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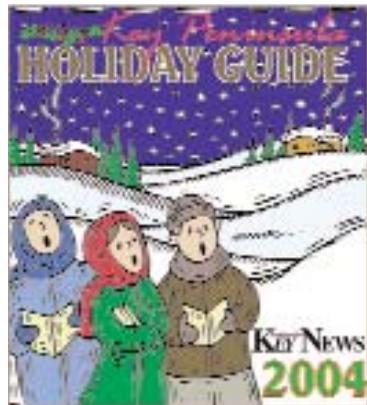


Photo by Hugh McMillan

Cub Scout Pack 220, Venture Crew 220 and Troop 220 members filled up the Community House with food donations.

Helping hands

Scouts, community team up for food bank

By Hugh McMillan KP News

He will deny this but Bill Macaras is the founding father of scouting on the Key Peninsula in the last 10 or so years. Scouting had all but dried up before he came on the scene. Now it's flourishing. It's not that he didn't get a whole lot of help from a wonderful bunch of dedicated Scouting enthusiasts — too many to list here — but he's the guy who lit the fire when he formed Troop 220.

On a recent November weekend at the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank, at first there was but one scout to be seen, Brandon Miller of Cub Scout Pack 220 with his mom,

Tami, and sister Brittani. They were moving some food contributions into the KPCS they'd picked up earlier and were waiting for the main scout force to appear.

They were joined by Kristen Herold and her two daughters, Evergreen Elementary School kindergarten student Kennedy and second grader Lauren, and an Explorer SUV stacked wall to wall, floor to ceiling with food they'd independently gathered for the cause.

The cause? The shelves of the food bank were all but bare. Macaras said, "Thirteen scouts from 220's Cub Pack, Scout Troop, and Venture Crew spent three hours on Saturday deliv-

(See SCOUTS, Page 20)

Celebrity tournament planned as benefit

By Danna Webster KP News

The Key Peninsula Community Services has a big, beautiful present under its tree this year. But they can't open it until next September. The gift is an official notice, to the home of KPCS, that a major fund-raising event is booked for their benefit.

The event is billed as "Ty Hardin presents The Horseshoe Lake Western Classic Charity Golf Tournament," set for Sept. 9 and 10, 2005, at the Horseshoe Lake Golf course. The tournament, with a Western theme, will feature celebrity auctions, formal and informal dining and cowboy-style entertainment.

Ty Hardin is a Key Pen resident with a notable career in Western and action

For more stories to get you in the holiday spirit and celebrate the month of December, see our special section inside this month's Key Pen News.

movies as well as television shows. He is working with a steering committee for the event that includes the Horseshoe Lake Golf Pro Chris Morris; KPCS Executive Director Cristi Watson; Linda LeBlanc, LIC dance and events chair; John Nederlee, KPCS Advisory Board member; and Larry Hagen, KPCS board member.

The steering committee members have already swung up into their blazing saddles. They will notify the community of the opportunities to support and participate in the tournament, i.e. how to join the posse.

Local logger heads national organization

By Colleen Slater KP News

Tom Van Slyke of Vaughn, who started "working in the woods" at age 10, was recently elected president of the American Loggers Council for a one-year term.

The council represents 28 state associations, with each state sending its director to the board. Over 50,000 logging professionals make up these state associations.



VAN SLYKE

(See AWARD, Page 21)

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Metropolitan park district sets plans

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District is moving toward becoming its own entity as the KP Parks and Recreation District gets ready to disband, and the commissioners are working on finalizing all the legal details. MPD Chair Paula DeMoss said the joint meetings with KPPRD will be discontinued in December, when the acquisition of Volunteer Park will also be complete.

Looking ahead, DeMoss said the focus will be on making much-needed improvements to the park and finishing the transfer of the Rocky Creek Conservation Area. Home Park was acquired for \$10,000, with another \$20,000 estimated to be paid for Volunteer Park.

"KPPRD is in debt, all this (acquisition money) is to pay their debt and legal fees, because they can't dissolve with debt," DeMoss said.

One of DeMoss' goals is getting more community involvement. She said input is desperately needed from other user groups. To help facilitate input, KPMPD held a forum in November. Although a big part of those attending came to protest restoration of the old Wauna Post Office that is currently not under MPD jurisdiction (see related story on this page), other residents shared ideas such as building an equestrian arena and a skate park.

Before big projects can be undertaken, the infrastructure has to be upgraded, especially the water system at Volunteer Park. Another big step, according to DeMoss, is to focus on community involvement and creation of project committees.

KPMPD confronted on Wauna building restoration

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

At a recent Key Pen Metropolitan Park District forum to seek suggestions on projects and priorities from the public, commissioners heard about a dozen people saying very loudly one thing they didn't want: the restoration of the historic Wauna Post Office. At some point the same people were surprised to hear that currently the MPD doesn't really have any control of the building's fate — as it's in the jurisdiction of Pierce County.

"We have not been approached by the county about acquiring any part of the Wauna Post Office," said KPMPD Chair Paula DeMoss. "...If it was brought up with financial standing as a plan (to be considered), you as the public will have input. It's unfair to say we won't have anything to do with it, we have not been approached regarding it. I can't sign a

resolution dealing with something that hasn't been brought to us as a board," she said, referring to a proposed joint resolution between the KPMPD and the Key Pen Parks and Recreation District that had been presented at a previous joint meeting between the two boards.

The week following the public forum, the discussion on the building and the resolution continued. Wauna residents came to the meeting to reiterate their extreme negative feeling toward the building, while DeMoss reiterated that she can't promise not to touch a project that has not been officially proposed yet and that the board is not in a position currently to consider acquiring another asset (such as the Purdy Spit from Pierce County).

"I will get every person on this peninsula to fight this damn thing," resident Jack Morgan seemed to have summarized the neighbor's feelings.

Upcoming discussion

The KPMPD is planning a January meeting for the supporters of the restoration project to give a formal presentation. Watch for an announcement of specific dates and location.

Supporter Nancy Lind, however, noted that it seemed unfair for the new board to approve a resolution saying it wasn't interested in the building without giving the supporting side a chance to fully present its proposal, including funding ideas.

Pressed by KPPRD Commissioner Mike Salatino to answer the hypothetical question on whether she would support the restoration if it had adequate financing, DeMoss said, "We are not going to make a decision without public input. I know it's been done in the past but it's not going to be anymore."

KPFD's Wauna fire station opens officially

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

On lucky Saturday the 13th in November, after 10 years of coping with a superabundance of codes, regulations, environmental concerns — real or imagined — money shortfall, etc., the Key Peninsula Fire Department finally was able to hold an open house opening day ceremony for its station at Wauna.

KPFD's Training Division chief, Paul Bosch said, "Although firefighters have been responding out of the station for two months, Saturday was the official ribbon-cutting ceremony."

About a hundred citizens, firefighters and distinguished guests attended the event.



Photos by Hugh McMillan

Fire commissioners Fred Ramsdell and James Bosch cut the ribbon at the official opening of Key Peninsula Fire District's Station I in Wauna.

Fire Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen acknowledged many distinguished guests during the event's opening, including retired fire chiefs Horace Kanno and Donald Olson and former chief Gary Franz, former commissioners Hugh

McMillan, Ed Taylor, Ruth Bramhall and Art Fenton and current 26th Legislative District Rep. Lois McMahan. Commissioners Fred Ramsdell and James Bosch cut the ribbon, officially opening the station.

Architect John Scherer of John Scherer and Associates and construction contractor Greg Baily of Baily-Berg Construction Inc. were presented plaques of appreciation. Guests were invited to tour the new facility. On display was a new fire engine assigned to the Wauna station. The "E-One" engine is a state-of-the-art pumper that carries 1,000 gallons of water. The station houses one fire engine and one water tender truck. It also has two open apparatus bays for future additions or relocation of fire and aid vehicles.

Chief Bosch said, "The station is home to up to five volunteer residents who live in it rent free, in exchange for which Wauna-area citizens are served by having firefighters respond immediately in times of emergency. Without resident volunteers, responses would be delayed while firefighters drove from their homes to the station to retrieve apparatus to respond to emergency locations."

In a closing ceremony honoring the occasion, an American flag contributed by Key Peninsula's VFW Post 4990 was poignantly raised by VFW District Four's Honor Guard before a hushed audience.

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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Pumpkin proceeds for Community House

By Colleen Slater
KP News

When Home pumpkin grower Larry Wingard offered to donate to KP Community House \$1 of each pumpkin sale from his patch this fall, he had no idea of the amount it would produce — either in pumpkins or cash.

He heard of the needed and desired expansion of the facility and thought it would be a small way to help.

When customers learned of the \$1 donation, many gave additional money to the fund, and he learned how generous the local community is.

He sold over 400 pumpkins, and rounded up the amount in a \$500 check he and wife Sharon presented to Community House Director Cristi Watson and Vice President Bill Onstad at a Friday Senior Lunch in November.

"It was so successful," said Wingard, "we'll do it again next year." He has already planned and started to prepare an even larger pumpkin patch.

The Community House expansion plan is to dig through the concrete floored basement to make that level high enough to be used for the food bank, which serves the whole Key Peninsula.

The upper floor will then be dedicated to the executive director's office, a conference room, an aerobics room and the kitchen and dining room for the seniors who gather there.

Wednesday and Friday lunches are served at noon, with a small monetary donation. Cooks Warren Ensor and Deb Harvey concoct delicious meals every week, and serve 50 or more people each lunch.

Board members Marge Adams and Helen Saxer shop twice a month for groceries, and Peggy Ensor drives a few seniors to the meals.

Watson notes the Community House capital campaign for the facility will begin in February. She and the staff are excited about the future possibilities for the center.

Public invited to meeting for KP-I stream survey

Pierce County Water Programs is hosting a public meeting to present the findings of a stream survey performed for the upcoming Key Peninsula-Islands Basin Plan.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 South Vaughn Road in Vaughn. Pierce County and URS Corp. will explain the basin planning process, describe the results of the stream surveys, and ask attendees for feedback on the survey and preferred approaches.

Once complete, the Basin Plan will prioritize surface water management fee expenditures in the area. County stormwater utility fees collected from property owners within the basin will provide funding for the plan and for the capital improvements.

County staff and consultants from URS Corp. have completed the first phase of preparing a plan for the basin, which encompasses the Key Peninsula including the Burley-Minter and Rocky Bay areas. The Basin Plan will also address islands including Fox, Raft, Anderson, Ketron, and Herron.

The first phase focused on collecting information on flooding, water quality, and floodplain habitat in the Key Peninsula-Islands Basin. As part of the basin characterization, URS completed habitat surveys on 17 streams within the area. They also performed water quality sampling on 10 different streams.

The habitat survey required walking the streams and rating both the instream and streamside habitat as either good, fair, or poor, using the Urban Stream Baseline Evaluation Method. In addition to the surveys, the report includes information on both current and predicted land use, fish use, and water quality for the area.

In the current phase, Water Programs and URS will evaluate and prioritize potential capital improvement projects aimed at reducing flooding problems and protecting water quality and floodplain habitat.

The Key Peninsula-Islands Basin Plan will also include an evaluation of programs and conditions impacting shellfish.

For more information, contact Barbara Ann Smolko at 798-6156.

Editorial

Good decisions start with strong leaders

While the media sometimes shies away from giving elected public figures the thumbs up, we'd like to note that one local leader deserves kudos this month.

At a recent Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, pressured to answer the hypothetical question on whether she would support the restoration of the old Wauna post office, Chair Paula DeMoss firmly said she would not take a stand without getting an actual proposal and hearing public input on it. To the comment that she was elected to make such decisions, DeMoss replied that she was elected to represent the people.

"We are not going to make a decision without public input. I know it's been done in the past but it's not going to be anymore," she said.

The MPD is barely getting on its feet and has plenty of time to demonstrate its dedication to the community participation, but having a strong leader is a good step in the right direction. Another key ingredient is community participation, and without it this board cannot have a true impact as it becomes established.

According to DeMoss, input is desperately needed from all user groups, so if you have any thoughts on what parks and recreation activities the Key Pen needs, don't go around complaining to friends and neighbors, go straight to the source and make your ideas known.

A group of Wauna residents has been making their position loud and clear on the restoration of a historic building in their neighborhood: No matter what, they just don't want it. Whether we agree or disagree with their position, it is this kind of civic participation and input that will help the commissioners chart a plan for the KP metro parks district.

The discussions may get heated, and one side likely stands to lose unless a compromise is found, but the bottom line is that the commissioners get the chance to hear all sides and make their decision based on what the people want, and based on how those desires fit within the district's vision and goals.

Talk to your commissioners and tell them what you want. And if you feel they are not keeping their promises, make sure you tell that to them as well.

How you can avoid the flu

By Dr. William Roes, M.D.
Special to KP News

By the time this article appears it will be December, and in all likelihood there isn't a flu shot left within a 100 miles. This year only half of the promised vaccine was delivered, because the vaccine produced by one manufacturer was contaminated, and Adventis Pharmaceuticals was the only company producing the vaccine. (Over the years numerous manufacturers of vaccines have quit producing them, due in large part to the high cost of liability insurance making vaccine production unprofitable and driving them out of the market, but I digress). People who usually took the vaccine are wondering what they can do to protect themselves.

Luckily, this flu season so far doesn't look too bad, and although there has been a lot of hype, I don't believe if you missed your shot there should be great cause for alarm. There are some simple things that you can do to keep influenza out of your home and family.

Influenza is a viral disease that typically comes in the winter months. It is not the same as a cold, but can share some of the symptoms. Patients with

If you get the flu, stay home, keep warm, and take your grandmother's chicken soup.

influenza typically are sicker quicker than those with a cold, they run a significant fever, complain of overall body aches, and often have a dry cough and headache. Sore throat, runny nose, and a productive cough usually signifies something else. Influenza is transmitted from person to person both by airborne particles (coughing and sneezing) as well as particles we pick up on our hands and inadvertently transmit to our mouth or nose. Staying away from crowds when the virus hit our community is a good idea, as well as washing your hands frequently.

In some cultures like Japan, people routinely wear surgical masks when they're out during flu season, but I don't expect that fashion to catch on here on the Key Peninsula.

The Centers for Disease Control maintains surveillance of flu activity, and you can check it online at www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly, and we post

the weekly update in our waiting room.

There is also a second type of influenza vaccine available, FluMist, but it's only for healthy people from 18-49 years old. This vaccine is administered by a nasal spray and contains a live virus, and can theoretically be spread from patient to patient.

High-risk patients are advised not to take this vaccine, and it usually requires a visit to the doctor's office for the prescription.

If the flu comes to our community, there are now antiviral medications that are effective in killing the virus that also have some value in preventing the disease.

If you missed the vaccine this year, and influenza is hitting our community hard, you may want to talk to your doctor about prophylactic antiviral therapy. If you get the flu, stay home, keep warm, and take your grandmother's chicken soup. Call your doctor and ask if the antiviral medication is right for you, but no medication takes the place of good nursing care at home.

Dr. William Roes is a physician with the Key Medical Center in Lakebay.

Letters to the Editor

Food bank supporters thank community

Pat yourselves on the back Key Peninsula. We want to thank all of those who shared an outpouring amount of support for the food drive at Peninsula Market Nov. 6. The people on the Key Peninsula showed true care and compassion for others. We collected food for six hours that day, and you all helped feed so many families by your support. We could not have asked for a better turnout. We are so impressed with everyone.

We also would like to thank our volunteers, Molly Meyers, Kathy and Mike Herold, Jennifer Buday, and Lauren and Kennedy Herold for working so hard. A special thanks to Kip Bonds, the manager at Peninsula Market in Key Center for allowing us to have the food drive at that location. Kip is an outstanding business person in our community and deserves a

lot of praise. We had spoken to Kip about having a food drive, and he jumped at the opportunity to help the people in the community. Our community members have shown that if they know there is a need, we can make a difference in other people's lives.

We cannot express our gratitude enough in this letter as to how gracious and wonderful the people on the Key Peninsula are. It is a very humbling experience to have encountered the love and support our community has for one another.

Thank you all so much again. You truly are angels in our community.

*Kristen Herold and Cristi Watson
Key Peninsula*

Couple invites seniors to free holiday meal

Ready or not, here come the holidays! Once again, we are preparing for our annual Christmas Day dinner for senior citizens. There are many seniors in our

community who are sitting home alone on Christmas Day and we want to extend an invitation to these people to come to the Key Peninsula Civic Center at Vaughn and be part of our dinner party.

Because of all the preparations of food and gifts and transportation, we are not equipped to accommodate unannounced, drop-in guests. We need to know in advance who will be joining us that day. We ask that everyone help us reach out to potential guests so we can contact them and extend to them an invitation. It is our desire to include each and every senior around here that wants to come.

Please call us at 851-4556 as soon as possible with names of interested seniors. Or, if you prefer, you may call Ruth Bramhall, who has graciously accepted to serve as a coordinator. Her phone number is 857-5184. We are waiting for you to call!

*Mike and Joyce Salatino
Wauna*

Civic Center elects new officers, gains new energy

By Danna Webster
KP News

The critical challenges of the Civic Center were met head-on with determined supporters at the Nov. 11 annual meeting. Over three dozen neighbors took seats at the board meeting ready and willing to serve.

The mood in the room shifted into an upbeat, can-do phase as people offered their names in nomination to serve on the board. KPCCA achieved the election of a full slate of executive officers and filled 11 of the 15 open seats on the Civic Center board. Applause filled the room at the conclusion of the elections and also during the business meeting for the reported fund-raising successes, such as the Oktoberfest that earned more than \$6,400 profit for the center.

The Civic Center is looking ahead to the new year, as President-elect Phil Bauer takes the gavel.

"I feel the KPCCA is a very valuable and important asset to the community," Bauer said. "We must find a way to get new volunteers, more people involved and new ideas."

Bauer is looking ahead to learning what the community wants for the Civic Center and how to achieve those goals. He asks members of the community to "please get involved with your time and your ideas."

Those interested should contact Bauer at the Civic Center, 884-3456, or email philbauer100@comcast.net.

2005 Civic Center Executive Committee members:

President: Phil Bauer
First vice president: Loyd Miller
Second v. p.: Bruce Macdonald
Secretary: Sabra Stratford
Treasurer: Ed Taylor
At large: Ben Thompson, Dale Loy
Past president: Betty Kelley

County changes recycling program

By Connie Harris
KP News

For the first time since 1989, Pierce County is upgrading the curbside recycling program. The county has proposed a more convenient and efficient system to improve participation in the program. Instead of multiple bins, a 96-gallon covered, wheeled container will be provided to each resident for all of the recyclables, except glass.

A representative from the county stated that this is a win/win program. The new recycling bin holds much more than the three-bin system, therefore, customers are able to recycle more and use fewer garbage cans. There will also be a \$1 to \$2 discount incentive given to all customers who recycle.

The proposal includes recommendations of having formal alternatives to the bin system for people who have long driveways or may have physical difficulties moving the containers to the pickup location.

Collection companies would increase efficiency by replacing worn-out recy-



cling equipment with an automated pickup system, according to program representatives. The county will require all haulers to maintain existing, staffed drop-off sites. In addition, glass recycling will provide funds for charities.

In 1994, Pierce County was one of the first in the nation to recycle more than it disposed. Since that time, declining participation in curbside recycling has been reduced to only recycling 42 percent to 45 percent of waste.

Customers will be notified when these changes will be implemented. For updates on this program, see www.piercecountywa.org/pc/services/home/environment/waste/recyclingsystem.htm or call 798-2179.



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Featured Properties of the Month

A private community of 25 acre parcels. Water, power, phone, some with septic installed/designs. Paved roads, a wildlife corridor & with Joemma Beach State Park next door it's like having a salt-water park in your backyard. The park offers swimming, beachcombing, a picnic area, trails, a boat ramp and more ... like being on vacation all year round! Only 25 minutes to Gig Harbor, major shopping & hwy for easy commute to Tacoma, Bremerton & ferries.



Whether you want an investment property or permanent residence, these lots are going fast so don't miss out on your chance to own a piece of one of the Key Peninsula's fastest growing communities. To see more photos please visit our website at www.bobandbreezi.com and click on any one of the "Lakebay Vacant Land" photos, then click on "Photo gallery".

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Reflections on the 'iron monster'

All of those who live on the peninsula have something in common, and no, it isn't our common desire to remain caffeinated. It's the daily or weekly need to confront the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, AKA Galloping Gertie, or what I call the Iron Monster.

Driving can be dangerous no matter where you go. More than 43,000 Americans lost their lives on the nation's highways last year. But there is something especially intimidating about

venturing out onto the Narrows Bridge, which as the name would suggest, is damned narrow. And not just narrow, but potentially lethal, mainly because there isn't any divider down the middle. Between Jan. 1, 1993 and Dec. 31, 2003 there were 565 accidents on the bridge involving some 1,187 vehicles, according to Washington State Patrol data. Some 255 of those involved injuries — and eight of them resulted in fatalities.

Now maybe you're one of the brave souls who likes to drive in the fast lane, just daring west- or eastbound vehicles to cross over the centerline and collide with you at a combined speed of a hundred miles-per-hour, but not me. Even though I tend to be impatient with people who drive under the limit, I not only forgive them out on the Iron Monster, I pull over into the right-hand lane and join them!

From the eastbound perspective, I can see the bridge towers that will support



**William Dietz
For Whatever
It's Worth**



Photo by Danna Webster

The site of construction cranes at the Tacoma Narrows Bridge is as familiar to drivers as the slow traffic on an average morning.

(The new bridge) will cost us \$3 per trip for starters, but the Washington State Transportation Commission can increase that, and according to those in the know they probably will.

the New Tacoma Narrows Bridge when it opens in the spring of 2007. Assuming that the project remains on schedule, the work to retrofit the existing bridge will be completed in 2008. The new structure will carry eastbound traffic — and the old bridge will handle westbound traffic. Given the fact that volume is expected to grow from the roughly 90,000 vehicles that use the

State Route 16 corridor today, to approximately 120,000 vehicles per day in the year 2020, we certainly need the extra capacity.

For those of you who like stats, add these factoids to your collection: The towers that can now be seen on the south side of the old bridge will be 510 feet tall when they are completed and each one of them will consume 8,000

cubic yards of concrete. Oh, and should they need to, engineers can add a second deck to the new bridge at some future date. The possibility of light rail has been mentioned. The new bridge deck will be 5,400 feet long, carry three 12-foot-wide traffic lanes, two 10-foot shoulders, and a 10-foot bicycle/pedestrian path that will be separated from traffic by a barrier. A very good idea indeed!

And that brings me back to the issue of safety.... The overall project is slated to cost \$849 million, \$800 million of which will be paid for with tolls. It will cost us \$3 per trip for starters, but the Washington State Transportation Commission can increase that, and according to those in the know they probably will. Based on the \$3 rate and existing assumptions, it will take 23 years to pay for the new bridge. That's a long time, but one-way traffic will make it safer to cross the bridge, and will ultimately save lives.

That's the good news... The bad news is that 76 million baby boomers (people born between 1946 and 1964) will be elderly by then! That's 29 percent of the current population. And, since we boomers love our cars, we'll be driving. So the rest of you young whippersnappers can expect to see us out on the bridge deck, listening to the Beach Boys, and motoring across that 23-year-old bridge at about 30 miles-per-hour. You might want to allow a little extra time.

If you would like to learn more about the existing bridge, go online to: www.wsdot.wa.gov/TNBhistory/Machine/machine5.htm#2.

Or, if you would like to track the progress of the new bridge, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr16narrowbridge.

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Corrections

A story in the November issue titled "Peninsula Light lowers rates" incorrectly listed the lowered power rates by Peninsula Light Co. The corrected statement should read: "PenLight's energy consumption charge for residential accounts is 5.282 cents (0.05282) per kilowatt hour (KWH). The surcharge will decrease from 0.00968 per kWh to 0.00742 effective Oct. 1. The combined rate will be 6.0 cents

(0.06024) per kWh, down from 6.25 cents earlier this summer."

"The Trading Post is a treasury of antique stoves" in the November issue has misidentified Don Fegley's wife, Liana Fegley. The article also incorrectly stated stoves were the second largest industry in the United States after the Civil War and before the auto industry. They were the first.

We apologize for these errors.

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Photos by Hugh McMillan

Above, Cub Scouts of Pack 220, left to right: Ian Burwell, Brandon Miller, and Tom Ainsworth, with the guidance of mom, Tami Miller, precisely fold some of the 209 flags of fallen veterans presented at the Vaughn Cemetery Veterans' Day, Nov. 11.

Veterans' Day on the KP

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

"Armistice Day" was declared a national holiday to commemorate the end of the horror of World War I, which ended on the 11th hour of the eleventh day of the 11th month of 1918. That was the "War to End All Wars." Over time and more wars, its name changed to "Veterans' Day" to honor all of our veterans of all of our services, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine, particularly those who paid the supreme price. In fitting, touching, heart-warming services throughout our peninsulas last week, we again paid respect to those who have kept our great nation free.

On Nov. 10, Vaughn Elementary's special assembly opened with an honor guard of Cub Scouts from Pack 222 and Brownies from Council 566, bringing in the flag. Students sang songs of each armed force and other patriotic selections, and some spoke of the origins of Veterans Day and sacrifices made by veterans in many conflicts over the past 100 years.

Students read from "What Makes America Great to Me," a poem written by them with some teacher help. There was a special salute to veterans and their families in the audience and a rousing rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Thursday, the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute presented the ninth annual Aisle of Honor at the Vaughn Cemetery, where 209 flags from caskets of veterans no longer with us were impressively displayed.

The flags are entrusted by the veterans'

surviving relatives to the KPVI, which assigns each a number and steel flagstaff bearing a plaque with the flag owner's name and service. Early Thursday morning, with the assistance of Boy Scout and Venture Crew 220 personnel, the flags were ceremoniously raised on the cemetery's grounds, overlooking Puget Sound. At dusk, Pack 220's Cub Scouts joined others in the task of taking down and flawlessly folding the flags ready for Memorial Day 2005.

Friday morning, Evergreen Elementary held its Vets' Day celebration, described by principal Jacque Crisman as "a great program put on by Miss Reynold's fourth and fifth grade class and Mr. Inglebritson's fifth grade class. Mrs. Hammon, our music teacher, worked hard with the kids to put on this very special program that talked about the history of the U.S."

Later that afternoon, the final Veterans' Day observance on the Key Peninsula took place in Minter Creek Elementary's comfortably packed gymnasium and started off with a powerful rendition by everyone present of our National Anthem, led by a student chorus under direction of music specialist Paula DeMoss. Between musical performances and a veteran-based play written by teacher Mr. Stafki and performed by a four-student cast, student speakers spoke of what it means to be a veteran. Some choral performances were cleverly augmented by the student performers flashing red, white, and blue cards, particularly in the staging of "There are Many Flags," in which it is made manifestly clear which flag we defend.

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Welcome to Blondie's



Photo by Danna Webster

Three big days will celebrate Blondie's grand opening. Blondie's plans to open in style the weekend of either Dec. 3 or Dec. 11 (dates were being finalized at press time), restaurant owner Lisa Marshall said. According to Marshall, dinner customers will be greeted with a glass of champagne and complimentary hors d'oeuvres while they wait to be seated. The dinner hours will be from 5 to 9 but the lounge will remain open until 11 p.m. There will be live music to enjoy each of those nights. Meanwhile, Marshall says to watch for the grand reopening of Lisa's Deli. The deli has been closed while it received a face-lift and will reopen with a new menu, new hours and new staff.



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Habitat for Humanity dedicates two new homes to Key Peninsula families

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

A very happy, fulfilled group of about 70 gathered in Horseshoe Lake Estates just off State Route 302 on the Key Peninsula on a November Sunday. They were there to participate in the dedication — and occupation of — two brand new homes built by the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Chapter of the Tacoma/Pierce County Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Warren Hendrickson, a retired Delta Air Lines pilot and chairman of the GH/KP chapter, officiated at the sun-swept but chilly ceremony.

Following an opening prayer by Deacon John Riccardi of St. Nicholas church in Gig Harbor, Sue Harms, GH/KP chapter family partner, introduced the Lawson family: mom Kim holding 2-year-old Sophia, Nick, 16, and Mariah, 13.

Kim described her feelings and those of her family at this “chance at a new beginning.” Family partner Judy Greinke presented the Nelson family, mom Crystal, Arianna, 4, and Cheyanne, 7. Crystal’s remarks brought a tear to more than one eye.

Before Hendrickson closed the ceremony, Pastor Sue Kahawaii of Tacoma’s Champion Centre blessed the homes.

Thereafter, visitors to the homes either wore shoe wraps or left their shoes at the door to preserve the cleanliness and the “brand new” feeling of



Photo by Hugh McMillan

At the ceremony dedicating two homes built by the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Chapter of the Tacoma/Pierce County Affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International at Horseshoe Lake Estates on the Key Peninsula, on the left, the Lawson family; Warren Hendrickson, chairman of the GH/KP chapter; and the Nelson family.

the homes. Two donated decorated cakes and punch staved off hunger pangs.

Among the many organizations contributing to the success of the project was the Key Peninsula Lions Club, whose contingent was led by Vice President George Robison.

Richie Phillips, an 18-year-old senior at Gig Harbor High said, “Habitat for Humanity is my senior project. I thought it was pretty cool to see the final house, walk through it and see

everything I had done. Seeing the two families get the keys to the houses and all those gifts was incredible. I can’t imagine how thankful they felt. I felt very proud standing there knowing I helped build their houses.”

Those interested in more information or wishing to volunteer with Habitat should contact 253-627-5626 or write to GH/KP Chapter, Habitat for Humanity, PO Box 7124 Tacoma, WA 98406.

Business briefs

Use of former Moreland building undecided

Any plans for the newly purchased Moreland corner are dependent on permits, the new owners of the building say. Though the rumor mill is full of speculation, there will be only one Windermere office in Key Center.

“The purchase of the Moreland corner is not an indication of any separation of the Windermere business,” said Joyce Tovey, co-owner of KP Windermere realty.

The purchase of that building just makes it possible for the business to “change the location of the offices,” she said, adding that the word “possible” should be stressed.

Longbranch resident opens Key Counseling

New Longbranch resident Jolyn Wells-Moran says everyone needs help now and then. Moran, PhD, MSW, a counselor with 24 years of experience, opened a new counseling business in Key Center on Nov. 15 in the Health Center building next to the library.

Wells-Moran says she has worked with people to resolve trouble with their kids, find and follow a career dream, develop healthy lifestyles, make plans for joyful and meaningful mid- and aging lives, stop overeating, and handle all sorts of life issues.

She also offers free workshops, listed on the business’ Web site at <http://keycentercounseling.8m.com>.

Wanted: Missing bus shelter - Reward!

Pierce Transit provided KP News with the following true-crime story*.

ALL POINTS BULLETIN

ATTENTION ALL CARS! Be on the lookout for a missing bus shelter. Last seen in front of Peninsula Market in the Key Peninsula area on Monday, November 1, 2004.

Height: 8’ 6”

Weight: 1,500 lbs.

Color: Green with clear glass

Gee, this is one for the PT books — a Stolen Bus Shelter!

Early last Tuesday, a Transit Operator stopped to pick up a Bus PLUS passenger. As the passenger boarded, she asked when the bus shelter was going to be replaced, mentioning that it was there yesterday.

The operator quickly contacted Dispatch, who in turn contacted Facilities and Construction Projects as to the whereabouts of the shelter. They responded that the shelter had been installed last February and there were no plans to remove, repair, or relocate it.

Quite a mystery! We think someone may have stolen the bus shelter to use Tuesday as a voting booth, maybe a weekend hunting blind, or the first half of a greenhouse project?

In spite of the unusual nature of the story, and the humorous tone, it should be noted that the theft of the bus shelter constitutes a serious crime.

Anyone with information regarding the theft should contact the Pierce County sheriff’s office. Pierce Transit is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who took the bus shelter.

—By William C. Dietz

* Published with permission.

KPMS participates in national mock election

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

A week before the national elections, Key Peninsula Middle School special education teacher Vicky Schauer briefed her mixed sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students on how to participate in the Youth Leadership Initiative via the University of Virginia in a national mock election for all national offices plus the office of Washington's governor.

She said, "Each kid chooses two issues such as the environment, Iraq, education, etc. and researches the matter to see which candidate reflected their personal views on the subjects to decide for whom to vote. The students also watched on tape portions of the first presidential candidates' debates. Prior to this, they'd studied propaganda techniques and read newspapers."

The purpose was to educate the kids to

"These are kids who would not normally vote nor, for that matter, be interested in the subject."

-Vicky Schauer, KPMS special education teacher

be independent thinkers and to not necessarily vote as do their parents, Schauer said. Students were also encouraged to discuss issues at home with their parents.

"These are kids who would not normally vote nor, for that matter, be interested in the subject," she said. "But they are really full of fire, they're really interested. It's really gratifying to me to see the seed planted that 'voting is a part of being a good citizen.'"



Photo by Hugh McMillan

KPMS Special Education teacher Vicky Schauer briefs her mixed sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students on how to participate in the Youth Leadership Initiative.

School brief

KPMS teachers to present at national conference

Key Peninsula Middle School teachers Karen Borders and Rya Diede, who are on the school's NASA Explorer program team, were recently invited to present at the annual nationwide Space Exploration Conference at the Johnson Space Center in Houston in early February. The teachers received the honor after their presentation proposal

was accepted in November.

To present its progress with the NASA program at the school, KPMS will hold a family night on Dec. 2 that will feature special guest Col. G. Warren Hall, assistant director for aviation and a test pilot at the NASA Ames Research Center and the author of 73 technical reports, three of which earned international awards for technical excellence.

Does your school have news you'd like to share? Fax it to 884-4053 or email us at news@keypennews.com.

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NOTICE OF VENDOR LIST

Notice is hereby given that the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District is creating a Vendor List for Parties interested in contracting with Key Peninsula Metro Parks for the sale of materials, equipment, supplies or services, when the amount of the sale is projected to be between \$2,500 and \$35,000. The District is accepting applications from qualified parties to be placed on the Vendor List. A notice, substantially in the form of this notice, will be published annually in a newspaper of general circulation, advertising the existence of the vendor list and soliciting the names of vendors for the list. Such vendor list will be used instead of formal sealed bidding procedures when the estimated contract price is between \$2,500 and \$35,000. For eligible purchases, the District staff will solicit at least three quotations from vendors on the list, whenever reasonably possible. Minority and women owned businesses are encouraged to apply. Send applications to be on the Key Peninsula Metro Parks Vendor List to: Key Peninsula Metro Parks, P. O. Box 70, Lakebay, WA, 98349. Please include your address, telephone number and other pertinent information. Qualified vendors will be added to the list on a continuing basis. Dated this 15th day of November, 2004

Peninsula schools fight drugs

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Key Peninsula students took part in the school district-wide Red Ribbon "Pledge to be Drug Free" Week at the end of October, an important tradition for the drug prevention community.

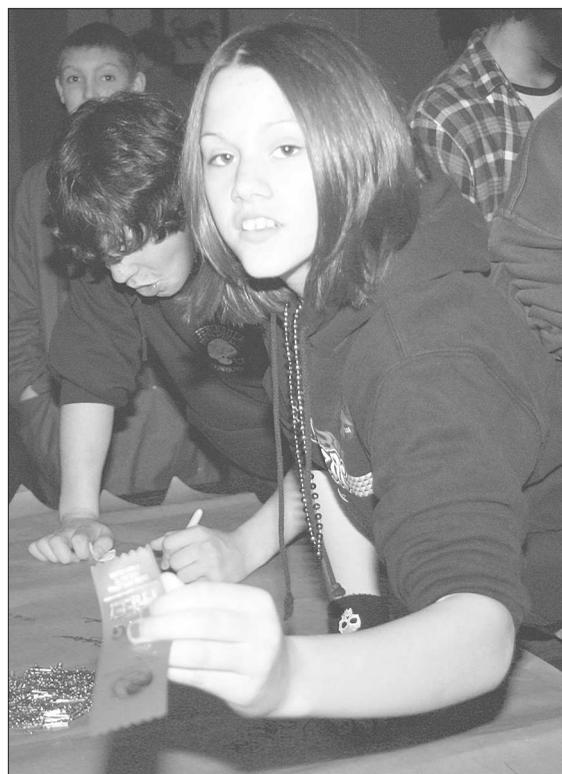
The event is a national, grassroots tribute to fallen DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was murdered by drug traffickers in 1975, according to Nikki Fowler, a student assistance specialist and organizer of the Peninsula School District event. The members of the Camarena Clubs formed within weeks of his death pledged to lead drug-free lives — and Red Ribbon Week was one of the activities they spearheaded.

A high point of the program is "Plant the Promise," in which kids active in such student organizations as SADD (Students Against Destructive

Decisions), TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use), Dignity, and environmental clubs rolled up their sleeves and planted red rose plants and red tulip bulbs.

Nikki Fowler, PSD substance abuse prevention and intervention activist and event organizer, said that "by wearing a red ribbon during the last week in October, Americans demonstrate their opposition to drugs and pay homage not only to Special Agent Camarena, but to all men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of our nation's struggle against drug trafficking and abuse."

At Peninsula High School, nurse Maren Stavig and social worker Jane Fairchild chaperoned the "Pledge to Be Drug Free" signing at all three lunches, when students were encouraged to sign the pledge poster and wear a red ribbon for the week to signify they had made the pledge to be drug free.



KPMS 7th grader Amber Chaney shows off her recently acquired red ribbon during Red Ribbon Week.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

At all lunches throughout the district, kids who signed the pledge posters received red ribbons; some were pretty fancy, others rather basic, but they all delivered the message. Although the kids were fairly jocular about the transaction, not one failed to wear the

ribbon with pride.

Karisa Schroeder, 16, a PHS junior helping with the school's Plant the Promise said, "I am doing this mainly because it is good and it will make our school look really good. And because it is just a nice thing to be doing."

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School district board considers new levy

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

With the Peninsula School District's three-year maintenance and operations levy expiring in the spring of 2005, the school board is set to adopt a resolution at its December meeting to ask voters in February to approve a new levy. The levy funds educational and other programs that do not receive adequate state funding, according to district officials.

The draft of the 2006-2009 levy spending plan allocates the money toward curriculum development and K-12 staff, technology support and replacement, and staff development, among other line items.

"Many things need to be continued so we can keep the current level of services," Deputy Superintendent Marcia Harris said at a public forum in November.

Following the addition of a new school district goal that focuses on academic success for struggling students, some of the funding would go toward programs to help those students.

Parents and high school students who attended the forum at the Key Peninsula Middle School expressed strong support of increased funding for co-curricular activities such as sports, saying that without those opportunities many children would not be as successful in school.

One Peninsula High School student said he did not have the opportunity to participate in sports in middle school and "hated all three years of it," but his sports participation at the high school motivates him to come to school because he has the responsibility to his coach and teammates to be at practice.

"We have not had a discussion since 1996 about cutting middle school sports, that has not been on our radar," Harris responded to the concerns.

The district was taking public input regarding the draft, with recommendations to be presented at the board's Dec. 16 meeting. In order to hold an election in February, the board must adopt the resolution at that meeting. For details about the levy or the board meeting agenda, call the district at 857-6171.

Community helps raise funds



Photo by Hugh McMillan

At the Canterwood Golf and Country Club, site of the 9th annual Peninsula High School fund-raising dinner auction Saturday, Tom Prentice, holding his winning red raffle ticket aloft, exults at winning dinners at the Beach House in Purdy as happy table mates share the joy. The well-attended, jovial gathering was judged by all to have been a resounding success and will help fund a number of school activities.

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Key Pen Community Council invites residents to participate

Key Peninsula Community Council meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Want to meet more community members? Want to find out what's going on in our community? Need a break from your holiday planning? Then come join us for an upcoming Key Peninsula Community Council meeting.

Meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 7 p.m. and are held in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library. Our December meeting is scheduled for Dec. 8 and the January meeting is Jan. 12.

If you have a special interest, why not think about joining one of our many committees? We are still looking for community members to participate on any one of the following committees:

- Finance Committee - Develops, coordinates and monitors council's financial plan and responsibilities to include annual budget development, fund-raising efforts, and monthly reporting.

- Communications Committee - Develops and coordinates council's public relations, marketing, volunteer recruitment and membership development.

- Community Safety Committee - Develops and coordinates council's plans for crime prevention, emergency preparedness, and other safety issues.

- Human Services Committee - Develops and coordinates council's plans for human services to include: senior services, family support services, affordable housing, youth education, youth recreation, and community services.

- Community Planning Committee - Makes liaison with the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board. In addition, helps develop and coordinate

council's role for land use, economic development and environmental. If you would like additional information about the Community Council, upcoming meetings, or committees just call our office at (253) 884-0557. We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting! Happy Holidays!

—By Denise Carron

AARP 55-Alive at Key Pen Sportsmen's Club

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club will be hosting an AARP 55-Alive Driving Review Course on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 8-9, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants age 55 and older may receive a discount on their car insurance for attending this course. Contact A.E. Dolfen at 884-5767. The deadline for reservations is December 6th at 4:00 PM. The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club is located at 3503 Jackson Lake Road KPN, in Lakebay.

S.A.V.E. for the Holidays

Be sure to make S.A.V.E. Thrift Store in Purdy one of your holiday shopping destinations for top quality merchandise and low prices.

December begins with the annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, Dec. 4. The store is decorated with stockings, ornaments, and other Christmas goodies, all of which are for sale. Due to their excellent quality, the books, toys, glassware, clothing and jewelry that S.A.V.E. features make excellent gifts. Or if you are looking for a warm winter coat or sweater, this is the place. Juice and cookies will be provided to shoppers throughout the day.

S.A.V.E.'s December schedule includes the usual bag sale on kids' clothes and shoes on Tuesday, Dec. 7, bag sale for all ages on Tuesday, Dec. 14 and "New

Selections" day on Thursday, Dec. 16 when the store is filled with fresh clothing items.

The store will be open on its regular 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. schedule through Dec. 21. It will reopen the week after Christmas for Monday and Tuesday only, Dec. 27 and 28.

S.A.V.E. Thrift Store is operated by the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund for the benefit of the activity groups and scholarship program at Peninsula High School. Your donations, purchases and volunteer hours make a valuable contribution to our students and community. Please call the store at 857-2800 if you would like more information.

An invitation to the Key Peninsula Writers' Guild 'Winter Morning Write-in'

The guild members wish to extend an invitation to Peninsula writers and friends to join them for a 'Winter Morning Write-in,' Jan. 15, Saturday morning from 10 to noon. They will meet at the Key Center Library, which is in Key Center south of the flashing light signal just past the fire department.

The guild invites you to come to participate, observe, and meet others interested in the craft. RSVP appreciated. Contact: Danna Webster 253-884-6455 or email dannadu@gigharbor.com. Walk-ins welcome.

Holiday Joy from your Library Friends

On Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. the Brones Room at our Key Peninsula Library will vibrate to the music of Jazz Musette. Not traditional music of the season, but a tradition just the same: for the Friends of the Library a December program means MUSIC. In years past this

has meant everything from harps to digeridoos.

Jazz Musette is a very special local quintet. If you heard these musicians at the Two Waters Art Barn, you already know this is an evening not to miss. New listeners can be assured they couldn't find a better way to begin holiday celebrations.

The Friends of the Key Center Library is an all volunteer organization that recognizes the importance of our library in the community and in the lives of so many of its people. Anyone can join and everyone benefits. Please receive its gift of joy on Dec. 8 and watch future issues of Key Pen News to learn more about this group and its services.

Trees of Sharing collect gifts for Veterans

Key Peninsula Veterans Institute will again place the "Trees of Sharing" along the Peninsula: Bridgeport Market; Lake Kathryn Peninsula Market; Key Center Peninsula Market; and the Home Shell Station. The trees of sharing will collect gifts for the veterans at American Lake.

Please get your gift tag from a tree, and return your gift to that store, on or before, Dec. 21. All gifts will be delivered to American Lake on Dec. 22.

Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden Club will have a potluck luncheon at the home of Ann Waldo at 12 noon on Dec. 3. Turkey will be prepared by Peggy Robertson and there will be a small gift exchange.

Christmas Wreath making will be held at 10:30 p.m. at the Longbranch Fire Station on Dec. 10. Bring materials to make a wreath for yourself or a friend. For more information contact Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

arts alive on Key Peninsula

Two Waters wishes you a joyous and artful holiday season! Two Waters Arts Alliance presents our first annual calendar featuring the beautiful creations from your local artists! Purchase your 2005 TWAA calendar now. They make great gifts for friends and family and support the local arts at the same time.

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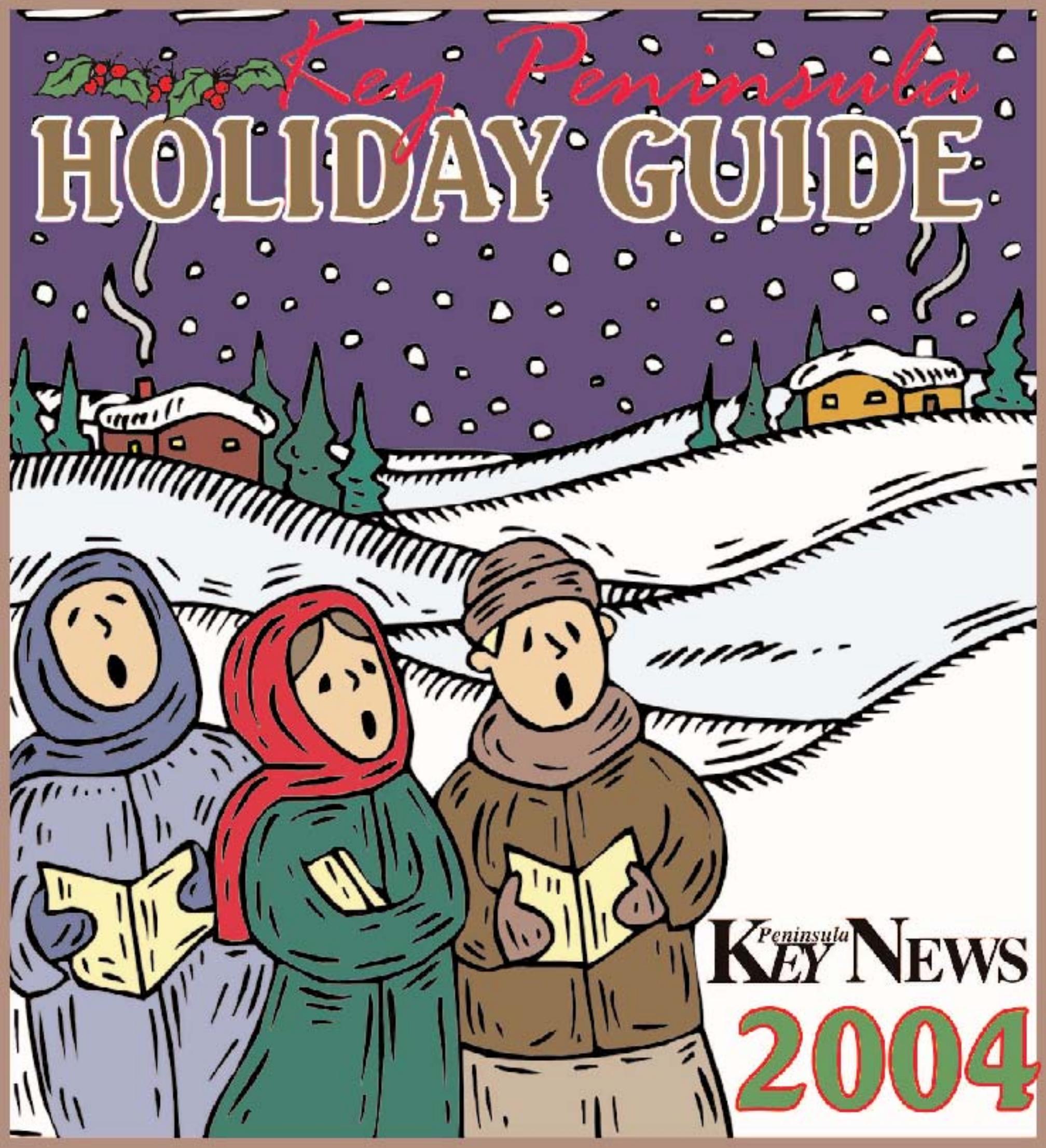


to all the supporters and fund-raiser contributors.

The Lozovanu family arrived safely at their new home in November.



Key Peninsula
HOLIDAY GUIDE



Peninsula
KEY NEWS
2004

Church hosts holiday bazaar

By Colleen Slater
KP News

The Ruth Circle of Longbranch Church held its annual holiday bazaar on Nov. 6. Hand-made items, baked goods, plants, books, and "white elephants" were displayed for shoppers. This year the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute also set up a table with similar wares.

Lunch of soup, bread, coffee and dessert was available, with seating at small tables decorated in a holiday theme.

Raffle items included a red, white and blue afghan, embroidered table and napkin set, and a scarf made with Easter egg dyed wool spun and woven by Peg Robertson.

On the baked goods table was an "Allsgood Pie" made from a recipe of Almeda House, a Circle member who died earlier this year. She told this story about growing up in the South, with a house servant: When asked what kind of pie it was, he said "Alls good," referring to the ingredients, including pecans.



Photo by Colleen Slater

Helen Fravel with the Ruth Circle's cookbook at the Ruth Circle Holiday Bazaar at Longbranch Church.

Almeda contributed the recipe to the Circle cookbook, also on sale at the bazaar.



Dolores Argabright, Marsha Horan, Marlies Van Cise (president), and Maryann McDonald showing off holiday hats at the holiday Orthopedic Guild event.

Photo by Colleen Slater

Orthopedic Guild holds holiday lunch, auction

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Over 100 women turned out at the Longbranch Improvement Club in November for the annual Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild Holiday Lunch and Auction.

Festive tables, trees with tiny white lights, and Christmas music in the background all added to a magic wonderland atmosphere.

Tables around the room displayed crafts and holiday decorations for sale, silent auction and oral auction items from hand-made items, through gift certificates and a gigantic stuffed bear

adorned with Christmas décor.

Sunnycrest Nursery supplied the trees, and pianists were Marianne McColley and Ann Craven. This year's auction and sales items brought in about \$5,000, plus lunch ticket sales of \$1,600. Memorial donations and craft sales at the Festival of Trees in Tacoma will net a generous gift from the local group this year.

These proceeds benefit Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. The organization has donated annually from their various fund-raising events, including handcrafted items and Christmas wreath sales, the holiday lunch and auction.

Peninsula KEY NEWS

The Key Peninsula Holiday Guide is a supplement published by the Key Peninsula News.

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Key Peninsula Baptist Church
invites you to Celebrate CHRISTmas with us!

Key Peninsula Baptist Church

Wednesday December 15, 7:00 pm
Youth performance of If Bethlehem Were Today

Sunday December 19, 11:00 am
Bethlehem's Child, A Musical Cantata
Worship Service Following

Both Free Activities held at the KP Civic Center
For More Information Call Pastor Rouse at 253-853-6761

Christmas Day



By Debra McElroy

Cinnamon sticks and apple cider
And red-headed step-children
Chocolate eyes and peppermint kisses
All before waking
To rainfall and chill.

And there it is
On the outside, the dull light
Of expectation
The furnace kicks on in an explosion of heat
To warm my reluctant feet to move to
The stairs to move to the landing.

My stomach does cartwheels
As I see the bright paper the newsprint
Packages the ribbons and bows
Of homemade splendor
I stand holding my breath.

Get dressed for your Auntie
Eat breakfast with Grandma
Open gifts with cousins this
Muddy great day.

Then I smell
From the kitchen the generations
At work on the feast of the season

The evergreen season of fog and rain
And socks and toys
It's the food, it's the love
It's my grandmother's smile
In the rain through the fog
In the kitchen around the television set
Laugh the men
It's the family
The jokes, the cookies and pie.

The packages never yielded
The expected or desired
It is the family
It is grandma's arms.

*Debra McElroy lives and writes on the
Key Pen.*



Deck the halls

Kathy Michaels and Jiji Sylstad decorate one of Sunnycrest Nursery's Christmas trees in November and deck out the rest of the store in preparations for the annual open house, which coincided with the Civic Center's November crafts fair.

*Photo by
Rodika Tollefson*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

A Special Message From the Key Center Civic Center

To all of you in the community who have shown your love and support in so many ways - volunteering for everything and serving on the board and just remembering to spread the word about our facility and helping it be used for all the community's needs -

THANK YOU!



To all in our community, we would like to wish you a very special Happy Holidays and may you be surrounded with love and the spirit of the holidays during this special time of year.

Happy Holidays from Cost Less!

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Canine makeovers with “A Lot of Love”

By Connie Harris
KP News

Three years ago Ladine Duran received a gift of love from a good friend, her own dog-grooming business. Locating in Key Center, Ladine, her family, and her best friend, Rhonda Brook, began washing, trimming and giving makeovers to the dogs on the Peninsula. After attending grooming school in Portland and apprenticing in New Mexico, she settled here, where Duran says she has found her serenity.

Each month, a drawing is held at A Lot of Love for a free makeover session as a gesture of customer appreciation. One of Duran's first customers was Sue Beck, whose Maltese Terrier, Buddy, was afraid of being groomed. That all changed when Beck started bringing Buddy to A Lot of Love.

“I tell him we're going to go get his hair cut and he'll just jump into the car,” Beck says.

Duran gives back to the community when she can, by donating her time and talent to various charities. She often

“I tell him we're going to go get his hair cut and he'll just jump into the car.”

-Sue Beck, customer

donates her grooming skills to the local schools for their fund-raising projects. Her recent donations included the Pink Panther Oktoberfest and several charity auctions held by the Lions' Club.

In addition to canine makeovers, this holiday season A Lot of Love is also sponsoring a canned food drive for pets. Dog and cat food collected will be given to the KPCS food bank for families who have pets. These donations can be brought to the shop during regular work hours, Tuesday through Saturday until Christmas.

To complete their holiday preparations, Duran invites dog owners to stop by, have their pets groomed and bring a donation. Photographs of the groomed canine can be arranged at the time of the appointment.



Photo by Danna Webster

Rhonda Brook, left, with her dog Teensea and Ladine Duran, right, holding Buddy Beck and Ki-Ki Manning.

Holiday traditions old and new bring fond memories

By Colleen Slater
KP News

This time of year many people recall their childhoods, and how special holidays were celebrated. “We always...” begins many a conversation as folks reminisce about their childhoods or early adult years.

Holiday meals with large family gatherings and special foods predominate in memories.

Judy Hardin notes that her family, of German and Pennsylvania Dutch descent,

always served pork roast with sauerkraut on New Year's Day as it was to bring good luck in the new year. “This tradition has been going on for as long as I can remember,” she says.

Jane Coby's mother always gave her children Lifesaver books at Christmas. She and her sister continue this tradition with their own children. The first Christmas after their mom died, Jane received a book of her own from her oldest sister.

Tor Johannessen relates that his Norwegian family always has pork in some

form for Christmas Eve dinner, when the family gathers. Traditional breads and red cabbage are also part of the meal. He recalls dancing around the Christmas tree as a child, and they have done it a few times in their own family.

Loc Meeker says food was always an important part of their holiday celebrations. Her parents had a restaurant in Viet Nam and raised animals. They are Catholic, and cooked turkey for Christmas, but Vietnamese foods are included, too.

Nicol Johnson says, “Grandma's Jell-O®” is always part of any holiday meal. Raspberry flavor, with fruit cocktail, Cool Whip®, crushed pineapple and cottage cheese makes it special.

Joyce Niemann has carried on the tradi-

tion of English plum pudding from her mother, who was at least third generation to make it each Christmas. Joyce's daughter Noel and granddaughter Nicole got into the act some years, too, so this is at least a six-generation tradition.

Kathryn Arnold tells of a tradition her adoptive mother began, and which Kathryn's stepchildren have continued to practice in their own families. “Mom Davidson set a gorgeous Christmas table with fine china, silver and crystal. In the center was a small, beautifully wrapped gift for everyone at the table. Wide satin red or green ribbons were tied from the gift to each place setting. After desert plates were

(See **TRADITIONS**, Page 5)



Photo courtesy of Dorothy Lonning

Dorothy Lonning's Christmas tradition involves adding a new house every year to her miniature village.

Last-minute shopping around the Key Pen

Check your list off at local shops

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

If you're like many shoppers who leave their holiday list unchecked until the very last moment, save the stress of driving the busy roads and trying to park at crammed supermalls. Instead, support local businesses by doing your shopping on the Key Pen — you'll be surprised at how many choices the local shops offer!

Below are some ideas of what you can find driving around the peninsula's neighborhoods for all those special people on your list — as long as they've been good this year.

On peninsula's south end, at **Fairview Acres Country Store**, owners Coni and Ron Chaney will hold a holiday Open House Dec. 3-5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with refreshments, lavender tea and plenty of gift ideas. But you don't have to wait until the open house, go by during any other week for choices ranging from stockings (stuffed or empty), inexpensive stocking stuffers, hand-made lavender soaps and

cosmetics, gift items like tea pots and knick-knacks, their own line of jams, syrups and other goodies, spinning wheels and spinning supplies, and much more. Located in the area of Penrose Park, watch for signs off 158th or call 884-3107 for directions; store is closed Monday and Tuesday.

In Key Center, you can not only order custom wreath and centerpieces at **Sunnycrest Nursery**, but also find unique heart-warming presents, keepsakes, and Christmas décor as well as tree decorating ideas — check out their old-fashioned vintage tree that looks like one your grandparents had, or the rest of the store's corners all decked out in sparkly decorations. Present choices range from home décor, gardening gadgets and live Christmas trees to keepsakes including pewter "Serenity Angels" ornaments with sayings from Eleanor Roosevelt, Emily Dickinson and other writers. Owner Claudia Loy says, "We always have the hot spiced cider on." Sunnycrest can ship wreaths and floral arrangements worldwide as well as deliver locally but there is a cutoff date for guaranteed delivery.

Also in Key Center, check out **Nimrick's Furnishings Old and New**, which has old and vintage items ranging from furniture to tools and housewares, as well as watches, jewelry, perfumes, miniature collectibles and special holiday choices. The shop will hold a holiday open house Dec. 4 from noon to 5 p.m.

Down the street, you'll find presents for your handymen (or women) at **Capitol Lumber**.

As you go further north, stop at **Country Gardens**, off State Route 302 near the 76 gas station, and enjoy a latte while browsing through. Several trees decorated in themes this year include the patriotic red/white/blue and natural (with feathers, pine cones and the like), and unique gift choices range from stuffed animals, candles, vases, picture frames, to keepsakes. You can also order centerpieces and fresh florals there.

At the **Lake Kathryn shopping center**, **Cost Less Drugs** is a must-stop if you need toys, presents for sportsmen, cooks, and just about anyone else. You'll find portable CD players, action figures, home décor, holiday decorations, quilts, glassware, collectables, stocking stuffers and a large selection of greeting cards and tree lights. If you need an excuse to stop by, show up at the Open House on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a raffle drawing of a Nutcracker, 25 percent off on various items, free Santa photos and refreshments.

Our neighbors in Purdy as well as Allyn, Grapeview and Belfair also offer shopping choices that beat driving over the Narrows Bridge. In downtown Allyn, check out the gift store at the liquor shop and stop by **Kenny's Northwest Experience** that features a collection of beautiful woodcarvings by Northwest artists along with a variety of other gifts. Further down in Grapeview, **Garden Gate** is a holiday wonderland with one-of-a-kind wreaths and arrangements, fun garlands, fresh flowers and berries, unusual greenery and realistic-looking

(See **SHOPPING**, Page 6)

(From **TRADITIONS**, Page 4)

removed, each person pulled the gift to them, according to how Mom had placed the ribbons. It seemed even more fun than the typical Christmas morning because everyone enjoyed what everyone else received," she recalls.

At one time, she was going to drop this tradition because of the expense of gifts for the number of people present. Her teen stepdaughters decided to draw names to maintain the tradition. Kathryn arranged the satin ribbons, and each person attached the gift.

Laura Otto gathers her family on Christmas Eve for dinner and a gift exchange. For several years, she has given each adult family member a copy of some part of the family history she has compiled. One year this gift was a copy of an aunt's journal of her early teaching years.

Ursula Van Slyke's family gather on Christmas Eve at "Grandma Jane's" to share dinner and gifts. Ursula has taught her husband, daughter and grandsons "O Tannenbaum" in German, which is always included in the carol singing after dinner.

Grandma Jane Van Slyke adds that

almost all of the family sing their own song (or in couples or family groups) and they always include her sister Carol's childhood rendition of "Away in the Manger." Carol sang it as "the little Norwegian lay down his sweet head."

One of my husband's family traditions is live candles on the Christmas tree. They always chose white pine and put it up on Christmas Eve so it would be fresh. White pines, when fresh, will turn to ash if burned, but not flame. Since his mother's birthday was a few days after Christmas, they lit the candles on that day, and if any visitors came who wanted to see the lighted candles on New Year's Day, they lit them once more, then took the tree down.

In our family, we stop other activities while the candles are lit, and sing Christmas carols. The youngest children are allowed to blow them out.



Some people have started new traditions in their own family.

Dorothy Lonning has been setting up her Christmas village of miniature houses for about 15 years. Each year she adds another house, so the town is filling in.

Rose Grant and her children have a family tradition that is only 40 years old for her family, although it's an older one for many. When her two boys were very young, as soon as the decorations went up they asked every day if it was Christmas yet. Rose started the tradition of holding out the baby Jesus from the nativity set until after they went to bed Christmas Eve. They checked the nativity often. On Christmas morning, two very excited little boys woke her to announce that it was indeed Jesus' birthday — the baby had arrived in the crèche.

A few years ago her youngest son visited soon after the decorations went up and wanted to know why the baby was in the crèche. "Didn't I know he was not supposed to appear until Christmas day?" writes Rose. "Oops. Needless to say I have continued to hold back the baby ever since."

Traditions are important in many families. Holidays bring families together, and familiar traditions recall many memories.

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(From **SHOPPING**, Page 5)

florals along with home and holiday décor and gifts ranging from hand-made mosaic mirrors to festive pillows. In Purdy, stop by **Country Expressions** where you can spend a few hours in the cozy space if you want to look at all the selections, which range from clocks and ornaments to snowmen and knick-knacks in Victorian, patriotic, outdoor, Shabby Chic and many other styles.

If you haven't found a gift after all this shopping — consider a gift certificate some pampering at **Serenity Salon and Spa** (expected to reopen the first week in December) or the gift of an art class offered by the **Two Waters Arts Alliance**. Two Waters also has a 2005 calendar featuring a local artist each month (\$15 available at Sunnycrest and other local outlets, with proceeds benefiting the arts organization).

Don't forget the local thrift stores for inexpensive decorations, **Angel Guild** in Key Center and **S.A.V.E.** in Purdy, which will have an Open House on Dec. 4 with refreshments and deals — and

the Key Pen grocery stores for your Turkey and fixings.



Anna Holland of Cost Less Drugs in Wauna stocks the shelves with holiday ornaments and gifts.

Photo by
Rodika
Tollefson

Holiday brief

Key Singers invite you to join holiday celebrations

The Key Singers Holiday agenda is:

- Dec. 5, 4 p.m. - Tree lighting and Santa's arrival at K.C. Corral;

- Dec. 11, 3 p.m. - Christmas festivities at Jackson Lake Sportsmen's Club;

- Dec. 12, 4 p.m. - Holiday Musicales - Chapel Hill Church;

- Dec. 15, 7 p.m. - Longbranch Improvement Club Christmas party;

"Come and join us in the celebration of this joyous season," says Key Singer Barbara Bence.

Christmas at Chapel Hill

Share the light of the season

Christmas on the Hill Concert
December 4, 7pm, Free

Jim Martinez's Jazz Concert
December 11, 7pm, \$12

Christmas Eve Services
Family Services 4, 5:30pm
Carols and Candles 7, 8:30
Traditional Communion 10

Corner of Rosedale & Skansie Avenues
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arts alive on Key Peninsula



Two Waters joins the Key Peninsula News in wishing everyone on the Key Peninsula a joyous and artful holiday season!

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Winter holiday recollections

From the Key Peninsula Writers' Guild



Fox and Goose

By Carl Tucker

My winter holiday memory was snow on the ground. No school. All of the farm chores were done. It was about nine o'clock in the morning, and we three kids, ages of 8, 10 and 11 were out playing Fox and Goose in the pasture with our dog, Freck, and Thunder-n-Lightning, a pony.

The way we played it was to shuffle out a circle, then quarter it, then have one person or animal be the fox and the rest be the geese. The fox would chase the geese around the circle or in the slices until they caught one of the geese. This took a lot of time to set up and, with the help of the animals, no one became a true winner because after all the "no fairs" and "You didn't catch me," it usually ended up in utter chaos.

After playing for an hour or so, we would go in and warm ourselves by the wood cooking stove and have hot cocoa that Mom would have ready.

What our holidays were not

By Rae Dalton Hight

Winter is the quiet time in my life. Soft whispers of what our holidays were not mute the raucous sounds of "Jingle Bells" and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." Honoring the earth at Solstice through candle-lighting

and song has become the festival I embrace. Gazing into the eyes of my beloved on our anniversary just before the New Year is the celebration I most treasure. This brings me through the historical abyss of drunken slurs and fantasy wrappings around a smudged Goodwill dolly with a hand-me-down coat.

We've created new shadow marks on the walls of my memory: winter snow during a ski trip to Bend, Oregon; black-haired children singing "Feliz Navidad" in Mexico City; and a renewal of our wedding vows amidst the green and red holiday lights at Snoqualmie Falls. These new memories reflect my holiday magic, and have brought joy to what was once a troubled child's view through a window of despair.

Memories

By Connie Harris

Grandparents come across the miles to gather with the family. My sled is ready for the races down in town. Snowdrifts in front of each home need to be dug through. Dad and the boys should worry about clearing the walkways.

Did I mention my sled is waxed and shined, setting out front?

Last night, because I'm the girl of the family, I had to pull apart tons of bread for the stuffing. No one helped

me. And, I helped my dad set up the massive train system to run throughout the living room. It's so cool to make the town, the crossings, and the tunnel. The fire engine came tonight and the man who lives down the street came to our door. (I knew it was him because his beard fell off into the snow). He came in, proclaimed being the Big Guy's helper, and gave us a taste of what was to come in the morning.

My sled is starting to cover with snow. Did everyone see it out there?

After the grandparents get here, gifts are opened, and then of course, breakfast. It might be afternoon before I'm speeding down those hills to victory. This is the big neighborhood race. OK, now I have to do the dishes with "the women." My brothers left an hour ago.

Now it's time! Yea! I get my skates on, tuck my sled under my arm and go to the hills. The gift-giving was not important. This race is the greatest. I stand in line for my turn, jump on my sled and fly down that big hill trying to avoid the trees. This is great! I am the fastest.

I arrive at the bottom, which had been the center of a frozen pond. But now it is no longer totally frozen. I am wet and cold.

My dad will be so mad to have to come down here and carry me home. I'll have a cold now, miss school, and have to stay in the house for the rest of the holiday and do dishes. But I love this holiday, and the anticipation of it all.

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Nest in New Brookside, Restaurant Across from Church on Corner

Hours: M-F 9-6 Sat. 10-4 Sun. 11-3

Have Yourself A DIVALYCIIOUS Christmas

Coming to:

Longbranch Improvement Club

Saturday
December 11, 2004
7:30pm

In styles that range from swing to gospel and everything in between the sassy, classy ladies of DIVALYCIIOUS have assembled the quintessential family-oriented musical entertainment to celebrate the Holidays!

BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY AND JOIN US FOR THIS WONDERFULLY FESTIVE EVENING

4312 Key Pen Hwy S., Longbranch 253-884-6022

Holiday Dessert Bar and Beverages Available. Ticket prices: Adult: \$10 Child: \$5 (12 and under). Family of four (2 children minimum) \$25.

Tickets available at: Sunnycrest Nursery, Homestore & at door.

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\$10 off \$100 purchase*

(*Excludes tobacco & alcohol)

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Key Center

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Lake Kathryn

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All Times Are
Approximate

Santa Comes To Town

Santa's 2004 Schedule

The Key Peninsula Fire Fighters Association Will be sponsoring Santa's visit throughout the Key Peninsula area - with candy canes for the children and the young at heart. Check Santa's schedule for your neighborhood.



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Sunday - December 5 - 4:00 p.m.

Tree Lighting - KC Corral

Tree lighting sponsored by The Key Peninsula Business Association. Tree furnished by Sunnycrest Farms. Thank you Key Peninsula Firefighters Local #3152 for hauling and setting up our tree.

Monday - December 6

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

Tuesday - December 7

6:00 - 6:15 pm Wind and Tides
6:15 - 6:30 pm Bell-Mar
6:30 - 6:45 pm Wauna Shores
6:45 - 7:00 pm Danforth Heights
7:30 - 8:00 pm Horseshoe Estates

Wednesday - December 8

6:00 - 6:45 pm Lake of the Woods
6:45 - 7:00 pm Bell Ridge
7:00 - 7:15 pm Huckleberry Ridge

Friday - December 10

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

Saturday - December 11

6:00 - 6:30 pm Jackson Lake Area
6:30 - 6:45 pm Cherry Crest Homes
6:45 - 7:30 pm McEwan Rd. and Home Area
7:30 - 8:00 pm Joemama Beach Farms

Sunday - December 12

6:00 - 6:30 pm Taylor Bay Estates
6:45 - 7:30 pm Palmer Lake

Book selection night

Key Center Friends of the Library invite all readers to join in the fun of picking books to talk about next year. Bring your choices and share refreshments and informal talk on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Library.

Key Pen Little League holds registration for 2005 season

Key Peninsula Little League 2005 Registration will be held at the Elgin-Clifton Fire Station on the following dates:

Jan. 8, 10am-2pm
Jan. 12, 6pm-8:30pm
Jan. 22, 1pm-4pm

Those interested must register in person and bring their original birth certificates along with proof of residency.

LIC sponsors the Peninsula warm coat drive

Your generous gift of new or gently used coats, hats, gloves or blankets will be

distributed to children and their families on Dec. 19 at the Longbranch Improvement Club's kids and Christmas event. Drop off your donations at any of the following locations between Nov. 15 and Dec. 15: Key Center Windermere Properties, Key Center Auto Repair, LuLu's Homeport Restaurant, and the Community House (KPCS) in Home.

Local chapter of Amnesty International invites you to write-a-thon Dec. 12

The local chapter of Amnesty International invites you to a write-a-thon, planned for Sunday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the home of a club member in Vaughn. The chapter will have all the urgent action letters, postcards, materials, coffee, wine, etc., prepared for an intense "make a difference" letter writing session. Drop in for a letter or two, stay a few hours or all day and write, write, write-and bring your friends too.

Organizers say this is the season of giving-so it's an opportunity "to give what we would all hope to get if we were imprisoned for our thoughts, ideas or

beliefs."

To RSVP and get directions, call 884-4263 or 241-6388.

Conservation District holds native plant sale

The Pierce Conservation District's purpose of this sale is to promote the use of native vegetation in landscaping. Native plants need no additional water, fertilizer, or pesticides, and they are an excellent way to invite birds into your yard. All proceeds from this sale go to fund District programs.

The District is featuring 22 species of bare root plants native to Western. They will also be selling tree tubes to protect the trees from deer and rodent damage. Pre-orders are accepted until Jan. 31. Some plant species sell out quickly, so for best selection order early.

Plant materials will be available for pick up March 4 & 5, in Puyallup, where there will also be a cash and carry sale. Prices range from \$4 - \$18 per bundle of 10 plants. Interested persons can request an order form by calling (253) 845-9770, ext. 106 or by emailing renes@pierce-countydc.org.

To submit your community announcement, email news@keypennews.com, fax to 884-4053 or drop it by the Civic Center office in Vaughn by the third Monday of the month. Late submissions are only accepted as space allows.

For more December events and holiday open houses, as well as for a schedule of Santa's visits around the Key Peninsula, see the special holiday insert in this month's Key Peninsula News.



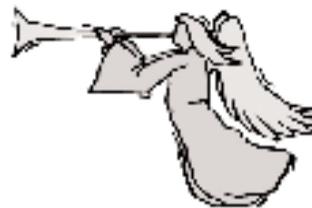
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New pastors join Peninsula churches

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Two peninsula churches have recently changed pastoral leadership.

Longbranch Community Church's new pastor is the Rev. Bill Meyer of Olympia.

He is a two-day-a-week pastor here, with another position, Parish Associate for Visitation at the United Churches of Olympia.

Meyer spent 26 years as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Bickleton, and was honorably retired in 1997.

He attended a retired pastor's luncheon one day, when a member of the band that was entertaining them put out a call. Tom Morgan, of Little Bill and the Bluenotes, said he knew of a little church in Longbranch that was looking for a part-time pastor. Meyer obtained more information, and put his name in. His first Sunday at Longbranch was Aug. 15.

He notes that the congregation at Longbranch has been used to doing things for themselves with part-time pastors. Although there is a variety of



Rev. Bill and Marilyn Meyer

beliefs and backgrounds, they seem to get along well, in the Biblical tradition.

Meyer's wife, Marilyn, adds her musical talents to the church choir, and sings an occasional solo. The Meyers stay at Camp Soundview when they serve at Longbranch.

Lakebay Community Church

Jim Ptak, who has lived in Longbranch with wife Carol for eight years, has been



Jim Ptak

interim pastor at Lakebay Community Church since August. Pastor Chuck Wahlstrom moved on to a church in Princeton, Ill., in late August.

Ptak, who has been a licensed lay minister in the Covenant Church for four years, was a logical choice to fill in as interim. He's a member of the church, lives nearby and knows the congregation.

He notes this church has a strong youth

group, and their Pioneer Clubs for 4-year-olds through fifth graders serve about 50 children. A new group of those out of high school has been started, fulfilling a need for that age group.

Ptak says the congregation has developed a new spirit of unity, freedom and cooperation and people are excited about moving forward toward new visions.

The church has a pastor search committee working on a church profile that describes this particular church. The profile will be submitted to the Conference, which will then supply the committee with ministerial profiles that may be a match.

The committee reviews these documents and narrows it down to two or three top candidates for interview. Their top choice of pastor will be invited to the church to preach, look around, and meet people. The congregation votes on acceptance of a new pastor.

Meanwhile, Ptak is the church leader who can serve sacraments and "marry, bury and baptize" for his congregation.

Photos by Frank Slater



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It's a dog's life

By Irene Torres and Danna Webster
KP News

Smokey Olson, as he is known to the mail carrier and his veterinarian, was born in Longbranch to a mother dog owned by Stephanie Zampini. As a pup, he was adopted by Don and Shirley Olson, with whom he and Nipper the cat share a home in Key Center.

Smokey begins most mornings taking a proper, on-leash, three-mile walk with Shirley and her daughter, Claudia Loy. After morning exercise, he is released to his own quarters out back of the house. From here, he begins his surveillance as the unofficial "mayor" of Key Center.

Smokey makes tracks around the community nearly every day, to meet his constituents and his friends. On his rounds, this mayor accepts handouts, a practice not usually considered acceptable for his human counterparts.

Several eyewitnesses report that when Smokey crosses the Key Peninsula Highway, he looks both ways. But Lisa Larson, who can see his travels around town from her workplace at the Key Medical Center, cautions drivers, "Watch

Missing pets?

Tracy Manning and her staff are becoming well-known as a dog rescue service. They have placed over 400 dogs in homes. They say they take care of "throw-away dogs." They would like residents to know that if they ever lose their dog, especially a husky breed, to call the Saloon because people often bring lost dogs to them.

To adopt a dog or a cat, or to make a holiday donation for the care and feeding of animals, contact The Humane Society for Tacoma-Pierce County at 253-383-2733 or visit www.thehumanesociety.org.

out for Smokey because I don't think he is watching for cars."

Smokey appears to enjoy his visits to the Close to Home espresso stand by the Peninsula Market. The espresso operator often comes out of the stand to escort Smokey safely across the highway.

He has often been seen around Nimrick's Furnishings and near the KC Fire Station. At Nimrick's, where he is considered their "best customer," Smokey



Left, Smokey's first Christmas 1992 in the Olson home with their grandsons Brandon Long, left, and Bryan Long. In 2004, Brandon is attending high school in Santa Rosa, Calif., Lance Cpl. Bryan Long is in the U.S. Marines serving in Iraq.

Photo courtesy of Olson family

Below, Mayor Smokey during a recent outing.

Photo by Danna Webster



paws at the door, until the owner opens it and gives him cheese treats. Another of his stops is Sound Credit Union, where Smokey sometimes receives his treats by standing at the counter, like a bank client.

Lisa's Deli Express has long been one of Smokey's favorite stops. Connie Harris was ordering at the deli one day, and was told, "Here, give that to the dog outside," as owner Lisa Marshall handed her a piece of lunch meat for Smokey. Harris said on warm days Smokey would just pass through the outside diners as if saying hello to customers, and then be on his way.

Back across the street at the Sunnycrest Nursery, one of Smokey's favorite people is Jan Drury, who cared for Smokey during his owners' extended vacation. Since then, Smokey often visits Drury at work, where he naps contentedly at her feet. Sometimes he makes himself comfortable inside the sliding door of her van, even though Smokey has his own couch to sleep "all stretched out" at home.

One of Claudia Loy's favorite stories is of a family vacation in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Shirley Olson was giving a Minnesota polka dance demonstration to Mexican music, which led to the participation of many other visiting Americans. One of their newfound American friends overheard that the two women were from Key Center, Wash. He mentioned that he had done some work in this area. On inquiring about possible mutual acquaintances, it turns out that the one they have in common is Smokey. They figure that makes Smokey an international celebrity.

Smokey has learned the shift schedules for employees at the Key Center Saloon. He arrives at the front door at 11:00 a.m. to greet the bartender and receive a morning treat. He then circles around the building to the back door, where the cook usually offers a cheese snack. Smokey returns to the tavern at 5:00 p.m., just in time for shift change, and repeats his rounds.

One of Shirley Olson's favorite stories is about the time Smokey came up with a lame foot. Smokey managed to call attention to his problem to Tracy Manning at the Saloon. No doubt he knew that she has excellent veterinarian connections. That evening Manning called the Olsons to bring Smokey to the Saloon because her veterinarian was there. When they arrived, Smokey was given a thorough examination. The vet determined the injury was not serious, with no broken bones.

Olson said, "He's getting arthritis and that has slowed him down. He is so gentle...not a barker. He's just the greatest dog."

Mayor Smokey, who usually has little to say, was not available for comment. He is a lucky dog, to be so loved and spoiled. It is clear that he has left his tracks on the hearts of his owners and his fans. Not bad for a 12-year-old.

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Local Key Peninsula boys recently brought home second and third place finishes in Quad Racing at Oakwood Motocross Track in Roy, Wash., George Kraft, 13, finished second, with Rusty Harper, 11, in third place, in the 11-14-year-old, 200cc Blaster Quad Class.

This was the first attempt of racing quads on a motocross track for both boys. Way to go!

Photo courtesy of the Harper family

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From Pioneer Stock Centennial farm still in the family

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Gideon Miter Davidson and wife Elmira arrived in Vaughn in 1889, secured an 80-acre homestead, and created a fruit orchard of 650 trees. He built three houses, a barn, woodshed, two chicken coops and cleared 12 acres for his orchard.

Instead of paying \$1.25 per acre, he obtained the land without charge because of the improvements he made to it so quickly.

Davidson was born in New York, but by the time he married, he lived in Ohio, and continued West from there. Son of a millwright, he also became a master millwright, although tried his hand in a drugstore with son Nathaniel and as a machinist for a short while in North Dakota.

He was 70 soon after he arrived in the Vaughn area, and enjoyed life another 10 years. He had started to build the current family home before he died.

Son Nathaniel, an early teacher in



Photo courtesy of Peggy Dervaes

Robert Davidson's son, Wes, in front of the Davidson home, circa 1930.

Vaughn, continued the farm. He and wife Ella had lost five of their seven young children before moving from

South Dakota. They raised the surviving sons, William (Billy) and Arthur Sherman (Sherm), and two more, Robert and Clyde, to adulthood in Vaughn.

Billy and Sherm started Davidson Brothers Motor Stage in 1912, a bus service from Tacoma's Sixth Avenue to Titlow's Wharf, to meet boats arriving from the peninsula and other points. Billy and wife Effie operated a dairy in Puyallup and a chain of grocery stores, including one in Vaughn.

Robert (Bob) married Bertha Gabrielson, born in Vaughn of another pioneer family. They began raising chickens on the farm. In 1925, Bob and brother Sherm established Davidson Brothers Logging Co. on the family property.

Bob was an inventor, and an automatic transmission was patented by Ford Motor Co. soon after declining to accept his drawing of a similar idea. In 1952, he patented an automatic log bunk for logging vehicles.

Margaret Logan, daughter of Bob, owned the farm next, and it was used as a parsonage for the Vaughn Community Church.

In 1984, Peggy, Bob's youngest daughter, and husband Joe Dervaes inher-

ited some land and bought additional acreage of the original property. They still live in the home where Peggy grew up. They are no longer farmers as such, although 15 years ago, they still raised raspberries, fruit, hay, cattle and sold eggs.

In 1989, Washington's centennial year, the state Department of Agriculture recognized the Davidson Homestead as one of four Centennial Farms in Pierce County, with the Olson/Niemann farm at Key Center as another one.

To be a centennial farm, the original owner must have owned the land in 1889, used at least part of it as a farm, and descendants of the original family must have maintained at least \$1,000 worth of annual agricultural production up to 1989. The land also needed to be held in continuous ownership by family members in that 100-year period.

Joe and Peggy Dervaes held an open house celebration for the centennial, and invited descendants of other pioneer families in the area. They compiled a book on the Davidson and Gabrielson family histories, and contributed articles on these and other local families to "A History of Pierce County, Washington," published in 1990 by the Heritage League of Pierce County.

VFW Color/Honor Guard fetes Retsil veterans

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Last month, Veterans of Foreign Wars District 4 Color & Honor Guard members presented a patriotic ceremony at Gig Harbor Elk's Lodge No. 2560, honoring disabled American veterans from the Retsil Veterans Home in Port Orchard. The rifle carrying Honor Guard formed an Aisle of Honor through which the handicapped veterans proceeded to their seats.

After a welcoming ceremony by guard's past commander, longtime Key Pen resident Gary Helmick, 12-year-old Honorary Guard Ashleigh Goad, wearing the Guards' uniform, sang an impressive rendition of our National Anthem. The VFW team, led by Vice Commander Steve Kuhn, presented a program on the American Flag and its history. Guards Karl Bonn and Dale Spitler performed the precision folding of the colors as Kuhn provided the specific meaning of each of the 13 folds.

All veterans in the audience were presented a memorial American flag,



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Ceremonial folding of the flag by members of the VFW District 4 Color and Honor Guard.

saluted and thanked for their service by Honor Guard team members. In explaining the history of "Taps," Helmick said that the guards "always close their ceremonies with this tribute to their fallen comrades."

KP residents and veterans at the ceremony, which also included dinner, were: Gary Helmick, the founder of the Honor Guard, Rick Stout, Karl Bonn, Steve Kuhn and Bill Smith, and former Key Pen resident Bob Cate.

News brief

KP Community Planning Board hosts open house

The Pierce County- Key Peninsula Community Planning Board, comprised of local residents, has been working on land planning issues for the Key Pen and drafting a community-wide vision. The board invites the public to learn about progress of the Community Plan, meet the Community Planning Board Members, see the proposed vision and goal statements, and review the results of the land use survey at the group's open house.

Representatives say the open house is a change to get involved and sign up for the natural environment and land use committees. The open house is at Fire District 16 Headquarters in Key Center, on Tuesday, Dec. 14 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The board's next regular meeting is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 1, in the KP Middle School library. Input from the general public on agenda items is encouraged. The final 15 minutes of the meeting is reserved for general public comment. For more information, see www.piercecountywa.org/landuse or call 798-2700.

(From SCOUTS, Page 1)

ering empty bags to homes in the community, and spent more than four hours going door to door on Sunday picking up contributed food items. More than 2,300 of them!" They delivered them all to the KPCS food bank.

Kristen Herold said the food drive began simply. "I was talking with the president of Evergreen's PTA, Kari Wilkinson, about how to help people in the Tacoma area with food, coats, and blankets. Kari told me what a need there was in our own community... I made a trip down to the food bank in Home, where I met Cristi Watson (KPCS executive director), who gave me a tour of the food bank. It brought tears to my eyes."

Watson told her that in September, the food bank "more than doubled the families that were in need, and came extremely close to doubling yet again in October."

"I too am on Evergreen's PTA," said Herold, "and I brought it to the members of the PTA that people in our community are going hungry. I was granted money to do shopping for the food bank with the PTA's help. That got the ball rolling. I was personally able to see the shelves going from bare to filling, but knowing full well that the food bought by the PTA would not last very long, there was something more that needed to be done."

Herold went to Peninsula Market and talked with the manager, Kip Bonds.

"He was more than willing to allow me, Cristi and volunteers to collect food at Peninsula Market. So I went home and put together fliers, got some volunteers, Molly Meyers, Kathy and Mike Herold, Jennifer Buday, and of course our children Isabelle, Olivia, Lauren, and Kennedy," she said. "I spoke of the food drive quite frequently to people I came across. The people on the peninsula were receptive, and they gave and gave and gave. The food filled my Explorer from bottom to top, and there were people who didn't have a lot of time to shop so they gave cash donations.

To learn more

Anyone interested in more information about Cub Scout Pack 220, Boy Scout Troop 220 or Venture Crew 220 on the Key Peninsula, call Scoutmaster Bill Macaras at 884-3133. Cub Scouts are for boys in grades first to fifth, Boys Scouts for boys ages 11 to 17, and Venture Scouts is open to boys and girls ages 14 to 21. Troop 220 and Crew 220 camp, hike, and backpack every month and are very active within the community.

Macaras, when thanked for the great job he'd done, almost annoyed, retorted, "The kids did it. Not I. These kids have given up more than seven hours over a Saturday and Sunday. That's their weekend! They're the ones who deserve the thanks."

Herold said she was previously unaware of the number of people needing a helping hand. "The generosity is so appreciated. Together our community will and has made changes. Everyone involved should be proud of themselves," she said.

Pack 220, Troop 220 and Crew 220 would like to thank the citizens of the Key Peninsula for their very generous donations, helping to make this a very successful food drive for our local food bank.

Key Peninsula Metro Parks

Position: Parks Maintenance Technician I
Department: Maintenance
Salary: \$8.33-12.01/hr

Summary of Duties:

Perform a variety of skills as a well-trained maintenance construction and repair worker including maintenance of public park properties and equipment. Operates and maintains a variety of commercial equipment including mowers, tractors, utility vehicles, and trucks. Perform plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and construction on park facilities. Maintain the interior and exterior of all park buildings and facilities. Perform required painting of park property including buildings, facilities, equipment, signs, etc. Cut, install, and maintain grass, cut weeds, prune, trim, plant, and transplant a variety of plants, shrubs, trees, plants and ground cover, apply fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides. Clean park and recreation facilities and surrounding grounds, maintain cleanliness, and respect for users. Sweep, mop, and vacuum floors. Replenish supplies in park restrooms. Pick up and collect trash and debris for disposal. Maintain grounds, lines, and setup baseball, softball, and tennis courts in accordance with league rules and regulations. Perform minor repair and maintenance of playground equipment. Assist in the construction and development of park grounds and facilities, hauling of and stockpiling materials, and clearing trees and brush. Perform other related duties as required. Manage the work of a volunteer community service workers and small work crew.

Qualifications:

One year related or equivalent experience. Demonstrate or possess the following:

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Weekend Tides, North Bay, Case Inlet, December 2004

Day	Time	Feet H/L	Time	Feet H/L	Time	Feet H/L	Time	Feet H/L
3 F	3:25 AM	0.7 L	11:02 AM	14.9 H	5:33 PM	7.3 L	9:03 PM	9.6 H
4 Sa	4:13 AM	1.7 L	11:40 AM	14.8 H	6:33 PM	6.2 L	10:35 PM	9.1 H
5 Su	5:06 AM	2.9 L	12:14 PM	14.6 H	7:20 PM	4.9 L	12:12 AM	9.1 H
10 F	4:57 AM	14.0 H	10:02 AM	7.9 L	2:53 PM	14.8 H	10:30 AM	-2.7 L
11 Sa	5:47 AM	15.1 H	10:55 AM	8.3 L	3:31 PM	14.9 H	11:13 PM	-3.5 L
12 Su	6:36 AM	15.9 H	11:47 AM	8.7 L	4:14 PM	14.9 H	11:57 PM	-4.1 L
17 F	3:14 AM	-0.5 L	10:34 AM	16.0 H	4:57 PM	6.3 L	9:26 PM	10.6 H
18 Sa	4:09 AM	1.3 L	11:19 AM	15.8 H	6:10 PM	4.9 L	11:08 PM	9.9 H
19 Su	5:08 AM	3.2 L	12:02 PM	15.4 H	7:14 PM	3.3 L		
24 F	5:36 AM	14.4 H	10:41 AM	8.5 L	3:02 PM	13.1 H	10:43 PM	-1.2 L
25 Sa	6:17 AM	14.9 H	11:28 AM	8.7 L	3:35 PM	12.9 H	11:17 PM	-1.4 L
26 Su	6:53 AM	15.3 H	12:09 PM	8.7 L	4:09 PM	12.8 H	11:50 PM	-1.5 L
31 F	2:12 AM	-0.1 L	9:29 AM	15.5 H	3:40 PM	7.1 L	7:48 PM	10.8 H



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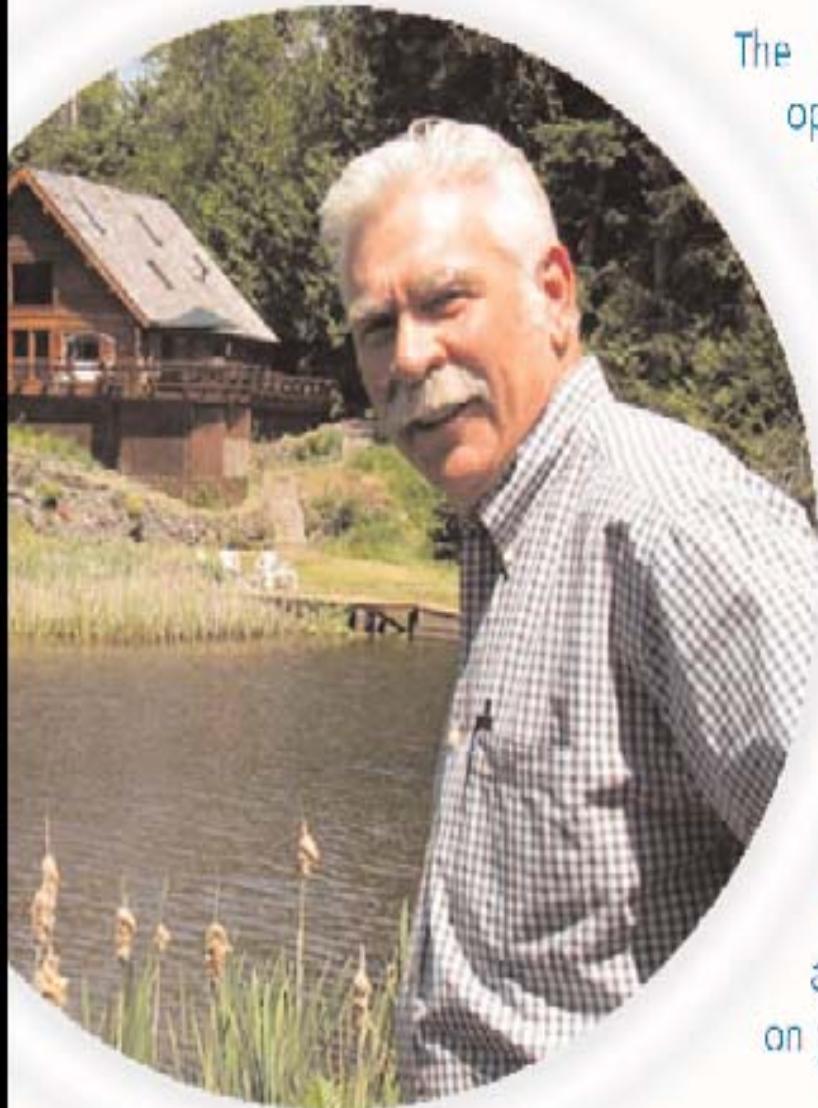
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(From **AWARD**, Page 1)

The executive board is drawn from the state directors. Van Slyke spent three years as Washington state director, and five years on the executive board, filling various positions.

He noted in his first column in the organization's November publication, *Loggers World*, "While my business...is relatively small in scope, it is a good example of how the American Loggers Council represents all professional timber harvesters around the country, and not just the 'big guys.'"

At the annual September meeting in Bangor, Maine, President Bush acknowledged the council and the loggers. "I do not remember a single time when any president has spoken words of praise for loggers, but this president did it three times!" Van Slyke said.

The group helped pass the Healthy Forest Restoration Act in 2003, and continues to work toward legislation to improve the logging industry. They want to establish logging as an agricultural industry to help them use cooperatives for purchase of fuel, etc., at bulk prices.

They would like to see the Endangered Species Act reformed to enable more efficient methods for timber sales on public lands. They are working with the Forest Resources Association on Mobile Machinery language to allow loggers to keep their tax exemptions for off-road equipment.

Logger education, public relations, and user-friendly equipment designs that are economical and environmentally friendly are all concerns of the group, Van Slyke says.

Van Slyke spent summers helping his dad, Harmon, with the Vaughn Bay Lumber Co., which Tom and brother Dale eventually took over and manage together now.

He looks forward to an interesting year as leader of this organization of loggers.

**Key Peninsula
Lutheran Church**

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**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
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2004

Another Busy Year

Once again it is the time of year when we reflect on, and thank those who have made this year so special for us at Windermere / Key Realty.

First, we would like to thank our clients for the spectacular year we've had. We've helped you with over 150 real estate transactions from \$5,000 lots to \$750,000 homes for a total value of nearly 18 million dollars. We've watched our average price for a home on the Key Peninsula climb to over \$200,000 this year. Our buyers have been first time homebuyers, 2nd home waterfront buyers or retirees looking for a more rural atmosphere.

Second, I personally would like to thank the 13 agents in the office who have worked so hard to help all of you this year. We had one agent (Dave Malinowski) who has recently retired, but we've welcomed four new agents this year: Mike Maroney, Cinda Baldwin, Chris Fitzgerald and brand new to our office, Mark McColgan. They join Richard Raschle, Bob and Breezi Peterson, Dottie Mazza, A. J. Million, Laura Mosley, Dallas Amidon, Lori Deacon and myself, Joyce Tovey. Not only have these people worked hard to fulfill your real estate needs, they have been a big part of your community - the Two Waters Art Group, Community Council, Longbranch Church, Lakebay Church, Salvation Army, and the Key Peninsula Community Planning Board among others.

Third, we are grateful that we've been able, because of the Windermere Foundation, where every agent contributes part of their commission to the Foundation, to give back to our community this year. Over \$1,000 has been donated this year from our office to a Peninsula High Scholarship, Children's Home Society and the Key Peninsula Community House.

Again, we thank you for your support, we wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy, prosperous New Year.

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VIEW OF GLEN COVE \$325,000

Comfortable newer home with a serene view of Glen Cove. Features four bedrooms, den, family room, deck w/ hot tub, sport court and attached 2-car garage. This 4.31 acre property includes small cabin w/ separate driveway, barn w/ hay storage, and 3 separate fenced pastures. Huge potential here! MLS 24154263



CLEAN AND COMFORTABLE RAMBLER \$174,900

Located in a cul-de-sac on almost 1/2 acre, partially wooded lot. Home has terrazzo tiles in kitchen/dining room and bathroom, fireplace in living room, outside deck and attached garage. On Pierce County bus line. MLS 24125446



FIVE PEACEFUL ACRES \$185,000

This comfortable home is located in the privacy of five acres, with only a small clearing. Large rooms, dining room and breakfast corner, laundry room off kitchen, disabled access. Choose your own colors for new vinyl and carpet before seller finishes replacing the flooring. Just 20 minutes from Gig Harbor. MLS # 24134294



SOUTH SOUND VIEW HOME \$228,000

This custom built home features cedar siding and a large deck w/ cedar railing. You will enjoy the full view from living room, dining area and kitchen and the open airy feeling with vaulted ceilings, skylights & large bedrooms. Property includes RV garage/shop, extra parking, and community beach rights, which include a boat ramp and nice cabana/picnic area. MLS 24152111



COUNTRY HOME \$129,500

Tastefully remodeled country home on 1.25-acre corner lot, close to lakes and saltwater parks. Floor plan features the master bedroom at one end, the other two bedrooms at the other end, den/office, and eating space in the kitchen, plus a dining room. Rooms are bright and spacious with new carpet and paint throughout - this home looks and feels new! Total peace and relaxation just waiting for you! MLS 24142082



OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING! \$95,000

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Happy Holidays!





Photo courtesy of LIC

The Divalicious will grace the Longbranch Improvement Club with their presence for a special holiday treat.

Delicious music comes to LIC

A rare Christmas treat will come to Key Peninsula on Dec. 11, when a concert of family holiday entertainment by Divalicious, the Ultimate Girl Group is sponsored by Longbranch Improvement Club. The four sassy, classy gals in Divalicious, a Seattle-area group, hold their audiences in high holiday spirit as they sing in styles that range from swing to gospel to Rock & Roll to folk and even to R & B, salsa and classical. Imagine the fun of holiday music in calypso.

Doors at the Improvement Club will open at 6:45 p.m. to a hall decorated by LIC members for the holidays with Christmas trees and sparkling lights. The concert begins at 7:30. Tickets at \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, and \$25 for a family of four can be purchased in advance at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center and the Home Country Store in Lakebay, or at the door.

Linda LeBlanc, event chairman, says there will be coffee and hot cider for everyone, with cookies for the children. For those interested, a dessert and spirit buffet bar will be open.

The Improvement Club is lucky to book the "Have Yourself a Divalicious

Christmas" show, organizers said. The group has been created and led by David Duvall, musical director/arranger/ and pianist and a two-time Emmy-nominated composer. Duvall has musically directed many Seattle-area productions at such locations as Crepe de Paris, Seattle Children's Theatre, and Tacoma Little Theatre. The singers, Debra Bailey, Laurie Clothier, Deneen Grant, and Natalie Lerch, each with her own music specialty, have all had wide experience in many Seattle-area venues and as far afield as Brazil and Italy.

As a prelude to the concert, at 5:30 there will be a Lighted Boat Parade on Filucy Bay at the Longbranch Marina, a half-mile south of the Improvement Club on Key Peninsula Highway. This is a new venture for the Longbranch Marina, operated by the Improvement Club.

Judging of the lighted boats in the parade will begin at 5:45, Santa will bring his sleigh down to the marina for the children watching the boats, and there will be hot cider before the watchers and boaters go on to the Improvement Club for the concert. All who are interested in enjoying the sight are welcome to the marina.

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Christmas in Longbranch

The community holiday party, Kids & Christmas in Longbranch, will be Sunday, Dec. 19 beginning at noon, when the doors open at the Longbranch Improvement Club for several hours. With a big Christmas tree and lots of holiday lights and decorations bringing back the atmosphere of past holiday times in the old hall, Santa will be there by the tree with gifts for every child. Pictures will be taken of the kids with Santa Claus for Mom and Dad to take home. And of course there will be treats for all — hot chocolate and cider, coffee, and other goodies. In Santa's Secret Workshop, the kids will have the chance to help Santa by making their own gifts to give family and friends.

An annual affair sponsored this year by the LIC, the party is growing into a magical event with the cooperation of other community organizations, particularly several Girl Scout troops, Key Peninsula Community Services as well as Lulu's Homeport Restaurant.

The girls of at least seven Girl Scout troops will be on hand in "Santa's Secret Workshop," helping the kids to make

Christmas gifts for their families and friends. Tables for gift-making will be laid out and manned by the Scouts for the fun of working in crafts with no charge to the gift makers. The invitation is extended to everyone to come and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas together.

A "Warm the Peninsula Coat Drive" for winter coats, gloves, scarves and blankets of all sizes for anyone needing them is being conducted so that they can be chosen and taken at the Kids & Christmas holiday party. Drop-offs for the coat drive will be accepted until Dec. 15 at Lulu's Homeport, KP Community House, the Key Peninsula Auto Repair, and Key Center Windermere.

Anyone interested in making a cash or gift donation to aid this event should call Linda LeBlanc, organizer of the event, at 884-1499.

The donor organizations cooperating for the Kids & Christmas are the Girl Scouts, Evergreen Elementary PTA, Lulu's Homeport, KP Community Services and Longbranch Improvement Club.



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Local arts alliance thanks you for support

By L. Brudvik Lindner

As the art offerings wind down for the year, Two Waters Arts Alliance (TWAA) gives thanks to each and every person involved in bringing art programs to the Key Peninsula (KP) community. The charitable contributions from The Angel Guild and The Lucky Star Foundation and TWAA members, as well as the efforts of TWAA directors, instructors and students brought KP talents together for play productions, concerts, artists in schools and numerous art classes.



The Genuine
ARTicle

There have been many artistic highlights this year, from drawing and painting to mask and music making. A recent highlight was the "Anatomy for Artists" workshop taught by Melissa Weinman. This intensive course featured drawing the anatomy of the head and neck, focusing on proportions, measurements, structure and tonal relationships. In attendance were KP professional artists — weavers, sculptors, painters and portrait artists. Student and painter Beverly Pedersen commented, "We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from such

a credentialed master of drawing. She was a superb teacher and we hope she will return this spring."

Although TWAA is on a programming break for the winter, the Jam Session and Life Drawing Class will continue at the Art Barn on Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m. If you are interested in drawing musicians in action, show up at the Art Barn on Wednesday evenings. TWAA classes will resume in the spring. Tentative classes on the spring schedule are drawing, painting, weaving, ceramics and jewelry making.

As the year comes to an end, the mission to bring art alive on the KP has been accomplished. TWAA has gone beyond just offering classes, it has brought people together to make art happen! In honor of TWAA's success, a 2005 calendar commemorating KP talents has been produced. This artful calendar features 12 of the KP's finest artists, Beverly Pedersen, Nancy Howard, Dale Loy, Brynn Rydell, Pacific Rim Tapestries, Chris Bronstad, Reni Moriarity, Laura McClintock, Tweed Meyer, Kurt Solmssen, Tip Toland and Laura Mosley. Calendars are on sale at Sunnycrest Nursery, first 3/\$15; \$12 each thereafter. They make great inexpensive gifts and help support art in the local community.

For more about Two Waters Arts Alliance, call 884-9172, email twowaters@hotmail.com or visit www.twowaters.org.

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Out & About

Peninsula Light Co. is working on some power lines in Key Center, in front of the building formerly owned by Moreland & Sons.



Photo by Danna Webster



Above, Kids lined up to wait for the judges to choose the best costume at Halloween Eve's event sponsored by TOPS of Vaughn at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. There was a seemingly endless variety of fun things for the kids to enjoy and countless booths at which to try their skills at bowling, beanbag throws, fishing pond, or even cuddle with some rather impressively large snakes. There were scads of our kids and some from as far away as Olympia and Poulsbo. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Right, Dottie Luedke rests after serenading, on an organ, the diners who shared the KP Community Services' Thanksgiving dinner. *Photo by Danna Webster*



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Cub Scout Brandon Miller, with the help of the Herold family: Kennedy, Lauren and mom Kristen, is helping unload dozens of bags filled with donations for the KP food bank.



From a discreet distance a lone harbor seal watches some 30 of his colleagues who apparently disdain his company on Von Geldern Cove in Home on a recent Sunday. He seemed to be thinking, "Golly! Was it something I said?"

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Santa has to shop too! Here, he was spotting checking out a potential present at the Civic Center's annual crafts fair in November.