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Gala 'cruises into fall'



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Claudia Loy, Joy Rakes and Vicki Henschel are all smiles and ribbons as they create the decorations for the Civic Center's Flavor of Fall fund-raising gala. The Oct. 4, 5:30 p.m. dinner and auction has been in the works for months—but it was down to the final details at the end of September. The event, which has about 100 items donated for its silent and live auctions, is the center's biggest fundraiser, and organizers hope it will bring in enough funds to buy curtains for the stage. Tickets, \$50, were still available at press time, and will be sold until close to the event but not at the door; call Sunnycrest at 884-3937. Those who don't wish to dine can still come for the live auction at 8 p.m., where plenty of desserts will be served. Donations are still being accepted for the auction.

Pierce Transit Bus Plus opens KP service

William C. Dietz
KP News

Effective Sept. 29, fixed route bus service returned to the Key Peninsula. The new service, called Bus Plus, consists of specially modified refurbished 24-foot vans that can accommodate regular passengers as well as those with disabilities. Bus Plus operates Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. through 7 p.m. The vans stop at designated Bus Plus stops on every



For a route map, see back page.

(See **BUS**, Page 28)

Hatchery helps recover, stock salmon

By Irene Torres
KP News

Early fall Chinook began arriving in late August to complete their spawning cycle—and the local hatchery got busy.

About 48,000 adult salmon return to Minter Creek every year, where 19.3 million eggs are collected. After the salmon fry are incubated and reared, about 5.4 million fish are released from the hatchery.

The Minter Creek Fish Hatchery, a Fish and Wildlife facility of the state of Washington, was built in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration as a biological research unit. In 1960, its mission was changed to fish production, and a major renovation was undertaken a decade ago.

Now, its primary goal, according to Doug Nolan, a hatchery specialist, is "supplying Chinook and Coho for people to catch" and "conservation." Nolan has a biology degree from Western Washington University.

"The state budget for fish and wildlife is about \$850 million, one of the largest in the country," Denis Popochock, complex manager for the Minter/Hood Canal Complex, said. The Minter Creek/Hood Canal budget, funded through license

(See **SALMON**, Page 7)



Photo courtesy of Del Lathim

Migrating salmon at the Minter Creek Hatchery intake.

Property owners landlocked

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

For Joseph Geyer, building a home in the middle of his 15-acre parcel seemed ideal: Some day, he may give the other two 5-acre lots to his sons. But when that “some day” arrived, the Geysers found themselves stuck, unable to build on those properties.

So the father went knocking on county doors, trying to find out why he could get a permit 30 years ago but not now. The road that accesses his property, 144th Street or Powerline Road, is owned by Tacoma City Light as a utility road with no “legal public access”—a fact that in the past didn’t seem to stop permitting on the adjacent properties.

What he discovered, Geyer said, was “an 80-year-old dilemma” that virtually leaves landowners in a loop, landlocked on their own properties. The county no longer issues permits for any new work on properties in the area, unless owners can show legal access — which some neighbors have done by getting easements that exist only on paper, meanwhile still using the 5.3-mile road as their only access.

“Why could I get a permit 30 years ago and not now? It’s bogus,” Geyer said.

The county planning department’s institutional memory only goes back about 10 years, as no one interviewed was able to account for what happened 30 years ago. One county planning senior representative said the county “has issued several permits by mistake” and is now correcting the problem, while Tacoma City Light said they asked the county to stop the practice about 10 years ago, as soon as they found out there was a problem.

Internal memorandums and letters between the county and the utility that are 30 or more years old reveal some details.

“Over the past years, the County has per-



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Joseph Geyer overlooks the empty parcel where his son was to build a new home. Power line trenches have been dug but because of permit moratoriums, no work can be done.

mitted people to settle and build in areas which are only accessible from the transmission line road,” wrote Tacoma City Light’s assistant superintendent in a memo dated Oct. 13, 1970. In the same memo, he says William Thornton, county Public Works director, “suggested that the City might consider the possibility of permitting the County to furnish the needed maintenance” to bring the road up to standards, because of numerous residents’ complaints about its condition, but that the proposition would cost the county \$200,000 it did not have.

In 1973, Thornton received a letter from the utility’s director, A.J. Benedetti, saying “the Light Division has indicated a willingness to pay all costs” to reconstruct the three bridges on the road, if the county would pay for all the other costs as well as hold the city harmless for any future liabilities — and based on a letter by Thornton

to a resident in reply to a petition for road maintenance, that offer wasn’t good enough.

Geyer is not the only resident complaining. His neighbor, Doug Sherman, said when he purchased his property 10 years ago he never guessed that the vacant parcel he owns next to it and was going to use for retirement would have to remain vacant. “I can’t even make an addition to my home. You can’t get a permit to even sneeze,” he said. “It’s beyond belief.” He owns a worthless piece of land, he said, while paying taxes on it.

Sherman sites a horror story about a neighbor who went to get a permit for a mobile home and was told to first obtain well and septic system permits. About \$10,000 to \$12,000 later and all those things in place, their building permit was refused because of the road access. “They have gone through those expenses and

were shut down after that; what an unethical situation,” Sherman said.

A resident who recently sold the property said the only reason she could sell the home without problems was because she has legal access — on paper. A Tacoma couple who have owned two 10-acre parcels for more than 30 years said they purchased another 5 acres that abuts 138th in hopes to get “legal access” through residents, but of the five property owners, one refused. “It’s a really nice property on the top of the crest with lots of huckleberries and ...signs of homesteading,” the property owner said.

Now, a piece of land tucked away as a retirement investment or to pay for their children’s college sits there, gathering dirt and tax bills.

Those stories certainly abound. Residents have complained in droves. But the county says it is simply not interested in making Powerline a public road. In a recent reply to Geyer, Executive John Ladenburg wrote that the situation may be solved by working with adjacent property owners — which residents had already tried. “An alternative to this would involve a condemnation action and the services of an attorney,” he wrote.

City Light’s Superintendent Steve Cline said the utility is as much a victim as the residents. Their property became a de facto route but no one asked permission, he said, and they are “not in the road business.”

“We’ve adhered to the law and bought the properties for transmission line,” he said. “We’ve been taken advantage of.”

County engineers in 1996 saw that the traffic volume was more than double for a “primitive road” and recommended the designation be removed and 25 mph speed signs be installed. Councilman Terry Lee said he would try to work on the dilemma, but nonetheless the county doesn’t have the money to make the road public by bringing it up to minimum standards. “If I had the money, I’d spend it on deputies before I spend it on roads,” he said, suggesting that the best course of action for the residents was to band together to give each other easements.

As for the class action suit some residents are considering, he said, that is certainly an option but the outcome could go either way. “Usually in a class action suit, if there is merit to it, the council looks at it to see if they should settle,” he said.

A lawsuit just may be their next step, Geyer said.

Key Peninsula NEWS

To subscribe, please write,
call or fax:
Key Peninsula News
17010 S. Vaughn Rd.
P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394
Phone (253) 884-4699
Fax: (253) 884-4053

Executive editor: Rodika Tollefson
Ad sales: Karl Anderson
Staff writers and contributors:
Karl Anderson, William C. Dietz,
Deborah Hoffman, Hugh
McMillan, Colleen Slater, Irene
Torres, Danna Webster
Distribution: Phil Bauer

Production: September Hyde
Contributors: Nancy Lind
Publishing Committee chairman:
Bill Trandum
Submissions deadline: Third
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Email news@keypennews.com

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OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS!

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Fire levy passed

The Fire District 16 levy on the October ballot appeared to have passed with 65 percent of the votes, although results were not official at press time and must be certified by the state auditor. The levy will pay for four new fire engines, a water tender, a rescue truck, and new "Jaws of Life," as well as other miscellaneous equipment, over its four-year duration.

Parks levy failed

The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District levy was failing by less than 3 percent of votes at the end of September in unofficial results, with all the votes counted—only about 100 "yes" votes short of passing. KPPRD commissioners planned to place the measure back on the ballot for the November election; however, a delay in paperwork made that not possible.

Commissioners will look at options such as applying for a special election in spring, or trimming down operations including field availability for baseball games and other budget cuts.

Sales tax increase to pay for courts, police

Pierce County is proposing a sales tax increase to pay for the justice system. The 0.3 percent increase would



add 75 new police officers countywide, as well as pay for courts, jails and other components. The increase would add three to five deputies to the Peninsula Detachment that serves unincorporated Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula, according to Councilman Terry Lee, who represents both areas.

"If we get that tax increase, I will look at the option of opening up a Key Peninsula dispatch," Lee said. The money would also add more judges and prosecutors in the county, which has the highest number of felony crimes in the state and the lowest number of deputies per capita, he said.

The county says 75 percent of the general fund is already dedicated to the justice system, and there are simply no places to trim spending. Property tax increases are limited to 1 percent per year.

If passed, the sales tax on the Key Peninsula would go from 8.4 percent to 8.7 percent.

Franciscan holds Key Pen public meeting for hospital

Franciscan Health System is working toward its plan to build a 112-bed hospital in Gig Harbor, by applying for a required Certificate of Need from the state Department of Health.

In its 250-page application, Franciscan offers detailed information supporting the need for a state-of-the-art hospital that will provide an array of medical services for the growing population of Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula and south Kitsap County.

A meeting will be held Oct. 30 at the KP Civic Center at 7 p.m. that will share details with the public regarding the hospital plans and to answer questions.

Department of Health officials will review the data, and conduct a public hearing before issuing their decision on the requested Certificate of Need for the \$94 million project. This review could take six to nine months.

The hospital will provide a 24-hour emergency department; medical, surgical and critical-care units; general medicine; in- and outpatient surgery; a heart catheterization lab; a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), CT scans, ultrasound and mammography; physical, occupational and speech therapies; and a sleep disorders treatment center. Plans call for six operating and two special-procedure rooms.

To send comments or questions electronically, visit www.fhshealth.org.

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Editorial

LIC dinner theater stirs up laughs, yearning for more

They laughed, they related, and even cried a little. But mostly laughed and marveled. The audience who came to the Longbranch Players' dinner theater last month with average expectations left saying the play, "Sylvia," about a dog and her owners, was better than at a (best unnamed) professional venue. Those who came expecting a lot left asking, "When is the next one?" And even visitors from those "big cities" said the actors were "very good."

Considering that all the cast members were Key Peninsula residents, and the lead actress has never acted before, those were high compliments indeed.

Dog owners came out...well...understanding their dogs on a different level, but everyone else just had a truly enjoyable evening.

The Two Waters Art Alliance kicked off the night with its very first exhibit of local artists, adding a definite touch of class that turned out to be just the beginning of a classy evening. Friends and strangers mingled around the exhibit, then carried the mingling on at their candle-lit tables, where the food was just like the rest of the evening: excellent. And like the rest of the evening, it was the creation of volunteers — 70 or so in all.

Even the Boy Scouts Troup 220 had their part, bustling around tables to serve. So it was no surprise that as the first weekend of the dinner theatre wound down, the last day of the play was sold out.

And, organizers say, with enough interest and support, they may be able to proclaim that after a short hiatus, the Longbranch Players are here to stay.

The children are our future

By Bob Connelly
Peninsula School District Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching

The children are our future. I believe this is a statement with which everyone can agree.

However, finding ways for caring adults in the community to work together in support of our kids has always been much easier said than done. Adults are sometimes put off by youth as they strive to find themselves, as they mature into adulthood. Youth tend to look at parents and other adults as meddling and out of touch. Come to think of it, my mom and dad are a whole lot smarter now than when I was 17.

But now, as parents, educators and leaders in the Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor area, we have an opportunity to enhance communication and cooperation and to make a real difference for the youth of our community through an initiative called "The Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Promise to Youth." This project promotes 40 powerful ideas called developmental assets.

Developmental assets are the positive building blocks that young people need to grow up to be healthy, principled and caring adults. Half of them are internal assets, things like personal values, positive personal identity and commitment to learning. The other half are "external assets," those influences that come from the family, neighborhoods, schools, and the community.

The creation of the 40 developmental

assets highlighted through Promise to Youth is based on years of research. The Search Institute out of Minneapolis, Minn., has surveyed hundreds of thousands of young people ages 12-18 across the nation since 1996. The findings are clear — the more positive assets a young person possesses translates to more school success, better citizenship and a reduction of risky behaviors. This positive influence is evident across all cultural and socioeconomic groups of youth.

In October 2002, over 1,700 youngsters from around the Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor community participated in the Search Institute survey. The local results mirrored the national results in many ways, with some celebrations but also with some sobering concerns.

Through a communitywide effort, the Peninsula School District is participating in the promotion of the 40 developmental assets. Our next step is to inform our community of those results, spread the word of the power of asset building and identify ways we can all work together to increase assets in our youth.

Promise to Youth is not another "program" that is taught in classrooms. It is a concept, a consistent communitywide way of thinking about how we meet the needs of our young people to make a positive difference in their lives and increase the number of assets each youngster will take into adulthood. It is an adult modeling of positive behaviors and universal values. Developmental assets provide a common community vision within a common language for all of us.

We look forward to having you join us in learning more about the power of asset building for our kids!



Letter to the Editor

School road lacks safety

I am writing to inform interested parties of a problem we have in Lakebay. Evergreen Elementary fronts on Key Pen. Highway, with the building within 100 yards, and the playground adjacent to the road. The speed limit on the highway is 45 mph. On weekends I often hear the roar of souped up motors while some are trying out their hot rods and motorcycles. There is one triangular warning sign informing of the school ahead, but nothing with verbiage warning of a school and reduced speed limits, no crosswalk for kids walking to school to cross the highway, no flashing light, and the school cannot be seen until you are right on top of it.

Our family has for three years contacted the Department of Transportation, the Sheriff, and the school trying to get something done, but to no avail. The school gave my wife a stop sign, and told her to act as a crossing guard, which she did, but her current schedule will no longer allow that.

In September, a minivan lost control, and ended up in the landscaping in front of the school. If it would have been about a half an hour later, when school let out, there would have probably been some adults and children trying to cross the road at the same spot.

I'm 50 years old, and have never sued anyone in my life, but I sure hope my grade schooler doesn't get hurt over there. Maybe someone with more clout than me reading this that would like to team up, and hopefully prevent a tragedy before it happens.

*The Cummings Family
Lakebay*

Adventures on the farm

By Irene Torres

I got home from work one evening to find our two dogs running through the front yard with two new critters. On closer investigation, I learned my daughter had brought two little pigs to live on our farm.

Shortly before my arrival (and shortly after theirs), our new tenants escaped from the pasture, as their enclosure pens had not yet been electrified. Fortunately, they were quickly surrounded in the yard, and herded back into the pen.

Not 10 minutes later, there was a glimpse of movement out by the front

gate as the second of the pigs was seen rounding the corner, heading up Wright-Bliss Road, right for the Texaco station. One pickup load of teen-age boys, one carload of women, one girl on a bicycle, and several pedestrians were soon in hot pursuit.

A passer-by stopped to help, and flanked the first little piggy. He grabbed a pig leg, and shortly found himself "pig-bit" on the hand. He didn't let go. (The injury wasn't serious.) Finally, several of the pursuers "hog-tied" and put piggy No.1 into a large pet carrier, in the back of the pickup.

The neighbors, seeing the activity in the road, came out to help, and slow the traffic down. And drivers did slow to look, as they happened upon what appeared to be some kind of terrible accident, what with all that commotion, and all...

Calls of, "Here pig, here pig, pig, pig-gy-gy," went unanswered as the second little pig found some good ground cover alongside the road, and took off through the forest. He stopped to eat every few feet (no wonder they are called pigs!). We could tell exactly where he was, tracking his movement through the brush, thick with blackberry brambles. Getting to him wasn't going to be easy...and he had covered nearly half a mile of territory already.

One of the more agile boys finally got behind him and herded him back onto the roadbed.

He lunged, grabbed a hoof, and held on tight until another helper arrived with twine, to bind Mr. Piggy. By that time, the pickup arrived on-scene and two exhausted pigs were carted back to their new home, where they were put up in a temporary plywood pen in the garage, until their new sty was ready for them.

So if you're driving down Wright-Bliss Road, and you see two funny-looking, short-legged dogs with pointy ears, please slow down. We'll be home to 'round 'em up soon.

Irene Torres lives in Vaughn.

See your 'Home Town' on TV



The camera is done rolling, the residents have spoken, and the producers have cut whatever material they needed—and they had plenty to choose from—and now the story of the Key Peninsula is heading for Comcast Cable's "My Home Town" show. The local towns and people will be featured the entire month of October on Comcast channels 29/ 76 Mondays at 7 p.m., Wednesday and Fridays at 6:30 p.m., Thursdays at 5 p.m., Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10:30 p.m. Pictured above, local folks gathered despite a little drizzle to "welcome" program viewers to their home towns. Right, program host Dorothy Wilhelm directs the group during the filming of the welcome segment.



Photos by Rodika Tollefson



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSED HOSPITAL IN NORTH GIG HARBOR.

Join us for a public meeting.

Franciscan Health System cordially invites you to a public meeting to share information on the proposed hospital in North Gig Harbor. Join us to learn more about the community's need for the hospital, the services it will offer, the planning and approval process, the hospital site and the timeline for its construction. Franciscan leaders will be there to answer questions and hear your comments.

7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30
 Key Peninsula Civic Center
 17010 S. Vaughn Road, Vaughn

For more information, or to give us your questions or comments electronically, go to our website at www.fhshealth.org.

We hope to see you there!

CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

Franciscan Health System

Franciscan Health System includes St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma, St. Clare Hospital in Lakewood, St. Francis Hospital in Federal Way, Franciscan Medical Group (a network of primary-care physicians) and the Franciscan Care Center at Tacoma, a continuing care facility.

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Community Council group ponders options

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Nearly a year after the idea of a community council was propelled forward by a handful of Key Peninsula residents, an organizing committee of community volunteers has walked the talk by moving the idea along. Though a community council is still months away, the movers and shakers are leaving no stone unturned to explore options, seek input, and find solutions.

Before a formal council can begin its workings, thousands of pieces must fall in place—and thanks to the organizing group, those pieces are coming together indeed. Considering that they all pretty much started from scratch, building the concept from the ground up in a grass roots effort, one could only marvel at their progress. But considering the spirit of the Key Pen residents and their efforts to improve the community in so many other ways, this was to be expected.

About \$3,500 has been collected to date, nearly reaching the goal of the \$3,590 needed for the organizational

Get involved

To learn more about the organizing efforts, call Jeff Harris at 884-4697 or Joyce Tovey at 884-3304. The council is not a government-affiliated entity and is not funded by tax dollars.

Next month: read about the Student Projects Committee's work to create a student council to mirror the adults.

phase. Much of the money came in \$50 donations from the "founding members," as well as from a vehicle raffle at the fair. Anyone not actively involved in the meetings and the organizing phase can donate \$50 and still become a founding member.

"A lot of people are involved in so many different things and don't have time for another meeting. This (the \$50 donation) is a way for them to be involved," said Jeff Harris, the organizing group's co-chair.

A needs assessment group is researching the immediate needs of the community, sending out surveys. A process and structure group is working on outlining the election process, ways to distribute

the ballots and polling locations. A finance committee is looking for potential funding sources for the estimated \$11,160 operating funds for the first year. And an outreach committee is tasked with spreading the word, finding ways to seek public input and involvement. While each group meets every month to discuss specific areas, all decisions are made as a group by the entire committee.

Many of the options have not been finalized, but among possibilities are sending out ballots via Peninsula Light bills; finding a donated office space to minimize overhead, along with donated equipment; electing one person

per 1,000 residents per each census tract, which will bring the number of council members to 14 or 15 (see boundary map).

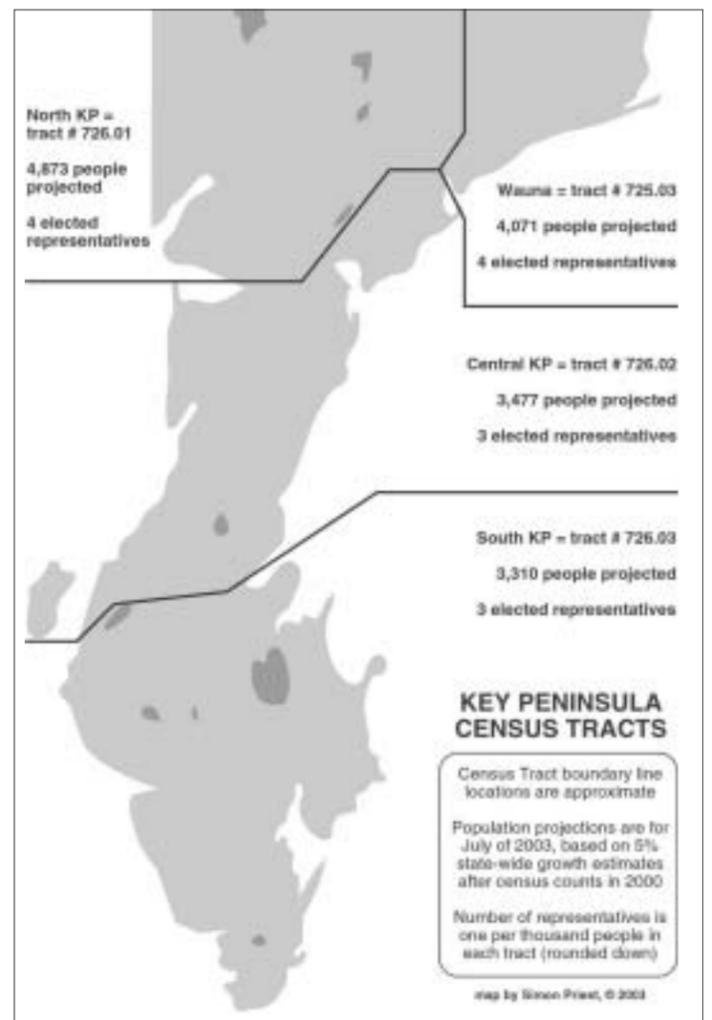
"We are working from the bottom up and trying to take as much time as we need and not exclude anyone," said co-chair Joyce Tovey. The council will not be affiliated with any government and not be funded by taxpayer money.

While some may have been frustrated by the apparent slow pace of the council

building, organizers say they don't want to rush through anything. In a sense, they are building a little America much like the forefathers did, they say: While it would have been easy to model the U.S. Constitution after another country, they chose to do it the hard — and long — way.

"It will make a stronger organization that way," Harris said.

And with that, the voice of the Key Peninsula would be so much stronger.



Bob Black
Fire Chief, Gig Harbor Fire District #5

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MUST HAVE COUPON TO QUALIFY LIMIT ONE PER PERSON

(From SALMON, Page 1)

fees by taxpayers, salmon remediation money paid by public utilities and the state general fund, is over half a million dollars a year.

"We provide stock for recreational, commercial, tribal and nontribal fishing," Popochock said.

Surplus fish are provided to the tribes, state institutions, donated to food banks, and sold to contract bidders.

"We try to be dynamic in our operation, with proper run timing to match nature... 'Mother knows best,'" Popochock said. "Fish are being taken from all portions of a run (early, mid-and late) to mimic natural runs."

Minter Creek Hatchery has eight incubation rooms, with capacity for 2.5 million eggs. "We're key players in the salmon recovery of the Upper White River (Lake Tapps), involved with restoration of White River for more than a decade," Popochock said. "When you consider how close this stock came to complete extinction, it's exciting to see what has been accomplished with a lot of hard work, determination and extraordinary teamwork by all the agen-

cies and organizations involved."

The facility is manned seven days a week, around the clock with three full-time and occasional part-time employees. Backup generators supply power to its controlled environment.

"Visitors are welcome," Nolan said. "This program belongs to the public." In fact, hatchery staff encourage everyone to come, and enjoy a nature walk, tour the grounds, or ask questions.

Activity continues year-round at the facility. September through December brings adult salmon back for spawning. From December through February, fry are moved to holding ponds. Fish are released from April through July, and are reared all year long. Popochock notes, "We appreciate input. The public funds our programs, and should see our results," and "if the legislators recognize this program has value, adequate funding can continue."

During the last several years, the decline in salmon population was attributed to the 4 Hs: Hatchery, Habitat, Harvest and Hydrology. Slade Gorton, former U.S. senator from Washington, named a Blue Ribbon panel to assess the hatcheries' role, and to evaluate the good and bad impact of hatchery prac-

tices. The goal was to improve operation and remove the hatcheries from the list of threats to salmon.

"Washington's hatcheries have established policies to ensure that fish reared and released have sound genetics and are free of disease," according to a bulletin from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Minter Creek's hatchery staff conducts annual virology sampling of 60-150 fish to detect any viruses in the ponds. Last year, the Coho were quarantined for a minor viral outbreak. A sampling of 100 percent of new eggs proved the facility to be clean. "We were relieved that the virus was not serious," Popochock said.

"The hatchery's controlled environment results in good initial survival, with incubation and isolation, the first step in salmon recovery," said Nolan.

In nature, flooding destroys spawning habitat and losses can be high due to injury, predation and fungus. Physiological changes in returning salmon mean "there is no healing, no feeding."

"In the hatchery, we keep them alive long enough to spawn," said Popochock. "The successes at Minter Creek and Hupp Springs provide a

Salmon restoration

Individuals and groups interested in learning more about restoring, maintaining, and enhancing fish runs near their communities can call Fish and Wildlife's Ecosystem Management Program in Olympia at 360-902-2235, or the Public Affairs Office at 360-902-2250.

knowledge base to help save other endangered salmon runs.

For example, the captive brood technique is now being employed to save the seriously depleted spring Chinook run in the Dungeness River system.

The concentration of fish in the hatchery draws other interest, too, he said. "We're the 'Golden Arches' for every predator."

The hatchery has bird netting and electric fences, and high fencing in place. Along Minter Creek behind the hatchery was evidence of an otter's recent emergence from the water and further up the bank was "scat" from a raccoon family. "We check every morning," said Popochock, "and do our best to keep them out."

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Sam Stewart dreams real high

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

A recent KP News had a story of a very brave 11-year-old Vaughn Elementary student, Sam Stewart, who is fighting leukemia. In the accompanying photograph, Sam was totally bald. He's not now. And he's still fighting the disease.

Since that story, Sam has suited up in his Little League baseball team's uniform, taken cuts at the ball just like all the other kids on the team, and made a run for the base. He still doesn't have his old strength and energy but he's not letting that get him down.

In fact, he's not down, he's up.

Up in a treehouse built in mid-August for him at his home in Lake Minterwood Estates by Seattle TreeHouse Workshop Inc., teamed up with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and assisted by Recourse Woodworks, Parker Lumber, Marine Lumber Service, Tacoma Screw Products, Clear Cut Plastics, and Knight Construction and Development Firms, Inc.

The beautifully designed, meticulously built, 12-foot and 6-inches in diameter structure some 14 feet above ground is wrapped around a very tall Douglas fir in the Stewarts' back yard. To get to it, stairways and ramps extending to another similar Douglas fir are built in such a manner as to lend greater structural strength to the overall project and to tie the two trees to one another's support.

Many kids approached by Make-A-Wish would like a trip to Disneyland or something similar. Asked, "What prompted you to ask for a treehouse for your wish?" Sam said, "I guess Joe did it." Joe is his 9-year-old brother.

"We've been talking for years about building a treehouse," he said, "and when I was trying to think of what I should ask for for my wish, Joe said, 'Why not a treehouse?' and I thought, 'Yes! This is something we all can use.'"

His written wish request said, "Here are some of my big dreams about the coolest treehouse ever: a cool deck with a view of my forest, an escape rope ladder, and stairs so my dog can come up. I dream about it being really high and would like to be able to hear rain hit the roof."

Well, thanks to Make-A-Wish, Sam's dream is reality.

Bubba Smith, owner, Daryl McDonald and Asuka Takahashi of TreeHouse, all rolled up their sleeves sawing, pounding, screwing and making sure that nowhere in the world will there be a more beautiful treehouse.

Takahashi, who works in TreeHouse's office, is here from Chiba, Japan. She said, "No one is more deserving of this treehouse than Sam Stewart."

That's for sure.

Sam is now in the sixth grade at Key Peninsula Middle School with his chum and neighbor, Colin Dueck, who shared the excitement of the treehouse's construction.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Sam Stewart's backyard treehouse at the Stewart's Lake Minterwood Estates' home was constructed by Bubba Smith, the owner of TreeHouse Workshop Inc., Daryl McDonald, and Asuka Takahashi. Banners hang from the structure containing the names of persons and organizations that have sponsored the project. Smith and Takahashi are up in the tree house, McDonald is on the ground working a saw.

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The heart of the Key Peninsula is ailing financially, vows to keep doors open

Editor's note: This is the last part in a series focusing on the three Key Peninsula community hubs that are the heart and soul of local residents. The Community House and Longbranch Improvement Club were featured in previous months.

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Ever since Betty Kelley remembers, the Key Peninsula Civic Center has been there. Even as she lived off Key Peninsula while in high school, she would come to the center for various events. Now a local resident, she has watched her daughter and many others enjoy skating nights and other activities that are so prized on this side of the Purdy Bridge.

Kelley, currently the president of the KP Civic Center Association, represents the newer generation of volunteers who have one way or another joined the board — and have remained ever since, fighting to keep the center alive.

It's not easy. As rent from the few longtime tenants remains flat, expenses are increasing to include more paid staff, constant jumps in insurance costs, and basic needs like electricity. But just as the board struggles every month to keep doors open for weddings, skating, dances, meetings and other events, everyone is well aware that nothing could replace this community hub.

"The Civic Center touches everybody because somewhere along the way they've been there (for a function)," says Dale Loy. "It's a connection everyone has."

Loy is speaking from experience. He and his wife, Claudia, had their own wedding reception there. Then, while moving back to the Peninsula from California, the couple lived in the center's caretaker apartment, taking care of the grounds, cleaning, office duties, and anything in between. No wonder the two have stayed involved, as volunteers, even as they moved out of the center and on to a new venture: opening their own business, the Sunnycrest Nursery.

"It became part of our lives," Loy says.

And part of so many others' lives. No one is sure why those who get involved rarely leave, as if pulled inside and held by some magical force, whether they have fun organizing fund-raisers and running the business, keeping in touch with news and people, making new friends, or simply unable to bear the thought that the center may one day vanish, and knowing quite well that without their help it could, leaving groups like the Key Peninsula Museum and Children's Home Society out in the cold.

For the Loys, the reason may be much simpler. Claudia is a third-generation center supporter. Her grandparents helped the center when it was purchased from the school district in the 1950s, and her parents, Shirley and Don Olson, are charter members, staying active for the last five decades.

Since then, the face of the Civic Center has not changed much, as activities came and left: bingo that was wildly popular in the '70s, Pioneer Days, teen coffee houses. Skate night, one of the reasons why insurance is so high, has remained, to the delight of the local kids with so few choices for close-to-home fun.

And in the mix of the old timers who have been part of the association "since forever," new volunteers join in now and then. Volunteers like Loyd Miller, who for the past four years has worked long hours, some weeks full time, to fix whatever needs fixing, and save the center potentially thousands of dollars in labor. Just recently, Miller spruced up the walls and with the help of volunteers Mike Salatino, Bruce Macdonald, Phil Bauer and Dave Stratford refurbished the gym floor—brightening the center in time for the biggest event of the year on Oct. 4, the Flavor of Fall.

"I have seen the Civic Center as a real big part of community activities," Miller says. "If we don't find a way (to continue to meet expenses), it would be a real loss...I just keep thinking—What would the community do if it disappears?"

That's the question on the minds of all association members, who nonetheless say they will keep the welcome sign up until there is absolutely no way to go on.

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Rueben Amador, son of Jim and Jeanne Amador of Lakebay, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Ala., on Aug. 25, 2003. Lieut. Amador



AMADOR

completed ROTC with Detachment 019 of Alabama State University while earning his Bachelor of Science degree at Troy State University. He previously served six years in the Air Force at Maxwell Air Force Base.

His next assignment will be Spangdahlem AB in Germany in the communications field.

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Communities in Schools gets a well-deserved assist

Hugh McMillan
KP News

Communities in Schools of Peninsula's Board of Directors September meeting resounded to clinking glasses of nonalcoholic champagne. The BOD was celebrating the receipt of a \$48,000 grant from Geneva Foundation trustees, John and Shirley Nederlee, residents of Vaughn.

The grant was in response to an August proposal from CIS Board Chair Nancy Hibbing for program funding for the 2003-2004 school year.

Programs funded will be the start of a Family Liaison Program at Vaughn Elementary and Key Peninsula Middle School, and continuing support for the Mentoring Our Students to Reading Success at Vaughn Elementary. CISP will hire a half-time staff person with an office at CISP in Key Center to work at each school for the Family Liaison Program.

CISP's Executive Director Colleen Speer said, "The program will identify children with problems in academics, behavior, and attendance and will work with their families to remedy obstacles in their lives and link families with tangible resource help, crisis intervention, parenting education, academic assistance, and more.

"Mentoring Our Students to Reading Success is a continuing program at Vaughn Elementary supported by CISP. It uses mentors who have been recruited from our community to read with at-risk readers at Vaughn. These mentors, trained by a reading specialist, will continue to provide students with the literary experiences they need to succeed at school and in life."

CISP is actively looking for more of these valued reading mentors. If you are interested in investing a small portion of your life to help a child gain confidence in reading and achieve academic goals, please call Colleen Speer at 884-5733.

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Lions launch Golden Ear campaign

Members of the Key Peninsula Lions Club will be handing out Golden Ear stickers to the public at the doors to Peninsula Market in Key Center on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10 and 11.

This is an annual fund-raising activity directed to support of the Lions' Hearing Awareness programs that provide free audiology testing and hearing aids to those in need, as well as LEAP, the Lions Early Assessment Program that screens the hearing of newborn babies; Lions Hearing Aid Bank that refurbishes donated hearing aids and provides them free of charge; and Lions Health Screening Unit, the fully-equipped vehicle that provides free screening for vision, hearing, glaucoma, diabetes, and blood pressure to over 22,000 people each year.

Other Lions news

Entertainment books are on sale for \$30, through January. Look for the Home and Garden section, new for 2004. Proceeds aid Lions Club projects for community, sight and hearing. Contact Frances Challender at 884-3485.

Challender will donate half the proceeds from the sale of books written by her late husband, Leroy Challender, to benefit projects such as Key Peninsula parks, youth scholarships, drug education, and to help the blind, deaf, and those with diabetes. Contact her, if interested in either title: "Vaughn, the Paradise of Puget Sound," or "Logging the Great Forests of the Northwest."

Remember, unused glasses and hearing aids can be turned in for refurbishing. Collection bins are located in Key Center at Sound Credit Union and at the Health Center, or contact any Lions member for pickup. Peninsula Market receipts can be placed in either receptacle, to help with Lions Club projects.

—Submitted by Irene Torres

Cruise into history along old steamboat routes

The Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor Historical Societies invite you to join us on the Fall 2003 History Cruise, Sunday, Oct. 19, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Journey along the 20th century steamboat routes touring Gig Harbor, Olalla, Sunrise Beach, the Narrows, Wollochet, Hale Passage, Fox Island, and surrounding areas. We will depart from Jerisich dock in downtown Gig Harbor. \$50 per person for a Key Peninsula or Gig Harbor Historical Society member and \$60 for

nonmembers. A box lunch will be provided on board.

Purchase tickets online at www.gigharbormuseum.org, or call Gig Harbor Museum, 858-6722, or Dale Skrivanich, 884-2712.

TOPS News

TOPS #WA 1019, Vaughn, has been keeping very busy. Some of our past and present events included helping out with the Key Peninsula Community Fair cleanup once again. Our chapter attended a Fall Rally in Bremerton in September. This is a time where our area gets together for a fun day of activities and guest speakers. This year we are hosting the Harvest Festival at the Civic Center on Oct. 31, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. We are inviting all the kids on the Key Peninsula to come and join us for this fun and exciting event.

TOPS meets on Tuesday night in the VFW room at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Weigh-in is from 6 to 7 p.m. and the meeting is until 8. We invite all to come by and check us out. With questions, please call 884-3456.

—Submitted by Jena Henak

Sportsmen hold rummage sale

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club will be holding its semi-annual rummage sale at 3502 Jackson Lake Road in the clubhouse on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The sale will be held inside so you don't have to worry about the weather. Lots of treasures and crafts will be available. Come browse and buy and join us for a fun day.

Civic Center dance a success

A great time was had by all at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Dance on Saturday night, Sept. 13. Thank you to Doug Henry, the dance instructor at the center, who was instrumental in bringing this and many more bands to the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Doug gave free 30-minute dance lessons before the event.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the next dance on Nov. 1 at 8 p.m., with the band Starbird. Tickets will be available at Sunnycrest Nursery and at the Civic Center.

Other upcoming events:

Oct. 4, Flavor of Fall

Oct. 31, Harvest Festival

Nov. 22, Holiday Arts & Crafts Bazaar featuring: Santa Photos

Generosity at work



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

I.M.Pact's Nancy Hibbins, Penny Gazabat, and Cathlee James (in the background) are opening presents at an open house for the new domestic violence safe house. Due to privacy, the party was held at Target in Gig Harbor last month. About \$800-1,000 in donated items was contributed by community members. The registry is still open for anyone who would like to purchase an item. Use the name "Safe House" for either the bride or the groom in the bridal registry to find out what items are still needed, at the store or at www.target.com.

Capt. McNeill to 'appear' at Historical Society meeting

William Henry McNeill was born in Boston in 1803, and went to sea about age 11. He became captain by age 21, and experienced great success as a fur trader. McNeil Island was named for this adventurous soul by his friend Cap. Charles Wilkes.

McNeill, employed by the Hudson Bay Company, was assigned to collect furs, sometimes equaling the combined "take" at the various land-based forts. He commanded the first steam powered ship on the North Pacific — the SS Beaver, which could approach the smallest village on the smallest stream on a set schedule regardless of wind, weather or season. Although he was an American, his British employers could not afford to lose him. At one time he was the highest-ranking Gentleman at Fort Nisqually, although never in command.

Considered a harsh task master, McNeill was an honest trader who never asked more than he would give. Through the "magic" of Living History and cour-

tesy of Jerry V. Ramsey, Ph.D, a volunteer at Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, McNeill will "appear in person" at the Oct. 23 meeting of the Key Peninsula Historical Society at the Civic Center.

A social at 6 p.m. will precede the business meeting and program. All are welcome. For additional information, call Leona Britt at 884-3272.

—Submitted by Colleen Slater

TOPS #1325 meeting

TOPS Take Off Pounds Sensibly chapter 1325 meets weekly Tuesday mornings at the Home fire station. Join us and meet our best losers for the month of August, Lena Bradford and Lin Scanland. For information, call Dotty at 884-1721.

October fun with the Gold Wing Road Riders

The Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) – Chapter "G" (Pink Panthers) in Gig Harbor will be having an "OKTOBERFEST" event on Saturday, Oct. 4 from approximately 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Key Center (in front of Peninsula Market & Lisa's Deli). Key Center merchants are

also proudly participating in this event, and will be offering goodies and fun to both adults and kids alike!

GWRRA will offer face painting, pumpkin painting, and pictures with a pink panther (for a small fee). They will also have their motorcycles on display. The community is invited to participate in the motorcycle judging contest by voting for their favorite motorcycle.

Please mark your calendars and come on out to enjoy the festivities and fun! Questions? Contact Barbara Lewis at 884-9636 (between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. ONLY).

Angels, Angels Angels— You see them everywhere

Now you will see them in your Seahawks Boosters program too. That's right! At our August meeting we voted to support the school by buying a full-page ad in all the Peninsula High School's home games programs. What fun!

We want to thank our conscientious citizens. Some of them noticed unlawful activities going on in the fenced in area behind the shop after hours one evening. They observed someone climbing over the fence and removing donated items. They were good enough to take pictures of the people involved with a camera in their vehicle and brought us the film. We wanted to give thieves warning that people are watching and some do the right thing to stop those doing the wrong thing.

If you missed last month's article, let me again say that we are taking applications from reliable, trustworthy people with a few spare hours each month who would consider helping their community by becoming an Angel. If you would like to be a clerk or a sorter contact Bonnie at 884-9333 or Nancy at 857-2321.

—Submitted by Mary Ramsdell

Key Pen Lions Club hold essay contest

The Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor Lions Clubs have announced their participation in the 2004 Lions Youth Exchange Essay Contest. Youth who will be at least 16 but not 22 years of age by July 15, 2004, are eligible to enter original essays of not over 500 words on the subject of "What World Peace Means to Me."

Under the Lions Youth Exchange Program, American youth will spend six weeks in a foreign country in the summer of 2004. First place winners receive an all expenses paid trip. Second place winners will receive a \$100 savings bond; third place winners, a \$50 savings bond. It is not necessary to enter the contest in order to participate in the exchange pro-

gram. Many American youth are able to visit countries throughout the world at their own expense under the program and many of those countries will send youth to visit the United States.

Anyone interested in an application or further information is invited to contact Lion George Robison at 853-2721.

—Submitted by Hugh McMillan

Peace Poster Contest sponsored by Lions Club

"Create a Brighter Tomorrow" is the theme for the Lions Club's peace poster contest for students ages 11-13. Eligible birthdates are from Nov. 16, 1989 through Nov. 15, 1992.

"The poster contest encourages children to express what peace means to them. It allows students to share their unique image of peace with others, so we may all have a greater tolerance and international understanding," said project co-chairman, Frances Challender.

The Key Peninsula Lions Club will work with Key Peninsula Middle School to maximize participation, and home-schoolers are welcome to enter. Posters will be evaluated on three criteria at each level of judging: originality, artistic merit, and expression of theme. A public exhibit of all submissions will be held after Nov. 1, 2003, the deadline for contest entries.

One local winning entry will be submitted for judging at the national level, and national winners compete at the international level. The overall international winner will receive a trip to Lions Day at the United Nations in New York, plus \$2,500 cash. There will be 23 international merit winners, who will receive a certificate of achievement and a \$500 cash award.

For full contest rules, call 253-691-1320. The rules will soon be available at Key Peninsula Middle School.

—Submitted by Irene Torres

Church holds fund-raiser for immigrant couple

Victoria and Ion Lozovanu of Moldova are preparing to move to the Key Peninsula to live with their daughter, Rodika Tollefson, and family. They live under a Communist regime, and with difficult circumstances. Although Mrs. Lozovanu taught chemistry at the Medical University, her retirement pension is minimal and not always paid on time. She returned to teaching, to be paid a third of her former salary, an equivalent of about \$40 per month U.S.

They often only have hot water once a month and electricity or heat in winter is not always available. Mr. Lozovanu, 67,

who has not seen his daughter in 11 years nor has met his grandchildren, has been retired for health reasons but has always had a garden, which has helped them foodwise.

The Historical Vaughn Bay Church is sponsoring a fund drive to help them emigrate. They will need approximately \$1,000 each for air tickets as well as living expenses for a few months. An account has been established at Sound Credit Union in their name for contributions from the community. The church will organize additional fund-raising activities to be announced. The couple hope to arrive on the Key Peninsula by Christmas. For more information, please contact Colleen Slater at 884-5403.

—Submitted by Colleen Slater

Note: The family of Rodika Tollefson, the KP News editor, would like to thank those who initiated this fund-raiser, and the Historical Vaughn Bay Church for their generous offer of support.

KP Community Council organizational committee's October meetings

Organizational Committee; co-chairs Joyce Tovey, 884-3304; Jeff Harris, 884-4697: Oct. 28, 7pm @ Key Peninsula Middle School

Communication/Outreach; co-chairs Ruth Bramhall, 857-5184; Vicki Biggs, 884-5433: Oct. 14, 1pm @ Key Peninsula Civic Center

Finance, chair Barbara Waller, 884-4464: Oct. 13, 10:30am @ Barbara Waller's Home

Needs Assessment; chair Denise Carron, 884-9498: Oct. 21, 7pm @ Key Peninsula Middle School

Process/ Structure; chair Irene Torres, 691-1320: Oct. 7, 7pm @ Windermere Real Estate Office

Student Projects; chair David Locey, 857-4505: Oct. 2, 3pm @ Key Peninsula Middle School.



Halloween at the KP Civic Center

By Hugh McMillan

This year the local chapter of TOPS # WA 1019, Vaughn, is sponsoring the annual Halloween Party/Harvest Festival Oct. 31st at the Civic Center from 6:30 to 9 p.m. In the past 400-plus gleeful kids have attended. TOPS member, Frankie Johnson, spearheading the event, said, "The event is free to the kids. Plans are in place for midway type games, booths featuring face painting, pumpkin painting, costume judging, prizes and lots of candy and fun for all."

Support is coming in from businesses, organizations and individuals. "However," said Johnson, "we can use more contributions of money, supplies, and, most importantly, volunteers!"

This is a wonderful, fun-filled event that keeps our precious kids off the streets safely regaling in the fun of the event under the unobtrusive guidance of caring adults, the latter of whom have at least as much fun as the kids.

If you can help or have any questions, please call Frankie at 884-4102 or Jena at 884-3456.

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For information contact Doug Henry,
884-9236 or KPCC, 884-3456.

Spotlight on Rocky Bay Equine

By Danna Webster
KP News

Rocky Bay Equine began in 1993 when Dr. Bo Weeks and his wife, Linda, moved to the Key Peninsula. With their associate, Dr. Mike Alberts, they have developed a thriving practice serving horse breeds ranging from A-Z, Arabian to LipaZZan. "Quality of practice and quality of life" are the keystones of this hospital, where house calls are common, education is a big part of the service, community involvement is frequent, and even the environment is not forgotten.

Rocky Bay handles everything except major surgery. The doctors prefer doing house calls because "the animals are comfortable, the people are comfortable," says Dr. Weeks. Alberts' expertise in internal medicine and Weeks' expertise in reproduction complement each other.

"The practice is dedicated to general equine health care with an emphasis on reproduction," says Linda Weeks, whose master's degree is in horse reproduction. Breeding, artificial insemination, embryo



Photos by Danna Webster

Doctor Bo Weeks and his wife, Linda, a reproductive specialist, check up on Critter.

transplants, and deliveries are a specialization. Birthing mares are cared for in delivery stalls complete with surveillance cameras. Weeks even has a monitor in his bedroom.

"How many office managers shovel manure and kiss horses?" Karol Nayer, the office manager, asks as she shares stories about her favorite place to work, pointing out Sneakers, a retired thoroughbred given to the farm in appreciation for the hospital's work. Freckles the cat was found injured by the roadside, and Dr. Weeks surgically removed his battered eye. Freckles is a healthy happy resident even though he, unfortunately, has lost his marble replacement.

Nayer's favorite story is about the hospital getting a call from the Point Defiance Zoo. Help was needed to examine circus bears confiscated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Though not a routine call, some of the Rocky Bay Equine staff drove across the bridge to assist. It's not unusual for the group to jump in and help, including delivering free manure to neighbors, talking to 4-H and backcountry rider groups, providing health checks at Kitsap

County Fair, and cleaning State Route 302 as part of the "Adopt a Highway" campaign.

Rocky Bay Equine has been recognized for its environmentally friendly practices. Linda Weeks worked with the Pierce County Conservation District to develop a plan that addressed concerns about manure in ground water, mud in winter, rotating pastures, establishing sacrifice areas, choosing the best grasses, maintaining pastures with absolutely no pesticides and composting manure so that it is usable as a soil additive.

She says she is a "recycle freak." The waste disposal company reserves one dumpster just for the farm.

A yearly seminar, held this year in September, is dedicated to the education of the clients. Linda Weeks said veterinarians branch into the field of education because they "respect their clients enough to know it (education) is important to them." This year's seminar featured Dr. Nan Haberman of Evergreen Equine speaking about "Hind Limb Lameness" and Dr. Conrad Boulton of Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital speaking about "Shock Wave Therapy."

As the seminar guests arrived, the doctors were not available because they were clustered in the X-ray room studying films of a new patient, Baron, a dwarfed Friesian, who suffers from lameness.

"What we have built here and the business itself is yours in many ways," Bo Weeks said as he opened the seminar. The clients were showered with prizes, enjoyed a pig roast picnic and listened attentively to the speakers. The day finished with a slide show of the Weeks' three-month work assignment in New Zealand.

When Dr. Bo was called away suddenly, his wife, Linda, seamlessly stepped in to conclude the show. A 6-day-old llama that was brought to the hospital because its mother had stopped nursing caused the interruption, the baby in danger of starvation.

Dr. Weeks got things squared away, stepped back into the slide show presentation, bid his guests good-bye and returned to the llama, where he proceeded to teach the owners how to insert a feeding tube and establish a feeding schedule.

Pampered guests departed from the seminar past the doctor as he worked with the baby llama. They did not seem particularly surprised to witness their good doctor in action. After all, Rocky Bay Equine is a 24/7 care facility.

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A visit to the Key Center Saloon

Reporters are supposed to hang out in bars, everyone knows that, so having lived on the Key Peninsula for a while I figured I should visit the Key Center Saloon. There was a time, say about five years ago, when it could be dangerous to stop there on a Saturday night. Especially when there was live music.



**William C. Dietz
FOR WHATEVER
IT'S WORTH**

Things would get rowdy, somebody would throw a punch, and all hell would break loose. Not any more though, not according to Tracy Manning, who took over the bar about 15 years ago. "It takes time to go from a wild fist-fighting bar to a place where people want to go," the proprietor says, "but things have changed."

In fact, it's been a while since a name has been added to the 86 list kept behind the bar. One star means you can't come in for two weeks, two equates to a month of drinking somewhere else, and three gets you banned for life. So if you answer to the han-

dle Woodcutter Al, Wine Bottle Michelle, or Vashon Bob, you're plumb out of luck.

But the rowdy days are over, Manning says, partly because of her efforts to dial things down. Still, the moment you walk in the front door you'll see that the Key Center Saloon ain't no fancy-dancy sports bar with fluffy ferns, stained glass panels, and fakey sports memorabilia. This is a down home, no nonsense, country saloon.

The ceilings are relatively low, a collection of neon beer signs provide most of what light there is, and each wall is covered with its own style of paneling. The furnishings consist of a big screen TV, an ATM with an "Out Of Order" sign on it, a couple of well-lit pool tables, a variety of places to sit, and a hard working juke box.

Depending on when you arrive you might even run into Tracy Manning herself. In her early 60s, she could pass for someone much younger, and it's easy to imagine her as a Go-Go girl.

If you're too young to know what a Go-Go girl was, then imagine a shapely young woman circa 1960s in a skimpy costume and knee-high boots dancing to whatever

rock 'n' roll song was hot at the moment. Manning was actually named Miss-A-Go-Go in 1964, and appeared in movies like "Beach Blanket Bingo," which starred Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello. (Manning is the one with two pig tails wearing the leopard skin bikini.) She sang with Duke Ellington, the Righteous Brothers, and other famous performers.

But these days Manning is primarily focused on her business, although it seems as if her interest in dogs and the community find their way into that as well. There is a puppy on the cover of the saloon's menu, a flyer promoting the "Fire Truck Levy" tucked inside, and some information that you wouldn't expect. Did you know that a five ounce Bloody Mary has five carbs? Or that a six-piece serving of chicken nuggets contains 12? That's critical data for anyone on the Atkins diet — and food is an important part of Manning's business plan.

"You can't make enough money selling beer and wine so we switched from being a tavern to a saloon," Manning says. "We're careful not to overserve alcohol, we serve food so people aren't drinking on an

empty stomach, and we've been known to take people home when necessary."

When asked how is business going, Manning sounds subdued: "Times are bad. They've raised the prices for alcohol, I have to work a lot of hours in order to hold expenses down, and I'm barely making it. All you can do is control prices, manage inventory, and do things yourself."

Besides doing things for herself, she is known for taking care of others. The Lions Club named her Citizen of the Year in 1992 and in 2001 in recognition of her support for charitable causes both on and off the Peninsula. Last year she and her friends donated gifts so that young people at the Pearl Street Group Home would have something to open on Christmas morning — just one of many causes she supports.

So, if you're ready for a Michelob Ultra (only 2.6 carbs), and assuming you haven't been banned for life, you might want to drop in sometime. You can eat some food, chat with a customer who looks a lot like John Wayne, and shoot some pool. All without getting into a fistfight.

Times have definitely changed.

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4. Tree Pruning - Tim Kezele
5. Dessert of the Month - Provided by the Historic Vaughn Bay Church
6. German Dinner - Hosted by Sylvia Haase and Virginia Liebergeselle
7. Doll House - Hand made by Martha Applegate
8. Fly Rod and Flies - Frank Garrett
9. Fresh Summer Flower Bouquets - Provided by Ruth Bramhall (June, July & August)
10. Wind River Wine Tasting and Dinner - Hosted by Phil and Kathy Bauer (8-10) people
11. Shimano Mountain Bike - Peninsula Market
12. Homemade Farm Goodies - The Farm
13. Fleece Blanket - Sound Credit Union
14. 10 Cases Compact Fluorescent Lights - Peninsula Light Co
15. Linens for Tables during Dinner - Olde Glen Cove Hotel
16. Fall Bulb Basket - Dolores Argabright
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18. Stone Look Fish Vase - Nel & Glenn Blanchard
19. Falling Water Picture - Angel Guild Thrift Store
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70. Silk Floral Arrangements - Jan Meyer
71. Dessert for Auction Dinner - Windermere Realty
72. Dessert for Auction Dinner - Lisa's Deli
73. Cash Donation - Cooper Bird Bath
74. Handmade Bracelets, Necklace and Earrings - Jull Hills
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76. "Another Gig Harbor", photo print of original - Sandy Newhouse
77. Two "Mosquito Fleet" boat pictures - KP Historical Society
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88. Chipper/Shredder - Tom & Nancy Howard
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90. Trunk of Dress Up Clothes - Marg Brown
91. Encarta 2004 Reference Library Plus DVD
92. Four Club Seat Tickets to the Mariners Game -
93. 18 Holes of Golf for Two - Madronna Links
94. One Hour Portrait Sitting - Chris Bronstad
95. Dessert for Auction Dinner - Lady Walton Cookies
96. Garden Art - Sharon Miller

Corrections

Last issue's story about the Longbranch Improvement Club incorrectly stated members are eligible for free moorage. Members do pay annual moorage fees based upon the size of their boat and use of electrical hook-ups. Explains LIC: Members must also live in the Key

Peninsula South area and pay dues for a minimum 30 days to become eligible, as well as attend three general meetings per year and contribute a specific number of volunteer service hours.

A Key Peninsula Community Fair depicting a juggler in last issue incorrectly gave photo credit to Hugh McMillan. The photo was taken by Karl Anderson.

We regret these errors.



Gaye Williams
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"Caught in the Crossfire"

Key Peninsula family hosts paintball sports complex

By Irene Torres
KP News

What started as a way for the Campbell family to have backyard fun has turned into a business enterprise.

Mom, Bonnie Campbell, said her children first played paintball sports at camp, a two-hour drive from their home on Lackey Road. They enjoyed it so much, they bought some equipment so they could play at home.

"It was such fun, they invited their friends, and now everyone is invited," she said.

The Campbells can accommodate groups up to 100 for parties, family reunions, corporate outings, church groups, employee picnics, or anyone who wants to have fun in a safe atmosphere.

The Campbell children, all nearly grown now, began refereeing games to earn money for college. An added benefit, said Bonnie, "They learned how to run a business."

Paintball is an exciting game of Tag and Hide-and-Seek, rolled into one. About 25 varieties of the game are played, but the most popular is "Capture the Flag." The object is for two competing teams to attempt to cross the terrain, capture the opponent's flag, and return it to their flag station without being marked by a paint pellet, a soft gelatin ball the size of a bath bead.

Siblings Jessica, Christy and Mike Campbell, and a friend, Aaron Cyr, serve as referees. They also hire local teens to fill in from time to time. Jessica, head referee, said, "It's competitive and fun. Players must work together and strategize to win."

She added, "The game involves team-building strategies like using hand signals for flanking maneuvers," just as her sister Christy stopped the tournament for "paintball check" after a direct hit.

The games are enjoyed by all ages, "from 12- to 17-year-olds to 40-year-olds in full camouflage fatigues," said Bonnie. She proudly announced that sailors from the USS Camden and the USS Abraham Lincoln recently played on the Campbells' field. And she smiled when she recalled the time the macho Bellerman football team played in the pouring rain.

Dr. Robert Campbell, father, local doctor, pro-shop attendant, and former U.S. Army Ranger and Special Forces member, said, "There's not a lot of profit in this business."

But it is clear that the business has been good for his family, offering them quality time together and a learning experience. In the pro-shop, Dr. Campbell oversees the paintball sales and rental business, offering masks, gloves, a 300-round ammunition pouch, and camouflage clothing. The pro-shop also carries landmines, smoke bombs, and paintball grenades, all safe, to add to the realism of the games. Campbell repairs a variety of paintball systems and refills CO2 and compressed air tanks for the paintball guns.

The sport "is safer than shooting, and more fun," said Jessica.

The paintballs are safe, biodegradable, and the residue washes away easily. The 68-caliber paintball guns, powered by compressed air, are chronographed (calibrated) with three test shots, fired before each round of play, to measure less than



Photo courtesy of the Campbell family

Paintball has acquired many fans thanks to its safe, fun environment.

295 feet per second. The range is 150 feet maximum. The Campbells have not had any injuries from paintball at their field. The equipment includes headgear with face shield, a semi-automatic paintball gun, and ammunition pods on a belt, for quick reloads.

"Getting hit doesn't really hurt but they sting, like a bee," one tournament player said.

The Campbells follow the paintball rule book and enforce other rules of play: "No shooting of birds or animals," including the blacktail deer that roam their property, and "no climbing trees."

On 14 acres of the property, there are seven different paintball playing fields:

an enclosed tournament field, an arcade target range, and other areas, from open fields to heavily wooded cover. The family selectively cleared some of their land, and used the logs to build above- and below-ground bunkers. The Tower field has been enhanced with a trench between the pillbox and tower.

Tournaments are held each month, with regular games during weekdays. Tournament prizes, such as new paintball guns, are awarded to team members for first, second and third place.

In character as head referee, Jessica said, "We have zero tolerance for profanity."

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From Pioneer Stock Evelyn Evans

By Colleen Slater
KP News

A third generation resident of Home, Evelyn Evans is organizing her photographs, papers and memories for a book on her life.

Martin Van Buren Dadisman, her grandfather, left Virginia looking for a place without prejudice to raise his family. He tried Equality, a commune in Skagit Valley, then moved to Home. He purchased 70-80 acres of land and donated much of it to the Home Association.

Evelyn Evans was born in the two-room home attached to the store her father managed. The doctor next door delivered her. The living room doubled as a bedroom, and the store was an extension of their home. She and her brothers were free to explore the store, but forbidden to help themselves to any goodies, as her father was not the owner.

The Dadisman grandparents lived in "a mansion" on the hill above. A special treat was to spend the night and sleep in the big



Photo courtesy of Evelyn Evans

Evelyn Evans in front of the home built by her father.

feather bed. Summertime meant freedom from shoes as the neighborhood children swam, fished and played games on the beach.

They planned evening entertainments to be presented at the Community Hall for the public. "The early seeds of manage-

ment and organization, exhibition of skills and talent, cooperation and sharing...were sown with those endeavors," wrote Evans.

On pleasant evenings, older boys and girls gathered to build a bonfire and socialize. "Tine" played harmonica and recited poetry, Ferrar played ukulele, and "Fat" instructed in astronomy.

Evelyn and brother Chet delivered the daily News Tribune around Home on their bikes, netting \$5 per month. They met the Arcadia about 5 p.m. each weekday. On Sundays, their dad drove them to Longbranch to meet the ferry, and Sunday papers were delivered along the entire route home. At age 11, she rode the Arcadia to Tacoma and back on Saturdays for piano lessons.

In 1931, her father, David, retired and began building a larger home for the family. He used lumber from the torn-down warehouse part of the store.

Two years later, when Evelyn was 13, they moved into "The Big House." It included a conservatory where Mrs. Dadisman grew tomatoes and other items to sell, which later contributed to her daughter's college tuition.

Evans graduated with a home economics major, taught briefly before marriage, and later taught special children at Highline

for over 18 years.

In 1967, she and husband Bill bought 3 acres of the family property back. They built a new house overlooking the bay and Evans returned home, "the best move we ever made."

In 1982, Evans, Homa Lovegren and Lenore Jameson published brief life stories for "All My Somedays," a project sponsored by Pierce County and Tacoma Public Libraries. Now Evans works on a more complete memoir, detailing growing up, moving away and eventually returning to her home in Home.

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WITH COUPON

Singles to unite for 'Mixer' hosted by Community House

By Irene Torres
KP News



Irene Torres
IN SO MANY
WORDS...

There are 80 million singles in the United States, according to an Internet industry expert on dating, Trish McDermott. I'm pretty sure some of them live out here on the Key Peninsula. But finding the right relationship requires work, as I discovered when I began research for this article. I even did a little soul-searching and emotional homework in the process. So much for the law of unintended consequences.

For the first three months in my new community while looking for work, I watched a lot of television, and surfed the 'Net. I found sites for Christian, Catholic, Jewish, Baptist, and LDS singles. There are sites for Indian, Asian, and alternative lifestyle singles. I was a little curious about the sites for "mail order brides" from the Philippines, the Ukraine and Siberia...but that wasn't exactly what I had in mind.

I figured with 1,480,000 "hits" for singles sites, there must be someone out there, just for me. After all, anyone with a computer must have a job (to afford the computer), some intelligence (to use it) and would, perhaps, share my appreciation for technology and communication.

Signing up with a couple of those "dot com" matchmaking services got a few responses. Some of them seemed a little too eager for my comfort level. I paid heed to warnings to exercise caution against fraud, be wary for my personal

safety, and use discernment to identify myth versus reality.

I finally met three men. One was from Shelton, a nice man but much too far away. One of them was already involved with someone else. And the other was looking for a 20-something "Barbie" to wear on his arm. It has been said, "One can never be too rich or too thin." Let me add, "...or too picky."

Still, I found myself on a quest against loneliness. With a friend, I took dance lessons from Doug Henry. But without a steady partner to keep in practice, I soon forgot almost everything. One night, there was a band playing in one of the local establishments, and I danced a few times with a fella from the KP. I ran into him again, a few weeks later, and we started seeing each other socially. After a few months, I think we both realized it wasn't a good match. Let's face it. At this point in life, some of us can be pretty set in our ways.

A recent acquaintance, Rhonda Farnam, suggested I get involved in community activities and clubs. I had already done that. A 20-year member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary, I am now involved with the organizing committee for the KP Community Council. And, in addition to my volunteer work for the KP News, I belong to the KP Lions Club. At one of the community events, I did meet a man. But he tells me I'm too busy for a relationship.

I even attended a couple of our community's dances, thinking, "Surely, I might meet someone there." When I asked several people about singles opportunities on the Key Peninsula, no one had any solid leads. One man told me honestly, "I'm still married." Most of the "singles" were there with their steady partners. One table of women

"When I asked several people about singles opportunities on the Key Peninsula, no one had any solid leads."

alone piqued my curiosity; but they told me it was "girls night out," and their husbands were at home.

So, how do busy Key Peninsula singles meet? In Bremerton, there is an active Business and Professional Singles Club...too far to drive. There is a card club that meets weekly on Thursdays at noon, in the KP Civic Center. Rose Malmgren told me, "It's really not a singles group, though some of the members have been widowed." As it turns out, I don't qualify, anyway. But Malmgren said, "We welcome anyone over-55 to join us for potluck, all sorts of games, and companionship." Some churches offer singles ministries; but it seems wrong to join a church for reasons other than worship and praise. And my call to the Wauna Social Club

went unanswered.

Not ready to give up, I called Christy Watson at the Key Peninsula Community House and asked her, "Does the Community House have opportunities for singles?" She said, "No." And without hesitation, she asked, "But...why not?" Then she said, "There's really nothing for singles to do without crossing the bridge...and I'm just not a bridge-crossing person." She added, "All my social engagements are with my dogs." Later in the conversation, Christy said, "There are so many things to do, and this is such a beautiful place." So, we started planning.

If you are single and unattached, looking to socialize with other singles, call 253-691-1320 with your level of interest, name, contact phone number, and age (range). Rather than depend on a mutual friend to play Cupid, waste time and money barhopping, place (or answer) a personal ad, or go on the ever-dreaded "blind date," let us know so we can invite you to our singles mixer event.

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'You Make Me Feel Like Dancing'

By Karl Anderson
KP News

I attended the dance at the Civic Center on Saturday, Sept. 13. It was the first dance I have ever attended there, and to say I was impressed would be an understatement.



**Karl Anderson
AND SO
IT GOES...**

The entertainment was provided by the Fred Schactler Band, which includes Fred Schactler and Melody Funk. Not only was I impressed by the quality of music they provided, but also by the quality of dancing I witnessed by those who attended. People danced the Samba, Cha Cha, Boogie, West & East Coast Swing, Rhumba, waltzes, and even the Tango. It was no surprise, however, that most of these people had been previously instructed by Doug Henry of In-Step Dance, who teaches a wide variety of

dances at the Civic Center.

There were a variety of activities I could have chosen from that night, but when I learned that this was one of the fund-raising events the Civic Center was hosting to help meet their rising insurance costs, I thought, "How can I go wrong? I'll have a great time doing something that supports my community!"

It had been far too long since my dancing shoes came out of the closet and I'm glad they did!

The next dance at the Civic Center, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m., will feature the Starbird band, which has played five-star hotels, venues all over the country and abroad. Swing, rock, country, even disco — they can do it all. You can be sure that I'll make that one, too. Tickets are very inexpensive, the dance supports our Civic Center, and I know I'm going to have a blast, just like I did Sept. 13 — and so will you.

I can't think of a better way to spend a cold November evening.

Hope to see you there!

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Artist Sandra Newhouse: Painting through emotion

By Deborah Hoffman
KP News

The eclectic range of artwork by watercolor artist and entrepreneur Sandra Newhouse represents a multitude of moods finely tuned from life experiences and the strong energetic spirit of the woman herself. Her life has been a balance as a mother, spouse, community volunteer, and friend to fellow artists. Her self-expression as an artist and entrepreneur has a definitive place in Gallery Row, an art galley in Gig Harbor that she co-founded with other women artists over a decade ago.

"I like to paint the feeling of a place or time," Newhouse said. She paints people and places from a range of subjects directly, or from photographs such as



Northwest landscapes, unique views of nature and flowers, architecture of Europe, and abstract renderings.

Her primary form of art is transparent watercolor, but she also does collage and water media abstracts. She enjoys watercolor because it is a challenge every time.

"I heard a lot of scary stories that kept me away from it for a long time," she said, "and there didn't happen to be a watercolor instructor when I went to college the first time."

It was Tacoma artist Val Persoon who finally demystified watercolor for her in the early 1980s. She was working mainly with acrylics, when she decided to take a workshop from Persoon. She liked her style and method and studied with her for two years.

Newhouse describes her painting style as "free motion."

"I see things pretty emotionally, and I paint from the shoulders in a wide sweeping motion while standing up," she said.

She does fight the tendency to be too controlled. "If I paint long enough I'll tidy things up. I've had to learn to let go and let things be as they are," she said.

At one point Newhouse thought she would be a fashion designer or illustrator. She tried her hand at ad design, creating some original works for a music company. This path was interrupted when she chose to stop painting to raise small children. "I had no place to hang



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

Key Peninsula's Sandy Newhouse with her work displayed at Gallery Row in Gig Harbor. Below, Newhouse works on a new painting.

the oil paintings, they would take too long to dry," she said. So, she switched to painting with acrylics.

But she is not afraid to experiment and to learn. She recently took another workshop in Bellevue by Wisconsin artist Glenn Bradshaw. After privately critiquing her work he encouraged her to break out of the habit of using the same color process in her painting. So instead of beginning a painting with an undercoat of yellow, she is now experimenting with new colors.

She will present this new work as the featured artist at Gallery Row in October.

Newhouse shares Gallery Row with 13 other artists. In the late 1980s she started working with a small group of women who have shared a common journey of growth, professional development and friendship. Gallery Row began as a work-

ing studio. A year ago they moved to a larger building with more space to accommodate more artists. Each artist featured in the studio has a distinct style unique from the others. However, all of the work in the gallery is complimentary and creates a unified environment.

"We decided that we were painting well enough so that we could critique each other's work and bring in other instructors for variety," she said.

Newhouse's work has also received awards at the Washington State Fair this year. She lives on Vaughn Bay in her home nestled near the water with an Olympic Mountains view, and paints in a studio that once belonged to her two daughters, now grown.

Always looking for a new light to bring to her work, she said, "Now, I paint for myself."

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Obituaries

Pearl P. Johnson

Longtime pioneer Pearl Johnson was born Dec. 19, 1904. She lived in Home and passed away Sept. 1, 2003.



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Pearl was preceded in death by her husband, Oscar, her daughter, Lorraine Rickey, and granddaughter, Debra Lindstrom. She leaves behind a great-grandson, niece and great-nieces and -nephews.

Pearl has enjoyed most of her life by oil painting, China painting, wood carving and gardening. She also spent many years hiking at Mt. Rainer and the Olympics. Her sweet smile will be missed by all.

No funeral is planned, but the family will hold a private memorial.

D. Eloise Gay

D. Eloise Gay, 89, a resident of Herron Island for 26 years, died Sept. 15, 2003. She was born in St. Paul, Nebraska on July 17, 1914.

Eloise was an avid gardener and reader. She was a very tiny lady and loved to accessorize.

Family members include: her husband, Wilson; daughter, Johanna Crichton, and companion, William Peterson of Steilacoom; son, Christopher Crichton (Kay) of LaCenter; grandchildren Anna Garza of University Place, Jon Garza of Puyallup, Lance Garza of Port Orchard, Cody Crichton of LaCenter; and great grandson, Jake Garza of Puyallup.

At her request, no services will be held. Remembrances may be made to the American Heart Association, 4414 Woodland Park Ave No, Seattle, WA 98103. Arrangements by Haven of Rest.

Play ball!



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

This fall, the Key Peninsula Softball Association will host a rain or shine "Fall Ball" co-ed, slow pitch, softball league, consisting of eight games per team: two back-to-back games each Sunday, over four consecutive Sundays, Oct. 19 to Nov. 9. The league is limited to the first eight teams that register and pay in full.

Each team's registration form and full league fee, made payable to the Key Peninsula Softball Association, must be received by Oct. 12. KPSA contacts are Fred Olsen at 253-994-9240 or via email at olsen1@earthlink.net, Jerry Schick at jaschick@yahoo.com, Austin Miller at 253-884-6019, or Butch Fontenot at 253-884-9046. Pictured above, teams playing the Mud Bowl in September.

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Art is Key on the Peninsula

By L. Brudvik Lindner

The weather is cooling down, but Two Waters Arts Alliance (TWAA) is heating up on the Key Peninsula. Fall is the perfect time to partake in the TWAA atmosphere of activities.

October through November TWAA is offering: Writing Without Teachers; Acoustic Jam Sessions; Intermediate Drawing with Colored Pencil; Framing and Presentation; Sumi Painting Workshops; Paint a Bottle of Red Wine; Beginning Drawing; Monthly Life Drawing Studio and, most seasonally relevant, Mask Making with Margo Macdonald, a free pre-Halloween community event—materials supplied.

Blustery board member activity



The Genuine ARTicle

occurred at the September TWAA meeting. With six additional board members elected, the current TWAA board consists of: President, Kathy Bauer; Vice President, Lois Ashley; Past President, Margo Macdonald; Secretary, Kristen Bottiger; Treasurer, Tim Heitzman; Janice McIntyre; Phil Bauer; Elaine Quigley; Paddy Gilson; John Buday; Jan Buday; Virginia Thompson and Syliva Haase. Keeping the organization upbeat and operational, Carolyn Wiley, experienced nonprofit organizer, will facilitate the TWAA October board retreat.

On another TWAA front, the Artists in School (AIS) program is making great progress with committee chair Paddy Gilson spearheading the effort. Paddy, a retired schoolteacher, is coordinating the AIS pilot program scheduled for late winter. With the support of the Peninsula School District, the AIS program will bring together artists and teachers to produce artistic experiences for children attending Evergreen, Vaughn, Minter Elementary and Key

Peninsula Middle School. Community participation is needed; get involved in this unique community effort of exploring and nurturing young artistic talent on the Key Peninsula, call Paddy, 884-9200.

On a collaborative front, TWAA and the Longbranch Improvement Club successfully brought together local artists and actors for the September event of "Sylvia." Six local artists were featured in the LIC lobby, showcasing talents from oil painter Kurt Solmssen, featured October artist at the Foster White Gallery downtown Seattle, to glass bead jewelry by Jan Buday, to intaglio and watercolor painter Carol Marriott. In addition, a big TWAA honorable mention goes out to board member John Buday for designing and building the "Sylvia" props and set. Elaine Quigley, Kathy Bauer and Margo Macdonald are also commended for their brush stroke efforts on the "Sylvia" set.

The October Flavor of Fall Auction offered TWAA an opportunity to work

with yet another local organization, the Key Peninsula Civic Center (KPCC). TWAA members contributed to the beautification of the Flavor of Fall cruise ship; these efforts were in exchange for services provided to TWAA by KPCC. Acknowledgements of gratitude are extended to Kristen Bottiger, Elaine Quigley, Phil and Kathy Bauer, Margo Macdonald, Jan and John Buday, and Virginia Thompson for your many hours of Flavor of Fall efforts.

The collaborative work with LIC and KPCC are examples of TWAA's commitment to working with local organizations for the benefit of promoting art and creating beauty on the Key Peninsula — from KPNorth to KPSouth. TWAA exists for the citizens of this community; help us keep our creative spirit alive and kicking by reserving your space in a fall class, teaching an art class or calling for membership information. Make art history on the Key Peninsula, call 884-3456. Scholarships and family discounts are available for most classes.

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FREE Writing Without Teachers: Workshop for anyone who is writing or wants to write. Saturdays, through Nov 1	Framing and Presentation: Half day workshop with Bev Pedersen Sat., Oct 11	Beginning Drawing: Draw from still life and live models with Margo Macdonald, Age 10 up, Nov 1, 8, 15
Intro to Aqueous Media: Beverly Pedersen leads this mixed-media class Sept 27	Sumi Painting Workshops: Resi Moriarity teaches beginning and continuing sumi. Saturdays, Oct 18 and 25	Life Drawing Studio/Monthly Register: for 3 sessions, Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19
Acoustic Jam Sessions: Jam with local folk who just want to play. Thursdays, Sept 18, Oct 2, 16, 30, Nov 13.	Paint Red Wine: Paint and taste a variety of red wines. 21 or over. Sat. Oct 25	

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There are some exceptions to these rules that involve previous contact but Realtors have been made aware of these rules and should abide by them. And, of course this is only applicable to telephone calls not personal contact or mailings.

We would like to welcome to our office Jayne and James Phaby, working as a team to help with your real estate needs. They had previously worked in Windermere Port Orchard, after moving here from the Sacramento, Ca. area. They have two children Sarah and Isaiah and live in the Lake of the Woods area.

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News from the KPPRD

By Nancy Lind, Commissioner

The ball season at the KP Sports Center is winding down. The Softball Association teams are playing games four evenings a week and their final tournament will be the weekend of Oct. 11-12. The third annual Turkey Trot Co-Ed Softball Tournament will be held Nov. 15-16.

Entry fee is \$120, deadline for entry is Nov. 1. The hope is for 12 teams, first pay, first play, toms hit 16" ball, hens hit 12" ball, players run bases the opposite way and there will be awards and a barbeque. Contact Fred Olsen at (360) 895-4032. The Softball Association is trying to put together a Winter League for four

consecutive Sunday afternoons (Oct. 19 - Nov. 9). More information will be available soon.

The Mud Bowl Tournament the week-end of Sept. 6-7 was a big success. There were 17 teams from all over the area and the park was full of players, campers, happy faces, happy kids and nice people. It was a bit rainy but that's why it's called the Mud Bowl Tournament. They have been coming to this park for several years and they love it here.

The next major job for the commissioners is to identify capital improvement projects for the REET funds. The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Park Plan is coming into its final stages of getting approval from

the KP Park District. If it is approved, it will be submitted to Pierce County and the State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation for approval.

The Friends of the Wauna Post Office meet on the 4th Thursday, 7 p.m., at the Historical Museum, to keep planning the restoration of the building. Anyone interested in helping can contact Nancy Lind at 884-3347 or Dale Skrivinich at 884-2712.

A new commissioner was selected to fill Fred Ramsdell's unexpired term. John Glennon, who has been involved with the parks previously, was sworn in during a KPPRD meeting in September.

KUDOS and many thanks to Leonard at Horseshoe Lake Auto Wrecking for

donating his rig to take some very heavy scrap metal from Home Park and the KP Sports Center, to Nick and his sons, Arten and Dimitri, neighbors of Home Park, for painting the tan fence between the properties, to Joelene Swanson, who is finishing the sign in front of Home Park, to the county for the great ditching, rock work and culvert restoration at Home Park and to the women from the Washington Corrections Center who picked up a ton of garbage, replaced railings on the cedar fence, weed whacked and cleared trails in the Rocky Creek Conservation Area.

For more information, call the KP Sports Center at 884-9240 and leave a message or Nancy Lind at 884-3347.

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Life as a geoduck

By Karl Anderson
KP News

Next month: We continue our coverage of the disputed geoduck issue on the Purdy spit.

The geoduck is born as a free-swimming "larva" for the first few months of its life. At this stage it is less than 1/8 inches in length. It does not settle to the bottom until reaching its "setting" stage, which is the beginning of the shell growth. With the formation of the shell the geoduck is now heavier than water and it is able to sink.

Once on the bottom, it begins to burrow in with its foot, located at the opposite end of its neck. Hey — kinda like us! It filter feeds algae and other nutrients

from the water through its neck, filtering out pollutants and converting them to nitrates, which benefit many other forms of marine life.

Burrowed safely in the sand or mud, the only part of the geoduck that exposes itself above the substrate is the end of the neck. When disturbed, the neck retracts down below the ground. Geoducks reach sexual maturity after three years and may well live to be over 160 years old.

As the animal grows, so does its shell. An old geoduck may have a shell length of 8-9 inches. The substrate has a great deal to do with the texture and quality of the geoduck. Lighter sand ultimately produces an animal that is lighter in color and more delicate or tender. A darker, courser, muddy substrate tends to produce darker ones that are tougher and have a much stronger taste.

Place your business card in this advertising directory!
E-mail keypennews@yahoo.com or call ad rep Karl Anderson at 884-5166 for details.



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To Your Health

By William F. Roes, M.D.

October heralds the real fall weather, Husky Football against real Pack 10 opponents, and for us at the clinic, the beginning of flu shot season. Each year the Center for Disease Control selects the three strains of influenza virus they feel are most likely to cause widespread infections. This changes every year, so the vaccine also changes, although it frequently has two of the three strains from the previous year.

This year's vaccine will cover A/Panama (Moscow like), A/New Caledonia, and B Hong Kong. You may recall the delays in getting the vaccine from years past. They have supposedly "fixed" the supply problem, but we still haven't had any guarantees when the vaccine will arrive. We are making a leap of faith and plan to start giving flu shots this year on Saturday, Oct. 18 beginning at 9 at the Key Medical Center (15610 89th St in downtown Key Center).

Once again, the vaccine is recom-

mended for virtually everyone over 65, as well as younger residents with chronic health problems such as diabetes or lung disease. This year's strategy is to provide the vaccine to senior citizens first. The vaccine takes several weeks to take effect, and its protection usually lasts 4-5 months.

We will also try to provide flu shots for the community as well as our regular patients by setting up specific times for community flu shot clinics. At these clinics anyone from the peninsula can receive a flu shot for a nominal fee even if they are not our patients. The first will be on Oct. 18 as stated above, at the Senior Lunch at the Community House

on Oct. 22 at noon, and at the Herron Island Fire Station on the afternoon of Oct. 27. Look for a sign on the road in front of the library announcing when community shots will be available, or call us at 884-9221 if you have any questions about this year's flu vaccine or where to get it.



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KP family helps orphanage in India

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

When Key Peninsula resident Lois Ashley visited the Civic Center's Arts and Crafts Show in 1996, she was looking for some Christmas wares. What she found was the story of an orphanage and an "old age home" in India that was desperately in need of help.

At the crafts fair, Ashley talked with a Gig Harbor woman who was selling embroidery linens, and found out they were made by women in Vellamadam, India, who were part of a center helping orphans, poor families, and the elderly. Instead of buying, she made a small donation of \$25, and went on.

It was only the beginning of what would become a family effort to help the center in its work. "About two months later, I received a thank you letter from Father Joseph telling me about his orphanage and the two of us have been exchanging



Father Joseph and the St. Joseph's Centre's orphans in India in June 2002.

letters," she said. "My husband and I have been making that \$25 donation monthly ever since."

When she learned two years ago the Catholic priest would be in the Gig Harbor area, she invited a handful of

friends to dinner and asked them to bring their checkbooks.

"I have been associated with St. Joseph's center long enough to know that it serves the needs of children and elderly people," Ashley said. "It has a school, a hospital,

Fund-raiser details

Lori and Richard Brudvik Lindner are extending the dinner invitation, Oct. 25 at 6 p.m., to anyone who would like to support St. Joseph's Center.

For details, call 884-4253 or 756-5060.

and job training." To her knowledge, she added, they don't receive any government funding, as Father Joseph Swan himself does much of the fund-raising.

"The dinner was a family idea. Last year, people were very generous," Ashley said, adding that her friends raised about \$1,000 that night. This year, people will have the chance to extend their generosity again—Father Joseph is coming to the area in October, and Ashley's daughter, Lori Brudvik Lindner, and her son-in-law, Richard, also local residents, are playing hosts.

(From BUS, Page 1)

trip, as well as pre-approved stops for riders who phone in reservations in advance.

Buses will run seven times a day, which means it will be possible for a would-be commuter to board a shuttle in Key Center at 5 a.m., transfer to an express bus at the Purdy Park & Ride, and arrive at 10th and Commerce in Tacoma by 6:44 a.m. Or, if that strikes one as too early, there will be shuttles at 6:35, 8:35, 10:35, 1:40, 3:40, and 5:40 as well. The service between the peninsula and the Purdy Park & Ride is free — but those transferring to the 100 or 102 buses into Tacoma will pay the normal \$1.25 fare.

When asked why service is being restarted now, Lind Simonsen, a spokesperson for Pierce Transit, indicated that funding constraints brought on when the state Legislature voted to eliminate the matching 0.3 percent from the Motor Vehicle Tax in 1999 forced the Pierce Transit Board to reduce fixed route service by 14 percent. The route on the Peninsula was eliminated, along with routes that served Orting, Enumclaw, Sumner, McChord AFB, Fort Lewis, and parts of Tacoma.

Last February Pierce Transit promised to restore service if voters approved an additional 3/10th of 1 percent increase in

the county sales tax. The measure passed so service is back.

However, rather than simply restore service, Simonsen indicates that Pierce Transit staff wanted to ensure that they satisfy as many needs as possible. "Key Peninsula has a history of low ridership," Simonsen says. "That limits how much service we can offer. But we asked ourselves how we could best serve people, including those with disabilities, and came up with Bus Plus, a service that makes regular stops and takes care of those with special needs as well."

And the service already has at least one enthusiastic fan. Peninsula resident Victor Wong made use of the existing dial-up service in order to get to work, and now that Bus Plus is available, he expects a smooth transition. "It's tremendous," Wong says enthusiastically. "I am picked up and dropped off about 50 yards from my house. It's a wonderful service."

It should be noted that because a shuttle may take a detour in order to pick up riders who made reservations, it could arrive at the next scheduled stop as much as 20 minutes later than the posted schedule. However, even if that occurs, the bus will still arrive at the Purdy Park & Ride in time to transfer to the Pierce Transit Route 100 and Route 102 buses, Simonsen says.

