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Proposed GH hospital needs community support

By Irene Torres
KP News

If the show of support at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Oct. 30 was any indication, the new hospital in Gig Harbor can't be built soon enough. Nearly 50 residents turned out, and even state Rep. Lois McMahan made the trek to the Key Peninsula to hear the details of the proposal, well-presented by Laure Nichols, senior vice-president for planning and business development, and Budd Wagner, vice-president for marketing, of Franciscan Health System (FHS).

"It's not a done deal," said Wagner, noting that hospital bed allocation is a "heavily regulated business, requiring a lengthy certificate of need process," conducted by the state Department of Health.

Nichols, a third-generation Key Pen resident, said, "The state needs to hear from



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Franciscan Health System's Laure Nichols and Budd Wagner during the well-attended KP Civic Center presentation.

citizens that the new hospital makes good sense and will benefit the entire area." A public hearing will give citizens the opportunity to testify with examples of the need.

(See **HOSPITAL**, Page 28)

Community preparedness:

Key Pen is prime earthquake zone

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The Tacoma Fault made lots of headlines last month in the local daily papers and on television. Scientists have recently discovered, the reports said, that the fault is much longer than previously thought and could cause a major shallow earthquake.

The fault, stretching through Gig Harbor and on to Allyn in Mason County, travels right through Key Peninsula neighborhoods, across the North end somewhere from the Minter

(See **QUAKE**, Page 27)

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Nam veteran honored

Story and photo by Hugh McMillan
KP News

Key Peninsula resident Janice Piercy in November handed the memorial flag of her late husband, Jack Piercy, to Rick Stout, VFW Post 4990 commander and a member of VFW District 4's Honor Guard, and Jerry Davis, member of VFW Post 4990 and VFW District 4's Honor Guard, who raised it to be flown at the Purdy Memorial Park. The flag, used at Piercy's honors ceremony, had been tri-folded and given to his widow, according to tradition.

Piercy, who died Aug. 26, was a lifetime member of the VFW.

Born in Parkland in 1925, Piercy was a 1943 graduate of Lincoln

High in Tacoma and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II at Luke Air Base, Ariz. After honorable discharge, he attended the University of Puget Sound — then a college — and joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve with which he served 21 years.

He was recalled to active duty in 1968 during the Viet Nam War and flew between McChord Field, Wash., and Viet Nam, Spain, Greece and other points.

He retired in 1970, met, married and lived from 1985 on with his wife, Janice, at Lake of the Woods for 18 years, during which he was an independent insurance agent. He sang with the Normana Male Chorus of Tacoma and with the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church choir.



Janice Piercy hands the flag to Rick Stout, VFW Post 4990 commander and member of VFW District 4's Honor Guard, and Jerry Davis, member of VFW District 4's Honor Guard.

Peninsula High Boosters raise a bundle for youth

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

One of the movers and shakers who made the Peninsula High School Boosters 10th annual dinner and auction such a success in November, Maria Lanier, said, "Our figures are preliminary but we made approximately \$42,000!"

What a great thing to accomplish for the students of Peninsula High School.

"Our first goal was to sell out the evening and we certainly did that," she added. "We had a waiting list. People were trying to make reservations up to the day of the event."

The committee's focus was to continue the PHS traditions, "because that is what it's all about: the students of Peninsula High."

The chief auctioneer was Curtis Scott of Home, where he and wife, Patricia, principal of Peninsula High, live. He was one effective money generator! But it was Breanne Coats who was described by



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Curtis Scott of Home, where he lives with wife Patricia, principal of Peninsula High School, drives a mean auction and churns up money from supporters of the school.

many of the parents and teachers involved in the production as "such an asset."

Coats, who helped with the event as part of her senior project, learned every facet

of organizing a great auction. Her work started in early June with the mailing of solicitation letters. She input all the information into the group's database, kept up with the correspondence, and made others aware of any needed follow-up. She acquired contributions for the auction throughout the community. She and her class of young people responsible for production of what many rightfully believe to be the finest high school newspaper in the nation, the Peninsula Outlook, of which she is the editor, donated a "snack attack" basket and a cookie monster basket. She and her sister, Ashley, donated a manicure basket that raised over \$100.

Coats is a senior on the Varsity Volleyball team and involved in various groups in school and her community.

"What makes Breanne so wonderful," said Lanier, "is the support she receives from her parents, Bill and Wanda Coats, along with that of her sisters, Angela and Ashley. Our committee's hats are off to her."

Civic Center board has election vacancies

Key Peninsula Civic Center election of officers and board members will be held at the Dec. 11, board meeting at 7 p.m. Nominations for the following positions will be taken:

Offices	Candidate
President	Betty Kelley
1st V.P.	Lloyd Miller
2nd V.P.	
Treasurer	
Secretary	
At Large	Sylvia Haase
At Large	Dale Loy
Past President	Dave Stratford

There are many other board openings, and members are looking for new volunteers.

"This is a great way to meet people in the community," says President Betty Kelley. "Come and be a part of one of our community's greatest assets."

The Key Peninsula Civic Center is operated by volunteers. Everyone on the Key Peninsula is eligible to be a member of the board.

Fire district tightens belt with 2004 budget

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Fire District 16 was facing a \$300,000 shortfall in its 2004 budget—so "tough decisions had to be made" for next year's expenditures, commissioners said.

Continuing the current level of services was the main priority, and the district made a variety of cuts to meet the projected 2004 income. Part of the shortfall is due to the impact of Initiative 747, which limits the department's tax increase. Over three years, the voter-approved I-747's impact totals more than \$300,000.

"It wasn't fun telling firefighters they

can't get the gear they need," said Commissioner Rick Stout during the public budget presentation in November.

The biggest cuts were made in the training budget and personnel—no assistant chief or new firefighters will be hired next year—as well as training. The district would need at least three more emergency-response staff to cover the growing number of calls, said Commissioner Fred Ramsdell. FD 16 has operated with the same staffing levels since 1997, while the yearly number of emergency calls since then has increased by more than 400. The increase in emergency response is either covered by paying overtime, or calling in

help from the Gig Harbor, Kitsap and Mason districts during crunch times.

"It's a bare-bones operational budget, these are basic needs," said Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen. "We are 90 percent tax-base supported, and it's an expensive district to run because we're so spread out."

Among the projected increases in 2004 are the dispatch user fees, which are based on the average number of 911 emergency calls. In 2004, the estimated cost is \$89,500—based on the projected number of calls of 1,883, that's almost \$48 per 911 call. But while that seems like a high expense for a "free" call, Nelsen said it's a very efficient countywide system and

if each emergency agency were to staff its own dispatch, it would cost a lot more. And, he says, just because that's a big expense, he doesn't want people to be discouraged from dialing 911: It's a cost that's all part of helping people and saving lives.

"The biggest challenge will be maintaining our level of operations and meeting all the increases without adequate funding," Nelsen said, adding that in essence the income in 2004 will shrink while the mandatory costs such as salaries are increasing.

The funds from the recently approved levy will not be used to offset any of the deficits, and be spent solely for purchasing new fire engines and other equipment over the next four years.

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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2. The objective of Key Peninsula News is to support and create community by reporting news and features and providing a forum for local information. News and editorial coverage focuses on the Key Peninsula and immediately adjacent areas within Fire District 16.

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Business owner presents his case at hearing

By Karl Anderson
KP News

Washington Shellfish owner Doug McRae had the chance to present his case in November in the dispute with the county over his geoduck harvesting business. A total of 79 exhibits were entered into evidence during the course of the hearing that included maps, photographs, documents, letters, and equipment relating to commercial geoduck harvesting.

Addressing a point of contention by the county, McRae openly admitted that there was inadvertent planting of geoducks in eelgrass beds by students during the first year, in 2000, when supervisory procedures were still in their infancy, but said it did not occur in subsequent years once the instruction and guidance had been refined. Of the 500,000 tubes that were planted by the company, between 100 and 150 had been planted in the eelgrass the first year, McRae said.

Testimony included statements from Dr. Daniel Cheney, executive director and senior scientist for the Pacific Shellfish

Institute, a nonprofit aquaculture resource and research group based in Olympia, who explained that "eelgrass is a very productive and robust species." He testified that "the county's claim that Washington Shellfish operation has been harmful to eelgrass is unfounded, unproven, and un-justified."

Cheney presented a detailed presentation that showed his studies of eelgrass and shellfish aquaculture activities from 1994-2000 had proven that "shellfish planting can and does very easily enhance optimal growth conditions for eelgrass." He also said that the subsequent removal of protective geoduck tubes by the county in August "caused significant damage in that virtually all of those geoducks that were living in and protected by the tubes were most likely killed."

Robin Downey, executive director of the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, said that their agencies' concern for the ecosystem was integrated into the code of practices and that Washington Shellfish has been a member of the organization since 2000 and to the best of her knowledge had consistently adhered to



Photo by Karl Anderson

Doug McRae is interviewed by King 5-TV reporter Gary Chittim on Nov. 20 at the Purdy Spit boat launch. King 5 is now conducting an investigation of McRae's case.

those practices.

The testimonies also disputed the fact that a Department of Natural Resources permit was required for the area and that the aquaculture permit stated as required from the Army Corps of Engineers has not been enforced for other commercial

companies.

Two complaints from local residents regarding the company's manner of using the Purdy Sandspit were also heard.

A decision and subsequent ruling on the case by the county was expected at the end of November, after press deadline.

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For more information, contact Bus PLUS at 581.8002, or go online to www.piercetransit.org/busplus.htm.

Editorial

Making the holidays special for everyone

As you are out and about this holiday season, gearing up for guests and shopping for the family, you may not have time to remember those among us who have fallen on hard times. Christmas is one of the saddest times of the year for the people who are lonely, with no family to share the celebrations, or for the parents who can't afford to buy presents for their children.

It's very easy to spot a mother around a grocery store close to Christmas, struggling to be thrifty, with a dark shadow over her face. For anyone who has ever had a Christmas without a special holiday meal or money to buy even the cheapest toy, that heavy-hearted look is unmistakable. For anyone who has been left in a lonely, dark corner by the celebrations and dinner parties happening elsewhere, that immense sadness is unforgettable.

It truly doesn't take much to bring a lit-

tle happiness to these neighbors of ours. When you fill your grocery cart with dinner necessities, drop in an extra onion or two, a couple of sweet potatoes, or one more can of pumpkin. These items would cost you a couple of dollars, but when you take them to the Key Peninsula Community House, they will be added to a family's holiday basket. And you don't even have to go that far: If you know a family or an elderly person who is struggling, put a basket together and take it over yourself. Better yet, invite that family or individual to share your family dinner.

As you look for stocking stuffers, buy two of some items, or add another toy or two to your list. They don't have to be expensive to make a child happy—and for some kids, it may be the only one they get. Take them to the Children's Home Society in Vaughn for their gift giving program, or keep your senses open and you will inevitably learn about some family who would give everything in the world for one little gift.

People who are spending the holidays alone would be glad just to have a compan-

ion, a reminder that someone cares. For the person who may have just lost a lifelong partner, the holidays especially compound the grieving. All it takes is a 10-minute visit to say hello and maybe share a cup of hot cider or a piece of pumpkin pie.

There are those who say, "I have to worry about me and mine first," or "I work hard for my money, I deserve to spend it on this or that I've always wanted," or "I don't have time for myself let alone others." No one argues with that. But when they become that lonely person or lose their job right before the holiday, to whom would they turn? If we all stop giving, and start taking, how long before the cup of generosity dries up?

On the other hand, by merely giving up a 16-ounce mocha one day, you could buy a bag of potatoes enough to make a few batches of homemade mashed potatoes, or a bag of candy that will bring multiple smiles to a child's face. Repeat this a few times, and soon enough you'll realize the true magic of Christmas: Your kindness will travel around for many miles, and some day return to you tenfold.

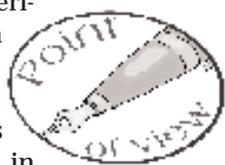
Economic development part of Key Pen's growth

By Bill Trandum,
KP News Publishing Committee Chairman

With the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge under construction and a nearby hospital being planned, the Key Peninsula is about to experience a significant — indeed unprecedented— period of rapid growth and development.

Whether we think it's good or not, this expansion is now in process and will likely continue at an accelerating pace for at least the next five years. There are many aspects of growth management over this period that will occupy much of our attention: land-use planning, transportation infrastructure, public services (water, sewer), parks and recreation, communications, etc. While it's important to carefully manage all categories of development, one critical area that is often overlooked yet has the most profound long-term impact is economic development.

Especially as it concerns our regional economy over the next few decades, it is vital that we as a community do whatever it takes to create in the Key Peninsula a vibrant, growing economic environment sufficient to sustain the rest of our growth in services and infrastructure. We must be successful in this endeavor; failure will result in a depressed local economy barely



able to keep up with the increasing tax burden needed to support the embedded costs of expansion. As a community, we will either control the direction and process of our economic development, or others will make decisions for us. The challenge for us is this: Can we effectively manage our own resources and thereby control our own economic future?

Lots of people talk about economic development. We frequently hear candidates for office promise it. But what is it? Simply put, economic development is creating an environment wherein more dollars flow into our community than flow out, in other words an export economy. An export economy is one where goods and services created here are sold elsewhere. The net result is that the inflow of dollars is greater than the outflow.

So how do we do that? Well, we could ask our congressman to locate, say, a Navy base here. That would make sure we have more dollars coming in than going out. Or we could ask Boeing to locate an assembly plant here. We're pretty sure that neither of those will happen. I suppose we'd better set our sights a little lower.

We could ask a major "box store" to locate here, but its presence wouldn't do the same thing. It might create a few jobs, but would probably drive locally owned small businesses out. And the box store would likely buy its services (accounting,

insurance, advertising, legal, etc.) in somebody else's hometown. So we'd end up with our citizens improving the quality of life for folks in, say, Bentonville, Ark. (the headquarters of Wal-Mart).

It also doesn't do any good to recruit more businesses like the ones we already have. We don't need to increase the competition for the dollars that are spent here now....otherwise we end up with vitally important local business owners working ever harder to capture a smaller share of the market.

So, here's where we need to be creative. What can we do, here on our peninsula, to attract dollars from outside the community that will stay here and support the businesses we now have and create additional jobs here as well?

Some thoughts come to mind, but they will have to wait for another month. In the meantime, you are invited to think of ideas of your own and send them to the KP News. The collective wisdom of the community trumps any one person's vision nearly every time. Mail to us at PO Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394; or e-mail to publisher@keypennews.com.

Please, let us hear from you.

Bill Trandum lives in Vaughn. He is a graduate of the University of Washington, holds a master's degree from Harvard University, and is former chairman of the Pierce County Strategic Planning Task Force.

Letters to the Editor

Special dinner for seniors

For many years we have put on a Christmas Day party for seniors who would otherwise be alone on that special day. Because this party is done by invitation only, we need help from our community so that those particular individuals get an invitation extended to them.

Luckily, we have had many fine helpers such as Eleanor Stock and Bob Schottland who coordinated and contacted many local residents to get them invited. This year, Marguerite Bussard, Marlies Van Cise and Cristi Watson have volunteered to coordinate guests for us. If you know of a senior who would be at home alone on Christmas, please call one of these ladies and give them the names so those seniors will be able to join us. Please call Marguerite at 884-3771, Marlies at 884-5608, or Cristi at 884-4440.

If you have any other questions please call us at 851-4556. Thank you for your help.

*Mike and Joyce Salatino
Wauna*

Key Pen close enough to 'Mayberry' for resident

We are all so lucky to live in a small population area. It is filled with wonderful people I met through my child-care home and shopping here.

Recently, I got an even more touching view of Key Center. My 86-year-old mother was on a three-day birthday trip to Kalais with my sister, Shel. They drove to a pay phone so I could talk to mom on her birthday. They were using a phone card, and after Shel put in the first numbers, she asked mom quickly for my phone number.

Poor mom went blank—trying to touch the number in the air didn't help either. She told my sister the only number that came to mind. It was the wrong number. But for a wrong number, it turned out right after all.

The woman on the other end knew us, looked up our number and mom was tickled pink. After I hung up, Lynn Reaves called to see if they had reached me. Thank you so much, Lynn, for being a right number.

We may not be "Mayberry" and have "Sheriff Andy" and "Opie"—but we are close enough for me.

*Helen Macumber
Key Center*

PHS wrestlers get volunteer recognition

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Young people these days don't always get the recognition they deserve for doing good deeds, says Key Peninsula Community Services Director Cristi Watson—which is why KPCS made sure they recognized one group of outstanding young people. The Peninsula High School wrestling team, tough on the mat but all manners at the Old Timers' Day in August while directing traffic and helping with security, was named "Volunteer of the Month" by KPCS.

"You are really making a name for yourself out there, and the community enjoys seeing you," said KPCS board member Bud Ulsh, who along with Watson dropped by Peninsula High in November to award the honor to the group.

About five dozen team members spent nearly 60 combined hours during the event, in one of their many community service projects.

"We really believe in community, and to be successful we need community



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

PHS wrestlers along with coach Chris Turner (far left); Al Hove, president of the team's boosters organization, Wrestler's Unlimited (first row, left); KP Community Services Director Cristi Watson (third row) and board member Bud Ulsh (first row, right).

involvement," coach Chris Turner said. "This year we've taken a different approach to fund-raising: We spend time doing community service then try to find a sponsor (to pay for the project work)."

Watson, who called the team "awesome" and "full of spark," said forming alliances is a win-win for all the sides

involved.

Anyone interested to sponsor a community service project for the team or join the boosters' group, Wrestler's Unlimited, should call Al Hove, the group's president, at 857-7318. Membership is free, and the group helps generate funds to support the team.

County needs residents for focus groups

The Pierce County Health Department is preparing educational materials about septic systems, and is looking for Key Peninsula as well as Gig Harbor residents to participate in a focus group. Each participant will receive a \$25 incentive for a two-hour session.

No personal information will be collected or questions asked about individuals' septic systems. Participants will give feedback on draft educational materials and discuss concerns they may have about septic system care. Several groups of seven to 10 people will be created, and meet during evening and day hours to accommodate different schedules.

Participants will also receive a report with the information learned from the sessions. Focus groups will meet beginning in early December, with the tentative location of Peninsula Light Co. Food will be provided. To sign up or ask details, call the Health Department at 798-7674. Residents who live near or on a shoreline are especially invited to attend.

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Initiative focuses on asset building

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

For more than a year, a handful of community leaders including representatives from local organizations Communities in Schools, Safe Streets and Children's Home Society have worked with the Peninsula School District on an initiative called Promise to Youth, a concept that builds community partnerships in order to promote positive asset building in students.

Based on the so-called 40 Assets model, the concept identifies internal and external "assets" ranging from caring and honesty to peer influence and access to youth programs. The Search Institute, which has identified those assets based on eight categories, looked at research showing a direct correlation between the number of the assets that youth have and at-risk behaviors such as violence and drug abuse.

"A collaborative effort focused on the same general vision can be very powerful," says PSD Assistant Superintendent

Bob Connelly. "It's not a classroom lesson, but a way of thinking and a way of life. If we become educated about the 40 assets, it becomes a natural extension of our everyday lives."

The goal of the initiative is to recognize the existing strengths of the district and the schools and build on them, through community partnerships, to offer more encouragement, positive activities, mentorships and other benefits that could help children succeed academically and socially.

The Promise to Youth steering committee, which has included Safe Streets' Dennis Taylor, Edie Morgan of the KP Family Services, former Communities in Schools of Peninsula Director Jeff Harris, Evergreen Elementary Principal Jackie Crisman, and Key Pen Middle School Principal BJ Bolson, has surveyed 1,710 PSD students last school year about the 40 assets, and many of the results reflected national averages.

The survey showed some strengths as well as identified potential areas of

Promise to Youth

To learn more about the Promise to Youth initiative, call the Peninsula School District at 857-6171.

focus. Strengths highlighted by the survey included family love and support, integrity and bonding to school. Reading for pleasure, having a caring community and adults as well as creative opportunities were among the identified challenges. A student forum also gave youth from all the three high schools a chance to participate in an open discussion.

This year's focus will include training, public workshops and community outreach.

"This will be a crucial year," says the Promise to Youth supervisor, Carol McLaughlin, PSD Community Partnerships and AFTER 'OURS coordinator.

"We have laid out a foundation and now we have to start building."

Briefs

Local heroes wanted for Citizen of the Year 2003

The sponsoring Key Peninsula Lions Club encourages people to submit names of persons they feel should be considered nominees for Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year 2003.

Anyone living on, owning property on, or working on the Key Peninsula may be nominated for volunteer services performed on behalf of the community. Members of the Lions Club are not eligible.

Letters of nomination should contain the name, telephone number, and mailing address of the nominee and a signed statement describing why the person making the nomination feels the nominee deserves recognition.

Letters should be mailed to KP Citizens of the Year, P.O. Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394, or emailed to hcmnp1000@harbornet.com.

For information, call 884-3319 or 884-3485. Nominations should be submitted no later than Jan. 15, 2004.

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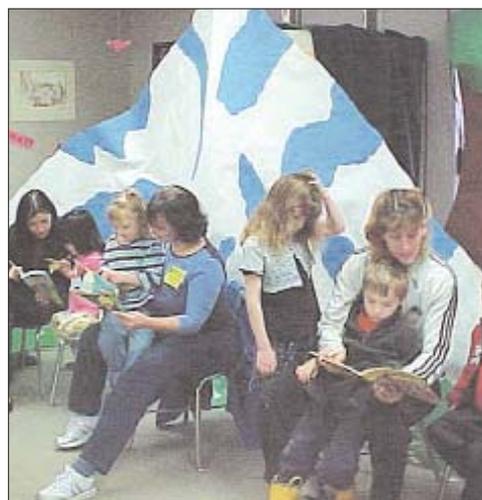
By Sabra Stratford
Special to KP News

Evergreen Elementary held its first Reading Is Fundamental Day on Nov. 13 in the school library. Staff and volunteers turned the library into four types of geographical areas found in the Northwest. Every student at Evergreen including the children in the Early Childhood Educational Assistance Program (ECEAP) selected a free book to take home.

Staff and parents collected, dried, and laminated autumn leaves so that each child also received a bookmark. Nineteen volunteers read to the children throughout the day.

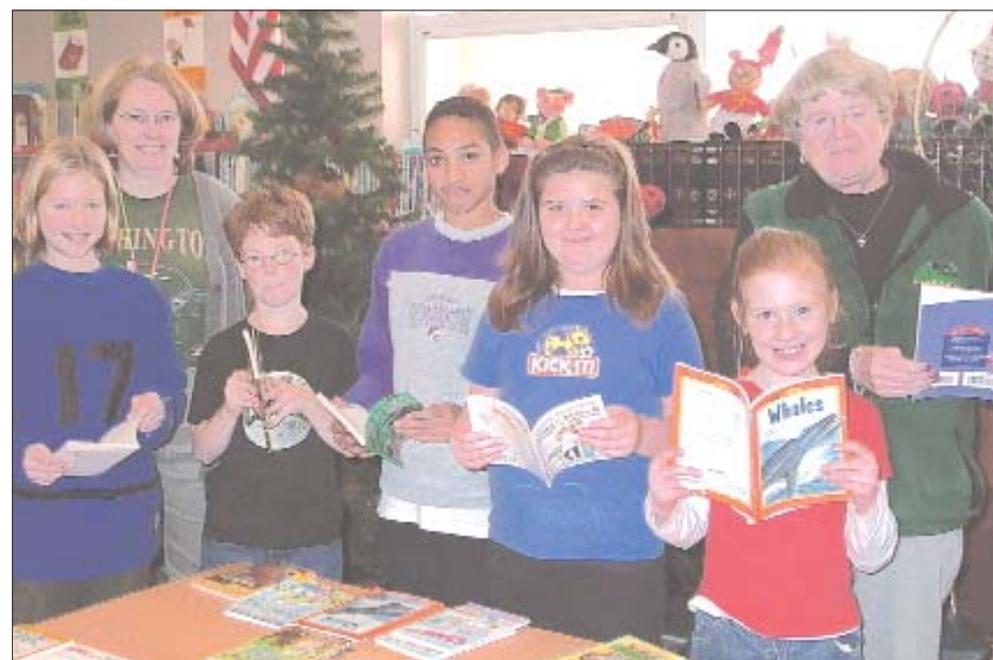
RIF Day is funded through a federal grant and community matching funds from the Angel Guild.

If you'd like to volunteer for a Reading is Fundamental Day or another event at Evergreen Elementary, call the school at 884-3393.



Reading in the Northwest

On top of a mountain
Under a tree
On a farm
And by the sea



Above, RIF Day organizers, Learning Assistance Program coordinator Sabra Stratford (right) and librarian Robin Lowe, with students, all of which received a free book appropriate to their grade levels. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

Left, Parents and students are enjoying the moment with a great book. *Photo courtesy of Evergreen Elementary*

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AN AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE



Photo by Hugh McMillan

The students in Jeff Stafki's fourth grade at Minter Creek Elementary paint didgeridoos, an Aboriginal instrument from Australia, in November. This artwork was part of an Australian unit of study in which the students learned about the cultures, geography, and history of Australia.

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PHS scholarship committee seeks donors

Peninsula High School has an extraordinary scholarship program, one of the best in the state, according to organizers. Many of the early members of the scholarship committee — which formed in 1984 — were from the Key Peninsula. They saw a need to provide not just financial backing, but also encouragement to young people to continue their education beyond high school.

The program has been very successful, providing awards to about 170 students each year. They may use the funds for either academic or vocational training.

Fall is the time the scholarship committee seeks new donors to extend the scholarship opportunities.

Organizations, business or individuals may create a named scholarship using their own criteria, or make a donation to the scholarship perpetual fund. Families can also set up a memorial scholarship for donations in the name of a loved one who has passed away.

Members of the committee are asking you to join your friends and neighbors in helping local youth get started on their post-high school education.

For more information on becoming a donor to the Hawks Scholarship Fund, call Peninsula High School or group president, Marsha Williams, at (253) 857-7557.

—Marsha Williams



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The passions of Doctor Chapman

By Karl Anderson
KP News Staff

Anyone who travels south past the intersection of Lackey Road and Key Peninsula Highway has seen the large Dudley Top Farm Apples sign, but probably few will know of the man behind this business, for nestled in a remote portion of the Peninsula is the sprawling 124 acres on which Dr. Kyle Chapman and his wife, Addy, reside.

Purchased by his family in 1908 from the original homestead in 1865 that was centered at Heron Point, his land sits adjacent to the homestead parcel, and an aerial photo of his property still reveals the old logging road and narrow gauge railway used by Puget Mill Co. that transported logs from the southern peninsula to Vaughn Bay.

But beyond being obviously devoted to his wife of 49 years—whom he knew for 19 years before they were wed, since the age of 11—Kyle Chapman has dedicated his life to other passions.

A graduate of Northwestern University Medical School in 1950, Dr. Chapman is a

general, thoracic, and vascular surgeon, who at the age of 78 is still practicing medicine. From 1954 to 1956 while stationed in France with the U.S. Air Force, he worked as an obstetrician and delivered 720 babies in 20 months. In addition to practicing at Northwest Hospital in Seattle two days a week he also has a complete medical facility, attached to his home, where he performs minor surgeries on a regular basis and still accepts new patients covered by Medicare and some other insurance companies.

But his passion doesn't stop there.

"We wanted to have a productive farm," he said. "Our land was deemed a Class 4 timber farm, which meant it was not worth replanting in timber, so we chose apples."

Of their 124 acres, 13 are apple orchards, consisting of 3,500 trees representing 25 varieties of apples. "In good years we can produce 25,000 pounds of apples," he said, "but a bad year may only yield 200 pounds. This year was especially bad because of the last cold spring we had. It didn't get much over 50 degrees. The Mason Bees don't become active until it reaches 53-54 degrees, while the



Photo by Karl Anderson

Dr. Kyle Chapman examines his apple crop. "Poor pollination gave us a small crop this year," he says.

honeybees don't become active until 59-60 degrees. So pollination was very poor for this year's crop."

Chapman also speaks negatively of the ever-increasing regulations over the past years that ultimately made it impossible for smaller orchardists to stay in business. "There are so many regulations about spraying, agricultural update courses that were scheduled on a very limited basis, record keeping, marked and limited entrances after spraying, that it made way too much work to stay in business," he said. "It's just another classic case of bureaucracy run amok."

Today the apples are used mainly for juice and cooking. The continuous restraints by the state have curtailed his dream to continue his orchards on a commercial basis.

The Chapmans also have llamas, sheep, and Welsh Ponies on their farm.

While in the Air Force in Europe,

Chapman visited England and discovered that his grandfather and his wife's grandfather had both been baptized in the Dudley Top Church—thus the name of his farm, Dudley Top.

"It was a very special place to both of us and we thought the name and how it was connected to both our families would continue with our farm," he said.

Shelves in Dr. Chapman's office are packed with Bibles of all languages in the world. "When I have a patient from another country I always give them a Bible in their native language," he said. "When Addy and I were going to get engaged, I told her I had a passion for the beach and the sea. 'That's OK,' she said. 'It's not another woman, so that's fine.'"

Many passions for a quiet, down-to-earth compassionate individual who has and continues to help others. And much more to a story than what you would expect from a billboard boasting of apples.



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Spotlight on Camp Stand By Me

By Danna Webster
KP News

Deep in the heart of Vaughn Bay lies a little piece of paradise called Camp Stand By Me. It is there to enjoy for the Key Peninsula community when it is not filled with Easter Seals summer campers.

The property was originally the farm of Dorothy Kellogg. At her passing, in 1971, her sister, Mildred McDermott, a long-time schoolteacher from Edmonds, donated the land, farmhouse, stable, orchard and marine facilities to Easter Seals Washington. Mildred said the donation was to honor her sister's handicap. It was Mildred's wish to transfer her sister's inspiration to the lives of others.

Key Peninsula residents can share her inspiration during the camp's off-season. In the fall and winter months, the swim-

ming pool is available for adult open swim and aquatic aerobics, as well as party rental, family reunions, off-season sports celebrations...you name it and the facility is yours to rent.

The pool is remarkably inviting. The 90-degree temperature is especially welcome to those who have issues with movement and cold. The pool serves individuals of all abilities and disabilities. There is a wheelchair that can float swimmers into the pool if they are unable to walk down the ramp. For some campers, this is the only time in a pool all year long. It is hard to get transportation, to dress, undress and get into a pool. This much-appreciated indoor-pool was achieved through efforts and donations of supporters like the Angel Guild, the Boeing Employee Good Neighbor Fund, the Glaser Foundation, Youth for Easter Seals and numerous individuals.

In the summer, Camp Stand By Me fills with campers who come to participate in swimming, boating, beach combing, horseback riding, sports and games, evening dances and campfires. Many campers are regulars, and some have come every year since the opening. They range in age from 7 to 70.

The staff come from all across the United States and many other countries. Several are striving for professions associated with this work: physical therapy, recreation, camping. Most are college age and they contribute "fabulous open hearts and lots of elbow grease," according to Laurie Hall, currently the only off-season employee—though she is assisted by Molly, the Border Collie, who is the official greeter.

Hall has worked for the camp since high school, and has since held nearly every position including director. She is a Red Cross instructor, works full-time elsewhere and says the camp work is her heart job.

Hall was once a resident of the Key Peninsula and being a lifeguard for the adult swim sessions at the camp helps her

Swimming pool

Call Laurie Hall to make arrangements for pool use, at 884-2722.

Private party rentals are \$40 per hour; adult swim is \$4 per session paid monthly; sessions are 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 9-10 a.m. Monday and Thursday.

Aquatic aerobics is \$40 per month or \$7.50 single class, with sessions at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday and Thursday (call MVP Therapy at 884-0841 for class details).

catch up on the news.

"What's really neat is their everyday life stories," Hall says about the folks in a morning adult swim class. "...They talk of their children, their activities, Angel Guild and the upcoming auction."

The community swim opportunities are a good deal for everyone involved. The neighbors can enjoy a great pool and the camp likes to have the pool open and utilized year-round. Exercise in this beautiful setting is no doubt good for the heart.

'Spirit Circle' looks for inner peace

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Every week, a small group of local residents gather around for a session of healing, spiritual renewal and prayer. The Spirit Circle, as they call it, helps them find harmony with each other and the Earth, as well as creates energy that can then be directed to heal specific needs, from sick people to the sick planet.

Blending Native American spiritual traditions, songs like Christian hymns, teachings from the Bible, drums and other musical instruments ranging from a guitar to a Tibetan bowl, the Spirit Circle focuses on

searching for inner peace while coming closer to nature.

"Our intent is to learn how to do things in a cooperative fashion for the purpose of healing the Earth and relationships," said Elaine Saunders, who helped Laura Huddleston restart the circle. Huddleston, an ordained minister as an Earth Steward and a wilderness guide who teaches through the Mountaineers, had started a similar group several years ago as an extension of Nature's Renewal, her massage therapy business that also offers yoga.

"I missed my circle," Huddleston said. But when the two women met through the yoga class, they "just clicked." The concept

of the circle wasn't new for Saunders, a wellness mentor who uses sound therapy and other experiential ways—like metaphysics—to help people heal.

The group is currently small, but children are welcome, as well as people not intimidated by a nondenominational, religious experience in a family-friendly atmosphere. One somewhat current "believer" includes Huddleston's husband, who until recently did not believe in the powers of the group's prayer. Until he felt the impact himself.

The Circle mostly focuses on those present, but members have also "put out an intent"—a strong, fixed thought focused

For details about Spirit Circle, call Laura Huddleston at 884-5432.

on a purpose or person to bring about a positive change—for friends and family members who are ill, neighbors and other local residents, loved ones in Iraq, and even sick horses.

They say "putting out the intent" is a skill that can be practiced to be more effective, much like their prayer. But, they say, it's really not their doing that brings the healing.

"We know we don't do any of it," Huddleston said. "God does it. The spirit does it. We're just putting out the intent."

Some intents remain unspoken, however: Anything that focuses on "don'ts," because the circle participants don't want to focus any energy on anything negative.

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From pioneer stock When the Montanans 'invaded': Part 2

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Lake Stansbury, the first name of Lewis Lake, still exists on some maps. The road to Vaughn was a narrow, rutted dirt track through the woods.

The Kupka family arrived in 1927 from Libby, with three well-laden vehicles. John Sr. had a 1912 Model T, and Merle, 13, drove a 1917 Model T with John beside him. Mrs. Kupka managed four children, including a nursing baby, in a 1925 Chevy.

**"We thought we were
in heaven."**

-Jane Van Slyke

One of the girls, Beatrice (Tradewell), said she and Elmer sat on top of stuff, while Elvera held the baby, Ruby. They traveled nine days, camping under a canvas over a pole. Merle's car had to be towed on and off the ferry from Tacoma, and left in a Gig Harbor shop for a few days.

At Lewis Lake, they stayed in their "tent," got soaked in a downpour, and found shelter in an old building where "you could throw a cat through the cracks," wrote Merle Kupka. They built a 16-foot by 18-foot house, lived in it a year and a half.

Melvin Brones, who worked in a store

in Havre and wasn't well, wanted to move his family west while he was still able. He wasn't about to buy property sight unseen. They first visited in eastern Oregon, and after a look at the Lewis Lake land, decided to head back there.

The Stinson brothers heard at the dance that a family named Brones had come in, but were leaving the next day. After the dance, about 1 a.m., they drove to the cabin where the Brones were staying, and called, "Brones! Come on out!"

Brones wondered who in the world would know him, but came to the door, and the Stinson boys convinced him to go with them the next day to look at some other property. He liked the looks of one piece, paid for it that day, and lived into his 80s at Vaughn.

Sally and Myrtle Nelson knew no English as small children. Sally did not attend school until Myrtle was 6. Then the two went together, sat in the back, and made paper dolls for their first few years of school. Eventually they learned English, much of it taught by playmate Jane Bradley.

The older Bradley sisters were disappointed to find no music or dancing at their new school in Vaughn. They taught their classmates the High School Fight Song by substituting Vaughn for Havre.

John Wolniewicz built a service station by the old Vaughn Post Office near the Civic Center, towed people as needed, provided



Photo courtesy of Beatrice Tradewell, third from right

The Kupka children at "Lewis" Lake in 1930.

mechanic services, and did whatever he could for the community. When the garage burned down, the pumps were saved from the fire, the community helped rebuild, and John was back in business.

Many women raised chickens and sold eggs. The men worked for Davidson Brothers Logging Co., Austin's mill, found other local jobs, or traveled to the Navy yard in Bremerton.

Everyone in the community looked forward to summer Sundays. Mothers made picnic lunches, children and adults swam and played games. "We thought we were in heaven," Jane Van Slyke recalled.

Times change. Lewis Lake? Today there are many homes and improved roads there around the water and among the trees.

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Longtime KP News member finds new career

A staff member of the former Key Peninsula News has retired. Alice Tramil was for many years an integral part of our community newspaper.

While still in high school in California, Alice

began her career as a graphic artist. During college, she continued to learn the many facets of newspaper publishing. When she and her husband,



TRAMIL

Erny, moved to Seattle in 1979, she continued to work at a newspaper.

In coming to the Key Peninsula, Alice worked part-time for the KP News. Her tasks included the paste-up and layout, putting the finished pages on light tables and awaiting the arrival of the proofreaders. Today, these tasks are all done by computer, and Alice lamented the fact that contact with people became less.

After 34 years, she felt it was time for a new challenge. Returning to school, she became a Certified Nurse's Assistant and now cares for mentally handicapped adults.

Alice's smile and laughter are deeply missed at the Civic Center. We are truly grateful for her support of the Center and her years of dedication to the Key Peninsula News.

—Sylvia Haase



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A love/hate relationship with garbage

By Nancy Lind
KPPRD Commissioner

I have a love/hate relationship with garbage. It's a relationship that I have been engaged in for many years and I don't fully understand it. A piece of paper on the side of the road is out of place. Eventually it will get wet, flatten out and over time deteriorate. It's tolerable because it will look less like garbage as time goes by. One piece is one thing, hundreds of pieces are something else. Why do people put them there? Why do they put a cigarette butt, a pop can, a fast food carton, etc. on the ground? Well, it's handy, it's lazy, it's convenient and it is usually done without a witness. Oh, how I hate these acts of littering.

When the Friends of Rocky Creek Conservation Area (RCCA) first started cleaning up that beleaguered 224 acres of tons of debris six years ago, we did not realize what a colossal job we were engaged in. Hundreds of baby diapers

had been dumped in one area that had been there so long, it took a while to figure out this weird, gelatinous stuff we were throwing into bags. Every old logging road had been used deep into the center of the site for bed springs, couches, appliances, household material of every description and tons of deteriorating bags of garbage. After the old garbage was pretty well gone, new garbage was dumped every week.

A short list of what people have dumped over the last five years would include bags of fully wrapped whole meats (turkeys, hams, kielbasa rings, etc. that still looked good), deer carcasses that animals drag around, deer hides in bags that scared us as they felt like bodies inside, piles of rotting fish carcasses, a pile of duck carcasses with only the breast meat gone (their little orange legs sticking up looking like carrot sticks), car bodies, bags of very nice children's clothing, untold bags of household junk and much, much more.

Several times we have sent letters to

addresses that we find, saying that we have found their garbage and will keep an eye out for their name showing up again. (The county is responding more to these complaints.) For about four years, a crew of women from the Purdy correctional center have come out almost every month to clean up all that mess. Today RCCA is a very beautiful park where many people are feeling safe. Garbage makes one feel unsafe.

For years, Eighth Avenue and KPN in Home was a familiar landmark, first as a recycling place, then as a dump and trash site.

Pierce County Responds cleaned it up over a year ago, taking 140 tons of garbage (which didn't include the bus and cars), at a cost of \$36,000. This was done at no cost to the KP Park District, but we signed an agreement to keep it clean. The Friends of Home Park have turned that abused ground into the grassy little park you see today and we have not had any dumping since we went to work on it.

The Key Peninsula Business Association cleans up a stretch of road from the Home Store to two miles north. I press eight members of the KPBA to come out on the highway at 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning every three months to clean up other people's unwanted garbage. How ugly this garbage is along our highways.

At the KP Sports Center, we find cigarette butts everywhere. Why? These are small items and can be easily placed in a container somewhere. We have a groundskeeper at the park who keeps the grounds clean but it costs the park district for his time to clean up the debris.

What does it take to get people to realize that there are many resources to handle unwanted material? The answer is not free garbage disposal, because other areas where it is free have illegal dumping too: Disposing of cardboard, cans and bottles at recycling centers is free, but we have found many boxes and bags of cans and bottles.

Garbage disposal isn't brain surgery. There's recycling, composting, people to help if paying the cost of dumping is a problem, ways to handle appliances and cars to keep them out of our woods and streams, taking good reusable things to Angel Guild and finally buying things in fewer throwaway packages.

So here's the love part. I love seeing these sites cleaned up. I love being part of the solution instead of part of the problem. I love seeing the dumping gradually diminish in the areas that we are cleaning up.

I LOVE a clean community. And if the "dumpers" would realize how they affect the "dumpees" — but that's it, they don't really care.

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TOPS' event a success

With the holiday season fast approaching, now is the time to watch our overeating. Stop by a TOPS meeting to help make your New Year's resolution easier. The group consists of men and women. Children must be 7 to join.

Here's a tip: If you have a craving, eat some fruits or vegetables. Craving something sweet? Have a glass of orange juice and drink it slowly so your stomach fills up and you won't have that sweet craving again.

We meet on Tuesday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Civic Center in the VFW room.

We had a very busy month hosting the "Harvest Festival" on Oct. 31. We had lots of volunteers and sponsors who helped this event go off with a blast.

Below is a list of sponsors who helped to make this event successful.

Windermere Realty of Key Center; M & M Company; Angel Guild of Key Center; Boy Scouts Troop #220; Thiftway; Albertson's; Key Peninsula Baptist Church; Dr. Drew Malidor; Sharon Kaffer; Key Peninsula Baptist Church Youth Group; Key Medical Center - Dr. Roes; Key Peninsula Lions; TOPS #WA 1019, Vaughn; Dr. Mark Johnson; TOPS #WA1325, Lakebay; Purdy Costless Drug; Craft Corner by Lorene Bartell; Purdy Pizza; Marty Marcus and his Reptiles; Photo Pro; Safe Streets; Sunnycrest Nursery; Sound Credit Union; Citizens Against Crime; Harbor Rock Café; Longbranch Improvement Club; Fawcett Plumbing; Columbia Bank; Dr. Olsson; Firefighters District #16; Safeway; QFC; Adventures-n-Fun; Home Depot and Hugh McMillan. Thank you to the many individuals who contributed as well.

If we did miss somebody please accept our apology. We want to give a big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped make this a success. We mostly would like to thank the Key Peninsula

Altrusa donates books to Children's Home Society



Photo and story by Hugh McMillan

October's last Saturday found a contingent of members from the Gig Harbor chapter of Altrusa International unloading a supply of books at the offices of the Children's Home Society at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Gig Harbor's Altrusa president, Dodie Olson, said, "One of the most important things that Altrusa does is foster and support reading programs. This is part of that effort." She was joined by the group's secretary, Nicole Pasin; treasurer Dyane Nauman; and members Britta Gossett, Virginia Hardy, and Luella Coldeen Hudson in the presentation of the books to CHS' staff coordinator, Vicki Husted; 11-year-olds Hannah Hudson, Emily Westerhausen, and Ashlee Knopp; and 5-year-old Audrey Husted. Pictured left to right: Vicki Biggs, Audrey Husted, Hannah Hudson, Emily Westerhausen, Ashlee Knopp, Luella Coldeen Hudson, Dyane Nauman, Nicole Pasin with son Justin, Britta Gossett, Dodie Olson, and Virginia Hardy.

Civic Center for allowing us to put on this fun night for the kids in our community.

If you have any questions, call the Civic Center at 884-3456.

—Jena Henak

Christmas music at Longbranch

The Longbranch Community Church will present its annual Christmas musical program on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.

The gala event will include Yuletide songs, the Christmas story by the youth, and a performance by the Key Singers. This year's festivities are under the direction of Oliver Coldeen.

This program is in addition to the regular Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24. The Longbranch Community Church is the oldest religious meeting place on the peninsula, located on the K.P. Highway at Longbranch.

Winter shopping at Angel Guild

Did you know that you can get your winter supplies at the Thrift Shop? There are sweaters and coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots and things to warm your house too.

People make donations as well as coming to shop. A little girl sold seashells and wanted to donate her earnings to help the Angels. She is an angel in the making and we send a special thanks to her.

Others are helping by saving their Peninsula Market receipts as well as dropping off their good useable items to help keep the shop going.

There is a small change in the times we are open for donation drop-offs. Mondays and Tuesdays donations are accepted from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.; Wednesday through Saturday hours are 10 to 4.

We will have our winter Bag Sale on Dec. 20 with \$5 per bag up until 2 p.m., then \$2 until closing. The shop will then be closed for two weeks for our annual cleaning and reopen on Jan. 7 for another great year of bargains.

This month we were able to help the Peninsula High School Library obtain a new computer system. We also helped Evergreen Elementary PTA make an after-hours and emergency times activity program for families happen. We will be giving three scholarships to the Peninsula Hawks program this year.

Last but not least, we are still looking for a few more good people. We do have some new faces but are still accepting applications from reliable trustworthy people with a little time on their hands. Contact Nancy at 857-2321 or Ann at 884-3562.

—Mary Ramsdell

For more December and Christmas events, see page 31.

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Foster parent to share experience

A two-hour adoption and foster parenting discussion sponsored by the Families for Kids Lutheran Social Services will be held at the Key Center Library, Kenny Brones Room, on the second Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m.

Bring your questions and concerns to a 20-year veteran foster parent, for an open, honest discussion. "I am here to help you through the process of becoming a licensed foster or adoptive home," says Maureen Morlang. For information, call her at 884-4310.

S.A.V.E. store has holiday bargains

December is a wonderful time to discover the joys of shopping at the S.A.V.E. Thrift Store in Purdy.

The month opens Dec. 2 with a big sale on children's clothes and shoes. Cost is only \$3 for everything you can fit into a paper shopping bag.

Saturday, Dec. 6, is the annual holiday open house. The store will be stocked with Christmas treasures, both gift items and decorations. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

The week of Dec. 15 sees a \$3 bag sale on clothes and shoes for the whole family on Tuesday, followed by "new selections" day on Thursday the 18th. That is the best day for shoppers looking for top-quality clothing at remarkably low prices.

Daily specials continue through Dec. 23, the last day the store is open before the weeklong holiday break. The shop will be closed from Dec. 24 until Jan. 2.

S.A.V.E. Thrift Store is operated by the Peninsula High Scholarship Committee. Proceeds from sales in the store benefit the activity and scholarship programs at the high school. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except Wednesday and Sunday. Location is on Purdy Lane, just below the high school. Donations of clean, gently used items are taken during business hours. We accept clothing, shoes, housewares, toys and books. Due to space limitations, we cannot take furniture or appliances.

If you have not yet visited S.A.V.E. Thrift Store, now is a great time to come in and get acquainted. For information, call 857-2800.

—Marsha Williams

Learn about raw food

Curious about the raw food lifestyle? Join us at the Key Center Library, Sunday,

Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. to learn about the health benefits of incorporating more raw foods into your diet. Enjoy some raw treats including crackers, dips, candies and more.

Special guest speaker, Dr. Deanna Minich, who holds a Ph.D. in Medical Science and Human Nutrition, will discuss the pH of the body and Candida overgrowth. For more information, contact Bob or Breezi at 884-1954.

TLC Days to collect donations

Windermere/Key Realty in Key Center will host TLC Days Dec. 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. TLC (towels, linens or cash) will be accepted as donations for I.M.Pact's new domestic violence safe house and for the Children's Home Society. New or gently used towels and linens are welcomed, and cash greatly appreciated.

Windermere Real Estate is sponsoring this program in all its offices through the region, but all donations from the Key Center office will go directly back to the Key Peninsula.

For information, call 884-3304.

Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet Dec. 5 at noon for a Christmas potluck luncheon at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Peggy Robertson is bringing the turkey and others will bring additional food items. There will be a small gift exchange.

For information, call 884-2487.

—Sylvia Retherford

Urgent need for blood donors

Cascade Regional Blood Services, your community blood bank, is experiencing a shortage of Type O Negative and O Positive blood. O Negative blood is the most commonly used in emergencies at trauma centers and hospitals. The duration of this shortage has created an urgent need for this particular blood type.

Cascade Regional Blood Services is asking donors with O type blood to come to any of our locations in Tacoma, Puyallup and Federal Way as soon as possible. Your donations will ensure a stable blood supply to area hospitals, especially during the upcoming holidays. Call 1-877-24BLOOD for an appointment or to find the nearest blood center or blood drive in your area.

Halloween at KPCC



Photo and story by Hugh McMillan

Halloween night, at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, an estimated 400 kids and assorted chaperones, almost all of whom were clad in everything from mildly scary garb to extravagantly colorful costumes, as the wee ones played endless games like busting balloons with darts at the Awana booth, knocking over bottles, tossing bean bags through holes, playing miniature golf at the KP Lions' booth, getting their faces painted, bouncing themselves silly in a huge pneumatic web-enclosed bouncing hut, handling live snakes at Marty Marcus and Ann Waldo's Reptile Roundup booth, catching goodies at the fish pond, and on and on.

Everyone had fun. And it was all spearheaded by the KP TOPS organization.

Pictured here, the popular reptiles had frequent visitors, who weren't afraid to get up close and personal.

Corrections

A November article titled "Peninsula newcomer lends a gleaning hand" incorrectly identified Linda Marshall as Linda Williams, and stated she moved to the area two years ago. The correct time was six months ago. Mrs. Marshall and her

assistant, Beverly Garlick, encourage anyone who would like to help to call KPCC at 884-4440.

A photo of Rocky Creek Make a Difference Day was credited to Hugh McMillan. The photographer was Caril Ridley.

We regret these errors.

'Key Pen Singles' group is born, mingles

It was a good start, despite the stormy weather and a close encounter of the "Subaru" kind. The first event of the Key Peninsula Singles Group seemed to be a success, as 20 souls braved the rain and took a risk to "do something different" on Nov. 18.



By Irene Torres
SINGLES
SCENE

On the way, one man missed the driveway and found his car in the ditch. Another volunteered his truck and tow strap to free the car from its dilemma, and the two men quickly rejoined the group.

The social room at the Key Peninsula Community House was bustling, as singles from the Peninsula, Grapeview, Allyn, and Hood Canal got to know more about one another. First were the "name games," and by the end of the evening, everyone was on a first-name basis. Then, there were games to draw out common interests, with pantomime acting to demonstrate

favorite pastimes, food, movies, and music.

Simon Priest, KP resident who volunteered to emcee the event, transformed the room into a map of the state, to show relationally where each person was born—from New York to California, from Ohio to Washington. He suggested the space become a world map, allowing attendees to travel to the place they most want to visit...from Australia on one side of the room to the Orient on the other, with Hawaii and Jamaica somewhere in between.

Priest then changed the room into a "zoo." Each group of three was asked to quickly form an animal (a chicken, an elephant, a shark, a raccoon, or a rabbit). This game was designed to help the group overcome shyness, reduce inhibitions and increase interactions—and brought about a lot of laughter as chickens scratched the ground, sharks feigned swimming, and elephants swayed their trunks. Some chose to watch rather than participate, but they seemed to have just as fine a time as the actors.

Later, Priest asked each attendee to interview one

person, introduce him or her to the group, telling what they had learned about their new-found friend, who then returned the courtesy. Then it was time to find three things each group had in common, from children to pets to hobbies to travels to "no tattoos." By the time the evening drew to a close, even more things in common were shared.

An informal poll indicated high interest in future activities. Suggestions included potluck dinners, a book discussion group, a "board game night," a casino gambling junket, a "singles" cruise, a bonfire party, bowling, cards, a boat outing, learning to kayak, fishing, golfing, hiking, camping, diving, joining for functions with other singles groups in the area...something to interest almost everyone.

How about you?

If you'd like to become a part of the new Key Peninsula Singles, call 253-691-1320 with your ideas. Your participation will give you an opportunity "to do something different," meet new neighbors, make friends, laugh a little, and enrich your life.

News from the KPPRD

By Nancy Lind
Commissioner

Four commissioners were elected to the KPPRD Board on Nov. 4. Jerry Schick, a resident of Home, is a fiber-optics and computer networking technician and active in the Adult Softball Association. Ross Bischoff, a retired teacher, is active in FAA, Farmer's Market and many other activities. Mike Salatino, prominent in many organizations, was elected to complete the unexpired term vacated by Marilyn Tagert in June. Nancy Lind was reelected for a second term. John

Glennon is filling an unexpired term that Fred Ramsdell vacated in September.

The board is examining several issues, with the 2004 district funding being the most important one. Only about \$15,000 will be left from the last levy passed four years ago by the time the new board takes over in January. The park generates about \$20,000 from user fees and other incomes over a year's time.

It takes \$70,000 to run this park district at a minimal level. Only \$2,000 has been spent in five years at Rocky Creek Conservation Area and nothing at the Home Park. Many

areas at the KP Sports Center (Volunteer Park) are in need of upgrading, like the tractor being held together with string and glue. The board is in the process of deciding whether to try another levy in the spring, which takes 60 percent to pass, and if it passes, borrow on it until money starts coming in 2004.

KPPRD is also considering forming a Metropolitan Park District, now a possibility after a change in state law that would give the district a dedicated yearly fund from taxes already collected, like the Zoo/Trek tax. It takes 50 percent plus 1 to pass a vote to form a Metro Park District.

Two other issues pending include a vote on accepting the Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan that many

members of the public have worked on for over a year, and the signing of an interlocal agreement with the Pierce County Parks to restore the historic Wauna Post Office on the Purdy Sandspit. The county is working with KPPRD, the KP Historic Society and the KP Business Association to get it restored for a visitor/historic center. Funding for restoration will be generated from grants, donations, and sweat equity.

The concession stand has stood empty since July, creating a very big hole in revenues. Chris Anderson, who runs the Cruzin' Cup Espresso Wagon that has been prominent at the Community Fair for three years, is considering taking on the stand with her partners and making it a real asset to the park.

◆◆◆
The park generates about \$20,000 from income over a year.
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Artistic resources for artists at heart

By L. Brudvik Lindner

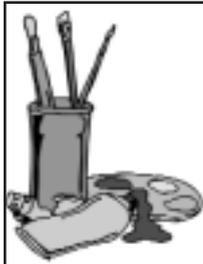
This month the Genuine ARTicle offers art aficionados, fine artists and creative hatchlings an online list of art-related resources.

Internet access is available to all library patrons through the Key Peninsula branch of the Pierce County Library.

If your inner artist is ready for the competitive edge, www.artdeadlineslist.com is the

site to peruse. This Web site offers a monthly newsletter listing 600-900 announcements including art contests, competitions, art scholarships and grants.

Advocating for artists and patrons of the arts since 1976, the Washington State Arts Alliance Web site, www.wsartalliance.com, highlights an advocacy



The Genuine
ARTicle

toolkit — what every artist needs to support funding and education of the arts in the community.

Looking for art events? www.artguidenw.com features the most comprehensive online guide to the Pacific Northwest art scene, including the Gig Harbor "First Saturday Art Walk."

If you're fascinated with Northwest artists, view www.museumofnwart.org, then take a scenic drive to the Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner. This small regional museum is devoted to presenting the works of major NW artists, as well as serving as a source of education on Northwest art.

For 16 years Artist Trust, www.artist-trust.org, has been committed to supporting art at its source — the creative individual. Artist Trust provides information and direct grant support to Washington state promising artists, including musicians and choreographers.

The Tacoma Arts Commission at www.cityoftacoma.org features calls to artists, grant opportunities, workspace

"I am so thrilled to have this imaginative space; it is what I have worked all of my art life to create."

-Beverly Pedersen, artist

information, jobs in the arts and more.

The Tacoma Art Museum invites patrons to "Museum Tuesdays." On Tuesdays, for a discounted fee visitors can enjoy three museums: the Museum of Glass, Tacoma Art Museum and Washington State History Museum; see www.tacomaartmuseum.org.

Locally, the Peninsula Art League is sponsoring its second Annual Juried Arts Exhibit, March 3 - April 2; for details see www.peninsulaartleague.com.

Lastly, our Key Peninsula art haven, The Art Barn (east on 84th & KPN Highway), welcomes the seasoned artist and the new art seeker into its magical doors.

The Art Barn is the home studio to art

teacher and renowned artist Beverly Pedersen. Beverly has been practicing her art of creativity for over 40 years. Her artistic work began with a scholarship in fashion illustration at the Pittsburgh Art Institute; then took her to Palo Alto where she tapped her talents in watercolor, acrylics, mixed media and collage; then to Paris and London where she studied anatomy and figure drawing; and finally, to her Art Barn studio.

"I am so thrilled to have this imaginative space; it is what I have worked all of my art life to create. The Art Barn is a very special place for those who are interested in creating art, studying art, presenting art and sharing an appreciation of art," Beverly says.

She invites your artistic energies to The Art Barn; call 884-2149.

For TWAA membership information or to get involved in your local arts alliance and make art history on our Key Peninsula, call 884-3407 or email twowaters@hotmail.com.

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Party time

Two-month-old Blake Skylar, with her dad, John, at the Children's Home Society-sponsored Family Skate Party at the Key Peninsula Civic Center early last month. While Blake is not yet up to serious competition on her wheels, she's serious in her efforts.

The Civic Center was filled with families enjoying the company of one another in a most convivial gathering.

The consensus: "Let's do this more often."

*Text and photo by
Hugh McMillan*



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Painting with yarns:

Artists use loom and yarn instead of paint and canvas

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

For Key Peninsula artist Margo Macdonald, changing the canvas and brushes to the loom and yarns was a calculated decision. She had to give up the smelly paints and brushes when her daughter was born 22 years ago — and tapestry was the perfect medium she could use for her artistic talents. Macdonald, a versatile artist, creates a variety of art, and teaches it at the Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma, but she prefers yarn over brushes. Tapestry is, for her as well as her two Pacific Rim Tapestry partners, “a seductive art form.”

Macdonald has collaborated with Gig Harbor artist Cecilia Blomberg on a variety of projects, and two years ago they have joined creative talents for Pacific Rim Tapestries together with Olympia artist Mary Lane.

To create their second collaborative piece, “The Labyrinth,” which was finished last year, they used a computer graphics program to manipulate a black and white image of the Chartres labyrinth and turn it into a colorful digital design — which they then reproduced on the 5-foot by 5-foot tapestry using about 70 colors of wool.

Once satisfied with the design of the new piece, they blew up the image, in black and white, to size and used it as a guide along with the printed copy of the color design. Working on it a day a week, it took the trio about eight weeks of full-time effort, not counting the time to conceive and develop the design. Eight weeks, they say, is fast for tapestry.

Tapestry may not offer instant gratification in results, but it is a gratifying process,

which engages the artists not only visually but physically as well.

“There is almost a relationship with the textile,” Macdonald said.

Hand-woven tapestry, one of the oldest textile art forms, was used widely to tell stories and show abundance in the Middle Ages, but can be traced to even earlier times. Despite its longevity, many still view it as a craft rather than art form. The artists, however, have plenty of explanations on how tapestry differs from the craft of weaving.

“It’s not the technique that defines it, but the message,” Macdonald said. “It’s the image that makes it art.”

“It’s the image that makes it art.”

-Margo Macdonald

Although Macdonald can produce beautiful works with brushes, she often prefers “painting with yarns” instead. Some designs offer more flexibility than others, and the artists can make color decisions as they work on a piece. Unlike the computer-generated design of “The Labyrinth,” the other designs are created the old-fashioned way, either from a photograph, their own paintings, or an idea that “hits you while you lie in bed.” The results — whether a picture of a sunset on the beach, a waterfall, or the gates to Pompeii — are beautiful.

The three artists have opened a studio in Tacoma, so it’s between Olympia and Gig Harbor, in hopes to produce commissioned work together. Tapestry is a popular decoration in corporate buildings as



Key Peninsula artist Margo Macdonald and one of her two Pacific Rim Tapestries partners, Cecilia Blomberg, are weaving the last few inches of “The Labyrinth,” a collaborative 5-foot by 5-foot tapestry the two women created with artist Mary Lane last year. Pacific Rim was part of Tacoma’s “Art at Work” open studio last month, and the three artists are working on a proposal for a hospital.

*Photo by
Rodika Tollefson*

well as private homes and churches, and they have each sold works across the country. Each piece is unique, durable and virtually fireproof.

“The pieces we make become family heirlooms and stay in families for generations,” Blomberg said. “They are personal statements we make in collaboration with the client.”

Making that statement takes long

months, and in case of collaboration, learning to use their different weaving styles while creating a cohesive piece. But since time seems to take on a new dimension while the hands are engaged with the warp and weft, the artists perhaps don’t mind that the hours melt away. With a process that stimulates several senses at once, and the breath-taking results, who would?



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The garden in December

By Sylvia Retherford
Special to KP News

Even though the winter solstice comes to us on Dec. 22 at 11:45 p.m., our Puget Sound area gardens are not to be forgotten until spring. Rainy days are meant to groom house plants and enjoy their blooms. Geranium cuttings that were rooted in fall are beginning to show their first buds; they are quite at home in their

sunny south window thus carrying over favored colors and varieties.

Angel wing begonias along with other fibrous rooted begonia cuttings thrive with a little less sun. Many will bloom when planted in potting soil and gently treated with soluble fertilizer.

Outdoors, primroses are growing and making buds. Many bear blossoms now if they survived the summer well. Helebores (Lenten rose) are budded, ready to burst

into their winter bloom. Colors vary from white through pinks, reds and purples. They even set seed in winter. Sasanqua camellia buds are swelling, with many pinks and reds available, some single and some double flowered.

The first rhododendron to show will be the pink Christmas Cheer, usually in January. If you have waste milk products, dilute them and apply to roots of rhodies or other acid-loving shrubs. Even the geraniums and begonias favor a weak milky drink.

Viewed across Home's Bay (VonGeldern Cove), is a sweet gum (Liquidamber) tree in a yard that colors beautifully and lasts a long time in December. It is in the same family as witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) that blooms red, yellow or orange in January/February. Seeing the shrub in full bloom against the snow in its native Southeast United States is a delightful surprise. In our Northwest garden it is also a winter joy.

Two shrubs of the verbena family from North Korea add colour to our December gardens. One is *Callicarpa bodeneiri*, a shrub bearing thick clusters of glossy purple/lavender berries that persist. *Clerodendrum trichotomum* (glory bower) is a shrub that bears showy, bright pink petal-like sepals surrounding electric blue fruits. Another surprise is its odor of

peanut butter when leaves are crushed.

The heaths and heathers continue to provide color, and hardy cyclamen put out occasional flowers above handsomely marked leaf clusters. Even *Trillium chloropetalum* is showing 3-inch shoots but it will not bloom until March.

Perennial flower clumps benefit by dividing and respacing any time in the winter when the ground is not frozen. Give the excesses to neighbors who are new to our area. Gifts of cuttings, divisions and extra bulbs is the way we started our garden.

Vegetables available for harvesting now and throughout winter include red radicchio for salads and sandwiches, green broccoli, leeks, carrots, parsnips and salsify.

Then there are the winter squash! These are Hubbard type but smaller varieties such as Buttercup and Sweet Mama, which weigh about three pounds each. Harvested in late October and stored on the cool floor of a basement room, they improve in sugar content and remain good until next summer. They are a superior food high in vitamins, especially Vitamin A. It is easy to produce too many for one family so there are usually some to share with the neighbors. During the depression years of the early 1930s, Home people were proud to say that no one here was hungry. Squash is easier to raise in our area than potatoes.

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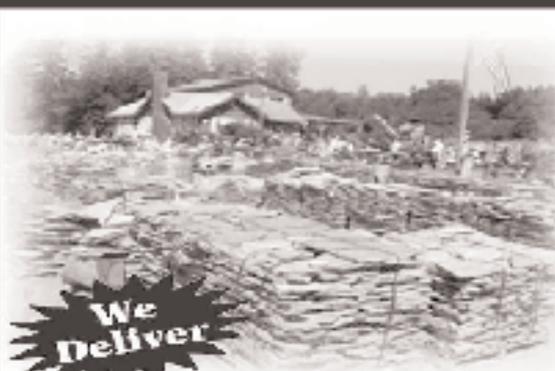
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Last-minute shopping without leaving the

Key Pen

Find gifts for almost anyone at your neighborhood shops

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

It's December, there are only a couple or so weeks left until company arrives for some eggnog and cookies, and you—like many other super-busy, “wait till the last moment then invade the shopping malls and hope you can still find a decent buy” citizens — are planning to cram all the shopping in one marathon day. Or maybe you've done your shopping long ago, when that tax refund check came in, but need a few last-minute things. Or maybe you hoped to shop online but got lost in the depths of cyberspace and next thing you know, Christmas is coming and your presents are not.

Either way, if the thought of sharing the slow roads with drivers who forget their manners this time of year makes you feel like you've just swallowed a lemon ball, don't start scratching your head just yet. It may sound too good to be true, but the Key Peninsula shops are full of gift ideas for everyone from kids and gardeners to sportsmen and maybe even those who have everything—as long as they've been good this year.

Below are some ideas, but don't wait until the day before to visit these Santa's elves, or you may find yourself stalking the supermall after all. And if you plan to buy a December-theme present, be merry and deliver it at least a week early, so the recipient can enjoy it this season.

Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, besides being a gardener's paradise, has Christmas decorations, wreaths and all sorts of presents from \$10 miniature angels and dragon fly indoor/outdoor lights to a \$225 gardener's rack. Candleholders, garden art, Japanese-themed décor, and unique gifts are mixed in with live trees, tabletop centerpieces, keepsakes, dozens of holiday decorations and other items. For the gardener, owner Claudia Loy rec-



ommends the really comfortable “anywhere shoes,” waterproof and available in a rainbow of colors, or any nice pots or durable tools. The shop makes wreaths and other holiday live pieces, which can be shipped anywhere in the country and around the world (allow extra time for shipping). “We can take care of a lot of your last-minute gifts,” she says.

Across the street, at **Capitol Lumber**, you'll find a nice selection of tools and other necessities that would make for nice gifts for the handyman in your life.

Nimrick's Furnishings Old and New, across from the library in Key Center, specializes in new and vintage items—but also sneaks in watches, jewelry, perfumes, miniature collectibles and even toys and tools. If you're after antiques, you could find some of those too. At the end of November, a new leather couch shared the showroom with vintage dishes, a compressor, a grill, fishing items, books, silverware, paintings, vases, dolls, and of course, lots of furniture. Co-owner Geri Nimrick said the shop will be festively decorated in December and an open house is being planned, with refreshments and a new shipment ordered just for the holidays.

Country Gardens, off State Route 302 near the 76 gas station, is all decked up for Christmas with sparkling ornaments begging to be bought, with several trees decorated in themes, from golden to snowflake-white to feather-made. Even a 3-foot-or-so-tall Santa is for sale. If you are looking for a unique gift, this is the place. Stuffed Christmas bears and other animals, vases, picture frames, nature-themed gifts, artificial centerpieces, birdhouses, pottery, angels, even a Santa “bottle buddy” and a beautiful lighthouse votive candle holder are some possibilities. You may only find one or so of each item, but there is a good assortment.

Serenity Salon and Consignment



Boutique features handmade crafts from local and regional artists. Lakebay artist Don Potter's fused glass earrings and other jewelry was on sale in November, along with “Lamp Creations” by Lakebay's Janeto Kurasawa, inexpensive bracelets perfect for young ladies, colorful hand-sewn hats, dolls by Key Pen's Patty Boettger and more. The selection varies each month, but the artists keep their creations coming. You can find one more gift at Serenity: a holiday “de-stressing” package for \$100 that includes one-hour massage, manicure, and pedicure along with coffee or lunch—which overstressed, overshopped holiday conniver would frown on that? She will definitely thank you come Dec. 27. And for the men not too worried about perfect toenails, you could buy a \$150 package that has four blissful hours of massage.

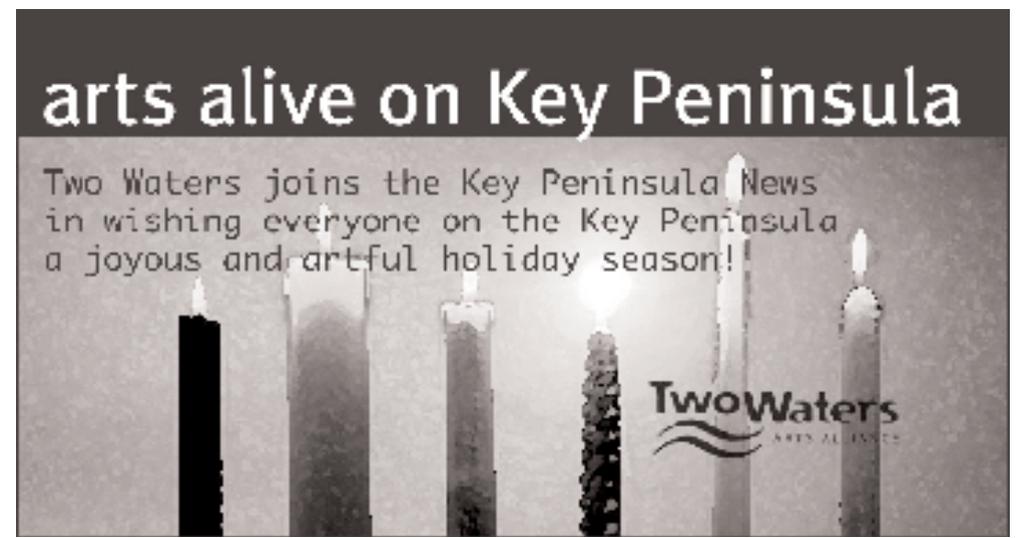
Cost Less Drugs, in Wauna's Lake Kathryn center, has much more than pharmaceutical necessities. If you've never visited this mini-department store, you'll be surprised to discover that its offerings range from knick-knacks and home décor to small appliances, kitchenwares, games and hunting/fishing supplies. You'll find Coke and Harley memorabilia, trout everything—mugs, clocks, candle holders, calendars —along with children's books and toys; action sets like space explorers, work crews and fire squads; science kits for building an electrical motor or “observing” a volcano; all sorts of models and paints; cappuccino makers; omelet pans; camping and outdoor gear all the way up to two-person inflatable boats and float-tubes. On

Dec. 10, you have the perfect excuse to come shopping: Santa will pose for free photos, refreshments will be served, and holiday sales will abound during the store's annual open house.

Coast to Coast Hardware, next door, has a variety of bits and pieces for the handyman, along with rifles and camping gear.

If you are hoping for a more personalized gift, head over to **Great Age Ceramics** off KP Highway, where owner Virginia Whitney uses some 3,000 molds to create pottery pieces, which you can then paint yourself any way you'd like. Native American, Disney characters, picture frames, jewelry boxes, vases, cookie jars, steins, bowls, dolls, magnets, carousel horses, lamps, colanders—there is hardly anything Whitney hasn't thought of. Ornaments start at 75 cents and the most expensive pieces like pitchers are \$15 (but most are much less); you can pay \$1.50 classroom fee, and use Whitney's workspace, paints, brushes and expertise to custom-create that perfect gift. Children are welcome as well: Buy a picture frame for under \$10, have your child decorate it with his or favorite-color paint, sneak in a photo—and watch grandma's face light up when she opens her present. Whitney suggests calling (884-9681) before you go.

And if you don't mind venturing slightly past the Purdy Bridge, save a couple of hours for visiting **Country Expressions**. You will definitely need some time to venture through the cozy shop, which has every inch packed with treasures from Victorian and distressed to outdoor-theme, maritime, even cats and dogs. You will have to make your way around several times, as your eyes will wonder around from corner to corner, and you'll hear yourself say, “Aw, cute” every few minutes. Beware, you will likely not leave this shop without buying something for yourself, once you see the great prices. If you go soon enough, you may even still find the “Aw, cute” moose holding a chalkboard, counting down the days left till Christmas.




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Out & About



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Three fishermen try their luck with lures, flies, and whatever in hopes of landing salmon on the next to last Wednesday of November along Minter Creek near the Washington Department of Fisheries fish hatchery off Craven Road in November.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

The Two Waters Arts Alliance's very first exhibit, which was displayed during the Longbranch Players' dinner theatre production of "Sylvia" this fall, added a touch of class to the event—and was the definite mingling place before curtain call.



Live snakes, brought in by Ann Waldo and Marty Marcus, were a popular attraction at the Halloween bash organized at the Civic Center by TOPS (right). Below, Jayden Short, 2, tries to pop some balloons for a prize.

Photos by Hugh McMillan

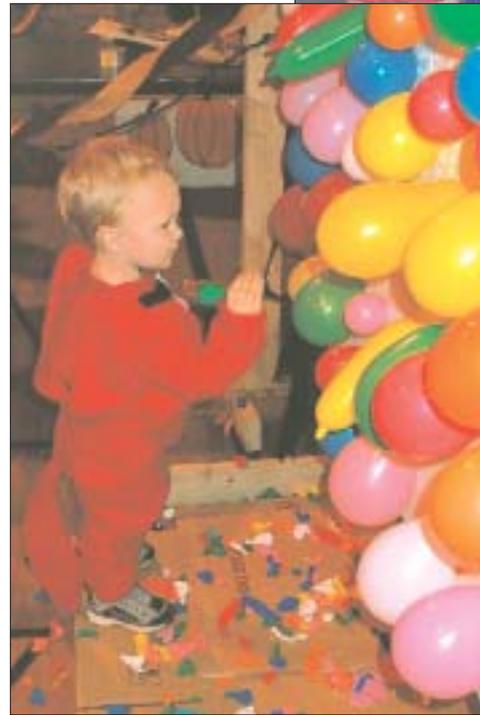


Photo by Hugh McMillan

Left, Several Key Peninsula youngsters displayed their acting talents in November during Paradise Theatre's staging of "Charlotte's Web"—including, pictured here, Keegan Amrine, a Vaughn Elementary fourth-grader who played Templeton, and Key Peninsula Middle School sixth-grader Zach Moore, who played Wilbur.

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A Christmas STORY

By Irene Torres

It was the winter of 1974, four days before Christmas. My two young children believed Santa Claus would soon be coming down the chimney to deliver toys, candy, goodies, and cheer. But when my husband came home from work that day, he wore a look of dejected concern. He'd just been laid off from his job.

I wasn't too worried. After all, we still had \$40!

The next day, we decided to take the children to the Santa Claus parade. At least they would be able to feel some of the joys of the season. But in the jostle of the crowd at the parade, a stealthy pickpocket lifted my husband's wallet. We didn't realize it was gone until the parade had ended. We looked around frantically, and found it, empty, in an alley. We looked at each other with sadness in our hearts, knowing the disappointment it would mean for our children.

My husband had already bought my

Christmas present, the pearl ring I had always wanted, saving for it for months. Together, we decided to return the ring and take back the \$40 he paid for it. We would use that money for a few small gifts for the children and groceries for our holiday dinner.

I relayed the pain of the experience to my supervisor at work, in the receiving warehouse for a retail store. In the back of the warehouse was a stack of returned merchandise, including toys and clothing. A generous man, he invited me to take my pick of the merchandise. I found two toys for each of the children, perfect for their ages. In the stack were two pairs of sleeper pajamas, just the right sizes, and a name-brand dress shirt for my husband.

Grateful for these blessings, I headed home for what might otherwise have been a bleak Christmas. When I arrived, an elder from my church was at the door. He had heard the story of our hardship from my mother, so he opened his wallet and gave us \$40 to replace what had been stolen.

We spent that holiday with a newfound appreciation of what Christmas really means. I still believe in Santa Claus. He may not be "dressed all in fur from his head to his foot" but he lives, nonetheless, in the generous spirit of others.

When Christmas came....

By Rodika Tollefson

We were still new to the area that Christmas, having moved several thousands miles with a few household belongings minus furniture, and arriving to a new state with \$100 left to our name. By the time the jobs came, we were so far behind that often times the paychecks were spent just buying basics.

For the longest time, we slept on the floor on a borrowed mattress, accepted any unwanted furniture from acquaintances, and did not decline when our good friends, once again, sent us home with bagfuls of canned and boxed food.

Clearly, it wasn't going to be a year of Santa Claus. So we avoided the sounds and sights of the holidays the best we could, as two young kids' wish lists tore

at our hearts.

I don't know how or why the two boys became "adopted" by a Good Samaritan who noticed the daily grim mood of their father at work. All she needed to hear was that the reason for his sadness was the inability to bring any Christmas cheer to his home. We both worked hard, long hours, being as thrifty as we could. What else could we do?

But Christmas did come, not only with several presents for each boy, but with homemade cookies, basic holiday dinner fixings, and lots of smiles on the kids' faces. The Good Samaritan, a co-worker who kept her eyes, ears, and heart open, made that year's holidays very happy indeed.

The boys were too young to understand or remember anything, but their parents will never forget how one stranger's kindness made all the difference in the world.



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(From **QUAKE**, Page 1)

Bay area to the Rocky Bay. The fault is 31 miles long or more, and some parts of the location are only speculation: Geologists are not sure if it extends to Federal Way, through Commencement Bay, or in between. Detailed studies are planned in the upcoming months.

The U.S. Geological Survey based at the University of Washington has recently examined a steep slope near Allyn and discovered remnants of earthquake activity from 1,100 years ago, suggesting that the edge of the fault rose up to 4 kilometers (about 2.5 miles). Although they don't know when another earthquake would occur again, the geologists think the fault would cause a shake closer to the Earth's surface than the 2001 Nisqually quake. One researcher remarked at a November conference that it could create "the scariest of all earthquakes" in the Puget Sound region. If a quake were to happen along the entire portion of the fault, it could be equivalent to the one in Northridge, Calif., in 1994 — which left 50 people dead, nearly 6,000 injured, and 20,000 homeless.

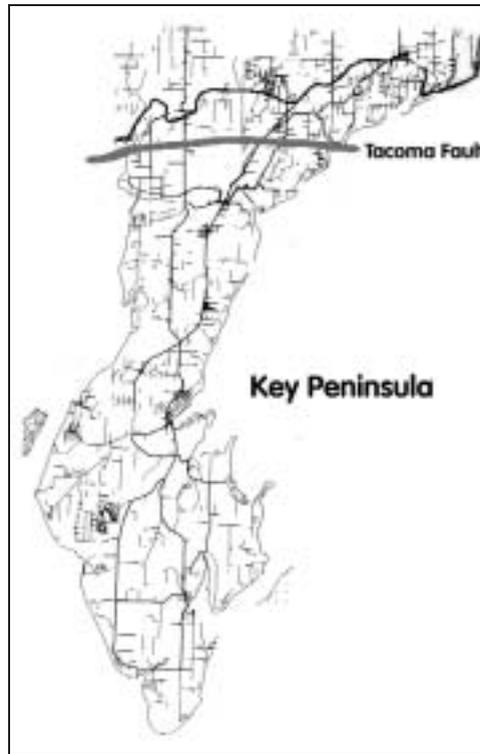
What makes it worse, the Tacoma Fault connects with another major faultline, the Seattle Fault. One theory says the two form a giant "wedge" that is creating new ridges at the Earth's surface.

"There is no doubt in my mind that it will happen, and it will be a doozer, you can just go along the beach and see how the coast has changed," said Fire District 16 Commissioner Fred Ramsdell, who is active in Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee (PEP-C). "I think most people now are more prepared than they used to be, but now we have to get the community prepared."

The fire department has known for years about a fault line crossing the Peninsula, just didn't always have a name for it or all the current scientific data. Capt. Chuck West says they have even seen several areas where the earth dropped several feet after a small earthquake, an observation he calls "a real eye opener."

To be more efficient in any disaster, not just a natural one, the department is slowly stockpiling extra supplies like blankets, medical items, water and fluids, and looking at adding commercial-type cookware and some foods. These supplies would become crucial for the emergency personnel should a major disaster strike.

The problem is many people think the government, or the local emergency services, will be there to take care of immediate needs. They may not. In a major disaster, it can take days, weeks and sometimes months for the U.S. government to bring in any aid—and if any of the local bridges



The approximate route of the Tacoma Fault stretching through the Key Peninsula.

are gone, we may be fresh out of luck.

Even the local paramedics or firefighters will not be immediately available, as they would first focus on securing their own families as well as district facilities, then on the more pressing needs such as fires and injuries. West says it would take the department about 72 hours after a major disaster to manage the resources and manpower. The district conducts regular disaster drills as well as works with PEP-C to train personnel on the individual level, so "their families will be ready and they can leave as quickly as possible" to report to the command center.

Seventy-two hours is a long wait, and the only way to prepare to be self-sufficient, besides having a family emergency plan and supplies, is to work together with the community in the neighborhoods. People who live alone, have medical needs, or children left by themselves are especially vulnerable.

"You need to know your neighbors, and after you make sure all your stuff is OK, start checking on them," Ramsdell said.

Pierce County makes neighborhood preparedness easy. Through a free program called PC-NET, county trainers will conduct workshops for the mini-communities, create disaster teams and plans, assign tasks, even practice a drill. Participants also walk their neighborhood to assess potential hazards, learn about resources and skills that may become available, from generators and boats to first aid, receive some disaster supplies and are eligible for CPR training through Red Cross.

Fire district information

FD 16 is in the process of updating its 15-year-old resource manual and would like to find out about all the local buildings that have emergency capabilities such as generators, sleeping room, food etc. They would like to hear even from churches or small groups that are prepared to take care of members only, so that they can disseminate that information when it becomes necessary.

Other information wanted: anyone with special skills and training, such as CPR/first aid, disaster response, doctors, nurses, other agency firefighters and police officers who may become available locally, geologists, engineers knowledgeable about road slides and other issues, FEMA-trained personnel who may be initially available, people who have special equipment and so on.

Call FD 16 headquarters at 884-2222.

Local shelters

Many local facilities are ready for a Red Cross disaster center, and are equipped with generators and in some cases emergency food: Key Peninsula Community House in Lakebay and Key Peninsula Health Center in Key Center, both off HWY 302. Local schools are potential community response centers; however, first priority is students and staff.

PC-NET's Barbara Nelson said once the neighbors organize, PC-NET coordinators will set up a series of two-hour meetings every three or four months, spread over one to one-and-a-half years. One unique element of the program is a crime prevention unit that identifies safety problems and priorities.

"People can get ready for a disaster and it may not happen, but crime will continue, and by developing safety awareness, we strengthen the neighborhoods," Nelson said. Since not all the neighbors participate

PC-NET program

For information on creating a neighborhood emergency response team, contact Gretchen O'Connor at 798-2751. This free program, sponsored by grants, works within the community to teach residents how to help each other. Presentations about the program are available to groups, associations and organizations.

Disaster kits

Looking for an "original" present for Christmas or another occasion? Here is a suggestion from KP News Publishing Committee Chairman Bill Trandum: Give your loved ones an "earthquake backpack." The pack should have a flashlight with extra batteries, some personal items like toiletries, a water bottle, military-type food, pet food if needed, and other basics. If you have children, add some simple toys or activities for them as well, and diapers or other needed items. Toss the backpack in the trunk, and once every couple of years get it refreshed.

Another excellent practical gift is a disaster radio, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radios, available at Bartell's, Fred Meyer, Radio Shack and other suppliers. See the Pierce County Web site for details: www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/Abtus/ourorg/dem/noaa.htm

in the voluntary training, the program is structured so that in a disaster, any new volunteers can be incorporated right in.

"We know it takes three days for the responders to get to us, and we know that people want to help each other," said Nelson. "We are not going to be able to call 911 so someone can come and put a fire out or help with an injury; we will be the first responders in a large disaster. We're going to have to make a difference in our own neighborhoods and try to figure out what to do."



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(8 Miles W. of Purdy, in the Town of Key Center, Washington)

(From **HOSPITAL**, Page 1)

Key Peninsula Fire District No. 16 Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen discussed the “out of service” time required for fire service personnel to transport patients to hospitals in Tacoma and Bremerton. “Thirty minutes is a very good day, and the road through the Wauna curves is no freeway,” he said, citing Fire Department statistics as averaging 70-80 minutes out of service area for every patient transport.

Members of the audience related their personal experiences of delays in reaching the hospitals. Wagner encouraged such testimonials at the hearing. “We invite the support from the community and we’ll pound the pavement to spread the word” about the desperate need for a local community hospital, he said.

Wagner noted that hospitals are the most expensive buildings, and when locations are chosen, they are “sited for a century.” Good freeway access is important and detailed studies of neighborhood impact are an essential part of the planning process. Franciscan has an option on 20 acres property near Canterwood, off Highway 16 near the Burnham/Borgen Exit in Gig Harbor, with an option on more land for future expansion.

The services to be offered at the new hospital include a Level 3 or 4 Trauma Emergency Department.

Care for severe burns and organ transplantation services will not be offered, nor will obstetrical services. Wagner said that

only about 400 Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula area women deliver babies annually; to maintain competent OB care, a minimum of 1,000 are needed. All other hospital services are planned, including medical, surgical, and critical care, inpatient and outpatient surgery, heart catheterization, diagnostic services (MRI, CT scan, ultrasound and mammography), physical, occupational and speech therapies, and a sleep disorders clinic.

“Let’s get the hospital built first, the other things will fall into place,” said Larry Treleven, FHS board member.

But the new hospital “isn’t a slam dunk,” said Wagner. The state considers the need within all of Pierce County. Franciscan Health System studied the need for over a year. The Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas comprise the second largest state population with no local hospital. As part of the study, 400 residents were surveyed.

“Eighty-nine percent of the respondents said they support a new hospital...The other 11 percent didn’t understand the question,” quipped Wagner. The survey also indicated 93 percent of area residents see a need for 24-hour emergency care closer to home. And 71 percent reported a need for good paying jobs.

Approximately 4,200 people left the peninsulas for inpatient care in 2002, in addition to the 8,000 outpatients, according to Franciscan research. The numbers are increasing by 8 percent annually. There are 3,500 emergency transports every year from the Key Peninsula, which

Support letters

Franciscan Health System representatives are available to speak at meetings of community groups to explain the plan, the Certificate of Need process, and garner support from the people of the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas. They also plan mailers, advertisements, and other publicity.

Supporters are encouraged to write firsthand letters of support (no emails, no faxes) to:

Karen Nidermayer; Certificate of Need Program; Department of Health. PO Box 47852, Olympia, WA 98504-7852.

Ideas to include in letters of support:
Why do you believe a new hospital is needed?

How has the lack of a local hospital affected you or your family?

Do you worry about the length of time it takes to reach emergency medical facilities? Does traffic congestion or crossing the bridge to access medical care concern you?

Last year, FHS provided \$27 million in care for people with no medical insurance. Do you support the mission of FHS to extend service to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay?

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translates to about 30 patients every day.

A letter of intent was filed with the Department of Health in June 2003, and the Certificate of Need application was submitted in August 2003. A public hearing was scheduled for Dec. 3, but has been rescheduled to accommodate another application; the new hearing date is not known yet. A decision is expected by the summer of 2004. Planning takes up to 12 months, to work through zoning requirements; construction takes another 18 to 24.

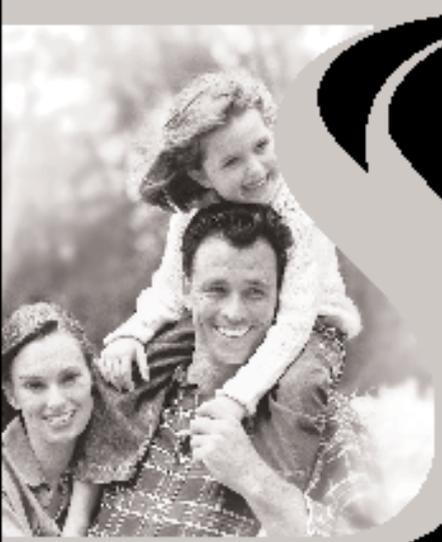
Initially, the hospital is planned for 112 beds, 80 of them are to be open by 2007-08, with shelled-in space for 32 more beds. The hospital will create about 450 jobs.

The three local FHS hospitals, St. Clare

(Lakewood), St. Francis (Federal Way) and St. Joseph Medical Center (Tacoma) are listed among the top 100 hospitals in the United States for clinical quality of care and efficiency—according to Wagner, who cited a national study conducted by the Solucient Institute, an Evanston, Ill.-based health care information and research organization, that announced the results of its newest survey on Sept. 29.

FHS representatives are confident that private funding for the \$94 million project can be accomplished. No taxes will be required to support the hospital.

“But we can’t take the decision (to approve the new hospital) for granted,” said Wagner.



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Penrose Guild helps Children's Hospital

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Decorated for the occasion of the Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild "Ladies Day Out" in November, the Longbranch Improvement Club wore a festive air. Handmade gift and decorative items were displayed for both silent and live auction. Many women work on their donated items all year round, and several area nonmembers contribute to the auction each year.

The annual luncheon plus auction is this Guild's major fund-raising for Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma.

In 1958, Mrs. George Franklin, Jr. of Longbranch gathered about 30 women for a tea to organize a local guild under the auspices of Tacoma Orthopedic Association and the Mary Bridge Hospital Board. Twenty-one charter members chose their name to honor the late Dr. Stephen Penrose, who had a summer home at what is now Penrose State Park. President of Whitman College in Walla Walla from 1884 to 1934, Dr. Penrose was a prominent church and educational leader in the Northwest and a firm believer in outdoor recreation for children.

The first fund-raiser for the group was a Halloween Card Party in 1958, which eventually was replaced with a luncheon and style show held annually for awhile. A Spring Smorgasbord Dinner was given for 20 years, and the luncheon and auction has been held since 1987.

All funds raised by the group go to the



hospital. Besides the recent event, members volunteer to sell Christmas wreaths and to assist at the TOA Festival of Trees. The local guild provides the majority of handmade items for the gift shop at the festival.

Last year the Penrose Guild contributed \$8,100 to Mary Bridge plus \$1,900 from the craft items sold at the Festival of Trees.

Each guild is an independent organization under the basic guidelines of TOA, which began in 1921 by women concerned over the health of children. TOA has about 1,200 members in 52 guilds around Southwest Washington, which raise millions of dollars each year for Mary Bridge.

The Dr. Penrose Guild has 20 active and 20 associate members. Associate members pay dues, but do not usually attend meetings. Norma Iverson, presi-



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Penrose Guild auction offerings ranged from items contributed by members and anonymous donors to Christmas ornaments (left) that were made specifically for raising funds.

dent, notes that the guild is a working group, and new members are invited by current active members.

Husbands of members help set up and take down for the luncheon/auction and other activities, and are invited to occasional special functions.

Over 90 women enjoyed the lunch and

bid on auction items last month. It was a success, said treasurer Joy Rakes, netting about \$4,100.

These local ladies enjoyed their "Day Out" and Dr. Penrose Guild members are pleased that their loving volunteer work can help children who need attention at Mary Bridge Hospital.

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Santa sightings and other merry events around Key Pen

The sight and sound of a merry ol' fella wearing a red suit, carrying a bag full of goodies and, in some cases, riding on his sleigh escorted by a firetruck can only mean one thing: Santa is cruising the Key Peninsula neighborhoods to say hello to boys and girls, and of course hand out some candy. Watch for him and his helpers around your neighborhood between Dec. 11 and 18 (for exact schedule, check the back page).

But Santa and Mrs. Claus' block visits are not the only holiday events around town. Here are a few more:

- Dec. 6, come to the Lakebay Community Church (Cornwall Road in Lakebay) at 7:15

for an evening of Christmas songs and entertainment.

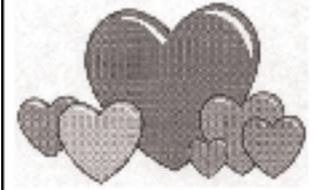
- Dec. 7 at the KC Corral, the traditional Key Peninsula Tree Lighting begins at 4 p.m. Holiday music and refreshments are part of the celebration—which certainly wouldn't be the same without Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will drop by while getting ready for their bigger tour around the Peninsula the following week.

- Save time for Dec. 6 and 10 to do some holiday shopping. The S.A.V.E. Thrift Store in Purdy will serve refreshments and holiday items for sale at its Dec. 6 open house; Cost Less Drugs in Wauna has asked Santa to come

by for a photo session on Dec. 10, and will be serve refreshments and special sales at its annual open house.

- The Longbranch Community Church will present its annual Christmas musical program on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. The gala event will include Yuletide songs, the Christmas story by the church youth, and a performance by the Key Singers. This year's festivities are under the direction of Oliver Coldeen. On Dec. 24, everyone is invited to a Christmas Eve service. The Longbranch Community Church is the oldest religious meeting place on the Peninsula, located on the Key Peninsula Highway at Longbranch.

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Santa Comes To Town

Happy Holidays

Santa's 2003 Schedule

Sunday - December 7 - 4:00 pm
Tree Lighting - KC Corral

Thurs. - December 11
6:00 - 6:15 pm Minterbrook Homes
6:15 - 6:30 pm Creviston Ridge
6:30 - 6:45 pm Fir Acres
6:45 - 7:30 pm Green Tree

Friday - December 12
6:00 - 6:15 pm Wind and Tides
6:15 - 6:30 pm Wauna Shores
6:30 - 6:45 pm Danforth Heights
6:45 - 7:00 pm Emerald Shores
7:00 - 8:00 pm Horseshoe Estates

Saturday - December 13
6:00 - 6:45 pm Lake of the Woods
6:45 - 7:00 pm Lake of the Woods South
7:00 - 7:30 pm Huckleberry Ridge

Sunday - December 14
6:00 - 6:30 pm Bell Ridge
6:15 - 6:30 pm Lake Holiday

Monday - December 15
6:00 - 6:30 pm Lake Minterwood
6:30 - 6:45 pm Cramer Road and 134th Ave.
6:45 - 7:15 pm Key Peninsula Civic Center

Wednesday - December 17
6:00 - 6:30 pm Jackson Lake Area
6:30 - 7:30 pm Joemma Beach Farms
7:30 - 8:30 pm McEwan Rd. and Home Area

Thursday - December 18
6:00 - 6:30 pm Taylor Bay Estates
6:30 - 7:30 pm Palmer Lake

The Key Peninsula Firefighters Association will be sponsoring Santa's visit throughout the Key Peninsula area with candy for the children and the young at heart. Look at Santa's schedule for your neighborhood.

All Times are Approximate

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