

Nancy Lind is citizen of the year Minter Elementary visits Tacoma school

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District Commissioner Nancy Lind became the peninsula's newest Citizen of the Year in March. In accepting the award, she credited her colleagues, saying the award is not for her.

"It's not me. I just happen to have the talent to say, 'Come and do something for the parks,'" she said.

Lind's love affair with parks began 52 years ago, when her husband, Bob, took her on their first date to Cutts Island. Bob Lind had wanted to be a park ranger but a World War II injury had prevented him from pursuing the dream. The couple has visited all sorts of parks around the state.

In addition to the KPPRD, Lind has been actively involved with the PARCS council and the Key Peninsula Business Association. PARCS is a joined effort of the Gig Harbor and the Key peninsulas to improve area parks and recreational opportunities—with the Homestead Park and the Cushman Trail among their projects.

But Lind's biggest project in the last few years has been the Rocky Creek Conservation Area—which has come a long way with her at the helm. "The place was a mess. It was a big challenge and everybody said we couldn't do it," she said. "But we went there and worked on it and things have evolved." Now, the litter is gone, the illegal activities have stopped, and the



Photo by Rodika Tollefson
Nancy Lind accepts her Citizen of the Year award.

park is frequented by visitors. But the work parties have not stopped: Lind organizes several of them each year, including one with a group of inmates from Purdy's Washington Corrections Center for Women.

Although Rocky Creek is in pretty good shape, Lind is far from resting. Her new focus is Home Park, where work is just beginning. "We are looking for donated labor," she said, adding that lots of work needs to be done this spring while the season is right.

Read more about the Citizen of the Year Banquet on Page 3.

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Last school year, two buses filled with fourth and fifth grade kids from Roosevelt Elementary School in Tacoma pulled into the parking area at Minter Creek Element-

tary. Many of them were dressed in beautiful native Cambodian dance costumes in which they thrilled our kids with dances from their previous homeland. The visit was part of the "Buddy Schools" program

(See **Minter Creek**, Page 9)



Photo by Hugh McMillan/Courtesy of Peninsula Gateway
Minter's music teacher Bonnie Rindo leads first, second, and third grade students of both schools in a dance.

Local landmark turns another page in its colorful history

By Tim Kezele
KP Historical Society

Far-A-Way, a large estate located on Filucy Bay at Longbranch, was gifted late last year to the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle, according to The Catholic Northwest Progress newsletter. The transfer was completed in January.

After 15 years on the Key Peninsula, owners Larry and Margery Lesley decided it was time to make a change. Not wanting to subdivide the 5-acre parcel that has 550 feet of waterfront, the couple decided to gift the property, assessed at more than \$1 million. Once a party hub for Bon Marché employees, a frequent stop for notables like William Randolph Hurst, and a famous spot for modern-day weddings and receptions, this landmark will now be used by the archdiocese for conferences and retreats.

Built in 1915 by Frank McDermott at a cost of \$10,000, the main house has nine bedrooms and six baths and a 30-foot by 60-foot grand living room. Six other buildings including two barns are spread on the land. McDermott and his wife, Josephine, owned the retail store Bon Marché in Seattle—Virginia and her first husband, Edward, had founded the store in 1889. The name Far-A-Way was coined because the McDermotts had to bring in all the construction materials for the home by barge.

To learn more about the history of Far-A-Way or other Key Peninsula landmarks, visit the Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum located at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn. The museum is open Thursday and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment by calling 884-3272.



S.A.V.E. helps provide scholarships
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KP resident explores the underwater world
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Special insert:
Tribute to the Angel Guild as it celebrates 25th anniversary.

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KPFD installs smoke detectors

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

The Key Peninsula Fire Department has been installing free smoke detectors in the homes of low-income and elderly families since 1996. Last month, the department's firefighter/EMT Greg Glassie installed the detectors at the Key Peninsula Community Services and Food Bank.

"Faulty smoke detectors, including those with dead batteries, contribute to the majority of an estimated 3,800 deaths and up to 100,000 home fire injuries each year. A working smoke detector cuts the risk by half," said KPFD Capt. Paul Bosch.

Tragically, fire can kill selectively. Most at risk are children under 5. Ninety percent of children lost in fires lived in homes without working smoke detectors.

"Smoke detectors give an early warning, providing critical extra seconds to escape," said KPFD's Chief Eric Nelsen. "This is particularly important for homes with children and seniors."

For information, call Capt. Paul Bosch, KPFD Fire & Injury Prevention Division, at 253-884-1217.

Seniors over 75 are three times more likely to die in home fires than the rest of the population. Firefighters say many seniors have difficulty with mobility and cannot escape quickly.

Many low-income households rely on improperly installed, poorly maintained or misused portable or area heating equipment — a main cause of fatal home fires. Occupants often cannot afford batteries for smoke detectors, which expands on that danger.

The Key Peninsula Fire Department offers free smoke detectors or replacement 9-volt batteries for existing detectors. These will be installed by firefighters in needy homes and are distributed according to greatest need.

"To find out if you qualify, complete an application form at the Home, Key Center or Wright-Bliss fire stations," Bosch said.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Rain didn't stop the cruise travelers from enjoying the scenery.

Trip cruises through history

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

About noon, the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day, some 200 history buffs and just plain folk wanting to go for a boat ride embarked aboard the catamaran Spirit of Adventure, at the pier in downtown Gig Harbor's Jerisich Park. The day was bright and sunlit albeit a bit breezy. That is, for starters.

The day wore on, and from time to time, typical of Puget Sound weather, the skies vied with the Sound to see which could engulf the ship in the most wet stuff. During these meteorological efforts to dampen passenger spirits, they instead steamed up decks and munched on box lunches prepared by Gig Harbor's Golden Fork Award winning restaurant, the Green Turtle. The Sound, itself, carried nary a ripple and not a single case of motion sickness was reported.

The whole trip was informatively and comedically narrated by period-costume-

wearing Matthew Erlich whose wife, Chris, outgoing executive director of the Gig Harbor Historical Society, was clad in a bright yellow costume and hat that, doubtless, was stylish about 1910. They added a nice historical touch to the proceedings.

Rain or shine, Key Peninsula Historical Society president, Tim Kezele, was everywhere, pointing out historically significant landmarks along the route.

State Rep. Patricia Lantz spent most of the trip following the perambulations of her 4-year-old grandson who took the place of Patricia's husband, John, as all seats for the cruise had been sold within the first few hours of their issuance.

Every passenger received a brochure containing a map detailing the Spirit of Adventure's journey. It was replete with 28 historical photos, some dating to 1905. Some were of the many boats that made up the Mosquito Fleet of yore and some were of each of the locations along the route, including the dock at Home, the dock and store at Wauna, Gig Harbor's Sunrise Beach, the Fox Island Chapel, Lakebay Resort, and photos of Mosquito Fleet boats at Longbranch and Picnic Point.

Few of the travelers had known of, and most were intrigued by, the skeletal remains of a World War I vintage wooden ship on the Green Point Sandspit, an eerie apparition.

The day, rain or no rain, was a splendid adventure and many of those who enjoyed it asked if the trip could become an annual or even quarterly event. Let's hope so.

If interested in the photography mentioned above, contact the Gig Harbor Historical Society, (253) 858-6722.

Key Highlights

Livable Community Fair

A Livable Community Fair on May 10 will showcase local organizations, people and agencies that make Key Peninsula more livable. Participants include crime prevention, civic and social service groups as well as Pierce County agencies. About 40 participants are expected to showcase, from the fire and sheriff's departments and the business association to arts groups and YMCA camps.

The event, sponsored by Safe Streets and the Civic Center, is a chance for residents to learn more about services, opportunities and events in their community. The fair will be held from

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Civic Center on 17010 South Vaughn Road. Volunteers are also wanted. Contact Dennis Taylor at 884-7899 for information.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Leisure programming

Key Peninsula residents and organizations are invited to attend a public meeting to discuss the future of leisure programming. The meeting, on Monday, April 14 at 7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center, is a chance for groups to work together to offer more recreation opportunities for Key Peninsula residents of all ages and interests: youth, seniors, families, arts, sports, hobbies, etc.

The meeting is organized by the KP Parks and Recreation District. For information, email info@kpprd.org or call 884-9240.

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Citizen of the Year banquet celebrates local heroes

Several hundred people gathered at the Civic Center in March to celebrate local heroes—28 men, women and youth nominated for the Citizen of the Year award by local residents. The event is hosted and organized by the Key Peninsula Lions Club, which also selects the award recipient by a secret vote.

The nominees received certificates of recognition—and a standing ovation from the audience that included several local leaders.

Retired Adm. Herb Bridge, who joined the U.S. Navy as an enlisted seaman at 17, saluted all heroes during his keynote address — the nominated citizens, the Lion Club members themselves, and the military men and women ready to give their lives for their country.



Citizen of the Year nominee Cristy Watson of the KP Community Services had no time to rest at the awards banquet—KPCS prepared and served dinner at the event.



Left: The Civic Center was packed by community members during the banquet. Above: Boy Scouts Troup 220 posted the colors before the ceremony. Right: Nancy Lind receives the Citizen of the Year award as Emcee Hugh McMillan looks on.



Above: Peninsula School District Superintendent Jim Coolican and former state Rep. Brock Jackley attended the ceremony, along with other local leaders.



Story and photos by Rodika Tollefson

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S O N E X X U S A B B A

Editorial

Invest in our future by volunteering at schools

On an ordinary Friday at Vaughn Elementary, a hum floats through the kindergarten classroom. Students are immersed in activities, some painting, others scouring through the “scrap box”—full of garbage to most adults, but full of treasures to the young creators. The odd-shape, multicolor paper pieces emerge into kites, “watches,” star decorations and thingamajigs. Watching this group hard at work would transport anyone back into the world of childhood.

The multitasking and the organized chaos are all in a day’s work for the kindergarten teachers—and all the other teachers of any grade level and discipline. Their attention stretches out to 20-plus inquiring minds, their hands here, there and

everywhere trying to help every child. If only they had some extra hands, extra eyes. If only they had extra time to add one more discovery, one more adventure into the students’ day.

What if every teacher, every day would have just one hour of volunteer help? If one person from the every other household on the Key Peninsula volunteered just one hour a week to read to a child one-on-one, every student from the four local elementary and middle schools would have half-hour reading sessions four times a week. If one person from the every other household volunteered just one hour a week, together they would weekly add more than 3,500 hours of help to the teachers—that’s like adding more than 90 full-time teachers to the roster.

One hour a week. It seems like a fleeting moment in the grand scheme of life—but what a difference that could make in one child’s life. Consider that next time you have an hour to spare.

Key Peninsula at crossroads: time for community involvement

By Caril Ridley

Key Peninsula is at the cusp of a growth surge and efforts to define our future are taking root in every community. A community council is being planned, the community of Home is designing a new park, a Key Peninsula Outdoor Club is organizing, and a network of trails is being designed to connect communities, parks, waterways and resources.

Our peninsula is at a crossroads. With increasing population and the building of a new Tacoma Narrows Bridge, the future will be defined by community involvement. We have a window of opportunity before land is used, at which point the opportunity to design our future will be forever gone.

As we study the development of communities such as Mercer Island, Bainbridge and many others, we recognize that early planning defines quality communities, influences property values and sets the stage for a healthy growing community; it decreases crime, increases recreation and enhances the welfare of our youth. “We influence our environment and our environment influences us,” says urban planner and author C.A. Daxiadis.

The Key Peninsula’s potential includes trails connecting communities; natural corridors for strolling and for horseback riding, mountain biking, backpacking,

running, and with wheelchair access; trails connecting all the parks with walkways and green belts, connecting estuaries with wetlands for wildlife and community clusters, each sensitive to the natural environment ... a paradise in the middle of the South Sound, a destination that captures the imagination.

It is clear that plans for future development are only as good as the vision behind them and the efforts put into them. Over the past year small groups of civic minded individuals have been meeting to develop strategies for growing healthy communities with recreation centers, parks, beach access with individual and multiuse trails, and marine parks. Grass root groups are planning programs addressing the needs of our youth at risk, and are establishing networks of communication that will link people with resources, and will define problem areas, establish goals and implement solutions.

If you would like to become more involved, contact any KP Parks and Recreation District commissioner, visit www.keypen.org or check out the electronic newsletter at www.keypen.com.

Caril Ridley is a cultural anthropologist and business owner who lives on the Key Peninsula. She is involved with a variety of groups, including the KP Outdoors Club, KP Trails Association, Global Explorers Forum, and the Aquatic Exploration Group.



Community Council could be model for county

By John W. Ladenburg
Pierce County Executive

The citizens working to create a new Key Peninsula Community Council are to be congratulated. It is a remarkable achievement when people join together to make a difference. Community councils were actually one of my campaign issues when I ran for County Executive. My support for them has grown over the past two years.

I believe community councils are particularly valuable because members have a grass roots understanding of issues. They can solve problems by applying well-grounded community principles.

Community councils also link citizens to their government. With 715,000 people living in Pierce County, there are usually many sides to every issue. A unified voice is a far more effective means of communicating when compared to a multitude of individual opinions.

Now, with county revenues shrinking and population soaring, I see an even greater need for community councils. It’s entirely possible they could be called on to help with issues such as health, public safety and the welfare of our neighborhoods. Such responsibility would require real authority, which means community councils would need the ability to determine direction and

the resources to meet their objectives.

Establishing official status for community councils in Pierce County government requires the support of the County Council. Details such as who governs the councils, how many councils there should be, how they will be structured and financed and a host of other questions must be answered.

For help, we’re looking at jurisdictions such as Multnomah County in Ore., Sacramento, Calif., and the City of Tacoma, which have successfully developed community councils. We’re also working with the Key Peninsula Safe Streets program under Dennis Taylor and the Key Peninsula Business Association. Our goal is to create the right model so government can increase the role of community councils in Pierce County’s decision-making process. The same model would be used throughout the county and the new councils would most likely correspond with the planning areas already established by the County Council.

We’re in the early stages of this process. But as I mentioned, community councils have my strong support. No elected official likes to hear citizens complain their voices are not being heard. I believe community councils will give our citizens greater control over their destiny and help make Pierce County even more livable than it already is.

Letters to the Editor

New veterans’ group forming

I would like to tell you about a new, nonprofit Veterans group forming on the Key Peninsula, called the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute, or KPVI. It is made up of earnest volunteers and concerned citizens dedicated to honoring and assisting veterans and their families in our community. Its goal is to show respect and gratitude in memoriam for those who sacrificed in faithful service to our country and our flag.

KPVI presents the “Aisle of Honor” flag display at the Vaughn Cemetery on Memorial Day and Veterans Day and the flag raising ceremony at Old Timer’s Day at Longbranch. The Christmastime “Trees of Sharing” at the Peninsula Market is a gift collection for the veterans at American Lake. We also collect reading material for Harborview Manor and American Lake, and clean, used clothing for American Lake. KPVI has a fireworks stand at Lake Kathryn during the July 4 holiday, and all profits go back to the local community.

If you would like to join, you need to be honorably discharged from the military, active military personnel, spouse, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, son or daugh-

ter of the same. No children under 16 are accepted. The meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Services building. If you would like an application, or are a veteran in need of assistance, call 884-4551 or 884-5126.

Irene Zimmer, Lakebay

Help support military families

Help us support and encourage the families on the peninsula who have men and women serving in the war. One way we can help is to offer to prepare a meal for them. Other ways are to talk to them, be available for them. Ask them what would encourage them during this time.

If you know anyone who has family serving in the war, and would like a meal, or if you can provide a meal or something for encouragement (cookies, a plant), please call Cathlee James at 884-2935.

The next time you fix a casserole or another meal, make two and freeze one. When frozen, pop it into a Ziploc bag. Because we do not want people driving alone to new places, we will arrange for the meal dropoff at a common place. Our main effort is to say to our neighbors that we are thinking of them and we support and encourage them. We hope you can join us!

Cathlee James, Lakebay, & Colleen Slater, Vaughn

The Aloha Bed and Breakfast brings Hawaii to Key Peninsula

By William C. Dietz
KP News

In January 2003, the Aloha Beachside Bed and Breakfast received the 2002 Charles J. Higgins Innkeeper of The Year Award from the Kitsap Peninsula Visitors Convention Bureau. That's right, the Aloha Beachside Bed and Breakfast, located right here on the not so tropical Key Peninsula!

"A questionnaire went out to our 250 members. Once they came back, our staff and the executive board met to make the final decision," Grant Griffin, the executive director of the Kitsap Peninsula Visitor Convention Bureau, said. "We are pleased that Lalaine Wong won."

If you don't know where the Aloha Beachside Bed and Breakfast is, watch for it as you drive uphill from the Purdy spit. On the left you'll see a brightly colored sign bearing the likeness of King Kameha. Just slow down, turn left, and you're there. Not Hawaii, not on a March day, but paradise nevertheless.

A driveway curves down through well-kept gardens to a pair of contemporary houses and a large pond. Beyond the houses, glittering in the late February sunshine, is a broad expanse of Henderson Bay.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Aloha Beachside Bed and Breakfast owner Lalaine Wong loves meeting the people who stay at her beautiful spot.

The owner, a tall, dark haired woman named Lalaine Wong, is a busy lady, so you might find her out working in her garden. She has a ready smile, a friendly manner, and is clearly in love with her piece of the Key Peninsula.

"We had looked at waterfront for four years, stumbled across the property, and bought it from the Quistorfs," Wong said.

"There were three homes on the property and we replaced all of them."

The smaller structure is a rental. The main house, and the beach cabana that fronts it, serve as the bed and breakfast. There are three bedrooms in the main house plus two in the cabana. There are public areas too, plus hot tubs, and stairs to the beach.

As Wong proceeds from room to spotless room, she often pauses to grab a stray item, water a plant, or straighten books on a shelf. Running a bed and breakfast is hard work. Especially since the B&B is open 365 days a year.

"We host hundreds of people a year," Wong said, "including weddings, retreats, and people on vacation. Some return every year. One family comes all the way from Alabama."

Lalaine's husband, Greg, was born and raised in Hawaii, and was the one who came up with the idea for the name. "I like it and so do our guests," Lalaine said.

For Lalaine, meeting the people is what makes running such a demanding business worthwhile. "It's welcoming folks into your home. There isn't another job where you receive pats on the back all day long," she said.

So, the next time you want to get away, put on a wedding, or hold a retreat—you don't have to drive far. As one of the people who nominated the B&B for the award said, "The true aloha spirit is evident in everything at the Aloha Beachside Bed and Breakfast." And, as Wong's husband, Greg, likes to say, "Hawaii is closer than you think."



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Thrift store helps high school graduates through scholarships

By Irene Torres
KP News

Each year before graduation, Peninsula High School students receive a total of \$200,000 in scholarships to help them further their education. The scholarships, which vary from \$100 to \$10,000, can be used for books, tuition, or other related expenses for community college, university, or vocational school.

Scholarship funds are awarded to seniors who meet qualifications established by the Peninsula Hawk Scholarship Fund Committee. To qualify, students submit notebooks outlining their accomplishments during high school and an essay about future career plans.

"Selection criteria does not include a mechanism to determine financial need, but does include merit," said Marsha Williams, scholarship committee president.

The scholarships are funded from various sources—including donations from

businesses, organizations and community members, and proceeds from the S.A.V.E. Thrift Store located near the school. Some funding comes from memorial scholarships, "an excellent way to remember a loved one," Williams said, citing the Max Bice memorial scholarship currently being administered.

Donors can designate criteria, which may be limited to future career paths or other conditions. For example, firefighters might want someone going into the police/firefighting/medical aid field. Elementary and middle schools' PTAs grant one or more scholarships restricted to alums. Several awards are limited to students from the Key Peninsula. "Groups can select their own recipients or have our community board make the selections. No parents of current PHS students are on that selection board, so there is no conflict of interest," Williams said.

The committee meets during the 10-month school year to solicit donations, work with the students to compile the notebooks, recruit community members for the selection panel, and prepare for the big day: the award ceremony. This year's award assembly will be held the evening of May 21 at the Peninsula High School gymnasium.

S.A.V.E.

Located just downhill from PHS, S.A.V.E. Thrift Store is staffed almost entirely by volunteers. The store contributes an average of \$40,000 each year to the scholarship fund. In addition, proceeds



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

PHS student Camille Carleton and her mom, Eva, volunteer at the S.A.V.E. Thrift Store together. Camille has been a store volunteer for a few years, and says it's a fun place to work and an easy walk from school.

S.A.V.E. Thrift Store

The thrift store's hours of operation are: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except Wednesday and Sunday.

The address is 14201 Purdy Lane NW (below Peninsula High School) in Purdy. Phone: 857-2800.

Donations of reusable items in good condition are welcomed, as is assistance with sorting, pricing, hanging clothes, selling, and of course, shopping.

go to support a variety of the school's activity groups.

The store was started by the late Avon Gay, who was a Key Peninsula resident. The only paid staff member is the store manager, and volunteer workers include scholarship committee and activity group members (basketball, band, or track), boosters, parents, and students. Even grandparents sometimes lend a hand.

"It's a fun place to work, and it's an easy walk from school," said 11th grader Camille Carleton, a volunteer at the store since eighth grade. Camille and her mom, Eva, have been volunteering together this March as part of the tennis activity group.

"Every month, one of the activity groups helps run the store, and they get 40 percent of the profit," Eva Carleton said. The money can be used for group expenses, uniforms, and contest fees.

The remaining 60 percent of the profit go into the scholarship fund. Students contributing 10 hours to the store can request a certificate, to be prominently displayed in their scholarship notebook, or used for other organizations requiring civic participation or community service.

Between sorting donations — only items in good condition are sold — and keeping the store stocked and neat and the customers served, there is plenty of work to go around. "We can always use more volunteers," said Manager Kris Hohensee, who also volunteers on the scholarship committee.

Rodika Tollefson contributed to this story.

How to contribute

Donors wishing to establish a scholarship fund may contact treasurer Cheri Cole at 253-851-6074, or any member of the scholarship committee. Members from the Key Peninsula are Karen Cedarland, Cheryl Force, Mary Jackson, Debra Langley-Boyer, and Jean Natucci. You may also write to: Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund at PO Box 283, Wauna, WA 98395.

Donations less than \$100 go into a perpetual fund. The scholarship fund is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, registered with the IRS, and there are tax benefits to establishing a scholarship trust. Information regarding the organization and its financial affairs is on file with the Secretary of State.

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Previously, this report was referred to as a Health Letter and was required by some lenders when properties were being bought and sold.

If you are considering selling your home, you will also be required to have your septic serviced if it has been more than one year since the last pumping. This will vary in price depending on the size of your tank and access. In addition to this inspection, pumping, and the Report of System Status Application, you will need to submit an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Application. The two applications will add approximately \$178.00 to the cost of selling your home and is the seller's responsibility. There may be other requirements if your system is more complicated than a conventional gravity flow system.

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News from KPPRD

By Nancy Lind, Commissioner

KP Sports Center and Fairgrounds

The KP Sports Center, traditionally called Volunteer Park, is becoming a beehive of players. Opening Day for Little League is Saturday, April 12, at the sports center. The League will host a fundraising breakfast on Saturday, April 5, at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Adult softball is gearing up for the season, and the concession stand is being renovated and upgraded. The stand will be ready for business by April 12, with Lynn and Lisa Marshall of Lisa's Fresh Express Deli in Key Center as the new concessionaires. They will provide new menus (with surprises), espresso drinks and a full line of cold drinks for kids. The park also has a new groundskeeper, Richard Males.

Rocky Creek Conservation Area

Earth Day at RCCA is organized by Friends of Rocky Creek on April 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at the Trail Head site on Crews Road. RCCA is located off State Route 302 (Elgin-Clifton Road) and 150th—turn at the Lake Holiday entrance and follow signs. Trail making, log splitting, sign placing and other work are part of the day's activities, as well as lunch. A

hike will be organized concurrently at 10 a.m. The Friends of Rocky Creek meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. Contact Nancy Lind, 884-3347.

Home Park

The cleanup and fine-tuning of the park by volunteers has begun. There have been four Saturday morning work parties so far. With the weather improving it's time to sculpt the land to get ready for seeding and plantings. The park needs more offers for help. If you want to get involved, come to the meetings on the third Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Home Fire Station. Contact Nancy Lind at 884-3347 or by email nancy lind2000@yahoo.com.

The Key Peninsula Comprehensive Park Plan Committee will have a master planning meeting for Leisure Programming on Monday, April 14, 7 p.m., at the Civic Center and another one for New Parks on Monday, May 12, 7 p.m., at the KP Sports Center Annex. The park board will have its regular board meetings at 6 p.m. at the KP Sports Center Annex just before these two meetings. Please note this time change for the next two months. Normally the meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second Monday and 4 p.m. on the fourth Monday.

News briefs

KP Coop Preschool registration started

Registration for the 2003-2004 school year in the Key Peninsula Cooperative Preschool started March 21. There are several programs in this parent-run, Bates Technical College affiliated program. The Evergreen program currently meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, and is for children who are at least 3 years old by the time they begin classes. The Vaughn program has two-day and three-day programs for children who are at least 3 years of age by Aug. 31 of the enrolling year. Vaughn students attend classes in the morning. Space is limited in the classrooms and applicants are accepted on a first come – first served basis. Key Peninsula Cooperative Preschool is open to all children, regardless of race, nationality, creed or handicapping condition, who may benefit from this type of program. The school is nonprofit, nonsectarian, and nonpolitical. To receive more information, leave a message at 253-884-5535.

Habitat for Humanity accepts applications

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian ministry actively working with families in need to build simple, decent, and affordable homes. The house, built by the selected family and volunteers, is then sold to that

family at no profit and with no interest, resulting in a very affordable mortgage. Habitat selects families living in substandard conditions that meet the financial qualifications and are willing to partner in the completion of the home. Substandard conditions can include overcrowded, unsafe, unhealthy and poorly maintained living situations. The household income of these families needs to fall between 25 and 50 percent of the median income in Pierce County (about \$16,250 to \$32,500 per year for a family of five). Income for everyone in the family is factored – salaries, food stamps, child support, TANF, SSI, etc. The partnering includes 500 "sweat equity" hours working with HFH volunteers to build their home and the homes of other families.

Two application meetings have been scheduled to extend this opportunity to families in the Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor area: Saturday, April 12, at 11 a.m. at Key Center Library (8095 Key Peninsula Hwy. N) and Monday, April 14, at 5 p.m. at Pt. Fosdick Fire Station 5-2 (2217 Point Fosdick Drive NW). Attending a meeting is the only way to obtain an application. Applicants will be required to bring copies of pertinent information to these meetings. The guideline list concerning these requirements is available at the FISH Food Bank, Children's Home Society, Civic Center or by calling the main office at 253-627-5626.

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Photo by Hugh McMillan
Courtesy of Peninsula Gateway

Minter's "Kite Man" Curt Williamson hands out to fourth and fifth grade students from both schools supplies from which kites soon will be assembled under his guidance.

(From **Minter Creek**, page 1)

the two elementaries share.

This year, the Minter kids returned the favor. Fourth and fifth graders attended Roosevelt in March, followed by the first, second, and third graders the next week.

Accompanying mom, Victoria Hawkins, said the trip was made possible by the Key Peninsula Angel Guild, which provided \$640 to cover the bus costs, two buses for each of the two visits.

Minter's "Kite Man" Curt Williamson spent much of the first of the two weeks at Roosevelt decorating the halls with some extraordinarily beautiful and complicatedly constructed, lavish kites. The creations greeted the Minter kids as they entered their Buddy School's halls, swarming in hand in hand with their Roosevelt pen pals — almost none of whom they had ever met save through letters. The

pals became instant friends as they sat side by side building kites under Williamson's direction, having lunch, watching a mixed schools' drum show led by Minter's music teacher, Bonnie Rindo, and sharing computer skills in the school's lab.

"When I first got on the bus I was kind of nervous," said Minter student David Larson. "Who would be my pen pal? When we got to Roosevelt I met our Buddy Class and thought they looked very different. They had African Americans, and people who were not white. Our class is just white, or Caucasian. My buddy's name was Jacob. He was much darker than me. He was nice; I would like to see him again. If he comes to our school, I would take him to recess and play softball or soccer."

Tara Miller thought, "It was a long bus ride to Roosevelt Elementary. When we got there it looked bigger and different than Minter Creek Elementary, the school I'm used to. There I met two new people, two new friends. Their names were Amanda and Rosita. We went to lunch and played on the drums in front of the whole school. Roosevelt is different from our school. A lot of the kids have different backgrounds and different skin colors. But they were just like any other kid."

A week later, this time with the first through third graders, was essentially the same refreshing experience. The kids were kids, not Roosevelt's or Minter's. Just kids. With arms wrapped around one another, giggling, dancing, singing, being kids. Aware of, but not bothered by their differences.

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New history book tours Key Peninsula landmarks by car

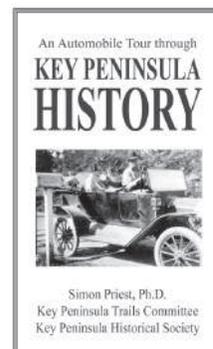
By Key Peninsula Trails Committee

A new trail guide jointly published by the Key Peninsula Historical Society (KPHS) and the Key Peninsula Trails Committee goes on sale this month. The guide describes a 50-mile driving route connecting over 100 points of historical significance on the Key Peninsula. The tour starts and ends at the KPHS Museum at the Civic Center. It travels in a circuit from Vaughn to Home, Taylor Bay, Longbranch, Lakebay, Herron, Key Center, Glen Cove, Minter Bay, Victor, and back to Vaughn.

The historical trail is broken into 11 sections. Each section examines particular communities or the roads between them. The book contains maps and directions along with historical photographs and descriptions of the interest points. By getting out and driving around with this guide, visitors and residents can learn about the rich history of the area. The drive can take anywhere from a few hours to all weekend (with a stay in local B&Bs).

In preparation for the book, local author Simon Priest volunteered his time to interview the region's knowledgeable histo-

rians: Tim Kezele, Luciann Nadeau, Joyce Niemann, Marjorie Radonich, Sylvia Retherford, and Virginia Seavy. They took Priest on lengthy tours of their local communities. Other long-time residents donated photographs for the book, and several local businesses, including the Angel Guild, partially sponsored the cost of publication.



Simon Priest, Ph.D.
Key Peninsula Trails Committee
Key Peninsula Historical Society

The guidebook can be purchased from the museum, members of the trails committee, local businesses and online at www.tarrak.com/BOOKS/ah.htm.

All proceeds go to benefit the museum and the development of future kayaking, hiking, biking, and equestrian trails on the Key Peninsula.

News briefs

Star Search coming to Key Peninsula

The Key Peninsula Community Fair in the past has featured a community stage in addition to the professional acts. This year, the fair plans to line up local talent. "This could be your big break," says fair's manager, Sharon Kaffer. "We are looking for talented individuals and/or groups to perform family quality entertainment on stage August 15, 16 and 17 at the Key Peninsula Sports Center and Fairgrounds (formerly Volunteer Park)."

Any talent is welcome—gymnastics, dance, karate, musical, acting, singing and more. The chosen performers will have their names featured in the Fair Guide, with a readership potential of over 75,000. Performance times will be 25- or 45-minute slots. The fair's focus is on history, and history entertainment through storytelling or live re-enactment is also welcome.

To be considered, send a letter outlining your "Stage Show" and time required to: Key Peninsula Community Fair, Community Stage, PO Box 520, Wauna, WA 98395 or go online to www.KeyFair.com. "Stage times fill up fast so please make your request promptly," Kaffer said. "We would hate to have you miss your big break!"

The 2003 Key Peninsula Community Fair will be held Aug. 15-17, 2003. For information, see www.KeyFair.com or call 253-884-4FUN.

Pen. Light receives national award

The National Arbor Foundation named Peninsula Light Co. a Treeline USA utility for the fifth year. The program recognizes utilities that have programs of quality tree care, annual worker training in quality tree care practices, and a tree planting and public education program. Ninety-six other utilities were recognized with the award at a conference in March. For more about Pen Light's Vegetation Management Program, see www.penlight.org/Trees/trees.html.



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Volunteers in schools make kids feel important

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

With 20 to 30 students to keep busy in the classroom, teachers have their hands full. There is always more the teachers could do to enhance the children's education — if only they had extra help.

"It would make a big difference," said Carol Dyke, reading specialist at Vaughn Elementary. "The more volunteers we have, the more individualized the reading could be for the kids."

From making copies and helping with cleanup to reading or just being an extra set of eyes — there is always a job in the classroom for every type of personality. And the teachers are glad to offer some training or match the volunteers with jobs they would most enjoy.

"There are so many kids who could use extra help. The more hands you have, the more in-depth you could get," said second grade teacher Gaylene Peterson. "Having volunteers helps me out, helps the students out, and it helps the parents stay informed. It also shows the kids how much their parents value their education."

John Jewell has been faithfully volunteering at Vaughn since 1996. A retired principal, he comes every day to read, help with activities, or clean up. He knows first-hand how much difference volunteers can make: He saw their impact at his own school.

"It takes a whole community of people and parents to value children and see how important they are to the community, the society, the nation and the world," Jewell said. "Our hopes and dreams will be realized through these kids."

Jewell, a professional sculptor, uses his time at school as an opportunity to "do something different" during the day. The rewards of volunteering, he says, surpass his time and effort. The most important reward is the satisfaction of knowing how much more a teacher can provide by having the extra adult in the classroom.

"Each adult can positively affect several children in a positive way by interacting, listening to their ideas and discussing books. If I wasn't there, how can the teacher do that? Kids want to share and be heard; they want to tell their ideas and be significant in other people's lives and they look for adult attention — a volunteer can give it to them."

Communities in Schools has been recruiting local volunteers for all the schools. Various programs such as after-school, reading and mentoring at the elementary and middle schools depend on volunteers for their success. Linda Youngchild has been



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

John Jewell, a retired principal, has volunteered at Vaughn Elementary for six years. Every day, he helps in the classroom of his wife, Andrea Jewell, and later helps out his daughter, Laura Stafki, who teaches next door.

working with other agencies to create some incentives and attract more participation. Through United Way, high school students including those in home school can receive a "letter of volunteering" for their résumé portfolio. She has also been in discussions with RSVP about implementing a volunteer program for people 55 and older. RSVP reimburses participants for mileage and partial lunch as well as offers secondary insurance.

"It has never been done in a school before but I really think it's possible," Youngchild said. "We need to arrange transportation, which is difficult—but it would get the senior citizens into the schools. Everybody would be winning—the kids and the seniors."

CIS Executive Director Jeff Harris says it takes a partnership between students, schools, parents and community to ensure the children's success in schools. It's just a matter of involving people who have the time and interest to help. "If you have the passion and the interest, the expertise and everything else you can acquire," he said.

To volunteer at any of the schools, call Communities in Schools at 884-5733 or call each school office directly.

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The Resop Family, after the loss of our son, Dean Resop, would like to thank Tracy Manning and the Key Center Saloon family for all of their support and to thank the Key Peninsula community for all those who have offered their donations and support.



Arts Alive

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Angel Guild celebrates anniversary



April marks the 25th year that the Angel Guild has been working in our community. To celebrate, the shop will be festively decorated and we will be giving away a total of four gift certificates. Drawing entry slips will be available at the thrift shop during April. You can enter as many times as you like. Come on in, the merchandise is constantly changing but always at a good price!

During February, we granted requests from Minter Creek Elementary Buddy Program, Little League, Key Peninsula Middle School R.I.F. and Library magazine programs, Camp Colman underprivileged kids scholarships, and Key Peninsula Sports Facility field equipment needs for a total of \$6,003. There are nonmonetary donations as well. We receive items that we can't use in the shop but help other agencies. Some of those are: skates to the Civic Center, shoes to foreign countries, clothes and bedding to homeless shelters, toiletries to the women's shelters as well as vouchers to the Children's Home Society and Key Peninsula Family Services. We try not to discard any item that can be used by others. We thank you again for your continued support in both your donations and your patronage of the shop.

—Submitted by Mary Ramsdell

Salmon Bake planned

The Longbranch Community Church is planning its third annual Salmon Bake. This fundraising event will be held Saturday, July 26 at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

The planning committee met recently to plan the event. Committee Chairman John Peterson says: "This year's event will feature the fine salmon dinner enjoyed in the past, plus entertainment, the popular live and silent auctions and more." Proceeds will go to support church and community activities on the Key Peninsula.

As the event gets closer, more details will come forth and advance tickets will go on sale. For information or to help in this event, contact any member of the Longbranch Community Church.

—Submitted by Gary O. Ostlund

Fishermen's Breakfast & Yard Sale

The annual Fishermen's Breakfast at the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club will be held Sunday, April 27 from 7:30 a.m. to

noon. The "all you can eat" breakfast includes pancakes, ham & eggs with lots of fruit juice and great coffee for only \$5. Children under 6 eat free.

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club has been a member of the Pierce County Sportsmen's Council since 1947. The breakfast has been an annual event for many years, and also serves as an opportunity for many of the area's old-timers to meet and reminisce.

Another event scheduled for the same weekend is the club's annual yard sale. The two-day event begins Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and continues on Sunday, April 27 from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Both events will be held at the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club located on Jackson Lake Road in Lakebay.

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club is a nonprofit organization that regularly supports the activities of our area's youth. Your participation in this annual event helps to make it possible for two young people to attend summer camp and helps in providing other services to youth in our community.

—Submitted by Randy Viers

Bass Fishing Derby to raise funds for kids

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club will sponsor a Bass Fishing Derby at Jackson Lake on Saturday, April 26, at the Jackson Lake boat ramp located on the southwest corner, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is a \$15 donation per fisherman. Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners.

Tickets may be purchased by calling Verne Luedke at 884-6521 or on Derby Day after 7:30 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club, 3501 Jackson Lake Road in Lakebay. All donations will be used to help support Key Peninsula Little League as well as send local area kids to summer camp.

Celebrate Mexican culture at Cinco de Mayo Fest

A Cinch de Mayo Festival with music and delicious Mexican food will offer good fun for peninsula people Saturday, May 3 at the Longbranch Improvement Club. With doors opening at 5:30 p.m., live Mexican folkloric music for listening and dancing will fill the air. Chef Wally Johnson's Mexican favorites and a bar featuring Mexican beer and Margaritas will warm the heart and fill the stomach.

Plans are being laid now for a festive evening for community celebration of the festival marking the great Battle of Puebla

in 1862 south of the border when the Mexican army defeated the French. Individual tickets will be \$12, with an open cash bar.

On the same day, in the morning, traditional Opening Day Breakfast will be served at the Longbranch Marina operated by Longbranch Improvement Club. The breakfast on the opening day of the boating season, celebrated around the Sound on May 3 this year, is an honored LIC custom open to members and community guests.

—Submitted by Mary Mazur

Brenda Peterson presents "A Life With Animals"

Brenda Peterson is a nature writer par excellence, powerful, passionate, and lyrical, and an advocate for animals and nature. Over the last two decades, she has been studying and swimming with wild dolphins all over the world and writing extensively about cetacean conservation. She is also working with several mammal scientists in the field of dolphin-human interaction.

In a presentation Saturday, May 3, at 1p.m. at the Key Center Library, the author will focus on her life with animals, wild and domestic, from her book, "Build Me An Ark." Video footage of Wilma, the orphan beluga, and the Nova Scotian village that adopted her; and slides from "Build Me An Ark" and "Sightings: The Gray Whales Mysterious Journey" will be included.

Brenda Peterson has written many wonderful books, some of which will be available at this program. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library.

—Submitted by Dory Myers

Horseshoe Lake Ladies' Golf Club seeks members

The Ladies' Club at Horseshoe Lake Golf Course will begin season play in early April. The club is actively seeking new members. The club features a variety of playing times to fit women's schedules, and offers both a 9-hole league that tees off late Tuesday afternoons, suitable for after-work play; and an 18-hole Thursday league with a choice of morning (9:30 a.m.) or afternoon (1 p.m.) start times. Other events include League and Club tournaments, and Sunday member-guest events. Play commences for the Thursday league on April 10 and the Tuesday league on April 15 (call for early-season start times).

The club welcomes new golfers at all levels of ability. Club membership also includes a USDA GHIN handicap, two free instructional clinics, discounts on Pro Shop merchandise, and a coupon for a free 18-hole round of golf with cart.



Horseshoe Lake Golf Course is located just off Route 302 and Sidney Road, between Purdy and Port Orchard. For further information, call President Rosemary Spadoni at 851-2760 (days) or 851-3725 (evenings), or Vice-Presidents Janette Ryan at 858-7452 and Lee Quinn 857-4235.

—Submitted by LeBris S. Quinn

TOPS news

The first three months of the new year have been very exciting for the members of the TOPS #WA 1019 Vaughn chapter. In February, we celebrated the graduation of three members who achieved their goal weight. Marilyn Lyden, a new member in 2002, took just 10 months to shed over 60 pounds; Marilyn obtained her goal weight in November and become our Chapter Queen. Lolly Ketchum reached her goal weight in early December, and on the very last day of 2002, Phyllis Tiernan hit her personal goal weight.

Our new board was elected in March. Joetda Wickline will serve as leader, Marcia Gibbons as co-leader, Jena Henak as treasurer, and Mary Johnson as secretary. The members would like to express the heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing board members: Jena Henak (leader), Frankie Johnson (co-leader), Peggy Gablehouse (treasurer), and Phyllis Tiernan (secretary).

TOPS will hold the annual Rummage Sale April 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the VFW Room at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

TOPS #WA 1019 meets every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call 884-3456 for information.

—Submitted by Phyllis Tiernan

Women's Wellness Weekend

YMCA Camp Colman on the Key Peninsula will host a Women's Wellness Weekend on April 4-6. Come for the weekend to renew your mind, body, and spirit with activities such as yoga, kickboxing, sea kayaking, massage, batik, and a lecture on breast cancer research.

Cost is \$86 per person for two nights, six meals, and most activities. Call 206-382-5009 for registration or contact Alyssa Vegter at 884-3844.

Special events for April 2003

WHAT

Agri-vision meeting
 Women's Wellness Weekend (\$86 fee)
 Begin DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time
 KPOC: Horse First Aid (and planning meeting)
 KPOC: Off-Road Biking Trip in Tahuya Forest
 Habitat for Humanity (application meeting)
 KPPRD: Leisure Programming (public input)
 KPOC: Walkabout (short distance)
 FORC: Earth Day Work Party
 KPOC: Spring Cross Country Ski Trip
 KPSC: Bass Fishing Derby (\$15 fee)
 KPSC: Annual Yard Sale
 TOPS: Annual Rummage Sale
 Wild About Books (zoo animal display)
 KPSC: Annual Breakfast (\$5 fee)
 KPOC: On-Road Bike Ride (around local roads)
 Angel Guild Anniversary Event (members only)

WHEN

Wednesday, April 2, 7:00 pm
 Weekend, April 4 through 6
 Sunday, April 6 (during the night)
 Thursday, April 10, 7:00 pm
 Saturday, April 12, 10:00 am
 Saturday, April 12, 11:00 am
 Monday, April 14, 7:00 pm
 Saturday, April 19, 10:00 am
 Saturday, April 19, 10:00 am
 Saturday, April 26, 8:00 am
 Saturday, April 26, 9:30 am
 Weekend, April 26 & 27, 9:00 am
 Saturday, April 26, 9:00 am
 Saturday, April 26, 1:00 pm
 Sunday, April 27, 7:30 am
 Sunday, April 27, 10:00 am
 Monday, April 28, 11:00 am

Compiled by the Key Peninsula Electronic Newsletter, www.keypen.com

WHERE

Key Peninsula Middle School
 Camp Colman
 Your Clocks (spring ahead)
 Key Center Library
 Belfair (call for meeting and trip details)
 Key Center Library
 Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn
 Rocky Creek Conservation Area
 Rocky Creek Conservation Area
 Rainier Paradise (call for details)
 Jackson Lake Boat Launch Ramp
 KP Sports Club near Jackson Lake
 VFW Room of KP Civic Center
 Key Center Library
 KP Sports Club near Jackson Lake
 Key Center (call for meeting and details)
 Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn

HOW

851-4556
 884-3844
 Turn one hour FORWARD
 884-3347
 460-8889 (call before 11th)
 627-5626
 884-9240 <info@kpprd.org>
 884-3347 (call before 18th)
 884-3347
 884-5461 (call before 25th)
 884-6521
 884-5348
 884-3456
 884-2242
 884-5348
 884-3471 (call before 26th)
 884-9860 (RSVP early)

To have an event listed in the COMMUNITY CALENDAR, please send an email message to info@keypen.com with the answers to these questions: WHAT is the event, WHY should people attend, WHO is the sponsor, WHEN is it happening, WHERE is it located, HOW can people find out more?

Church holds arts sale

The Lakebay Community Church will hold a fundraising Arts & Crafts Fair on May 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilts, china paintings, rock art, knitted items, oil paintings and many other items will be offered. The church is located at 11 Cornwall Road in Lakebay. For information, call 884-3899 Tuesday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or leave a message.

Get 'Wild about animals'

"Wild about animals," a program at the Key Center Library, April 26 at 1 p.m., is a chance to meet the Point Defiance Zoo staff, see and learn about live animals like lizards and tortoises, find out what it's like to be a zookeeper and work with animals. This family program is sponsored by the Pierce County Library, The Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, and The Zoo Society. Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult.

Easter Egg Hunt is on



On Saturday, April 19 at noon, Boy Scout Troop 220 and the Civic Center will hold their annual Easter Egg hunt for all youth of the Key Peninsula. The event will start precisely at noon, rain or shine. Stuffed Easter Eggs, candy, special Easter basket "door prizes", and a visit by the Easter Bunny are all planned again

this year. This event is sponsored by the Key Peninsula Civic Center. If you have any plastic eggs, Easter baskets or other materials to donate for this event, please contact Bill Macaras at 884-3133.

Senior Society invites you to join in the fun

KP Senior Society has been a vital social organization on the Key Peninsula since the late 70's and has met each Thursday noon for potluck and cards at the Community Center all that time. Our membership has been as high as 40-50, and currently around 20-30. We welcome any and all seniors who'd like to join us on Thursdays. We laugh, and sing, have special "party" days approximately once a month, (Valentines, St. Patrick's, Thanksgiving, Christmas with appropriate menus and costumes, for example). Join us any Thursday between 11:30 a.m. and noon and you'll be most welcome.

Speaking of "special" party days. We had one on March 15, when most of us wore Irish Green, and the menu was headlined with corned-beef-and-cabbage, wonderfully cooked by our member-chef, Chuck Williamson, and consumed by all of us who were sons and daughters of the Auld Sod, at least for the day. Lois Conn of Lakebay was recognized for having the largest and brightest green Irish hat. Jim Blundell won the contest of the day for identifying the most scenic calendar pictures and donated his prize (a primrose plant) to our May plant sale.

To find out more, call Jim Nolan, 851-4847.

—Submitted by Jim Nolan

Cleanup time



Photo by Irene Torres

Volunteers were busy cleaning up Home Park on Saturday, March 22. Several work parties have been organized at the site in an effort to clean, spruce and prepare the park for activities.

More donated labor is needed for this community treasure to be ready for use — contact the Parks and Recreation District to help.

Get involved *Local groups need volunteers*

The Key Peninsula Community Fair is looking for volunteers who can contribute now to the success of the fair this summer. Looking for people who can do light office work in their homes and for people or organizations who would like to take on an artistic project. Contact Sharon Kaffer at kaffercom@foxinternet.net or call 884-4FUN (884-4386).

Washington State Parks is looking for a person or nonprofit group to collect recycling from the three local state parks. State

Parks will supply garbage can liners and the group may keep any money earned from the recycling. Contact Dave Roe, Ranger for Penrose State Park, at 884-2514.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center's "Flavor of Fall" gala event on Oct. 4 will include elegant dining and a benefit auction. Community members are needed to volunteer with publicity, decorations, auction items solicitation and many other tasks. Contact Claudia Loy at the Sunnycrest Nursery or call 884-4469.

Discovering the undiscovered: KP resident explores the underwater world

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Karl Anderson compares about 10 percent of his life to the adventures of Indiana Jones. He has traveled to 17 countries, explored caves and oceans for archaeological treasures, lost a black bear at an airport (as opposed to luggage) and even got chased by a Jamaican native after taking his photo — the man pulled his machete in pursuit because Anderson “took his soul.”

But that’s just touching the surface of his “unconventional life.” Directing documentary films, teaching diving for more than 20 years as a NAWI certified instructor, doing work for the Discovery Channel, making appearances on the Jay Leno show with his primate pals, and meeting a host of celebrities from Dustin Hoffman to Magic Johnson are just a few other experiences. His scrapbook includes a personal thank-you letter from President Richard Nixon after Anderson wrote a poem in 1973 about returning prisoners of war. He was serving in the Air Force at the time.

His latest adventure brought him to the Key Peninsula three years ago, where he

has settled for a bit quieter life — primates included.

“I could have lived anywhere in Pierce County,” he said, explaining that King County would not allow him to keep his two pigtail macaque monkeys, despite letters of support from Al Gore, Jane Goodall and Animal Planet, a television program where he made many appearances. “Being a writer, I like my quiet, and I needed some breathing room.”

Quiet doesn’t mean idle, however. Once here, Anderson converted his former animal education, nonprofit group Wildlife Educators of America (WEA) into the Aquatic Exploration Group. With a team of prominent biologists and scientists, Anderson explores underwater sites that have scientific, biological or archaeological significance and films documentaries about the experience and the research. The documentaries, which the group hopes to sell to PBS, the Discovery Channel and the History Channel, involve more than just underwater footage. They include interviews, research and other materials.

“We have nearly 50 documentaries on the drawing board,” he said. “The one we’re working on right now involves a



Photo by Rodika Tollefson
Karl Anderson and his primates Dexter (pictured) and Simon settled on the Key Peninsula in search of “peace and quiet.” Anderson, a diving instructor and writer, films documentaries of underwater sites that have historical or archaeological interest.

wreck but it’s classified so we can’t discuss much. We have to get as much footage as possible before the military gets involved, even though they have denied its existence.”

In between the expeditions, Anderson writes, works on a few books, dives, and takes care of his two “nonhuman children,” Dexter and Simon. The monkeys were part of the WEA’s exhibit that included a Siberian tiger, a crocodile that ended up at singer Michael Jackson’s farm, the black bear that was once lost at the airport, and other exotic animals. Dexter has his own claim to fame.

“Dexter set off the alarm at the White House twice,” Anderson said. “First year it was with the permission of Secret Service, and it was the first time in history that a monkey did that.”

Anderson’s unconventional life got an early start — he spent fifth grade in Norway — and in a way he has carried on the trade of his father and grandfather, who were commercial fishermen.

“I took the maritime tradition underwater,” he said. “I’ve always loved the underwater world and marveled at sea life.”

Anderson shares that love with his three children, ages 14, 15 and 17, who are also divers. “You will never see 75 percent of our planet unless you dive,” he said. “That’s where I regain my thoughts, and it’s the healthiest escape I know.”

There is one more perk to diving: fresh, free seafood. Anderson loves to cook, but you’d rarely catch him buying seafood. “Buying it defies logic, like a doctor paying for aspirin,” he said. “I probably saved about \$10,000 over 23 years.”

Anderson says he doesn’t know much about mechanics or electronics or sports and other things most guys talk about — but he’s happy with his interests because “it’s not as crowded underwater.”

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Recreation briefs

The recently launched **KP Outdoor Club (KPOC)** has a variety of events planned for April. The club meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. The April 10 meeting will feature local equestrian Ken Wolfe, who will talk about horse first aid and caring for your animal on the trail.

Other April events:

April 5, 6: Equestrian Ride with optional overnight stay. Sahara Creek (DNR) by Ashford, WA. Contact Ken Wolfe, 884-6063

April 12: Off Road Bike Tour, Tahuya Area. Contact Jimmy Livengood, 460-8889

April 19: Hiking (Walk-about), Rocky Creek Conservation Area, 10 a.m. Contact Nancy Lind, 884-3347

April 26: Spring Cross Country, 8 a.m., KCLibrary. Contact Caril Ridley, 884-5461

April 27: On Road Bike Tour, 10 a.m. Email Lan Brooks, brookslan@hotmail.com

For general information, contact Nancy Lind, 884-3347, visit www.keypen.org or email info@keypen.org.

The **Key Peninsula Trail System Committee (KPTS)** meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Home Fire Station to discuss, identify, and plan trails for hiking, biking, kayaking, equestrian, and others on the peninsula. This is the planning stage. For more information, see www.keypen.org; email ubfi@keypen.org or attend the meetings.

Agri-Vision program officially launched

The new animal, agriculture and horticulture program called Agri-Vision was introduced to the peninsula last month.

In collaboration with the Peninsula School District, the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District and the Key Peninsula Community Fair, the program will bring agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry programs to the peninsula. These additions will be formed to have long-term impact at both the Key Peninsula Community Fair and in the local schools and surrounding communities.

The program received great community support, organizers say. Members are sought from the FFA, Pony Clubs, horticulture programs and other organizations that would fall into Agri-Vision Program guidelines.

Still in its early stages, the program needs community input in order to become successful. The group's ultimate goal is to establish the local fair as a forum for exhibitors and/or competition to display their talents.

The next Agri-Vision meeting is on April 2 at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Middle School. For information, contact Agri-Vision Director Mike Salatino at 253-851-4556.

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Peninsula Light Co. Workshops

Septic Sense, Cents and Scent

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department - Jim Hoyle
April 30th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Peninsula Light Co.

Native Plants in the Home Landscape

Anna Thurston, Independent Garden Designer
May 14th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Peninsula Light Co.

Identifying Native Plants

Dennis Bottmiller, Horticulturist
May 7th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Peninsula Light Co.

Individual Well and Small Water System Maintenance

Evan Reams & Kevin Odegard, Water Services, PLC
June 4th 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Peninsula Light Co.

Shoreline Geology

Harriet Beal, Geologist, Washington State
June 18th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Peninsula Light Co.

Introduction to Shoreline Permitting & Bulkheads

Anna Marie Sibon, Pierce County Planning & Land Service, 253-798-2706
July 12, 11 am - 2 pm
Camp Seymour
Colin Wagoner, PE, Project Engineer for Camp Seymour, 206-682-7294
Cafeteria

Landscaping & Storm Water Control for Shorelines

Harold Smelt, Project Engineer, Pierce County Programs
August 12th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Gig Harbor Civic Center Council Chamber

Septic Sense, Cents and Scent

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department - Jim Hoyle
September 10th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Peninsula Light Co.

Generator Safety

Jonathan White, Marketing Coordinator, Peninsula Light
September 24th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Peninsula Light Co.

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PHS students get real-world experience at KGHP-FM

By Russell Houghtaling
Special to KP News

Located at Peninsula High School, local community radio station KGHP-FM encapsulates students in a real-world environment. KGHP is the setting for Peninsula's Media Communications class, where students fall out of the regular school routine of reading, writing and arithmetic and into a real-job situation, complete with supervisors, deadlines, and more than just a grade on the line.

One of the lesser-known departments of KGHP shifts students' focus from the studio and the news desk to the excitement and prowess of athletic competition. On KGHP, which broadcasts at 89.3, 89.9, and 104.5 FM, students interested in sportscasting have an opportunity to showcase their talents over the airwaves that stretch throughout the south Puget Sound region. The station broadcasts live high school basketball games during the winter sports season. Football fills the airwaves in the fall.

"We've had people call the radio station from Parkland and Tacoma asking which game we'll be broadcasting," said Leland Smith, KGHP general manager and broad-

cast instructor. "People hear our basketball and football games throughout this region. They're amazed when they learn these are high school students calling the games."

The current lineup of broadcast talent on KGHP includes senior Jesse Weyrick, along with underclassmen Andy Keyes, "Stormin" Steven Sturmin, and Kyle Anderson.

Several graduates of KGHP's "Sportscasting 101" continue to blaze a trail on their way to the top of the sportscasting world. Former Peninsula student Erik Klein (1999) will graduate from the University of Southern California this spring with a degree in broadcast communications. Klein has honed his sportscasting repertoire on the air at USC's student television station and with an internship at KING-TV in Seattle.

PHS graduate Aaron Managhan is currently the program director at KUGS-FM, the student radio station operated at Western Washington University. Managhan receives a financial stipend for his effort and plans to further pursue a career in broadcasting.

At Washington State University, former Seahawk Enfield is in her second year in the broadcast communications program. She augments her education working for the school's sports information department, writ-

ing media releases, keeping statistics for sports events and serving as public address announcer for many Cougar athletic events.

Chad Potter, a 2002 Peninsula graduate, is working toward a business degree, with a broadcast minor, at Arizona State University. Potter serves as a student volunteer for ASU's sports information department.

Peninsula has developed a strong hold on the prestigious Tacoma Athletic Commission's Clay Huntington Sports Broadcasting Scholarship. The annual scholarship is awarded to a high school senior in Pierce County who demonstrates competence in sports journalism. Past Peninsula winners include Matt Heuer (2000), Spencer Snope and Kara Skagg (2001) and Potter (2002).

In addition, former Peninsula student Marc Johnson (2001) and Gig Harbor student Natalie Kuzmik (2002) were finalists for the prestigious THRUST scholarship offered by the Washington Thoroughbred Horse Racing Association. As finalists, each was honored with a \$1,000 college scholarship. Johnson is currently the afternoon air host at KVTI-FM (I-91), Clover Park's highly-rated radio station. Kuzmik is at Washington State studying communications.

"It's kind of fun," Smith said. "Penin-

The nuts and bolts of KGHP-FM

What: A local community radio station
Who: Students at Peninsula and Gig Harbor High schools along with community volunteers

Where: Peninsula High School
When: 24-hours a day, 7-days a week at 89.3, 89.9, and 104.5 FM

Why: To educate students about broadcast media and journalism

How: Support from local community underwriters. For underwriting opportunities, contact Leland Smith or Teresa Evans at 857-3589.

sula is getting a reputation. College administrators and people in the industry are starting to find out that if a student comes from Peninsula, they're well-prepared and can get right to work."

Through both student and community volunteer involvement, KGHP has become and will continue to be an integral part of the fabric of both Peninsula High School and the community.

PHS senior Russell Houghtaling is a seasoned KGHP veteran in his third year calling basketball games.

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Correction

A March Key Peninsula News op-ed column inadvertently omitted the Needs Assessment subcommittee from the Community Council Organizational Committee structure. We apologize for this error.

The Key Peninsula News is looking for local residents who are doing good works—ordinary folks doing extraordinary things.

If you know someone who deserves to be recognized, let us know. We will spotlight the person and his or her efforts in one of our upcoming issues.

To nominate your local hero, write to us at: News Department, KP News, PO Box 3. Vaughn, WA 98394, email us at keypennews@yahoo.com, fax to 884-4053 or leave a voice message at 884-4699.

KP Lutheran celebrates 25th anniversary

A celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, May 4, at the church in Lakebay. The day will include a church service at 10:30 a.m. with special music. Many guests, former pastors and charter members have been extended an invitation to this important event in the church. The service will be followed by a dinner in the fellowship hall, where more music and memories will be featured.

History of the church is interesting and heart warming. The first worship service of the Key Peninsula Lutheran "mission" church was conducted by Pastor Edward Wagner on Sept. 18, 1977, in the Gold Room of the Civic Center. The dedication and organization of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church was held on April 2, 1978. Services continued at the Civic Center until the official move to the "new" church building on Lackey Road on Thanksgiving Day 1983.

In the early days guided by Pastor Wagner, and by faith, dedication, and hard work, the

people of Key Peninsula Lutheran Church planned, developed, and followed through with their dream for a building to further demonstrate their love and service to the Lord with others. Dozens of the early members from ages 2 to 85 volunteered their talents, time, and financial support to literally build the church by hand! The church building was dedicated on April 8, 1984.

Since that time a fellowship hall has been completed on the church property to further emphasize the fellowships shared; and friendships have grown and will continue to refresh the community. Everyone is invited to share the celebration of 25 years with the members and friends of Key Peninsula Lutheran Church.

—By Ramona George

Easter Services at KP Baptist Church

Everyone is invited to attend Easter Services at the Key Peninsula Baptist Church on Sunday, April 20. A special musical presentation, "The Dawn of Resurrec-

tion," will be performed by the choir. Services begin at 11 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For more information, contact Pastor James Rouse at 253-853-6761.

service men and women until the war in Iraq is over and everyone returns home. Contact the church office at 884-3899 for information.

Lakebay Community Church to pray for troops

The Lakebay Community Church is gathering a list of local community members or their family and friends who are serving in the military for a prayer list. The church will pray for the people on the list and their safe return home, as well as for their families.

Community members are invited to contact the church to add their loved ones' names to the prayer list. Church members will continue praying for those

Key Peninsula Lutheran

Key Peninsula Hwy & Lackey Road

Sunday Schedule:

Christian Education: 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am

Easter, April 20

Easter Breakfast: 8:30-10:00am
Easter Worship: 10:30 am

Pastor Alan Marshall 253 884-3312

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To have your organization's news listed in the Key Peninsula News, email keypennews@yahoo.com or fax to 884-4053

Vaughn Community Church

(across from Vaughn Elementary)
Easter Sunday Services @ 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM
Complimentary Easter Breakfast at 10:00 AM
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James Rouse, Senior Pastor



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Giant Pacific Octopus: Key Peninsula's underwater resident

Seventy-five percent of our world lies underwater, and on Key Peninsula we're surrounded by Puget Sound on three sides. If you happen to be a scuba diver, you already know about many of the wonders that can be found a mere stone's throw from our shores. On the other hand, not being able to visit this majority of our world leaves you at the mercy of television and magazines. With this column, you may meet a myriad of creatures that share the waters of our community!

Astronaut Neil Armstrong said, "If you can breathe, you can dive." After a short four- or five-week course that meets once or twice a week, the passport to the underwater world will be yours forever. But for those who will never "take the plunge," let us begin to examine some of these animals that Hollywood often distorts, stories exaggerate, and dreams fall short of capturing.

Without a doubt, the largest and most impressive animal to encounter in our waters is the Giant Pacific Octopus. Reaching a weight in excess of 100 pounds and a length (across from tip to tip of tentacles) in excess of 15 to 18 feet, this intelligent, docile and elusive animal is the largest species of octopus living in our world today.

Hollywood movies that emerged as far back as the '30s began to paint an image of this creature as one that would sink ships, devour their crews, and even be so bold as to terrorize seaports. Why? Well, it has always been human nature to distort and sensationalize things we know little or nothing about, and the sea, as you can imagine, is filled to the brim with things we *still* know little or nothing about.

The truth be known, this shy creature would prefer to avoid us. Possessing the ability to change colors and blend with its environment, it has a lifespan of only three to five years. It would certainly make someone wonder why nature has given such high intelligence and a proven ability to learn to an animal that lives such a short period of time. The reason is simple: survival. In the open, away from its den, the Giant Pacific Octopus is easy prey for seals, sea lions, and sharks. To avoid them, it relies upon its wits, its ability to avoid detection.

With eight tentacles, also thought of as "arms," each possessing in excess of 100 suction cups, the Pacific Octopus feeds most often on crab, either Dungeness or Red Rock species. They can be found in most areas of Puget Sound, including the

waters that surround Key Peninsula. Their dens are often made within rock outcroppings and under boulders that lie on the bottom. For the diver, the telltale signs of an "octo den" is an abundance of discarded crab shells in a concentrated area.



Beneath the Sea
with Karl Anderson

The largest octopus I have ever seen was last year off the Sunrise County Park in Gig Harbor. Its largest suction cups were the size of softballs and it measured at least 15 feet across. I had taken a bag of smelt with me on the dive with the intention of feeding an octopus, and when I encountered this specimen it really made my day. I reached out with a smelt, and in about 20 seconds a tentacle came my way, slowly but deliberately grasping the fish and delivering it to its mouth, located on

its underside between its legs. When it reached the tentacle back for a second fish, it grasped my arm with two suction cups and held me fast until it had made contact with the fish, then it released me and once again dined on the offering. In those short seconds I felt the power these animals possess. Yet it gives me more reassurance that were they truly a danger to us, that power could easily subdue and drown a diver, for the removal of a diver's mask and regulator would be nothing more than equivalent to child's play.

They range in color from brown to orange-red, and their color can change with their mood. Bright red signifies anger. In the '50s and '60s a common pastime for divers in the Pacific Northwest was octopus "wrestling" where an octopus had to be brought to the surface with nothing more than elbow grease. Once there, it was weighed and released. This can be seen in Puget Sound in Cousteau's special "The Soft Intelligence" that highlights octopus and squid.

As with most species of octos, the Giant Pacific female dies as her offspring are hatching. It is a sad affair to some, but things do not always appear peachy in nature although they are always *necessary*. Having refused food so as to not contaminate her nest with rotting debris, she clings to life for the benefit of her young while starving herself to death.

They are magnificent creatures to encounter while diving and remain as one of the highlights of underwater experiences for divers in the waters of Key Peninsula and other parts of Puget Sound.

Karl Anderson is a NAWI certified diving instructor who lives on the Key Peninsula.

Longbranch Improvement Club gears up for events

By Mary Mazur, L.I.C.
Special to KP News

Dinner theater performances, dances with a nationally known band, a community yard sale, a New Years Eve Dinner Dance, a Cinco de Mayo Festival this spring, and more — members of the Longbranch Improvement Club are busy planning activities for the coming year. A community service club with a long history, the Improvement Club will bring back to the Peninsula the popular blues band, Junkyard Jane, the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend and again Labor Day weekend at the end of August. But first, coming up is the Cinco de Mayo Festival on May 3 with live folkloric music, margaritas and a Mexican dinner to celebrate our south of the border neighbors' festive holiday. Other upcoming events include the second annual community yard sale, dinner theatre, and possibly a New Year's Eve party.

The Community Yard Sale organizing committee is encouraging people and community groups to rent indoor and outdoor tables and spaces to sell their no longer needed treasures. "If you don't want to man your own table, why not donate your 'stuff' to the Improvement Club for us to sell," said event's organizer, Theresa Gano. Plans for an exhibit of antique cars on the clubhouse field are in the works — and bargain hunters who come to the sale can admire the cars and perhaps even have a ride in one.

Plans for Dinner Theater performances on the LIC stage in September are being developed by a working committee including Mary Mazur, Jo and Jim Sturm and Paula Bowen. Once the board of directors gives approval, and a director and a play are chosen, auditions will be advertised, a cast will be selected and production will begin. The committee hopes local actors and wanna-be actors will come forward to participate.

The Improvement Club is a community service club with a long history — it was founded in 1921. The club owns a building that was placed on the National Historic Register in 1987. The pole and beam structure were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1939 for a school gymnasium, and LIC members put in hundreds of volunteer hours each year to help keep the building in shape. The events sponsored by the club help support the cost of maintaining the building, which is available for use by community and charitable groups and is rented to private parties for weddings and events.

L.I.C. Events

The Second Annual Longbranch Community Yard Sale is planned for June 21. Lunch and snacks will be served throughout the day. Call 884-3013 for more information on the sale and how to sign up for a table.

To reserve the building for events, call the building manager at 884-6022. The L.I.C. meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

Local actress brings ancient history closer to home

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Ancient history comes alive on the Key Peninsula in May as Lakebay actress and historian Tames Alan tells stories of ancient women in a Living History Program. "Women of the Ancient World" combines history, fashion and entertainment in a three-part presentation for all ages that benefits the Doctor Penrose Orthopedic Guild.

"This is one of our two big fundraisers. We try to raise about \$100,000 a year to support the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital," said Dolores Argabright, a member of the guild that is comprised of 22 Key Peninsula women.

Alan has been presenting the program for 16 years. She stages 150 shows a year throughout the country and Canada as part of her Living History series. But this time, she takes her show a little closer to home.

"I show people what it was like to live in another time period. It's a one-woman, costumed program," she said. The show is also a one-woman production: She writes the scripts, researches the information, and creates her own costumes.

"Women of the Ancient World" explores ancient Crete and classical Greece, ancient Rome and the Celtic culture. Alan, dressed in period clothing, uses her theater, history and costuming background to attract adult and young audiences alike.

"The program is for everyone from school kids to church groups and clubs," she said. "I get eighth grade boys to sit still for an hour and a half — and they are a tough audience."



Photo courtesy of Tames Alan

Lakebay's Tames Alan has presented her Living History Program to a variety of audiences, including as part of the "Inquiring Minds" series.

Women of the Ancient World

When: May 3 at 1 p.m.

Where: Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road KPN

Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 kids 12 and under; sold by Guild members or at the door

Fried and True Recipes

Compiled by Colleen Slater

A friend claims some of her favorites came from the Key Peninsula News several years ago. Here is another opportunity for readers to share their special dishes. Priority will be given to those with a brief story — a recipe handed down through several generations; one developed or adapted to fit supplies on hand or special dietary needs; traditional ingredients changed to make faster preparation.

Please send clear (typed preferred) copies of recipe and story to: Colleen Slater, P.O. Box 107, Vaughn, WA 98394 or cas4936@centurytel.net, or drop them by the Key Peninsula News office with Colleen Slater's name on the envelope. Include your name and a telephone number so we can contact you for any questions about either recipe or story.

To start the ball rolling, Kathie Du Priest submits a recipe she clipped from the Key Peninsula News in 1977, her own favorite fudge recipe.

Velveeta™ Fudge

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- 4 lb powdered sugar
- 1 cup Hershey's cocoa
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- 1 lb. Butter
- 1 T vanilla
- 2-3 cups walnuts



Sift sugar and cocoa together in a very large mixing bowl, and set aside. Combine cheese and butter and heat on very low heat, stirring constantly, until melted. Add cheese mixture to sugar mixture and beat well. Add vanilla and nuts and mix. Pour into large greased pan, set in cool place until set. It keeps beautifully in cookie tins in the refrigerator. Makes about 7 lbs.

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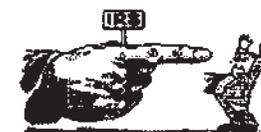
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How to build a backyard wildlife sanctuary

By Irene Torres
KP News

A group of 13 Key Peninsula residents kayaked out to Herron Island in March for a family outing. They were surprised when herds of deer, nearly tame, came close for a look at the strangers. The deer's curiosity was rewarded with a loaf of bread — a good photographic opportunity. Most Herron Island inhabitants are happy to share their back yards with these graceful creatures, and will allow no hunting. Herron Islanders know establishing a backyard wildlife sanctuary is the right thing to do, considering housing and other urban development causes over 35,000 acres of wildlife habitat to be lost every year.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary packet available for \$5 (including cost of printing and postage). It covers suggestions for planting more vegetation and leaving dead tree snags for animal shelter. It includes ideas for adding a pond, a bird-bath, or other water source to attract animals. The packet reviews how millet, sunflower seeds, and suet will attract a wide variety of birds. The information covers competing non-native species (house spar-



Photo courtesy of Karl Anderson

Herron Island residents often share their back yards with curious deer.

rows and starlings) and predators, including cats, which may be a threat to birds that ground-feed or nest.

The packet contains a pamphlet on improving your property, managing habitat, landscaping for wildlife, attracting and identifying birds and butterflies. It also

offers bird feeding advice, and provides a form to enroll your yard as an official backyard sanctuary.

Write and send your \$5 check to Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife at 16018 Mill Creek Boulevard, Mill Creek, WA 98012 or see www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/byw_prog.htm.

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~ By Laura Huddleston, LMP ~ 884-6150

CAC/CP class on 'Refuse to be a Victim'

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Twenty-one members of the Peninsula Detachment of Citizens Against Crime/Citizens' Patrol gave up most of a beautiful sunny afternoon at the end of February to attend a course on "Refuse to be a Victim" at the Key Peninsula Fire Department's headquarters station in Key Center. The session, a some-ten-year-old creation of the National Rifle Association, opened with a promise by presenter Jonathan Clemens saying, "I am not here to talk about gun control or the NRA, I'm not even here to talk about crime prevention. I'm here to talk about crime avoidance."

And he did. "This is a nationally recognized safety program developed in 1993 for women by the NRA, then, in 1997, it was enhanced to include males," he said. "It's a crime avoidance course. If a crime is to happen, let it not happen to you."

"The vast majority of criminals are opportunists, lazy, looking for an easy target and who have a lousy self-image. They're sure that life has dealt them a bad hand and they are, therefore, entitled to 'even the score.' Criminals do not pick locks, they kick in doors."

Clemens covered a plethora of subjects and taught the class a variety of ways to avoid being victims of crime.

For further information or to arrange for a session for your group, call 1-800-861-1166, contact www.the-dma.org or www.consumer.gov/knowfraud, or write them at Know Fraud, PO Box 45600, Washington, D.C. 20026.

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Letters to the Editor: To submit a letter to the editor, write to keypennews@yahoo.com, fax to 884-4053, or mail to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394. The subject must be related to the Key Peninsula. Limit to 100 words or less.

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What's HIPAA and why do you have to fill out these forms?

By William F. Roes M.D.

The next time you go to your doctor's office, you'll notice some changes. I don't mean a new receptionist or new carpeting, but some new paperwork. This is the result of a new federal mandate called HIPAA that takes place on April 14, 2003.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act was passed in 1996 with the goal of making health insurance more portable (transferable from job to job), standardizing electronic patient data, and protecting patient confidentiality. The law states that it will simplify administration of insurance claims, improve patient control and access of their medical records, and protect that information from disclosure to unauthorized parties. It will affect all healthcare providers, doctors, hospitals, insurance companies and everyone else who deals with personal health information and uses electronic means to transfer it.

While the stated goals of HIPAA can't be faulted, the implementation by the federal government has added a whole new layer of paperwork and compliance forms to the

practice of medicine, and it ultimately trickles down to you, the patient. This is not an option for your physician, and government threats of civil and even criminal liability exist for those doctors who don't comply.

To Your Health



One of the most noticeable requirements will be the development of a Patient Privacy Statement, which must be posted in the physician's office. All patients will be asked to sign a statement that they are aware of the office privacy policy and have been offered a copy. If you have not previously signed consent for treatment at your doctor's office, you may be asked to do that as well. There are also going to be forms for you to look at your records, to send them to another provider, and to ask that they be modified if you believe them to be inaccurate.

Is this interesting or entertaining? I didn't think so either, but it is something that patients need to be aware of as the new rules come into play. The goal of protecting patient confidentiality is worth the aggravation of a few new forms.

Flea season is here: How to eliminate them from your home

By Robert McCrossin
Bayside Animal Lodge Ltd.

Fleas are nasty little critters that come out and stay as soon as the weather begins to warm. Even indoor pets can be plagued by these ingenious insects that leap through open doors and screens to find their way into homes. They will even walk in with you on your shoe or on the cuff of your pants. Normally fleas are transmitted from one animal to another, but it is possible to step into an infested area and bring these unwanted visitors back to your pets.

Female fleas often lay as many as 25 small, white, oval eggs after each meal. The eggs go through three larval stages; they hatch within only 12 days, and then emerge as adults within 20 days.

Make sure environments that are used by your pets for sleeping or relaxing are cleaned regularly. These are the most probable areas for fleas to reproduce. If your pet goes outside, assume that he or she will come in contact with fleas. Think ahead and treat your pets before they encounter the fleas and infestations will not occur.

There are different ways to control fleas, ranging from topical solutions that kill adult fleas to one-time or once a month pills that kill or sterilize adult fleas. There are holistic methods as well. A number of products are available that are not totally reliable. Ask your veterinarian for his or her recommendation. The best way to stay ahead of a flea infestation is to be proactive, instead of reactive. Take charge now so you and your pets won't have to pay the price later.

Tax tips

By Marv and Myrtle Keizur, CTP

It may be easier to sell you home now without the big capital gains looming in the future. Singles may have two gains of \$250,000 and couples may have two gains of \$500,000 without paying any tax. Other factors weigh in, such as where you work, where family

members live and what address you list on your correspondence and legal papers such as driver's license. You must live in the home for two years out of five, although the two years do not have to be together. Other things must be considered, including job relocation, health reasons and unforeseen circumstances. Check with your tax adviser for all the details.



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The garden in April

By Sylvia Retherford

Tomato seeds are germinating in the window sill pots and will be ready to set out in late May. Many gardeners save their own seed by choosing those tomatoes that have characteristics that please them. Tomatoes come true to type because each flower has both male and female parts that bees do not visit to bring other pollen. Gently dribble seeds onto a paper towel and allow to dry, and eat the rest of the fruit.

Tomatoes like sandy, well-drained soil, but appreciate watering during dry weather. Do not sprinkle or get water on the leaves. To extend their season in the late summer and early fall, arrange a sheet of clear plastic supported by sticks and held down on its edge by rocks. On sunny days, remove it during the warm part of the day and replace it at night. This system may prevent tomato wilt that often causes early death of the plant.



Red or green pepper seeds can be used from a mature grocery store fruit and started in window sill pots a week or so later than tomatoes. They go into the garden in June. They like well drained warm soil and benefit from water and fertilizer.

Root crops such as turnips, rutabagas, beets, leeks and onion sets can be planted now. Hold off until late June to plant carrot seed if carrot root worm is a threat in your area. The tiny fly that lays the eggs around each seedling has come and gone. Most varieties of carrots will provide food all winter long when planted late.

This is flower season for many perennials, shrubs and bulbs. Wild flowers such as Trillium, checker lilies (Fritillaria), dog-toothed violet (Erythronium), and camas (Camassia) are in full bloom, while false Solomon's Seal (Smilacina), fairy bells (Disporum) and wild irises are in bud.

Mason Bees help crops, orchards survive

By Irene Torres
KP News

Sh-h-h, they are sleeping now...but the hibernation period for the Orchard Mason Bee (*Osmia Lignaria propinqua* Cresson, or Blue Orchard) will soon be over.

Honeybee hives can be infested by an invasion of foreign mites, affecting nearly 90 percent of wild and managed hives in the United States. Efforts to curb mite infestation by medicating commercial hives have barely been effective in maintaining the surviving honeybee population. The Orchard Mason Bee, however, is immune to these varroa and tracheal mites, and does just as efficient a job of pollinating apples, pears, berries, and other crops. These bees are essential to the survival of agricultural crops and orchards, and their propagation is being studied for commercial application.

These pollinating bees can be easily raised at home. Dick Saunders, Vaughn resident, recognizes the benefits of increasing pollinator bee populations. He says Masons are "mild mannered" and "they won't sting." Actually, the males are incapable of stinging, and the females' sting is less than that of a mosquito. Saunders raises Mason Bees every year, and sells them locally to improve their population on the Key Peninsula.

Mason Bees are among the earliest to emerge from their winter sleep. Their shiny blue-black color helps them absorb heat. Their body temperature must reach 55 degrees F before they can fly, and if they stay in the sun, they can function even when the air temperature drops. But if their body temperature drops, they are forced to land. Their emergence each spring is timed with that of their food source, early flowering fruit and nut trees.

The Mason Bee resembles a fly; but has

four wings, antennae, and rests with wings folded against its body. It is a solitary insect. There is no queen, no hive. Their young are untended, unlike the honeybee, which is protected and fed in a hive.

On the day a female emerges fully mature from her nesting cell, she will mate. From that day forward, she will work alone to gather food, and pack mud to build protective walls around the eggs she lays in pre-existing holes in wood, unused larval holes, or inside the stem of a woody plant. She may also lay eggs in tree bark crevices or holes in driftwood. Each day, she will lay one or two eggs. Her lifespan is only about 34 days, unless shortened by severe weather or predators like woodpeckers and chickadees. The solitary lifestyle of the Mason Bee affords a degree of protection from pesticides, which honeybees can carry on their bodies into a hive and spread to other bees. Only individual egg cells of the Mason will be affected by pesticide exposure.

It has been claimed that the Mason can pollinate up to 1,600 flowers every day, compared with only 30 successful honeybee pollinations.

To learn more about these friendly insects, Dick Saunders recommends the book titled "The Orchard Mason Bee: The Life History, Biology, Propagation and Use of a North American Native Bee" by Brian L. Griffin (Knox Cellars Publishing, Bellingham, WA 1999). Additional information is available through the Washington State University Extension Service, Bulletin O922. He has also delivered a supply of Mason bees, which can be purchased at the Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center.

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