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# Fun at the KP Fair



Fairgoers of all ages had lots to do at the Key Peninsula Community Fair in August. A climbing wall, a Living History oxen show and a carnival were just some of the highlights.

Photos by Rodika Tollefson  
and Hugh McMillan

## Key Pen to be featured on television program

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

The Key Peninsula will get its 20-some minutes of fame in October, now that "My Home Town" host Dorothy Wilhelm dropped by.

Sure, the Peninsula is not exactly a town. But it has stories to tell nonetheless — so the producers will bend the format a little to accommodate the unique community.

"This community... will have to be approached differently than our usual subject," Wilhelm said. "And we are unfailingly positive."

So far 36 towns have been featured on the Comcast Channel 29/76 show, and each is being revisited and shown again in two or three years. The Key Peninsula will be featured in October, so crews will be out and about in September looking for "stories to show."

That's where local residents get a  
(See Show, Page 12)

## Geoduck harvester fights in court for his company

By Karl Anderson  
KP News

Doug McRae has been harvesting geoducks, the gargantuan bi-valve delicacy of the Pacific Northwest, for 30 years. He has even developed a system to produce millions of baby geoducks in confined tanks and then "plant" them back into Henderson Bay.

But last month, Pierce County and volunteers worked to remove the thousands of 4-inch PVC piping that served as little nurseries for the babies.

Over a year ago, Pierce County declared that its land-use contract from 2001 with McRae's company, Washington Shellfish, was void



Photo by Karl Anderson

(See GEODUCKS, Page 9)

A 2- or 3-year-old geoduck and (in the dish) babies.

# Vaughn resident receives international award

By Irene Torres  
KP News

What do Jane Bryant Quinn, John Stossel, and Rudy Giuliani have in common with Vaughn resident Joe Dervaes? Quinn is a financial columnist for Newsweek Magazine. Stossel is a correspondent with ABC News. Giuliani was United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and later served honorably as mayor of New York City. Joe Dervaes works as audit manager for Special Investigations for the Washington State Auditor's Office. Yet the four have a common bond.

Each has been a recipient of the prestigious Cressey Award from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), an international organization 26,000 strong. Dervaes received his 2003 award at a ceremony in Chicago, Ill., on Aug. 4 for his lifetime achievement in the field of fraud detection, deterrence, and education.

Dervaes says, "The equivalent award in the field of journalism is the Pulitzer prize. It is the highest international award bestowed on any individual by the ACFE." The award is in honor of Dr. Donald R. Cressey, a founder of the ACFE, and a pioneer in the field of white-collar crime research and education.

"It is predominantly awarded to those outside the ACFE who have done great things in the field of fraud," explains Dervaes. "This is the first time the award has been given to a rank and file member of the association."

Reflecting on his recognition by the organization, Dervaes says, "I saw a void, then learned as much as I could to fill it. I began sharing the information with others by tirelessly volunteer-



*Photo courtesy of ACFE*

Left to right: Toby Bishop (Association President), Joe Dervaes (Association Fellow, Regent Emeritus, and 2003 Cressey Award Winner), and Dr. Gil Geis (Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of California at Irvine, Past Association President, Regent Emeritus, and 1992 Cressey Award Winner), at the awards ceremony.

ing as a fraud educator, writing, speaking and teaching on the subject. That's my primary focus."

Brian Sonntag, Washington state auditor and Dervaes' supervisor, said he is proud of Dervaes' accomplishments. "The citizens of Washington expect accountability over public resources. Our fraud program, relying heavily on Joe's skills and professionalism, is a protector of those resources," Sonntag said in a press release.

As audit manager, Dervaes is responsible to manage the state agency's fraud program. He specializes in employee embezzlement fraud within 170 agencies and 2,400 local governments, where he monitors all fraud audits. He has participated in the inves-

tigation of 550 fraud cases involving losses of \$10 million during his 19 years with the state.

Dervaes has authored all materials used for staff training and development in the area of fraud prevention and detection; he is responsible for training financial managers, in all levels of state and local government, about the risks of fraud.

"This award is something well beyond my personal goals for a lifetime achievement," he says. "The Cressey Award is very special to me, and has great significance for other members who will follow in my footsteps."

Joe has earned the right to share a place in history with Jane, John, and Rudy.

# KGHP radio station implements the Amber Alert

Local radio station KGHP, stationed at the Peninsula High School, has recently received a grant from the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute to assist in the implementation of the "Amber Alert" program. The Amber Alert is a nationwide system adopted by most states to help authorities in case of abducted children.

Once information is released by authorities, participating radio and television stations immediately broadcast it throughout the country.

KGHP Manager Leland Smith said the \$750 grant will help purchase new software for the program, update the Emergency Alert System and maintain a portion of the electronic support units for the next two to three years.

KGHP, owned and operated by the Peninsula School District, will enter its 15th year of public service this fall. It operates 24 hours per day, seven days a week and cooperates with the public information services of Peninsula Light Co. and the Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee (PEP-C).

"Underwriting of this type is greatly appreciated, as much of our public service is made possible through our underwriters and through the support of the school district," Leland said.

KGHP broadcasts on 89.9, 89.3 and 104.5 FM. The fall season of sports broadcasting will open Sept. 5 with a live broadcast of a football game between PHS and North Mason High at 7 p.m. On Sept. 6, a delayed broadcast of Gig Harbor High vs. Wilson will be heard at 9 a.m.

—Submitted by KGHP

# KEY NEWS

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

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

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Do you have news or a press release to submit for publication?

October deadline  
is Sept. 17.

# Community Council gets merchants' support

By Irene Torres  
KP News

A booth to gather public comment on district boundaries, election processes, and representation to a community council wouldn't usually generate much interest. But at least one booth at the Key Peninsula Fair was bustling with activity—thanks to organizing committee members David Michelson and Ruth Bramhall, who secured valuable raffle items to increase interest and help fund the creation of the new Community Council.

Even fairgoers without political aspirations had good reason to be interested in the booth with the map of the Peninsula: Michelson obtained a station wagon from Graham Denny of Courtesy Ford in Gig Harbor and a truck from Todd Byersdorf of Gig Harbor Motor Sports. Everyone who bought a raffle ticket had an equal chance to win.

Other raffle items were donated by

Moreland & Sons, Capitol Lumber, Fred Meyer, Gig Harbor Orthopedic and Physical Therapy, Peninsula Marine, Olson Chevrolet, Kenny's NW Experience and KFC of Gig Harbor.

After expenses, the raffle netted \$892. These funds will go toward the cost of the 501(c)3 incorporation application, the election process, and a community needs assessment survey.

"Comments from community members were very positive and they understood the role a grass roots citizen community council could play in meeting needs on the Key Peninsula and maintaining and improving the quality of life," said Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets.

Work continues on determining the best method for electing council members and the funding avenues for that process.

Public input is always welcome at meetings of the organizing committee, held the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Key Peninsula Middle School at 7 p.m.

Photo by Irene Torres



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# Housewarming Party for 'safe house' right on 'Target'

By Irene Torres  
KP News

Following last month's Key Peninsula News article on the \$75,000 Safe House grant award from the Geneva Foundation to I.M.Pact, board member Penny Gazabat reports several calls from people who want to prevent domestic violence on the Key Peninsula, or to help victims of domestic abuse.

I.M.Pact has received permission from the Gig Harbor Target to use its "CLUB WED" as a registry for a "housewarming" party to be held at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 22.

Gazabat says, "Target Manager Roger Thomas was very happy to host the event, knowing we would not be able to host the reception at I.M.Pact's Safe House," as its location is protected for the safety of its residents.

"He asked if they could provide the refreshments and hold the reception in their food court," Gazabat says. "We said,

'Yes!' Target could not have made it any easier for this event to be a success... The only thing needed now is support from the community."

The house needs "the little things that it takes to make and run a home," she says. Many of those items are \$5 to \$25, and any help is appreciated by the group.

"All you need to do is go to Target or use the CLUB WED registry online. The computer will ask for the bride or groom's first and last name," Gazabat says. "We put 'Safe House' as both of their names." Once the name is entered, a list of needed items is printed out. Target will provide wrapping paper and ribbons, and will allow gift donations to be left at the store until the event.

I.M.Pact (Interdenominational Ministries Pact) board members welcome the entire community to attend the "Housewarming Reception," whether or not they are able to purchase an item for the Safe House.

## FLAVOR OF FALL

Thank you to the following donors:  
Here is the list so far of donations for the "Flavor of Fall" Auction:

### AUCTION ITEMS

- Flight to the San Juan's with Lunch for Two - Provided by Tom & Nancy Howard
- Garden Tour - Hosted by Sunnycrest Nursery and Floral
- Mystery Dinner - Hosted by Pat & Kristen Bottiger (four couples)
- Tree Pruning - Tim Kezele
- Dessert of the Month - Provided by the Vaughn Historical Church
- German Dinner - Hosted by Sylvia Haase and Virginia Liebergesselle
- Doll House - Hand made by Martha Applegate
- Fly Rod and Flies - Frank Garrett
- Fresh Summer Flower Bouquets - Provided by Ruth Bramhall (June, July & August)
- Wind River Wine Tasting and Dinner - Hosted by Phil and Kathy Bauer (8-10) people.
- Shimano Mountain Bike - Peninsula Market
- Homemade Farm Goodies - The Farm
- Fleece Blanket - Sound Credit Union
- 10 Cases Compact Fluorescent Lights - Peninsula Light Co
- Linens for Tables during Dinner - Olde Glen Cove Hotel
- Fall Bulb Basket - Dolores Argabright
- Framed Artwork by Neema Bastin (Limited Edition) - Pamela A Libstaff
- Stone Look Fish Vase - Nel & Glenn Blanchard
- Falling Water Picture - Angel Guild Thrift Store
- Frank Lloyd Wright Picture - Angel Guild Thrift Store
- Yakima Car Rack - Angel Guild Thrift Store
- Chimney Cleaning and Inspection - A Clean Sweep Chimney Service
- Cash Donation - William Roes, M.D.
- Dinner for Two - Tides Tavern
- Cash Donation - Bob & Elsie Vezzani
- Sonicare Elite - John Olsson DDS
- One Hour Massage - Rena Pagaduan LMP (Shear Magic)
- Cash Donation - Key Center Trading Post
- One Haircut - Cutter Bug (Lee Fearneough)
- Haircut/Style - Cutter Bug (Mindy Brocenos)
- Dog Grooming - A lot of Love Grooming
- Free Exam and Adjustment - David Krympec DC
- Five Nights Boarding for Dog or Cat - Almost Home Boarding Kennel
- Two 10 yd loads Wash or Crushed Rock
- Four Reserve Seat Tickets - Rainiers Baseball Club
- 20 lbs. Sockeye Salmon Fillets (Frozen & Vacuum Sealed) - Trader Bay
- Cash Donation - Glen Pszczoala
- Dinner for Two or Pizza - Key Center Saloon
- 20 Free Drinks - Close to Home Espresso
- Hand-quilted Christmas Tree Skirt - Barbara Bramhall
- Gift Basket (Pedicure Gift Certificate, Pedicure & Hand Lotion) - Shear Magic
- Quarter Page Advertisement - Key Peninsula News
- Two Wooden Obelisks (Two different sizes) - Frances Challenger
- Web Site Design - Tollefson Creative Solution
- Gift Basket - TOPS #WA 1019-Vaughn
- One Hour Massage and One Aroma Therapy Facial Massage - Nature's Renewal
- One Yoga Class Session - Laura Huddleston
- Large Crystal Footed Bowl - Nimricks Old & New
- Two \$15 Gift Certificates - Harbor Rock
- Mariners' Quilt - Irene Torres

**Editorial****What's the big deal about being on television?**

Comcast Cable TV crews will be rolling about the Key Peninsula in September, sneaking a peek at its history, landscape, characters and community spirit.

It may not be Hollywood, it may only be a 30-minute cable show, but it's exciting nonetheless. And not because Key Pen gets a whole month all to itself (so what if it's the same segment). Not even because we may see our friends and neighbors.

What makes the show's spotlight so exciting is the fact that the Peninsula really can no longer claim being one of the region's best-kept secrets with its pristine atmosphere, gorgeous views and quiet but content rural lifestyle. Being featured among the show's 30-plus communities is only one proof that slowly but surely Key Pen is working its way to being on the map.

True, we could argue that we like being a secret and we don't necessarily want more traffic, more residents, more development, more anything unless it's better roads or transportation. But growth is not something we can quietly sweep under the rug when no one's looking. And we definitely can't slam the gates shut, so it's not a matter of if but how.

As residents, we have two choices: leave the gates open and see what happens, or actively participate in community building. Local leaders are on the right path of preserving and improving our quality of life, tackling everything from parks and trails to better representation via a Community Council, from helping those in need to bringing entertainment in.

Those who don't participate, vote, help, and share views now will have no reasons to complain later, when growth doesn't happen the way they like it. And whether they like or not, the cat will soon be out of the bag.

**Letter to the Editor****"Whew, we made it!"**

The Longbranch Community Church's 3rd annual Salmon Bake fund-raising event is behind us. The July 26th event was bigger and better than ever, and a rousing success. We fed over 600 people.

This year the salmon bake was promoted as a family event, with more emphasis on kids' activities and crafts. The food was still the main attraction, however, and Chef Oliver Coldeen's crew was dispatched late in the day to

# Accent or not, my voice counts

By Rodika Tollefson

It used to be the most annoying question.

"So, where are you from?"

I still answer it now and then, but I've learned to accept it. Just like my slight accent.

The accent comes out occasionally, especially when I am tired or nervous. And when it doesn't,

my name—  
Rodika — does  
the job just as  
well.

Some say the accent is nice. Others try to guess — is it...Russian?...German? Over the years, I've rehearsed the answer so well it comes out in one breath. "I am from Moldova, between Romania and Ukraine. It used to be part of the former Soviet Union...."

I don't mind those lessons in geography. I don't blink if people feel compelled to raise their voice, speak slowly or restate the question. It doesn't happen that much any more. But the memories from more than a decade ago, when I was FOB—fresh-off-the-boat—still remind me that my accent, not much thicker then, was perceived as a shortcoming.

Although I've been speaking English as my third language since I was 7, it was British English nonetheless. Between confusing moments like calling cereal porridge and pants trousers and confusing those strange phrases, like pulling a leg or kicking butt, I was labeled by some Americans.

I never actually said, "I am not stupid" or "I understand you as well as anyone else." Yet that first year in an American

college, that condensed lesson in cross-cultural diversity reminds me of a Hispanic character in the film "A Walk in the Clouds."

"Just because I speak with an accent doesn't mean I think with one," he said.

For me, my job as a journalist has proven that my accent is not a handicap or an indication of my thinking ability. I have to prove my English every day with every story I write. And I write many each week.

Strangers no longer say, "You speak English so well." I guess that's a given, or I wouldn't be a reporter and writer, right? No one would question the obvious, as they questioned me when I worked in a liquor store several years ago. At 23, I looked 16. Not a day went without "Are you old enough to work here?" or "Have they changed the drinking age?" or "Does the store know they can be fined?"

No one would ask a professional journalist: "Are you allowed to be a writer, since you have that accent and English is your third language?" or "Is your paper OK with this?"

One question, however, will continue to be asked. "So, what brought you here?"

They forget it's probably the same question that hung over their own ancestors centuries ago. Times have changed and so has the face of America. But many things have not. Foreigners came to seek freedom, a better life and opportunities. They still do.

Many succeed and nearly shed their old identities, customs, voices. Like me, they blend into the culture so well they can't be told apart until they speak.

Others, as I did, learn fast that the

freedom has a price. My price-tag included loneliness, poverty and family left behind. It meant my kids, now 6 and 8, not knowing their grandparents or cousins who "live far-far away." My victories and sorrows not shared with best friends. My lessons in motherhood and marriage diplomacy learned from a book, not from my mom.

Despite my nearly 11-year marriage to an American and my living in this country for a dozen years now, for a long time I didn't feel the necessity of becoming a U.S. citizen. Changing somehow meant betrayal. It meant giving up my last link to the world "far-far away," dazzled with sweet memories of cherries in bloom, fresh-baked bread and that first kiss. A world of lost innocence and silenced songs.

Yet the world had been fading until a faint smell and some photographs were all that remained. It was time to let go.

As I pledged my allegiance to the United States in the tidy Anchorage INS conference room a few summers ago, I felt a moment of rebirth. My shoulders somehow felt heavy. Not with burden. With pride but also with responsibility. I had been working and paying my taxes within weeks of stepping off the Alaska-bound plane. I had felt as much part of America as my husband or my two sons born here. The only thing I couldn't do was vote, take a stand. Something many Americans dread anyhow.

But with the official seal came a new feeling. My voice could now count.

Even though it has an accent.

*Rodika Tollefson is a Key Peninsula resident and the executive editor of Key Peninsula News.*



replenish corn and potato salad.

The church wishes to thank the public for the overwhelming support, the K.P. News for the publicity, the

Longbranch Improvement Club for use of the hall and hospitality. Additional thanks are extended to merchants for advance ticket sales. They included: Sunnycrest Nursery, Dave Ahren's Coast Hardware at Lake Kathryn, Home Country Store, Charboneau Construction, and the Longbranch Marina.

It might be a good idea to mark your calendar now for next year's bash, the last Saturday in July. We pick that day because of "guaranteed" weather.

*John Petersen, Salmon Bake Chair  
Longbranch Community Church*



*Photos by Hugh McMillan*

Adults (left) and kids (above) alike enjoyed the Salmon Bake celebration in July.

# NW Medical Team visits KP residents

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

A new Northwest Medical Team dental van made its maiden voyage in August, making the Key Peninsula Community Center its very first stop. The van, fully equipped for basic and emergency dental care, parked for half-day at KPCS and treated a handful of patients for free—thanks to a generous donation by Gig Harbor's Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church.

The van is one of three in the state for the group that has been helping people all over the world with medical and dental care and other aid.

"All the dentists are volunteer and have to give up a day of work. Some do it occasionally or four times a year, others do it every month," said the van's coordinator and driver, Yvette Townsend.

Townsend is the only permanent staffer assigned to the van. The rest, dentists and assistants, change with every visit.

"There are so many needs not being

**"If each dentist in Pierce County gave up a day to volunteer in a clinic, we'd have a clinic each day."**

-Yvette Townsend, coordinator

met and when a community comes together and offers the service to people for free, it's commendable."

Some communities choose to charge a nominal fee to the patients; others hire the dental staff. Each situation is unique and depends entirely on the sponsor's wishes and the community's needs.

The vans cost about \$135,000 to equip and operate. Clinics are usually set about six times a month in summer but as many as six per week during the rest of the year.

"If each dentist in Pierce County gave up a day to volunteer in a clinic, we'd have a clinic each day," Townsend said.

The van will likely be seen more often around the Peninsula, as it comes around to serve some local schools.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Dr. Mark Davis, a Gig Harbor resident, staffed a Northwest Medical Team van, with Julie Fuller as his assistant. The Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church of Gig Harbor paid for the van to visit the Key Peninsula Community Center.

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Sharon Williams, OD  
Optometrist

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# The “Shear Magic” of a Key Center Beauty Salon

By Irene Torres  
KP News

The magic of Shear Magic Beauty Salon isn't found in the scents of shampoos or the aromas of conditioners. It isn't in the array of colors available for highlighting, tints and dyes or even in the bright spectral display of nail enamels. It isn't in the snipping of scissors or the buzz of the clippers. It isn't even in the pungent odor of a permanent wave. The magic of Shear Magic is ...in its owner, Gaye Williams.

Williams works her magic “Tuesday through Saturday, from my first appointment to my last appointment,” and doesn't joke when, asked about walk-in clients, says she will accept them “as long as they tell me ahead of time when they will walk in.”

With her trademark purple nail polish and “cute” shoes, she is ready to help clients prepare for special occasions, to transform a tomboy into a beauty queen for the prom...to ease a bride's jitters on her wedding day...to bring out the best in her customers with special cuts,

**“The place is upbeat and fun.”**  
-Dolores Alimossy, customer

styles, highlighting and color, using the highest quality products.

Williams' magic is well known to customers at her unisex salon in “the heart of Key Center,” where she's been in the beauty business since moving to the Peninsula in 1995. “It's a very friendly, down-to-earth type of place, and people really seem to love the convenience of coming here,” says manicurist and nail technician, Michelle Horn. Her business, “Fingerpaints,” is a leased station inside Shear Magic.

Horn relocated from Colorado in 1991 and opened her own shop in Gig Harbor until 2000 when she returned to school, and later worked as a manicuring instructor at Clover Park. She insists on good sanitation, providing separate, personal implements for every client.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Rena Pagaduan, Lynn Reaves and Gaye “Always a beautician, sometimes a magician” Williams often are visited by residents looking to feel “like a million bucks.”

Also leasing a station is “Nails by Lynn.” Lynn Reaves moved to Washington in 1995. “Customers come here for our sense of humor, for the entertainment,” she says, laughing. “I'm the cheapest psychologist in town.” And Williams chimes in, “They always run into someone they know. It's a good place to work and visit.”

Just last year Shear Magic was expanded to add You-Topia Massage, by Rena Pagaduan, licensed massage practitioner, who considers therapeutic touch to be a necessary part of a regular body maintenance program. “We are all looking for ways to deal with our overwhelming stress in society, and massage is one of the most effective treatments for stress, depression and chronic pain,” she says.

Citing a study by the University of Washington that compares massage to medication for chronic pain, Pagaduan says, “Patients receiving regular massage were in 80 percent less pain than the medicated patients. The best prescription —nurture yourself —try a massage.” Pagaduan graduated from Alexandar's School of Natural Therapeutics, and has been in practice for eight years.

Peninsula resident and regular customer Dolores Alimossy has a lot of praise for the salon. “They're terrific! Gaye is the best. She plays with the hair until she learns how it will lay... The cut is perfect.”

Alimossy adds, “The place is upbeat, and fun.” That must be part of the magic.

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# Grandmother of seven stays young through her daycare

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Helen Macumber says she was the average parent while raising her three children: She did the best she could with what she knew then. But a few decades and hundreds of daycare kids later, the grandmother of seven has learned a lot about teaching, caring for young curious minds and raising compassionate people — and she passes it along every day to the Key Peninsula youngsters who call her place a second home.

Macumber has recently celebrated five years of her daycare, Key to Learning, which she opened almost immediately after moving to Key Center.

"In my 23 years of daycare, the last five have been the happiest," she said. "I love this community and my (daycare) kids are my extended family. I love it because my own grandkids don't live near me."

While she says the best part of running a daycare is being able to share knowledge with the parents and teaching the children to be caring and compassionate, she has another, more self-



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Helen Macumber has been like a "second mom" to countless Key Pen kids. Angela Compton, 10, says she has good friends at the daycare and "all the kids are nice," but most importantly "there's lots to do and I love the food."

ish reason. "People have allowed me to do what I've always wanted," she said. "I wanted to be a mother, a nurse and a teacher—and I can do all those things.

I'm a very lucky person because the parents give me a gift."

In return, she gives a few gifts of her own: drop-in respite for mothers who

just want to get their errands and shopping done alone, early morning and late evening hours for parents with odd schedules, and the assurance to all of them that they can call her in an emergency for help.

"I know what it's like for no one to be around and to be alone," the former military wife said.

Macumber can't recount any challenges about her daycare business—perhaps because it's not so much a business for her as it is a passion. One that has many perks, like a hidden elixir that allows her to stay "young."

"I don't feel 60, the kids energize me," she said.

"I feel like I am one of the moms and I can't imagine ever retiring. I play Uno and squirt with the hose all summer and eat Popsicles. How many adults get to do that?"

Though Macumber's home seems to always have kids in residence no matter what time of day or night, there is no feeling of chaos, there is no loud noise or messes one may associate with a houseful of kids. Although they may need reminders, the youngsters know the rules, and they know Helen means business.



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# Key Peninsula has a (logo) face

The Key Peninsula has a new identity now, thanks to a logo announced as the winner of the \$100 grand prize in the KP Business Association's logo contest.

John McMillan's design was selected by a panel of judges as the best to represent the Peninsula.

"The logo was chosen for its illustration of the water that we have all around us, mountains that are to the east and the west and the use of the letters KP," said Mary Ramsdell, a Key Peninsula Business Association member and contest organizer. "The logo is very adaptable to changes of color and is crisp and clear."

Logo design fits McMillan's nature, he said. A Gig Harbor inventor and industrial designer by trade, he designs logos as a side, dozens of them. "I enter every logo contest," he said. "I love doing them because I enjoy the challenge."

Not a stranger to the Key Peninsula, he visits friends often and knows the "unique community."

"I was hoping to be in the top three, and I thought it would be wonderful for whoever wins," he said. "I was very pleased."



**"The logo was chosen for its illustration of the water that we have all around us, mountains that are to the east and the west and the use of the letters KP."**

-Mary Ramsdell



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## News Brief

### KPPRD Comp Plan ready for approval

The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District (KPPRD) is completing its one-year process to develop a comprehensive plan for leisure, parks and recreation on the Key Peninsula.

The next meeting on Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Annex of the Key Peninsula Sports Center & Fairgrounds will approve the document for the final step of its journey toward submission to Pierce County and the state Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation.

A copy of the final draft is available for public review and written comment until Sept. 15 at the Key Center branch of the Pierce County Library.

Online versions can be downloaded from the KPPRD Web site at [www.kpprd.org](http://www.kpprd.org).

Feedback may be made by email submission to [info@kpprd.org](mailto:info@kpprd.org) or in person to KPPRD commissioners up to one week before the meeting.

All feedback must be received by Sept. 15 to be considered for inclusion.



Randy Stocking monitors salinity, Ph balance, and algae production, all in a day's work, at the Washington Shellfish research laboratory.

*Photo by  
Karl Anderson*

### (From GEODUCKS, Page 1)

because it had not gone through the proper channels to be approved in the first place.

Following a formal hearing between Pierce County and McRae, the county issued a cease and desist order preventing him from accessing the beach, boat ramps, and parking areas, all of which are vital to his operation.

"I was completely baffled at their action," he said. "This is a win-win situation not only for the resource and local economics with respect to employment and as a scientific, educational opportunity — and for the benefit of the public because we've planted off our lease onto public-accessible land. We've planted 1.7 million Manila Clams for the public."

McRae said geoducks have been harvested for more than 40 years there with no effective replenishing until the commencement of his operation. The algae that feeds the baby bi-valves is grown at the facility at a rate of 2.5 million cell count per milliliter. By planting the babies in protective tubes on the sand, he says, they are protected from predation by crab and flounder until they grow to a point where they are able to dig into the substrate.

He has made his research facility open to students from high school to college levels and hired students to assist with planting the geoducks. As many as 128 people were hired at one time, most of them students.

"Our lease was to be renewable for a term up to 25 years, but the judge ruled it to be a 31-year lease and decreed that the five individuals that signed the lease had no right to do so," McRae said.

McRae's dilemma is, according to Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg, because he "did not cease his operation when ordered by the court to do so."

"It was 100 percent my decision to oppose his use of the land," said Ladenburg. "He has since been trespassing on the property for the past one and a half

years with no legal right to be there. We received lots of complaints, some of which were from residents who were tired of seeing his vessel anchored in the bay all the time."

Ladenburg said the county offered to reimburse McRae "every nickel he had invested into his operation" but instead he decided to fight it.

"So not only is the offer no longer good, but Mr. McRae stands to lose a lot of money once the court determines just how many geoducks he originally harvested. We don't know exactly how much it will be at this point, but it could be well over \$1 million," Ladenburg said.

Another concern, he said, was the eelgrass, something McRae says doesn't make sense either.

"The key to any successful farming operation is a method that enhances the productivity of the land," said McRae. "Aquaculture is no different. It has to increase the productivity of the land and increase water quality at the same time. Eelgrass is a sturdy, vibrant weed, not a delicate species. When we first started propagating we harvested up to the eelgrass. Over the next few years the grass began to overtake our beds. Geoducks filter out pollutants which are converted into nitrates. The nutrients help the Eelgrass to grow even better than it was growing before."

Bertha Fitzer, Pierce County prosecuting attorney for the case, said the lease is only one issue. "The other issue is whether or not Mr. McRae went through the substantial development process. Our contention, based on studies we have had done, is that he did not," she said. "The harvesting method they use simply rips out the geoducks with air hoses and blows out the (eel) grass at the same time... His methodology is detrimental to the environment."

A court hearing Sept. 15 will decide if the company will be permitted to conduct operations on other sites.

Next month:  
Read about the geoduck's biology.

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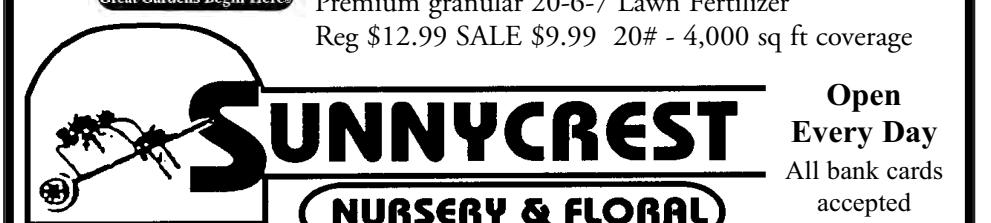
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# Couple finds health in alternative eating lifestyle

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Breezi and Bob Peterson's kitchen lacks a few essential appliances: a stove, an oven and a microwave. But for the couple, those appliances are not essential at all.

For two years, they have avoided what they call a "SAD" way of eating — Standard American Diet — instead indulging in raw vegan cuisine, fruits and vegetables.

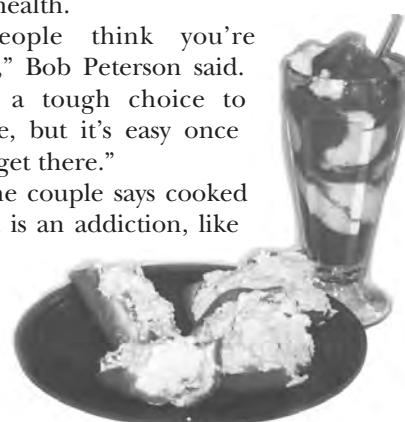
"We call it the SAD diet because it fits — if you eat it you get sick and you're very sad," Breezi Peterson said.

Bob and Breezi, Key Peninsula residents and local real estate agents, speak from experience. Once they completely eliminated cooked and processed foods about two years ago, changes started. Good changes.

Bob eventually lost 70 pounds. His high blood pressure, for which medication was recommended, was reversed. Breezi lost the aches in the bottom of her feet along with multiple other pains. Both gained a new ticket on life, full of energy and radiant health.

"People think you're nuts," Bob Peterson said. "It's a tough choice to make, but it's easy once you get there."

The couple says cooked food is an addiction, like



smoking or drinking. While that claim may appear questionable in a world of lasagna, pizza and chocolate cake, the raw food movement has gained momentum in the last few years, and stories abound of reversed "incurable" diseases. More and more research is being done to support alternative eating habits, including raw food, which excludes any processed or cooked items. Cooking food releases various toxins by altering the chemical composition, Breezi says—and she has the research to prove it.

Like any other addiction, it stays with you. The Petersons, after two years, "fell off the wagon." Tempted by the goodies in a cupboard and the refrigerator brought by a houseguest, they resisted for two weeks but then gave in.

An omelet—"just this one time," they thought—then Chinese, then pasta, and "the days turned into weeks and it kept snowballing." Then trouble came. Breezi's foot pain was back. Bob began feeling hungry constantly, something that didn't happen while eating raw. They started sleeping longer, lost the energy and "the spark."

"Cooked food was just not an option before because my health was too important to me," Breezi said. "Now chocolate chip cookies scream at me. I need to go back to where it's not an option."

But going back, as they found out, is not easy at all. "I know I don't feel good," Bob said. "But the flavor and the texture (of cooked foods) is hard to get away from."

Willpower alone is not enough, the Petersons say. People who are fighting against the mainstream to stay healthy need the support of one another. So



Photos by Rodika Tollefson

Breezi and Bob Peterson share a snack made of red peppers stuffed with a raw seed and nut pate. Behind them, the area where the stove had been is empty. Bottom left, Raw food "soft serve" ice cream is delicious and easy to make. Best of all, it's completely healthy and has only one ingredient.

Breezi hopes to start a local "support group"—a similar one in Gig Harbor eventually disbanded but she thinks by staying local, it may be easier to help each other. People don't have to be "100 percent raw" to be together, she says, they just need to be like-minded and share information, experiences, recipes and of course food. Peterson herself has a wealth of research, ready to give to anyone inquiring.

"I want my health back," said Bob, who

had started gaining weight once the "SAD" menu tugged at his heart and his taste buds.

Health for the couple means giving away those temptations that are nearly impossible to ignore, like teriyaki chicken and cookies and just the good old peanut butter and jelly sandwich. But for them, sacrifice is well worth it.

And once they are back off the SAD lifestyle, it doesn't seem like a sacrifice at all.

## Raw basics

the enzymes lose their effectiveness.

**What raw vegans consume:** Any raw fruits and vegetables, preferably organic; sprouted grains; seeds and nuts; some herbs and spices (fresh especially); olive oil; coconut water and any natural juices without additives.

**What they don't consume:** Meat, dairy, baked, canned and cooked foods, wine, coffee, sugar, soy products.

**Staple foods:** Nut pates, salad fixings and dressing (oil, water, lemon juice, fresh herbs, garlic, ginger and nuts). A variety of things can be made using these.

**Support group:** If you're interested in learning more or would like to join the group, call Breezi Petersen at 884-1954 or email her, bobandbreezi@harbor-net.com.

Connie Schick

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# From pioneer stock Ralph Kingsbury

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

Ralph Kingsbury, third generation Vaughn resident, has lived a varied 83 years. A natural inventor, he often applied his active mind to make jobs easier.

He loves recalling early days, including the eighth-grade graduation trip to Olympia on the "Loren." He sat in the governor's chair.

Ralph and brother Howard delivered the first local paper route for the Tacoma News Tribune on their bikes.

One day on the way home from school, Bus Buckell showed him commercially sliced bread at Freeborn's store. Kingsbury carried the exciting news home to his dad who said, "That'll never last!"

Kingsbury bought a model T from "Grandpa Brones" for \$16. He was the only boy in high school who had a car.

In 1937, Ralph and Howard had the wood contract for Vaughn schools. They paid 25 cents per cord on the stump, and were paid \$3 per cord delivered and stacked.

Ralph's father had a 1930 Essex Coupe with "suicide doors" in his garage. Ralph contracted to buy it for \$35, milking the cow morning and night for \$3 per month.



*Photo courtesy of Ralph Kingsbury*

Ralph and Howard Kingsbury are hauling wood for Vaughn schools in 1937. They bought a Model T for \$9, towed it home, dropped a good motor in, and by afternoon had a load of wood.

Warde Whitfield and he took the rear end apart, put it together, and discovered low and reverse gears were backward, so they had to redo it. The gas tank was vacuum, and they towed it up and down the cemetery hill until it would run.

A graduate of Moller Barber College in Tacoma, Kingsbury opened the first barbershop at Key Center. Aldie Visell put in water to that side of the road for the shop, and patronized it once a month for "a trim."

A classmate asked Kingsbury to barber in Hoquiam. A non-union shop in Aberdeen was blown up, and some union men encouraged him to join. His partner insisted they could stay and keep watch, but Kingsbury opted out

and returned to Vaughn. By then, he was engaged to Hazel Glasson.

He worked at Sound Mattress and Felt Co. in Tacoma, attended night school and became a burner mechanic at the shipyard in Bremerton. He carried shipyard workers in his old Chevy truck at 50 cents a day. He purchased two other trucks, hired drivers, and had a fleet of three "Victory buses." One is in Harold LeMay's Museum of Cars in Tacoma.

When Kingsbury knew he was about to be drafted, Howard, a recruiting officer, told him, "I can get you into the Navy if you sign up now." Kingsbury signed up and barbecued during his tour of duty in the South Pacific.

Kingsbury never paid rent in his 62 years of marriage. After living in Tacoma, Longbranch, and Montana, the couple settled in Vaughn. He invested in a sand and gravel company with Don Visell. Both worked other jobs, Kingsbury's being mail carrier. He picked up bags in Gig Harbor, delivered to Olalla, Burley, Vaughn, Lakebay and Longbranch, reversing the route in the afternoon. He bought out Visell and ran Kingsbury Readi-Mix until he retired.

For his 80th birthday, son Wayne turned Kingsbury's memories into a book. One is in the Key Peninsula Historical Museum. Included are drawings and the patent for one of his inventions.

Still using his inventive mind to create wooden items in his shop with Hazel, Ralph Kingsbury appreciates his varied life. "I wouldn't want to move again," he says. "This is our home."

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## (From Show, Page 1)

chance at their own mini-spotlight. Everyone is invited to show up at the Civic Center Sept. 9 at 9 a.m. to say "Welcome to my home town: Vaughn, Home, Longbranch, Lakebay...etc.. Key Peninsula."

That's certainly a mouthful but not as challenging as squeezing all the local flavor and the hundreds of stories into less than 30 minutes of footage.

"What makes our show successful is that we talk to so many people, and each owns a piece of the town," Wilhelm said.

Dorothy Wilhelm brainstorms things to do, places to see on Key Pen — and how to make it all logically possible — with local resident Dale Skrivanich.

*Photo by Rodika Tolleson*



selves. After participating in the planning and the brainstorming of the show, KP Historical Society volunteer Leona Britt said, "I am learning a lot about my home town."

The show will definitely feature many local staples and must-sees and of course some of the rich history. The Key Peninsula News does not want to spoil the show by giving out the stops or people who will beam off the screen. Let's just say Wilhelm was well on her way in getting the right flavor and discovering the little gems that, if gone, would definitely ange the spirit of the community.

**Home Town Show**

Come to the Civic Center Sept. 9 at 9 a.m. to show the world how friendly local folks are, by being in a group shot to say "Welcome to.....Key Peninsula." The producers need as many people as possible.

The Key Peninsula's spotlight lasts the entire month of October. The same show will be repeated on Comcast's Channel 29 and 76 Mondays at 7 p.m., Wednesday and Fridays at 6:30 p.m., Thursdays at 5 p.m., Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10:30 p.m.

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# Longbranch Improvement Club dances its way to a community hub

*Editor's note: This is part 2 in a series focusing on the Key Peninsula's community hubs that are the heart and soul of local residents. The Civic Center will be featured next month.*

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

More than 80 years ago, a group of Longbranch residents formed an organization to buy land for a school and an athletic field. Calling it the Longbranch Improvement Club to fit its mission of "bettering the community," they set to purchase 10 acres of land, clear it, build a concession stand, then donate the 3-acre field to the school district.

The district eventually bought more property near the field, and built a gymnasium for its school — a unique, A-frame building that came back to LIC when the school closed in the 1940s, and became its centerpiece.

"The building had a dirt floor," recalls 50-year LIC member Marguerite Bussard, a former student at the school. "A bunch of people wanted to have dances, so they went around to different clubs to find out what they were like."

It took a while to put in a floor, but once they did, bi-weekly dances and an abundance of food brought revelers in from all sorts of places.

Through the years, the LIC has maintained its tradition of dances and "improvement" of the community. The historic building hosts local staple events such as the Old Timers' Day, salmon bakes, school fund-raisers, and all sorts of parties, meetings and celebrations, at no cost to local nonprofits.

Membership entitles Longbranch-area residents to free moorage at the dock,

which also makes guest slips available to visitors.

But LIC, most often associated with the building itself, is much more than a building or a "yacht club."

"The clubhouse is important to our identity and provides a focus, but I look at the club more in terms of the people...accomplishing things together," says President Rich Hildahl. "We are about making things better."

Things like staying in touch with the sheriff's department when there are problems, or giving scholarships to schools, or supporting fund-raisers and events "for getting together and having a good time." Everyone involved can find an outlet for his or her talents, from electrical work to acting.

But the club is even more important, Hildahl says, in people getting to know each other and networking. He recalls his boat getting away one summer while he moved it away from the dock, and within minutes people on the other side of the bay making phone calls, getting their boats and trying to catch it. "People look out for each other, something that is lost nowadays," he said.

The organization's main source of funds comes from the marina, a few dances that are now traditional each year, and from commercial renters. Being a member means giving time, so each boat owner using the moorage needs to volunteer a minimum amount of hours to help run and maintain the dock.

"Our membership has grown a lot in the last few years, and a lot of younger people are coming in," said the club's Mary Mazur.

As those new people come in, so do new ideas. Things are changing, though some members feel they are not changing fast



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

The Longbranch Improvement Club hosts a variety of community events, including the Old Timers' Day. Debbie Dilley and Judy Glasco are having great laughs serving hamburgers and jokes at the Old Timers' event, a fund-raiser for the KP Community Services. Seen in the background are Hellen Sixer and Bill Onstad.

enough.

For Bassard, who has given many long hours in the club's early days along with her husband, Pete, the club is perhaps a bit of a reflection of modern times: With television and all sorts of other entertainment available, the young generation has less time to devote to volunteering. But, she says, even as things are changing, they are changing for the best.

And no matter how the club itself evolves, the community can say one thing for certain: The LIC has danced its way into their hearts, and without the building itself the Key Peninsula would be a very different landscape.

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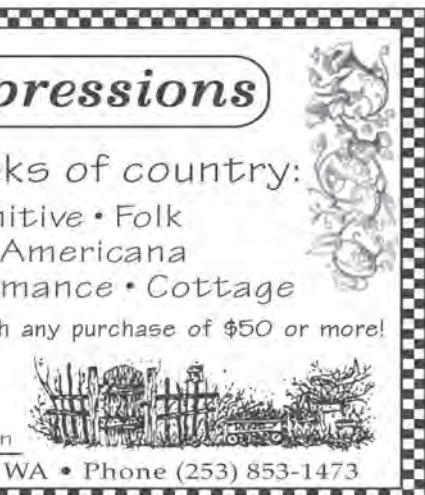
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## Sept. 11 Gospel Music Concert offers remembrance, hope

By Irene Torres  
KP News

Jesus," Stebbins says.

Then, continuing every Friday and Saturday night for five weeks, from Sept. 12 through Oct. 11, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the VFW Room at the Civic Center, "Jesus Is The Answer" meetings will continue. Corky Stebbins says the purpose of these meetings is to "give people encouragement." "We have hope for a future beyond what we read in the headlines every day, with Jesus," he says. "There will be an open microphone for poems, songs and words of praise and special music. We want the community to come, to feel welcome, and bring musical instruments to share their special music and songs."

There is no admission fee for any of the meetings. For information, contact either of the Stebbins at 253-474-7795.

## Taste the flavor of fall at gala

The Flavor of Fall party is almost here, and the chef's getting ready to cook up a storm to go with the cruise ship theme. Here's a sample of the temptations: apple Waldorf with caramelized pecans; capers and herbed chicken breast with brandied spinach stuffing; baked risotto primavera with mushrooms, carrots and peas; mixed greens with cranberries and balsamic vinegar. An ice carving, just like the ones seen on cruises, will add to the

atmosphere.

The list of auction items was at 50 and growing, and includes everything from personal care items to business services. Donations are still being accepted, as are volunteers to help organize and decorate.

Tickets are going on sale in September and disappear fast. To reserve, call Sunnycrest Nursery at 884-3939 or stop by the shop in Key Center.

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# BACK t\_o SCHOOL

## Back to school basics

### First day of school

Sept. 3

### Bus schedules online

<http://psd.peninsula.wednet.edu/school/busroutes>

### Local schools phone numbers

Evergreen Elementary: 884-3393

Minter Creek Elementary: 851-4542

Vaughn Elementary: 884-5700

Key Peninsula Middle School: 884-4800

Peninsula High School: 857-3530

HALL Program (homeschooling) 858-5574

PSD headquarters  
857-6171



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Scott Russell, Ryan Russell and Mylia Miller get the Minter Elementary School mural ready for repainting.

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## Immunization schedule

State law requires all children to have current immunizations before attending schools. If your child has not been immunized, he or she may not be allowed to attend. Some exemptions are allowed based on physician recommendation or religious belief—ask your school for details.

The following immunizations are needed for kindergarten through fifth grade:

- 4 doses DTP/DtaP with the last dose on/after 4th birthday
- 3 doses Polio with the last dose on/after 4th birthday
- 2 doses MMR with 1st given on/after 1st birthday and 2nd one month or more later
- 3 doses Hepatitis B

For a schedule of free immunizations mobile-clinics or free sites in Pierce County, see [www.tpchd.org/cdc/immunocalendar.htm](http://www.tpchd.org/cdc/immunocalendar.htm) or call the Health Department at 798-6500.

# Tips for avoiding sports-related injuries



*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

By Irene Torres

Playing sports is good for kids. It keeps them healthier, helps them develop teamwork skills, improves their self-confidence, helps them find things in common with others, and even keeps some kids out of trouble.

Having a physical outlet helps the body be more relaxed. Increasing oxygen to the brain makes children more receptive to learning and improves their attention span.

All athletes must be in proper physical condition to play sports. A pre-season physical examination will be required before school sports participation. Kids must know and respect the rules of the game. They must know how to use athletic equipment; and use appropriate protective equipment, especially athletic supporters for males, which may reduce the incidence of injury.

A good warm-up, stretching or light jogging



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### Playing it safe in the heat is cool

- Recognize the dangers of playing in the heat
- Respond quickly if heat-related injuries occur
- Schedule regular fluid breaks during practice and games
- Drinking water is the best choice; others include fruit juices and sports drinks
- Kids need to drink 8 ounces of fluid every 20 minutes, plus more after playing
- Make player substitutions more frequently in the heat
- Wear light-colored, "breathable" clothing, and wide-brimmed hats
- Use misting water sprays on the body to keep cool.

*Adapted from Medical Economics with permission by Patient Care Magazine*

in place can prevent muscle strains by making the body tissues more flexible. A cool-down period will loosen muscles that tighten during exercise. Athletes should avoid playing when in pain. Proper hydration during play is always necessary.

#### Protecting kids from sports injuries

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 1997 to 1999 bear repeating: About 7 million sports-related injuries require medical attention annually.

Basketball is the leading sport requiring surgical correction of injuries, according to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. This is especially true of girls' knees and ankle injuries. Play with eye protection, elbow and kneepads, mouth guard, and proper shoes.

Strength training and aerobic exercise to develop strength and endurance of heart and lungs are recommended to prevent basketball injuries, which occur at the rate of 1 million every year.

Football is the No. 1 cause of boys' sporting injuries. Appropriate gear includes helmet, mouth guard, shoulder pads, chest/rib pads, forearm, elbow and thigh pads; shin guards; and proper shoes. Prevention of injuries can be enhanced by safety equipment, warm-up exercises, proper coaching and conditioning.

Soccer injuries can be prevented by proper training in "heading" the ball (using the head to strike or make a play). Shin guards and cleats are required for playing soccer safely.

Baseball is best played with a batting helmet, shin guards, elbow guards, mouth guard, cleats, hat, and breakaway bases to reduce impact injuries. Proper muscle conditioning and warm-up exercises are always recommended to reduce strain and sprain injuries.

Gymnastics injuries are commonly sprains and strains of soft tissues. Safety equipment includes joint supports) and safety harness. Always warm up and maintain proper body condition. Essential Track and Field equipment includes proper shoes and sunscreen.

Children involved in organized sporting programs in schools, community clubs and recreation areas should be supervised by adults trained in preventing, recognizing and caring for athletic injuries immediately.

#### Remember the "R.I.C.E." treatment for soft tissue sprains, strains, or bone injury:

**Rest:** Reduce weight-bearing or stop using the injured area for 48 hours

**Ice:** Apply a cold (ice) pack on the injured area for 20 minutes at a time, 4 to 8 times a day

**Compression:** Elastic bandage wraps, special boots or splints may reduce swelling of knee, ankle or wrist injuries

**Elevation:** Use a pillow to elevate an injured limb, which should be kept above the level of the heart.

*Source: National Institutes of Health,  
Department of Health and Human Services*



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# YMCA program brings on-site daycare

By Rodika Tollefson

Following interest surveys at most of the Peninsula School District elementary schools, the YMCA has found enough interest to offer before and after school care at schools including Vaughn and Minter. Those programs will open in September on a month to month basis and continue throughout the year as long as there is enough enrollment to support them.

At Evergreen Elementary, a needs survey is in the works for the second week of school. As the program is different at each school depending on its needs, the survey will be tailored specifically to Evergreen.

"We're working together with the YMCA to create a relationship and, if the need is there, to fill it," said Principal Jacque Crisman.

The reason the survey was not conducted in spring was because the After OURS' program was successful and going strong and the district did not want to "compromise it." But even with

## YMCA Program highlights

Students can enroll either for one to two days or three to five, morning, afternoon or both. Tuition must be paid for each month in advance.

Vacation camps are also available.

Morning hours are 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and afternoon hours are 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Extended care will be available during school breaks excluding holidays.

For information, call 405-1774 or ask your school.

The Evergreen needs survey will be distributed in mid-September.

After OURS' coming back this year—with a reduced scope due to funding—there may still be room for the Y. And that is what the survey intends to find out.

"The Y has programs that operate just in the morning or just in the afternoon,

or both," said YMCA Child Care/Day Camp Director Kim Bauer. "It depends on the needs of each community, the school and the programs that are already in place."

Should the survey show enough interest for Evergreen, the YMCA will begin an extensive licensing process with the state that takes about three months. Each site is licensed individually.

But just because a program is launched at any of the schools, it doesn't mean it's set in stone: A minimum number of students must be enrolled each month to keep it going. "If not enough people enroll, the program can still be cancelled," Bauer said, adding that January would be a realistic timeline for opening should the program come through.

The Y and PSD representatives say the two programs are not exclusive of each other and they will work together to offer a rounded before or after school experience for the students.

"The goal is to keep the kids safe and fill the community's need," Crisman said.

## Tips for an environmentally friendly year

Save money—and trees—by using a lunchbox instead of disposable lunch bags. You can buy one for as little as \$12-20 that will last a long time, and kids will have fun choosing one with their favorite characters.

Buy lunch items in bulk, and you'll avoid extra garbage by having less packaging.

Look for notebooks made out of recycled paper. We could save 85 million tons of paper each year by using recycled products!

Reuse paper grocery bags by having your kids decorate them and using them as book covers. They can even design their own covers to match the book's subject—possibilities are only limited by their imagination.

Try reusable drink containers instead of plastic ones: You'll save a lot of garbage and money too.

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# Alone after school: Ideas for parents of “latchkey” kids

By Irene Torres

Kids who know they've stopped relying on their parents as much as they once did may be ready to stay home alone after school. They may have a feeling of "growing up." But, in this era of Amber Alerts, sexual predators, child abductions and endangerment, the decision to leave children alone after school has become complicated.

Fewer childcare facilities for adolescents are available. Costs are increasing. Middle schoolers may begin to express a need for the same independence as their peers enjoy. Although some children under the age of 13 may not recognize risks of danger, no laws establish a legal minimum age because children vary in their rate of maturity. The decision rests with parents, who are ultimately responsible.

Every year, millions want to know: How can we know when our child is ready to

## Interesting fact

Nearly 7 million children of school age are left alone at home.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

be left without supervision?

**Observe behavior:** Do they finish their chores? Do they complete their homework? Can they remember everything parents tell them? Do they need constant reminders?

**Know their teachers and their friends' parents:** How does the child behave and interact with others outside the home?

**Give clear safety instructions:** Set guidelines on whether and how to use the range; to answer the phone, the door. Invest in computer programs to block inappropriate Internet access, and get caller ID.

## Rules for parents

According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, these steps can protect a child left at home alone:

- Place all emergency phone numbers (doctor, hospital, police, fire department, poison control center) and the number of a friend or neighbor near all phones.
- Teach the child to recognize electrical hazards and how to avoid injuries from them.
- Plan and practice two escape routes from each room in your home and make sure smoke alarms are working.
- Reinforce use of safety equipment while skating, skateboarding or bicycling (if those activities are permitted).
- Make sure the child knows where to find and how to use a first aid kit.
- Prepare a snack ahead of time—select an item that requires no heating.
- Leave contact information so the child knows where you'll be and when you will be home.
- Leave your cellular phone number.

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# 5 ideas for hanging on to family time during busy school schedules

By Rodika Tollefson

do, build a little workspace next to you and invite your child over instead.

- Spend time every morning before school and as soon as you see each other in the afternoon or evening talking about school—even if just a few minutes and about things that don't seem important to you. Kids want to be heard and feel important, and sharing their day with you gives them that chance.



With summer coming to an end, parents often hear the same question: "Are you glad school is starting soon?" At first thought it may seem that having the kids in school all day is a blessing for parents, who can now divert their attention elsewhere, run errands by themselves or indulge in some peace and quiet.

But with vacation gone, so is time spent together—day after day, homework after homework, the year will go by so fast and you'll see your children so little that you'd be having a tough time catching up with their lives.

Here are a few tips for sneaking in family time, even if all you do together is "nothing."

- Designate Friday or Saturday evening as family time. No matter how much you're tempted to have a night out with your partner or catch up on housework, schedule it in like any other appointment—and keep it. Plan ahead or be spontaneous, go to a new place each time or just order pizza and crash on the couch with a family movie—as long as you have laughs and good time one way or another.

- "Do homework" together. Even if you just sit next to your child reading a book, working on budget or writing a letter, do it next to your child's homework area so you can answer questions, help if needed, or simply let him or her know you care and you want to be involved. If you have computer work to

- Keep them involved in family activities. You may be able to go shopping now while the kids are in school or soccer practice—but taking them along once in a while will keep them feel involved. You can even have an impromptu lunch out, or get an ice cream cone on the way back, or sit on a bench for a few moments and do nothing but chat. It's the little things that count.

- Keep in mind that to your children, school is work. Just like you may be grumpy and stressed when coming home from your job, kids may have had a rough test or may be frustrated from a school incident. Give them a chance to have some space even if it's the only opportunity you'll have to spend time with them—but do talk it out when ready.

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# Top 10 Key Peninsula trails

**Editor's note:**

This is the last part of a series featuring 10 Key Peninsula trails. If you'd like to find out more about Fern Lake/Lake Koeneman, Rocky Creek Conservation Area, Horseshoe Lake DNR Property, Purdy Spit County Park, Key Center DNR Property, Dutcher Cove State Park, and Maple Hollow DNR Property, please read the previous two issues of Key Peninsula News.

As always, the Key Peninsula News encourages you to be safe and let someone know about your hiking plans.



On the trail  
WITH SIMON PRIEST

The directions given can easily be misinterpreted. Please rely on yourselves to explore and not the descriptions below. Be sure to take food, water, and other survival essentials on your walk. Wear sensible and sturdy footwear that is well broken in.

**8) Penrose State Park** (day use fee applies): This circuit of pedestrian-only trails begins and ends in the day use area at the end of 158th Avenue off Delano

Road near Lakebay. From the beach area, take the main trail toward Penrose Point. Explore the first loop with a left turn that passes the shell lagoon and an eagle's nest before returning to the main trail, a short distance from its end near the point. Another loop to the right returns to the day area by following

the shoreline and climbing up and over a large hill past the water tower and ranger's house. A separate trail loop goes from the day use area to the boat moorage and campground by following the shoreline left from the beach.

**9) The Linds' Property:** This is the only private land included on the Top 10 list, because someday it will likely be a public park. Bob and Nancy Lind have been piv-

otal in helping develop many of the parks on the Key Peninsula. Call them first (884-3347) for permission to walk on their property at the end of Eight Street near the new Home Park. Begin by walking toward the well-signed Home Cemetery. Explore the remaining gravesites and surrounding plots. Continue on the main pedestrian only trail as it traces a giant figure 8 back to the point where you began. Avoid the trail across the middle of the 8; it is muddy in wet weather.

**10) Joeemma Beach State Park** (day use fee applies): Although there are few trails in this park, the beach walk is one of the best around. Find it at the end of Bay Road off of Whiteman Road. Walk the beach in either direction from the wharf. Please respect private property and do not trespass on the sandy beach to the north of the park boundary.

Other short trails exist near the KP Sports Center (Volunteer Park), around Heron Bay, and to Devil's Head. If you have some property with trails that you would like to be included in the trails sys-

tem being developed linking the top trails like pearls on a necklace from head to toe on the Key Peninsula, contact the KP Trails Committee. Most of these trails are built and maintained by volunteer labor.

Simon Priest is a member of the KP Trails Committee. To find out more, see [www.keypen.org](http://www.keypen.org) or email [info@keypen.org](mailto:info@keypen.org).

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# News from the Key Pen Recreation District

By Nancy Lind, Commissioner

The third annual Key Peninsula Community Fair on Aug. 15 through 17 was for the most part a very good fair. The wind blew very hard all day on Friday and tents were walking all over the place. Folks were coming to the rescue every time a gust came through. It was an unexpected weather pattern and caught several of us unprepared. Saturday and Sunday were beautiful days, everyone looked happy, plenty of food was served and the rides were very busy.

On Sept. 1 Fred Ramsdell is retiring as commissioner from the KPPRD board. He has been involved with the KP Sports Center since its inception, clearing the land, getting fields ready, helping with events and serving on the board since 1998. He is leaving the board but will not be leaving the park. Fred and this park district are symbiotic and his heart and soul are delight in seeing the numbers of happy people enjoying a park experience. He would like to continue on as a "consultant" and valued "third or fourth hand" when available but has other plans now for his

retirement, such as spending more time with his grandkids and being free to travel anytime, anywhere with his wife, Mary. He will be missed on the board very much and we all thank him for all he has done for so many years.

Anyone wishing to fill Fred Ramsdell's unexpired term (2 years and 4 months) please send a resume to KPPRD, P.O. Box 46, Vaughn, WA 98394. The selection of a replacement will take place at the KP Sports Center Annex, 7 p.m., at one of the September meetings on the second and fourth Mondays.

Just before July 4 at Rocky Creek Conservation Area, the picnic table built by Bill Macarras' Boy Scout Troop was separated from the security blocks and moved to the center of the trail head site where a fire was built using a couple of railings from the cedar fence. We cleaned it up and before we got the table re-secured, it was taken apart and stolen by someone who took down the fence to get it out. They don't have the seats because they were in the bushes, waiting for the next haul. This is a big loss and very sad. That table was a real asset to the park and we miss it.

If anyone knows of anyone who has a wooden picnic table without matching plank seats, please call Nancy Lind at 884-3347. If we can get it back and reinstall it, we will call it square, no questions asked.

The KPPRD is asking for voter support Sept. 16 for its maintenance and operations levy that would pay for much needed improvements and help us keep the parks maintained. The district has been spending its funds frugally and has stretched the last three-year levy over five years.

To submit your news, email us at [keypennews@yahoo.com](mailto:keypennews@yahoo.com), fax to 884-4053, or mail to PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394  
**by Sept. 17** for the next month's deadline

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# Civic Center invites you to dance off some energy



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No outside alcohol will be allowed. Tickets are \$12 in advance available at the Civic Center and the Sunnycrest Nursery, or \$15 at the door.

The dance is one of a series of fund-raising events staged by the Civic Center to help pay for increased insurance costs.

For details, call 884-3456.

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# Two Waters Arts Alliance is a current of events

By L. Brudvik Lindner

This has been a busy month for your local arts organization, Two Waters Arts Alliance (TWAA).

We bid adieu to our successful summer programs and greet our fall schedule with much enthusiasm. The summer schedule ended with two very successful and highly attended classes: "Paint a Glass of White Wine" with instructor Ty Cline,

and a "Sumi Painting Workshop" with instructor Reni Moriarity. Both painting experiences were hosted by TWAA artist Beverly Pedersen in her creative, energetic art studio, The Art Barn, located just outside of Key Center.

Upcoming fall program details are listed in the TWAA advertisement in this issue of the KPNews. "The Genuine ARTicle" highlights three fall TWAA activities: the



**The Genuine  
ARTicle**

Acoustic Jam Session, organized by Karen Hale; Chinese Brush Painting, with instructor Laura Mosley, and Writing Without Teachers, facilitated by Rodika Tollefson and supported by Friends of the Library.

Karen Hale is a two-year Key Peninsula resident and a four-year guitar player who has just begun recording her own music. Her hope for the bi-weekly "ear-friendly" acoustic jam sessions is to build our musical community by creating an opportunity to jam. Whether you are new to music or an old hat, whether you play guitar, bass, drums, you name it, join Karen in making music on center stage at the Key Peninsula Civic Center; call Karen at 858-8623 for details.

Laura Mosley brings 10 years of study and 20 years of passion for the art of Chinese brush painting to the Peninsula. She trained with Dr. Ning Yeh, a third-generation Chinese brush painter from Taiwan. Laura is a classical Chinese brush painter; she teaches using traditional colors and images. Laura is of the artistic opinion that painting with the Chinese brush is like a meditation. She explains,

"One slowly learns from the Chinese brush how to paint images through expressive strokes on to fine rice paper." Call Laura with questions at 884-1081.

Writing Without Teachers, a free writing workshop, is geared toward the beginner as well as the experienced writer. Facilitated by Rodika Tollefson and supported by Friends of the Library, this course will follow the writing methods of group reading and peer critiquing outlined in Peter Elbow's book, "Writing Without Teachers." Rodika is a free-lance writer whose non-fiction and journalistic work has been published in numerous magazines, newspapers and newsletters. Friends of the Library is supporting eager writers in our community by generously donating the meeting space along with other needed materials. Thank you Friends of the Library!

Other TWAA highlights:

The Longbranch Players production of "Sylvia" Sept. 19, 20, 26 and 27 will bring four Key Peninsula artists to the lobby of the Longbranch Improvement Club for an exhibit of diverse artistic talent. The exhibit will include: Kurt Solmssen, acclaimed oil painter; Chris Bronstad, charcoal portrait artist; Reni Moriarty, Sumi painter and Beverly Pedersen, oil, water, silk and acrylic artist. TWAA will assist with set building as well. This is a great example of community spirit in the arts — TWAA and LIC together supporting local artists from painters to actors.

Recognizing another example of community spirit — considerable appreciation is in order. In July The Angel Guild gifted TWAA \$3,000 to be used for scholarships, artist exhibits and program building. The Angel Guild funds will help to support artists and students involved in TWAA programs and events. Thank you Angel Guild!



*Photo courtesy of TWAA*

Margo Macdonald paints a glass of wine at the Art Barn during a summer class.

Last but not least a few TWAA odds and ends: The Key Peninsula Fair granted TWAA the opportunity to garner support for our "in progress" "Artists in Schools" program. A well signed signature petition endorsed support for TWAA to bring supplemental art programs into Key Peninsula schools.

TWAA is working on getting our first Web page up by the end of September as well as donating two gift certificates — Sumi painting courses — to the Flavor of Fall. The Art Barn participates in the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Open Studio Tour featuring TWAA artist, Beverly Pedersen, along with multi-media artist Ann Stockdale, Sept. 20 & 21; call 884-2149 for information.

And, lastly, to reserve your space in our fall programs or to contribute to making art history on our Key Peninsula, please call 884-3456. Scholarships and family discounts are available for most classes.

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# 'Sylvia' brings laughs, talent to LIC

## Evening details

The play will be performed on the Improvement Club stage on four evenings of dinner theater Fridays, Sept. 19 and 26, and Saturdays, Sept. 20 and 27. The Club is located at 4312 Key Peninsula Highway South.

Tickets, \$35, can be purchased by phoning Mary Mazur at 253-884-1061 or at the Sunnycrest Nursery or the Longbranch Marina. A special rate is available for tables of eight. Tickets are advance sale only. Proceeds from the performances will be devoted to the maintenance and rehabilitation of the historic building owned and operated by the Improvement Club as a center for the Longbranch and Key Peninsula community. The building of unique construction built in 1938-39 is reportedly the largest A frame-type in the United States. It was placed on the National Historic Register in 1987. (See related story on page 13)

Each evening will open at 5:45 with a cash cocktail bar and a Gallery Show sponsored by the Two Waters Arts Alliance. Works of some of the most prominent Key Peninsula artists will be shown. Dinner will be served at 6:30 in the large, atmospheric hall of the club, followed by the stage performance.



Meeting at Miracle Ranch  
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By Mary Mazur  
Special to KP News

The popular comedy "Sylvia" being staged in dinner theater performances by Longbranch Players in September is an artistic event eagerly anticipated on the Key Peninsula. The play, by A.R. Gurney, to be presented on the Longbranch Improvement Club stag has been said by theater-goers to be "the funniest comedy we have ever seen." With a biting wit, the play concerns the complications that ensue when Greg, a successful businessman in his 40s, picks up a stray dog, Sylvia, and makes her the center of his life, much to the displeasure of his wife, Kate.

Sylvia, played by a young woman, Kim Gebhardt, has all of the amusing characteristics of a dog in love with its master. Greg, the businessman who has adopted and bonded with the dog, is played by David Starkweather. Kate, his wife, a woman with some definite ideas about how she expects her life to go, is played



Penny Clapp, David Starkweather, Kim Gebhardt, Diane Gressley and Carol Wiley rehearse for "Sylvia." Not pictured is actor Bret Nebel, who plays "Phyllis."

*Photo courtesy of Jo Sturm*

by Diane Gressley, David's real-life wife.

In a comic turnaround, the playwright A.R. Gurney called for casting of some of the parts with actors of the opposite sex from the character they play. Director Jerri Lee Young has also chosen to cross-cast two of the parts. Phyllis, Kate's friend, is played by veteran Key Peninsula

actor Bret Nebel and Tom, who knows Greg, is played by Penny Clapp, well known in Tacoma Little Theater. The marriage counselor Leslie, acted by Carolyn Wiley, sets out to help the couple repair the marriage strained by Sylvia the dog.

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## KEY NEWS

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# Kayak Symposium brings peddlers to Key Pen

By Deborah Hoffman  
KP News

The first Key Peninsula Kayak Symposium held July 26 at Penrose State Park was attended by about 50 people from as far away as Seattle and Silverdale who were interested in running sections of the new Key Peninsula marine trail. Many campers, families and local kayakers participated in individualized lessons provided by experts in paddle sports.

"Paddle sports are a low-impact way of exploring the waterways of the Pacific Northwest that are life enhancing and naturally sensitive to the environment," said Caril Ridley, who coordinated the symposium. Ridley is an Olympic-trained white water slalom expert with over 30 years of experience in kayaking.

The free event was organized with the support of the Key Peninsula Trails System (KPTS) committee in order to encourage people of any age to try their hand at this sport in a safe, supervised environment.

"One of our goals is to make more resources available



*Photo courtesy of Caril Ridley*

Caril Ridley approaching Pit Passage near Filucy Bay during the July symposium.

to the citizens of the Key Peninsula," Ridley said.

The first part of the afternoon was spent learning and practicing kayaking skills near the shore at Penrose State Park. During the second part of the afternoon and early evening, participants paddled a seven-mile stretch of marine trail. Beginning at the boat launch south of

Longbranch kayakers traveled north through Pit Passage and past McNeil Island and back to Penrose State Park.

The marine trail is just one of the projects underway through the Key Peninsula Trails System. It is part of a larger vision being developed by the members of KPTS with support from the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District (KPPRD) to create a trail system that will link the Key Peninsula with the rest of Washington State.

Through networking and advertising, Ridley hopes this will be an annual event on the peninsula. The symposium was also supported and sponsored by the Washington Mountaineers and the Washington Kayak Club. Outdoor Pursuits in Tacoma and Camp Seymour donated the use of 12 kayaks.

A book titled "Kayaking Around the Key Peninsula," co-authored by Ridley and Simon Priest of KPTS, maps out the waterways around the Key Peninsula and current docking locations that define the KP Marine Trail. It is due out at the end of this year and will be available through the KPTS Web site at [www.keypen.org](http://www.keypen.org).

## First Time Kayaking

By Deborah Hoffman  
KP News

Since I'm an adventurer at heart, I'm always willing to try something new. I finally had a go at kayaking this July at the kayak symposium on the Key Peninsula. It was my first time. And I loved it. Despite a little adventure on an unknown beach.

I've been a swimmer my entire life but was still a little apprehensive at first. Sitting in a little boat in the middle of Puget Sound seemed rather confining. I could envision myself losing control, tipping the boat over and not being able

to get out of it. In reality my fears disappeared as soon as I was on the water, allowed myself to relax and got a feel for the boat and how it moved.

With a little instruction from a few good teachers I soon learned how to hold the paddle efficiently while using my body to control the boat. I found that paddling was much easier in a kayak than another small watercraft because I was sitting lower in the water and closer to the center of gravity. This gave me a sense of being one with the water. A great feeling! The boat was lighter and easier to control than it looked from standing on dry land.

Since it didn't take me long to get my sea legs, I decided to try the seven-mile trip through Pit Passage with the others, but soon realized that it was a bit too long for my first time out. Although I was thoroughly immersed in the intoxicating experience of being out in the open water surrounded by lush exotic beauty and wildlife swimming around me, my low back began to act up. Then I remembered lesson No. 1 — be comfortable with the equipment. There were moments that I would have loved to free myself from the cumbersome weight of the boat and just jump in the water and swim, but I realized that this was my mind speaking the soul of a swimmer. I also realized how impatient I had become in our fast-paced world. Soon I settled down and paced myself.

To make a long story short, I only fin-

ished half the trip. My comrades left me on a beautiful sandy beach half way to our destination. So I figured, great, I'll just rest my back and relax on the beach. By the time they drove back around to get me, I got to know the locals — a bunch of teens with their music, a few nice gentlemen who carried my kayak out to the main road, and a family celebrating a new housewarming who invited me in for wine. Nice folks on this Key Peninsula.

A few words of advice from lessons learned. Listen to the experts. Check out the equipment that best suits your body. Practice short trips near shore to build up your confidence and endurance. And most importantly — always indulge in water sports with a partner.

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# Fun-filled summer months



*Photos by Hugh McMillan and Rodika Tollefson*

Clowns, antiques displays, vendors, food, games, music, loggers — all abounded at the Longbranch Improvement Club on Old Timers' Day, organized by the Key Peninsula Community Services as an annual fund-raiser. Even Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee and Gig Harbor Mayor Gretchen Wilbert dropped in to judge the Country Store entries. The mayor hung around enjoying the festivities and even indulged in some clogging (top right).



Taking a little break at the Key Peninsula Community Fair, "Mr. Gorilla" (left) adjusted his scary mask. Below, multi-talented entertainer Linda Severt shows off one of her acts.

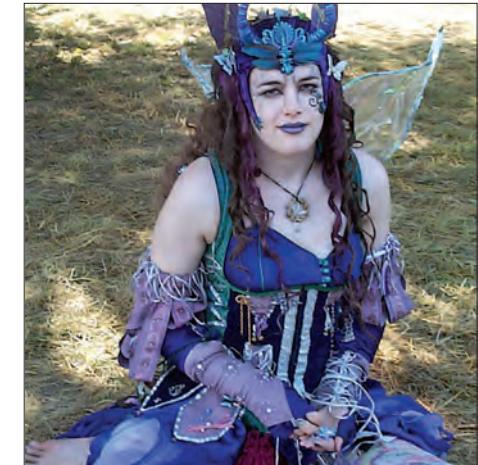


Her Majesty came by the Renaissance Faire, enjoying great attention, as any royalty should.



*Photos by Karl Anderson*

All sorts of interesting characters roamed about the Faire in bright, intricate period costumes.



*Photos by Hugh McMillan*

# Diving Jackson Lake: A real surprise

Notes from down below



**By Karl Anderson**

I made a dive in Jackson Lake at noon on Friday, June 20, and was very surprised at what I found. Following an underwater navigation exercise I conducted for two of my students, the three of us proceeded on the surface to the center of the lake with the scooters and planned to descend, take bottom depth readings, and resurface.

As we descended with lights on, it became increasingly dark at 10 feet, and we reached the bottom at 25 feet. What surprised me the most was the extreme difference in the water temperature at the bottom compared to the surface. The top 10 feet was 64 degrees Fahrenheit and the bottom was a chilly 49! Yes, 15 degrees difference in only 25 feet of water!

The bottom was amazingly clear, probably 15 to 20 foot visibility, but

once the decomposed algae on the bottom was disturbed in the slightest, we would find ourselves engulfed in yellowish-brown clouds. Then as I looked upward toward the surface I had yet another surprise. The surface looked blood red, as if we were looking up at some incredible volcanic activity going on above us. The reason for this visual phenomenon was due to a combination of the tannic acid and suspended algae in the water.

Beer and soda cans and bottles lie strewn everywhere on the bottom, with hundreds more buried deeper and out of view in the soft silt. Closer to shore I was surprised that there is an abundance of plant life on the bottom and I am happy to report that I saw no milfoil.

Water lilies (actually a related species called Spatterdock) give plenty of cover on either side for fish, and although I saw none during the dive I am told there are some good-sized trout and bass living here.

While Jackson Lake is the deepest I have found on the Peninsula so far, I think the one I will dive next may very well turn out to be the deepest of all. I'll keep you posted!

Aquatically yours,  
Karl Anderson

## CAC celebrates anniversary



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Some 30 members and spouses of Citizens Against Crime and its Citizens' Patrol gathered at the home of the organization's founding father, Hugh McMillan, and his wife, Jan, to celebrate CAC's 15th anniversary and the Patrol's fourth or sixth anniversary—no one was sure.

In the winter of 1987-88, three youngsters smashed windows in a number of Peninsula School District buses at the Purdy parking area and then proceeded to lay waste a room full of computers at the Key Peninsula Middle School. McMillan said, "I got a call from Rhys Wood, who said, 'Let's bring a class action suit against the parents of those kids.' Mysteriously, within the hour, Channel 4, KOMO, called seeking an interview. It played that evening and with that, the phone started ringing with people wanting to volunteer to do whatever possible to crack down on crime." On Jan. 11, 1988, 19 concerned citizens assembled at the Huckleberry Inn in Key Center — and the rest is history. They were given security checks and clearances, and were encouraged and trained by then Pierce County Sheriff's Department Deputy John Hendrickson, started manning the phones at the sheriff's Peninsula detachment in Purdy, and bought their own computer to assist with correspondence and records maintenance.

"It took about 10 years of effort before we were able to convince the powers that be that we should have a Citizens' Patrol but since we leaped that hurdle, we've been extra eyes, ears, and minds supporting our deputies in anyway we can," said McMillan.

To learn more about CAC and its Citizens' Patrol, call Loyd Miller at 884-2536, Pat Latshaw at 884-0808, or Al Yanity at 884-3081.

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**News Brief****Burley Lagoon shellfish beds improve**

Improved water quality in Burley Lagoon may lead to reduced restrictions on commercial shellfish harvesting in the northern part of the lagoon, according to Pierce County Water Programs.

The Washington State Department of Health is considering a harvest classification upgrade from restricted to conditional for approximately 17 additional acres of Burley Lagoon. "This is great news for the county. There is still much to be done, but we've proven we are on the right track toward protecting these important resources," said Tim Ramsaur, man-

ager of Pierce County Water Programs.

The Department of Health upgraded shellfish harvesting at the southern end of the lagoon in 2001. Burley Lagoon was closed to the commercial harvest of shellfish in 1999 due to deteriorating water quality.

Since 1999, the Burley Lagoon Watershed Protection Team has worked to reduce pollution within the sensitive watershed. The team consists of representatives from Pierce County, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce Conservation District, Kitsap County Surface Water Management, Kitsap County Health Department, Kitsap County Conservation District, Puget Sound Action Team, Washington State Department of Health and local grower Jerry Yamashita. For information, call Pierce County Water Programs at 253-798-2725.

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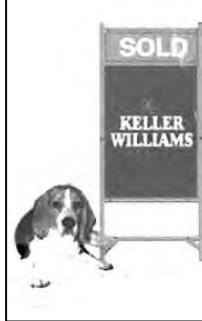
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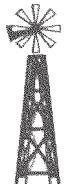
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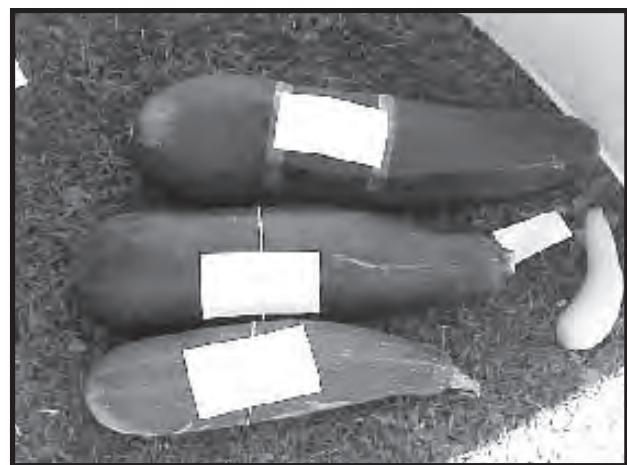


## WOW! What a Market

In July of 2003, as a real estate industry, we experienced record home sales. Those sales were particularly good in the Pacific Northwest even though our jobless rate is one of the worst in the country. Tacoma and the South Sound area had particularly good sales up approximately 18% over last year. A lot of this, of course, is due to the extremely low interest rates, which hit record lows below 5% in July.

Locally, our good sales are also due to the new bridge (as well as the influx of people working on the bridge). In addition, the increase of services, new stores and the possibility of a hospital in the near future and our less expensive prices have all made the Key Peninsula a desirable place to buy home and or land.

If you would like to be involved in the planning for the future of the Key Peninsula, you might like to become an active member of the planning committee for the Community Council, which meets at the Key Peninsula Middle School on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Call this number at Windermere Key Realty for more information, 253-884-3304.



**Congratulations to Parker Froode and Jack Woolridge** for winning the Cash Prize of \$25 for the longest zucchini at the Key Peninsula Fair recently. The top zuc' measured in at 26". Lynn Bryars had a close 2nd at 21" and Nancy Lind came in 3rd at 18" - Way to Grow!

# Windermere Real Estate / Key Realty 253-884-3304

## "In the Heart of the Key Peninsula"



### THIS WFTNT HAS IT ALL!!-549,000

Mtn.and Sound views, tidelands and no-bank, 180 degree view from lvg rm easy spiral stairs to upper floor. Four car garage is 1584 sq.ft. plus RV parking. New paint in and out, and new carpet. MLS#23097541. 253-884-3304



### WANNA BE A FARMER?- \$295,000

Working farm, 30's house in original condition, 2 barns, 1 has 7 stalls plus hay storage. Also, extra garage/workshop. 3 separate pastures, small seasonal creek. 5 acre parcel in back, could be another building site. MLS#23070724. 253-884-3304.



### RUSTIC PRIVACY-\$97,000

Rambling wisteria, old roses and forgotten ivy covered structures set the stage for this rural 2-story home. Antique wood-wrapped windows, vaulted LR ceiling w/varnished walls, covered porches add charm, also comm. beach access. MLS#23101159. 253-884-3304



### 3 BDRM RAMBLER!-\$79,500

The best community beach and boat ramp are yours to enjoy, with this cute 3 bdrm rambler at Longbranch Shores. Boater's paradise, nature lovers dream. Home needs TLC but has a great potential. MLS#23096204. 253-884-3304



### CHARMING RAMBLER- \$192,000

3 Br, 2 Ba, large fireplace, almost 2000 sq.ft. situated on shy one acre lot. Walking bridge over koi pond, garage w/ 1024 sq.ft. Easy access to hwy 16 and new shopping center. MLS#23070853. 253-884-3304.



### BEAUTIFUL ELEGANCE-\$330,000

Very private setting w/peekaboo view of Sound. 2.5 acres, 4 bdrms, daylight basement, and great room, fp in mstr and bath suite. Lots of windows give you a feeling of openness, all cedar siding and too many upgrades and extras to mention. MLS#23099396. 253-884-3304.

• We Need Listings! • Land Available • Waterfront Available • Buyers Available •



# Don't forget to vote September 16

• KP Fire District 16 needs to replace its aging equipment, including fire trucks 17-30 years old, a water tender, a rescue truck and the "Jaws of Life" device, as the current model is no longer manufactured and there are no available spare parts. The Fire District is asking for a nearly \$2 million, four-year levy that will cost property owners approximately 39 cents per \$1,000 of assessed values in the first year (2004).

• KP Parks District seeks funding for gen-

eral parks maintenance and operations including wages, utilities and repairs, various new amenities such as benches, bathrooms, and picnic shelters. The three-year levy will generate \$70,565 per year and cost taxpayers 10 cents per \$1,000 assessed property values. The district, staffed mostly by volunteers, operates the Key Pen Sports Center, Rocky Creek Conservation Area, Home Park and supports many community projects and events.

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## Yoga Classes

Starting Sept. 15th

Mon, Wed, Fri @ 8:30 to 10:00 AM



Tuesday @ 6:00 to 7:30 PM (Advanced)

Thursday @ 7:30 to 8:30 PM (Very Gentle)

Revised morning program geared for success in all stages of Yoga Practice. Postural therapy, and Holistic Health practice included in all classes.

Prices are \$35 per month. \$10 Drop in Fee.

Pre Registration Required. Just call 884-6150.

*Nature's Renewal ~ 884-6150 ~*

## arts alive on Key Peninsula

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

Plein Air Painting Kurt Solmssen leads Sept. Saturday outdoor workshops.

Hand-Built Pottery Create a beautiful bowl in the shape of a large leaf. Sept 13.

Chinese Brush Painting Laura Mosley teaches continuing and beginning students, ten sessions Sept 15 – Nov 3.

Writing Without Teachers Free workshop for anyone who is writing or wants to write. Saturdays, Sept 20 – Nov 1.

Intro to Aqueous Media Beverly Pedersen leads this mixed-media class Sept 27.

Acoustic Jam Sessions Jam with local folk who just want to play. Thursdays, Sept 18, Oct 2, 16, 30, Nov 13.

Intermediate Colored Pencil Drawing Draw a still life using light and shadow, ages ten and up. Saturday, Oct 4.

Framing and Presentation Half day workshop Saturday, Oct 11.

Sumi Painting Workshops Reni Moriarity teaches beginning and continuing sumi Saturdays, Oct 18 and 25.

Paint Red Wine Paint and taste a variety of red wines. 21 or over. Sat. Oct 25.

Mask Making Free pre-Halloween community event for ages 6-60+. Call for a free reservation. Oct 26.

Beginning Drawing Draw from still life and live models. Age 10 up, Nov 1, 8, 15.

Life Drawing Studio/Monthly Register for 3 sessions. Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19.

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~GOSPEL CONCERT~

PLUS

Fri & Sat Sep 12<sup>th</sup> to Oct 11<sup>th</sup>

7pm-8:30pm

"Jesus is the Answer" meetings

KP CIVIC CENTER

17010 S. VAUGHN RD. VAUGHN, WA

EVERYONE WELCOME!

\*ADMISSION FREE\*



**Friday Night Skate**  
starts  
**September 19th, 2003**  
**Time: 6:30 - 9:00 pm**

Entrance fee will be \$4.00 a person,  
which includes skates,  
or bring your own.

**Elementary to 8th grade students.  
No outside food or drink will be allowed.**



## PHS holds second annual 1948-1960 reunion

Peninsula High School classmates of 1948-1960 are invited to attend a reunion on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Gig Harbor Eagles Hall, 7 p.m. This annual event is scheduled for the first Saturday night following Labor Day each year. A \$5 donation per person is asked to be paid at the door for food expenses. Dress is casual. Those who attended Peninsula with those classes but did not graduate with them are also encouraged to attend. Pre-registration is not required.

## Capt. W.H. McNeill comes to life in 'Living History'

Capt. William Henry McNeill will be portrayed in a "Living History" segment Oct. 23 at the Key Peninsula Historical Society quarterly social at the Civic Center.

Jerry Ramsey of the Fort Nisqually Players will be McNeill, for whom McNeil Island is named. The reason for the discrepancy in spelling is that the official filling out the form left off the second l, and McNeil became the legal name of the island.

—Submitted by Colleen Slater

## Say 'hello' to KP Museum at the Puyallup fair

The Key Peninsula Historical Society and Museum will be featured at the Pierce County Heritage Exhibit at the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup as one of several small museums. The Key Pen museum will have a display about the local history and other items, and KP museum volunteers will help staff the exhibit.

## Earn a Halo —Be an Angel

Is there an Angel waiting in your house? If so, sprout your wings!

Are you interested in your community? Do you want to help the old, young and all those in between? We are looking for people with 12 (or more) spare hours each month to join our worthwhile (and did I mention fun) organization. All it takes is a couple of training sessions and you are ready to go. You can be either a sorter and work in the back or work in the shop or maybe even do both.

There are many reasons for joining the Angel Guild (or becoming an Angel). Some of us found ourselves retired from longtime jobs and not wanting to withdraw from society. Some were new to the area and wanted to make friends. There are some who found their nests empty and needed something constructive to fill their

time. Some of our members just like to be involved in making our community a better place. Then there are those that just like to shop and were there each business day anyway so might as well put in volunteer hours to help keep the shelves stocked.

If you are dependable and would like to get involved, call Nancy at 857-2321 or Bonnie at 884-5983 to get the ball rolling.

—Submitted by Mary Ramsdell

## Angels are like the Genie in the lamp

That's right!! We love to grant wishes (and we aren't limited to three). At our regular July meeting we granted four requests. The Kiwanis Club, KGHP Radio, Two Waters Art Alliance and Camp Easter Seal were the lucky recipients. Our goal in the shop is to grant as many wishes as possible so we must SELL! SELL! SELL!!! So, we really need you all to come on in and BUY! BUY! BUY!!! and for more reasons than just replenishing our coffers. Our shop is full of really great stuff so the shopping is terrific. We even have items for your school shopping needs. In fact, we have received so many donations that we have had to lock the back gates occasionally. Our sorting shed can only hold so much and when we reach capacity, we have to hang the sign on the gate saying we are temporarily closed for donations. Also, there are no donations after 4 p. because of a thievery problem. We are truly sorry if this inconveniences you. That's the last thing we want to do, because we love our loyal, law-abiding customers. It's those other ones we are trying to discourage.

—Submitted by Mary Ramsdell

## News from the Bayshore Garden Club

Ann Waldo is the new president of the club. The other officers are the same. Monthly meetings will now be held on the first Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

Dessert and coffee will be served before the Sept. 5 meeting. Guests are welcome. Call Sylvia Rutherford at 884-2487.

## KPVI remembers missing veterans

The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute (KPVI) will present a special program at the senior luncheon at the Community House (Food Bank) on Friday, Sept. 19, at 11:30 a.m.

Called "POW/MIA Remembrance Day," the program will include "Missing Man Table and Honors Ceremony," a moving

## Sam's treehouse is dream come true



Key Pen resident Sam Stewart will soon have a new place to play, a treehouse being built by TreeHouse Workshop, Inc. and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Sam, a Vaughn elementary student, is fighting leukemia.

In the photo, Sam is pictured with one of the builders of the work-in-progress, Asuka Takahashi.

Read more about the treehouse and Sam's progress in the next issue of Key Peninsula News.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

tribute to missing veterans. The story of each symbol will be told by Cy Young, president of KPVI, and six members of the group will place each symbol on the table.

Please come before 11:30 so you won't miss the ceremony. Senior luncheon will be at noon.

Lunches are served to seniors on Wednesday and Friday at noon each week.

## Domestic violence victims remembered

Many domestic violence prevention organizations plan activities during October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and purple ribbons are worn to honor victims.

On the Key Peninsula, a Silent Victims Memorial Service is being planned. Penny Gazabat, a board member of I.M.P.act, says, "This is a powerful display of life-size female silhouettes, each bearing a plaque telling 'her story' of how she lost her life through domestic violence."

The public is invited to participate in

this service at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"The program will be devoted to prayer, education, songs and hope for a future without violence," says Gazabat.

Refreshments will follow.

## Friday Skate Night is back at the Civic Center

The popular Skate Night is back at the Civic Center on Fridays beginning Sept. 19 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Cost is \$4 per person and includes skates—or bring your own. Skating is open to students kindergarten through eighth grade.

No outside food or drink is allowed. For details, call 884-3456.

## Poster contest coming

This fall, the Key Peninsula Lions Club will sponsor a Peace Poster contest for KPMS students (11-13 years). Details will follow in upcoming months.

# KEY PENINSULA PARKS LEVY VOTE YES

- \$.10 per thousand of assessed evaluation every year for three years. \$10 per year for a \$100,000 home or less than \$1 per month.
- A three-year levy spreads out the impact on the homeowner and saves on election costs for the Park District. Each election costs the Park District app. \$7,000.
- This levy will be used for maintenance and operations of the Key Peninsula Sports Center and Fairgrounds (aka Volunteer Park), Rocky Creek Conservation Area and Home Park.



**Rocky Creek Conservation Area**

- How the dollars will be used:  
Annual Operating Expenses per year

Wages and Benefits	\$32,000.00
Utilities	\$9,720.00
Operating Supplies	\$7,500.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$8,645.00
Insurance	\$3,000.00
Professional Services	\$3,200.00
Communications	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$6,000.00
	\$70,565.00

## SEPTEMBER 16

### Other 2004 Budget Items

Water Line Extension	\$825.00
Foul Ball Protection	\$4,200.00
Restroom Remodel	\$3,500.00
New Water System	\$20,117.00
Replace Tractor	\$12,500.00
Replace Fencing	\$6,000.00
Mower Repairs	\$2,000.00
Facility Repairs	\$1,200.00
Infield Prep Attachment	\$1,545.00
Rocky Creek Shelter	\$4,500.00
Home Park Shelter	\$4,500.00
Election Costs	\$7,500.00
	\$68,387.00

### Frugal Operation

- Last levy passed in 1998  
Provided \$78,000 a year for 3 years
- Your frugal Park District stretched the amount over a 5 year period or \$46,000 a year.
- How?
  - Many volunteer hours
  - Not fertilizing fields
  - Not replacing broken and aged equipment

