula someday.



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# Community programs need help for the holidays

## Children's Home Society

Once again Children's Home Society Key Peninsula Family Resource Center is signing up families and sponsors for the Holiday Helper Program. This program coordinates requests for holiday assistance and donations from the community. Last year they were able to help 398 children in 156 families, an increase from the previous year. Sign-ups begin Nov. 3 and will continue through Nov. 21 for families seeking sponsored gifts for their children. After that date, sign-ups will be available for the free Holiday Shop, which will be held in December on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parents in financial hardship, worried about being unable to provide holiday gifts for their children, are encouraged to call the center at 884-5433. They may also stop by during office hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a simple and confidential enrollment process.

Individuals, families, businesses and organizations are also encouraged to sign up as sponsors. Every donation goes

directly to a local child or family. This is an easy and fun way to spread some holiday cheer, and makes the holidays meaningful and memorable for all.

## Community Services

It's that time of the year and the folks at Key Peninsula Community Services are putting together Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. If you would like to help those who otherwise wouldn't have a family meal, here's a list of needed food items: turkeys, stuffing mix, potatoes, corn, peas, flour, sugar, roasting pans, pumpkin pie mix, evaporated milk, and onions.

Last year they were able to give out over 165 holiday food baskets and this year, the numbers are not decreasing. Any and every little thing counts. When you go shopping, pick up an extra can of veggies or give up three potatoes of your 10-pound bag. As always, with your help, KPCS can feed a community. Any questions, call 884-4440 and remember, there is no donation too small.

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## Community Council work continues

Local residents are always welcome to become involved in the formation of a community council on the Key Pen. Plan to attend a meeting, listen to the progress being made, and give input into the process. The KP Community Council's organizational committees' November meeting schedule follows.

- Organizational Committee; co-chairs Joyce Tovey, 884-3304; Jeff Harris, 884-4697. Nov. 25, 7 p.m. @ Key Peninsula Middle School.

- Communication/Outreach; co-chairs Ruth Bramhall, 857-5184, and Vicki Biggs, 884-5433. Nov. 11, 1 p.m. @ Key Peninsula Civic Center.

- Finance, chair Barbara Waller, 884-4464. Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m. @ Barbara Waller's Home.

- Needs Assessment; chair Denise Carron, 884-9498. Nov. 18, 7 p.m. @ Key Peninsula Middle School.

- Process/ Structure; co-chairs Irene Torres, 691-1320, and Simon Priest. Nov. 4, 7 p.m. @ Windermere Real Estate.

- Student Projects; chair David Locey, 857-4505. Nov. 6, 3 p.m. @ Key Peninsula Middle School.



*Gaye Williams*

*"Always a beautician,  
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One important difference in internet home buying sites is how often they are updated. The Windermere site [www.windermere.com](http://www.windermere.com) is “swept” several times daily so it provides current information as supplied by the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on the status of the home. Only “active” listings are shown and all the listings in the MLS are on the site. So go to [www.windermere.com](http://www.windermere.com), start shopping, then call one of our agents to see your new home!

### Foundation News

Windermere agents donate part of their commission from every closed transaction to the Windermere Foundation which then gives that money back to the community. This month our Foundation funds have been donated to Impact for the new safe house for domestic violence victims and to the Civic Center for help with the Halloween party for the children.

### TLC Drive On Dec. 6 and 7

All Windermere offices will be collecting towels, linens or cash (TLC) to be distributed to needy families in the area. Our collection of gently used or new towels and linens will go to Impact for their new safe house and the cash will go to the Children's Home Society. Please drop your donations off at our office in Key Center on Saturday Dec. 6 or Sunday Dec. 7.



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# Japanese author finds spiritual journey in Vaughn

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

**A**tsuko Otsuka, a Japanese author from Tokyo, first wandered to the Key Peninsula while working on a story about the pet program at the Purdy prison. What started as a trip for a magazine assignment in 1996 eventually became a journey into finding spiritual growth, a new family, and a summer home where she writes new books while surrounded by the tranquility of peninsula's nature.

But first came Grandma Erma Brokaw. A woman she met by chance, a stranger who became so close to her that she allowed Atsuko to document the last moments of her life. A woman who had

**In the most painful moments, the duty of a friend took over the duty of a documentary maker—photographs of the pain remained untaken, stories untold.**

so much wisdom to share that the author and photographer had transcended her mission to produce a book into a mission of personal growth.

A year after they met, "Grandma" told her she had been diagnosed with a terminal illness. She seemed to have an unfulfilled mission. Together, without knowing what the mission was, the two went exploring.

She would observe Grandma's dying, Atsuko thought, and would document it through photographs and personal

observations. For six months, Erma shared her accumulated wisdom and her graceful departure to another world, as Atsuko "took pictures with the heart," in the words of Erma's daughter, Pat Heaven. Atsuko was not an intrusion but a caretaker herself. Pat and Atsuko equally shared the care for the dying woman like two sisters, as Erma became a mentor for Atsuko.

It was, as it turned out, the mission she sought to complete.

The children's book, later called "Goodbye Grandma Erma," was not the first one in which Atsuko documented the process of death and grieving. She had watched a young woman die of AIDS, then followed the husband for a year. In the most painful moments, the duty of a friend took over the duty of a documentary maker—photographs of the pain remained untaken, stories untold. She failed, Atsuko thought; she didn't get the story.

With Grandma Erma, the struggle of that boundary continued. Then one of many revelations came. She couldn't set a boundary, Atsuko understood. She must be close to the person to truly capture the feelings. She was now part of Erma's life, she knew — and the boundary no longer had meaning.

Pat is amazed at how much Erma let the young woman into her life. Not just the lessons taught—from treating bruises to treating a husband—but the intimate moments allowed to be forever captured in the images of photographs and words. But this was Erma's last party, and she was calling the rules.

One of the unspoken ones was: Do not grieve.

As she completed her life to the fullest, Erma's last page of life closed beautifully—but not before she asked, on her last



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Atsuko Otsuka finds solace in nature—and the scenic home of Ed Taylor and Pat Heaven is the perfect inspiration. A writer and photographer, she has several books published, including one about the last moments of Pat's mother, Erma.

night, for a fashion show. Erma knew her rules.

Erma viewed death as a departure to the next world, not as an enemy. Life was a complete circle for the wise lady, and no grief was required. The family understood that. It was comforting.

Since Erma watched her last fashion show in September of '98, Atsuko has been a frequent summer guest at the home. The book, told through the eyes of the house cat, Star Kitty, became so popu-

lar that she has been working on a different version, for adults, and hopes to find a publisher in English as well. Staying in the room where Grandma told her goodbyes, watching the views, talking to Star Kitty and reading through the journals has taken Atsuko back through the journey.

She loves it so much here, she finds writing better—and works on other projects as well.

Grandma Erma told Atsuko they would see each other again. She does believe it.

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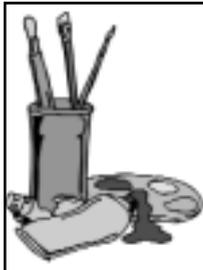
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# The arts wind down for the winter

By L. Brudvik Lindner

Two Waters Arts Alliance was busy this fall beautifying your social scene. The elegant skyscraper backdrop for the September play "Sylvia" was created by talented member and artist John Buday. The feeling of relaxing on an ocean cruiser at the October Flavor of Fall event was tastefully painted by Elaine Quigley, Kathy and Phil Bauer and Margo Macdonald.



The Genuine  
ARTicle

In November, TWAA brings to the Key Peninsula the last Acoustic Jam session of the season with Karen Hale, Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Civic Center; Monthly Life Drawing Studio, Nov. 19, 7-9 p.m., at the Art Barn; a rescheduled Framing and Presentation Class with instructor Beverly Pederson, at the Art Barn (call TWAA for details); and Beginning Drawing with Margo Macdonald, Nov. 1, 8, & 15, 10-noon, at

the Civic Center.

November's TWAA featured artist is Margo Macdonald; Margo has a degree in art education from University of Puget Sound; she spent one year studying painting at the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design. Margo's art background includes tapestry weaving, painting, drawing and mask making. She has been teaching painting and drawing at Charles Wright Academy in Lakewood since 2002. Margo will be teaching the three-week Beginning Drawing class that she refers to as "no fear" drawing. Margo guarantees that each student will be able to draw something before they leave! If you are interested in learning from an exceptionally talented artist, sign up for this class today!

TWAA will spend the winter working on its membership drive, planning its fund-raising event, The Spring Fling, and the Spring Arts Program.

To volunteer, become a member or inquire about TWAA classes, call Jena at the KP Civic Center, 884-3456, or Kathy Bauer, 884-9172. Sign up today and join TWAA in making art history on the Key Peninsula.

(From VETERANS, Page 1)

all those veterans interred without honors."

Each service is represented by an active duty service member or, if not available, by a District Four Honor Guard member from the same service. They carry their respective organizational flags and place wreaths at the memorials. Names of all veterans being honored are called out, a Tolling of the Bell program is performed, a prayer is invoked by the chaplain, the American flag is unfolded over a representational urn, a three-volley rifle salute is

performed, and the flag is refolded and presented to a volunteer selected by the guard's commander to represent the mother or family of each veteran.

At the September gathering, Helmick performed a beautiful tribute called the "Final Roll Call," bringing a sense of closure to the families.

"This most moving, meaningful, beautiful service is performed in turn by all 17 Veteran Service Organizational Teams of the state of Washington," he said. "We can be proud that our team, representing our peninsulas, has the reputation of being 'best in the state.'"

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# Molding a hobby into a business

## Couple's love of rocks turns into jewelry design

By Deborah Hoffman  
KP News

Inspired by their love of nature, husband and wife team Norman and Karen Geiger share in their passion for metalsmithing and lapidary by making and designing jewelry pieces from silver, gold, gems and rocks they collect themselves.

The exquisite, contemporary designs of their pendants, bracelets and earrings reveal beautiful elements of sea, wildlife and deserts. Their individual styles are unique; however, they complement each other while sharing in the creation process by using traditional casting and fabrication methods.

"We're rock hounds," said Karen. "We are always searching for that perfect stone."

Every year the Geigers travel to the



deserts of Eastern Washington, Nevada or New Mexico to hunt for rocks and gems such as petrified wood, agates, jaspers, quartz, crystals, and amethysts. They also attend gem shows to buy pearls, stones and gems they can't find in the Western deserts.

Rock collecting was a common interest that began about 25 years ago as a mutual hobby. Both came from families who indulged in rock hounding. Karen's father initiated her into the adventure in the desert near her hometown of Las Cruces, New Mexico, when she was a child. Norman, a native of Tacoma, often traveled with his brother to Eastern Washington to search for rocks in the dry desert climate.

After moving to Washington in 1975, Karen met Norman on a blind date while they both worked in the frozen meat business. They never gave up collecting rocks. After retiring, they decided to pursue their dream of designing jewelry for a living.

"Our hobby turned into a collection, and then into a full-time living," said Norman. "We knew we needed to do something with all the rocks we had."

In the late 1990s the Geigers decided to learn as much as they could about lapidary, gemology and metalsmithing. Norman studied metalsmithing and lapidary on his own, while Karen received a graduate degree in 1997 in gemology from the Gemological Institute of America in Carlsbad, Calif., the world's foremost authority in precious stones.

A major influence on their craftsmanship is Rose Ramos, an internationally



Norman and Karen Geiger in their "other studio," at Gig Harbor's Gallery Row.

Photo by  
Rodika Tollefson

known jewelry artist who teaches at Tacoma Community College. The Geigers have taken several classes from her and attribute much of their creative development to her mentoring.

"She is our means of learning our craft," said Karen. "There are so many different techniques in learning jewelry design. Each time you open your mind to new things and fresh ideas, you make new jewelry."

Living on the Carr Inlet also inspires them to transform images of the natural world into their designs. Karen says she often "dreams jewelry" and many creative ideas "come in the middle of the night." Always working with new methods and skills, she also does etching and enameling on silver, gold and copper.

In some pieces, elements of the desert stones and images of the sea are blended

together as a bold image or a subtle mystery. Familiar Northwest images of sea life, such as the crane or delicate coral, are reflected through polished desert stones. High quality craftsmanship is evident in the brilliant clarity of the stones, in setting designed with geometric shapes. For the Geigers, a journey that began many years ago with the simple hobby of collecting rocks grew into a dream of loving what they do for a living.

"It's a matter of making the most of something," said Norman. "A stone will take you where it wants you to go."

### The Geigers' work

The Geigers' work can be seen at Gallery Row in Gig Harbor, a co-op of artists they recently joined.

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# Key Peninsula singles ready to mingle

By Irene Torres  
KP News

In last month's column, I asked for input on the need for a singles group on the KP. To my pleasant surprise, I received over a dozen calls expressing interest in this activity.

The mix is about 50/50 men and women, ranging in age from 29 to "over 60." As I return their calls, I try to learn a little about the callers: What brought them to the Peninsula, what they do for a living, and what interests them. Some interests they all share

are a desire to meet other people, make new friends and access social opportunities.

Planning is well underway for a get-together. With the help of an emcee, and space donated by the KP Community House, there will be a mixer event for singles on Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be no food or drink at this first meeting, and the dress code is "comfortable," as there will be movement activities to explore our common interests.

What results from the meeting will depend on the wishes of those who attend. If you are interested in attending this event, need direc-

tions to the KP Community House, have questions about the event, or want to be involved as future activities are planned, please call 253-691-1320 and leave your call-back number.

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# Flavor of Fall sails smoothly

Photo and story by Hugh McMillan  
KP News

Aboard "H.M.S. Key Peninsula Civic Center's" cruise Oct. 4, there were no cases of sea sickness. There were no gales, no thundering zillion-foot-tall waves, you couldn't even feel the slightest roll, pitch or yaw to the good ship.

It was one smooth trip.

And its troll lines and nets pulled in, according to Claudia Loy, one of the cruise officers, "close to \$30,000!" And that will go a long way to cover the outrageously high insurance required to keep the ship afloat.

Not a syllable of complaint was heard about the fantastically clever decor of the "ship" complete with sparkling chandeliers, "port holes" overlooking the sea, an entryway/registration table that made you expect to be directed to a lifeboat drill, an excellent dinner prepared by guest chef Joni Welch replete with desserts courtesy of Windermere Realty and Lisa's Deli, and Lady Walton Cookies thanks to Vicki McClung in far away Texas, and a huge outpouring of conviviality and a general sense of "finally, the Flavor of Fall is back!"

The list of contributors of 135 silent auction and 21 live auction items, cash donations, the beautiful invitation, the programs, worker bees, planners, creators and others who poured their hearts into this production would fill this and many pages. There just isn't space. And they didn't do it for recognition or praise, they did it to have fun, to feel good about themselves, to "give back" to our special community, and to keep the doors to our community center open.

The most impressive happening of the whole delightful evening was when the dinner, the wine, and dessert had been consumed, when all the items had been



auctioned, when all the thank-yous had been uttered, the good nights had been spoken ..... no one left! The tables remained occupied, people chatted, some danced, some roved table to table. But no one left. The enchantment lived on.

When will we have another wonder-filled Flavor? Who knows? Someone has to step forward to take over the planning, someone the organizing, someone the ....

This was the first Flavor in four years, the last was in 1999. And there will not be any others unless someone steps forward to organize it.

Wanna make it happen again? Call Claudia Loy at 884-3937 or Kristen Bottiger at 884-5430 for advice. They said, "It's a lot of work and even though it's fun, we're just too tired to put it together again" ... right away.

(From GEODUCKS, Page 2)

told people this was his beach."

Dumont said several windsurfers claimed injuries from signs that were "mere inches" below the surface. One windsurfer said during the Sept. 15 hearing that "his foot slipped down inside the PVC pipe, which twisted his leg, causing an injury"—referring to a 3-inch pipe.

"We asked at the hearing for evidence, like medical records, to substantiate even one of these claims," said Paula Rossa, Washington Shellfish secretary. "No one came forth with any such evidence."

Mark Taylor, a local resident who windsurfs regularly off the Purdy Spit, said he was also injured. "It hurt for a couple of days but I didn't see a doctor. My big concern was that someone could get hurt on the taller pipes that he (McRae) put in the water for the signs," he said.

He approached McRae about the potential hazard of the taller pipes, and discussed using soft end-covers for the tubes. According to McRae, the covers were in place shortly after.

Dumont doubted McRae's claims to have facilitated education or research, saying the work her two daughters did for the company involved little research.

According to Penny Gazabat, then coordinator for Key Peninsula Middle School's After 'OURS program, McRae volunteered for a six-week curriculum last year at the school, focusing on the geoduck fishery and other marine life of Puget Sound.

"He was very thorough in presenting an excellent well-rounded program," said Gazabat. "He even brought in live specimens to share with the students, which were returned to the Sound afterward... The students gained a much more in-depth awareness through this...experience."

Ty Snyder, biology major at Olympic College in Bremerton doing research at the facility for the last year, said, "There

is just no other place where I could get this kind of knowledge or hands-on experience. It would mean being placed on a waiting list to get hatchery time at any university."

Tom Wade, a senior at University of Washington majoring in aquatic and fisheries sciences, had also been conducting research with the company, and as an adviser for South Kitsap High School was planning to bring students to the facility.

Although Bertha Fitzer, prosecuting attorney for Pierce County, said that to her knowledge Washington Shellfish "has no person with any kind of scientific degree in their employ," Randy Stocking, hatchery foreman for Washington Shellfish since March, holds a bachelor of science degree in zoology. Jim Donaldson, a well-known hatchery technician with a fisheries degree, has been a consultant at the company for the last year.

In an Aug. 1, 2001, letter, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources told all private tidelands property owners on the peninsula where McRae was leasing tidelands of the agency's intent "to exert the state's reversionary interest when non-conforming uses of these oyster lands are discovered." The Bush & Callow Act of 1895 allows the state to reclaim privately-owned tidelands at any time. Lee said usually these types of actions are generated by complaints sent to the county.

Many Peninsula residents disagree with the county action against McRae. "It doesn't surprise me at all," said Lulu Smith, owner of the Homeport Restaurant. "They (the county) are kicking our butts on the Peninsula when it comes to any kind of permit and the hassles that go with it. There are more and more permits required every time you turn around. It's ridiculous!"

The Nov. 3 hearing, at 9 a.m. at the Pierce County Annex in Tacoma, is open to the public.

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