

In this issue



▲ Out & About: Early tourist season? page 32

▼ Couple sails around the world page 15



News

Citizen of 2003 nominees . . .	2
KPCS has new dream	7
Home history	13
Musician Tom Morgan	14
From pioneer stock	20
The Genuine ARTicle	23
Coping with Alzheimer's . . .	30

Sections

Peninsula Views	4
Business	5
Schools	8
People & Lifestyles	12
Community Works	16
Arts & Recreation	21

LIVING SUSTAINABLY ON THE KEY PENINSULA

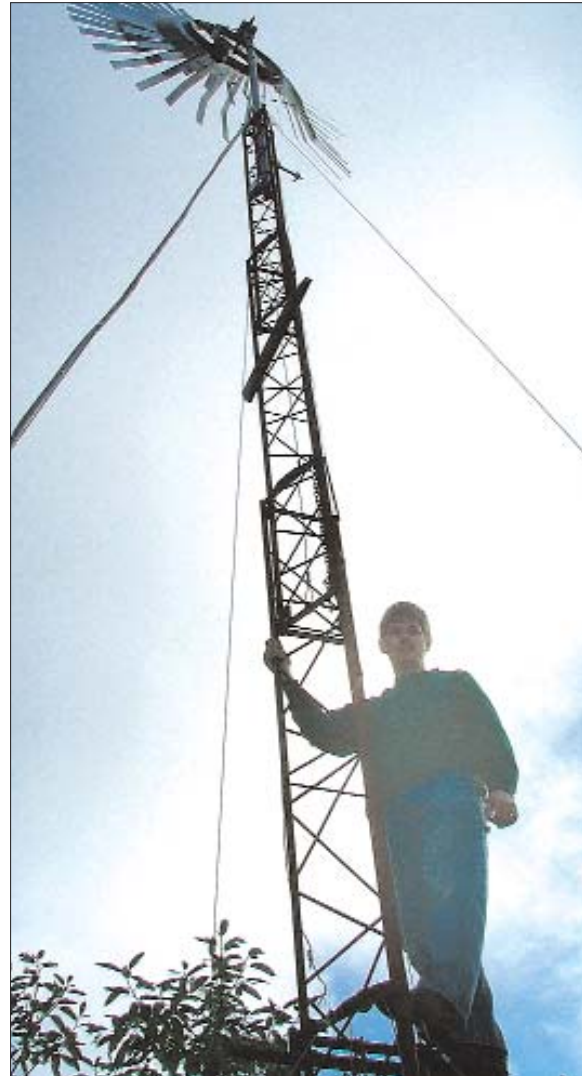
Ed Bressette believes everyone can live in a sustainable, self-sufficient and inexpensive way—all that's required is a little creativity and research.

He demonstrates that belief through his own daily living, from the energy efficient home he built for his family largely from recycled materials, to the tractor he made himself to run on homemade biodiesel. Solar panels and a wind generator power up the house, the hot water heater uses a creative design to heat the water naturally, and the use of the chicken tractor eliminates the need for weeding the garden.

Bressette is full of ideas—which is why he helped create a group of like-minded enthusiasts who are sharing their discoveries among themselves and anyone else who'd like to learn.

The Key Peninsula News will feature some of his ideas and tips in the next few issues. Read the first story on page 12.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson



At the crossroads: Park board ponders future

As the effort is under way to create a metropolitan park district that would bring more money to the Key Peninsula, the Key Peninsula News took a look at some of the problems plaguing the current park district. This is the first of two installments examining the issue of local parks.

Next month, we will take an in-depth look at the metropolitan park district and what it could entail.

By William C. Dietz and Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District Chair Nancy Lind resigned from the board at the end of January, when a group trying to create a Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District sought to delay the effort of the Wauna post office restoration — and Park Commissioners Mike Salatino, Jerry Schick, Ross Bischoff and John Glennon agreed to the request. Lind had been outspokenly in favor of the project, and the concern as expressed by the new Parks Commission Chairman Mike Salatino was that, "The chairman of the Metropolitan Park Committee Ben Thompson brought a

(See **PARKS**, Page 28)

State Route 302: Are improvements in sight?

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Anyone who's lived on the Key Peninsula for a few months has probably heard the "suicide curves" mentioned—or at least has been delayed or detoured by a collision in the area. Also known as the Wauna curves, this last stretch of State Route 302 has seen its good share of cars in the ditch, overturned vehicles, and plenty of fender-benders. Sadly, a life or two is lost once in a while.

(See **WAUNA**, Page 10)



On a sunny Sunday afternoon in February, cars streamed both ways on the Purdy Spit. State Route 302 is considered to have only moderate congestion.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson



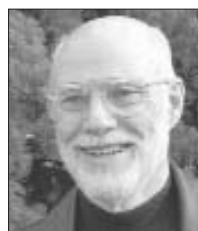
BAUER



COONAN



COTTRELL



DUNCAN



DURHAM-SMITH



GILMORE-OLSON



GOAD



IVERSON

Residents nominated for Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year

Compiled by Hugh McMillan
KP News

Phil Bauer, as well as serving on the Civic Center Board, is a board member of the Key Peninsula Fair. He is involved with the Two Waters Arts Alliance and helps other organizations when called upon. His devotion to the betterment of life on the Key Peninsula is the driving force behind all of his hard work. As a neighbor, Phil is always first on the scene when anyone needs assistance.

Kyle Coonan is a freshman at Peninsula High School where he is on the wrestling team and maintains a respectable GPA. During his days at the Key Peninsula Middle School, he was an inspiration to many of his fellow students who admired his modest demeanor and athletic prowess in baseball, football and wrestling. But he topped all last year when, despite having had no previous training in the discipline, he swiftly and professionally applied the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge an item lodged in the choking throat of young a friend visiting his home. Had he not had this speedy presence of mind and action, the young man would probably have choked to death.

Pam Cottrell has been a fixture at Evergreen Elementary for years, where she volunteers at every school function. At RIF (Reading is FUNdamental) she helps children put their names in their new books; at the Book Fair, she works the cash register; on picture day, she

escorts children to and from getting their pictures taken; on Fridays she makes popcorn for students and staff. Pam is president of Evergreen's PTA and has organized many events. When others are tired of volunteering, Pam often jumps in to pick up the slack. During the past school year, and perhaps for many years, Pam has been suffering from a debilitating illness. She feels she is letting the children down on the days when she is in too much pain to come to school.

Wayne Duncan, an active member of Citizens Against Crime and its Citizens' Patrol, together with his partner, Stan Schneider, volunteered 99 hours at all hours of the day patrolling the highways and back roads of our community during 2003. His dedication to the task should be recognized, as it enhances the safety and security of our peninsula.

Carrie Durham-Smith, a busy working mother of two, still manages to put in many hours a week at the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank. She is a whirlwind of organized activity with intentions of only helping those who need her. She also delivers food to sick and housebound community members and is a walking assistance directory for where people might be able to get any sort of help they so require, shelter, medical aid, and such. She also is a volunteer wife for the Key Peninsula Fire Department. "Carrie will never toot her own horn, so I think the community should," said her nominator.

Teresa Gilmore and Ashley Olson, as a mother and daughter team have made families and seniors of Key Peninsula smile, laugh, and cry. They made Christmas for seven families special by providing them with individualized gifts and a huge food basket filled with enough food for a month as well as a Christmas Dinner. For Thanksgiving they adopted 20 families, providing turkey with all the trimmings, even marshmallows. At the Key Peninsula Services/ Food Bank senior Christmas party, Ashley, a senior at Peninsula High School who was dressed as Santa's helper, and Teresa filled 65 senior stockings with treats and then photographed each individual receiving the stockings while sitting on Santa's lap. All of these ventures were paid by their own funds. Teresa's husband was killed a few months ago but through the tears, she continues with their desire to make a difference, and make this a better place to live.

Miriam Goad is a member of Citizens Against Crime, has spearheaded efforts to clean crime out of the Palmer Lake community by organizing community meetings and instructing neighbors on the perils of methamphetamine labs, what to look for, how to avoid contamination, and how to safeguard evidence. She frequently patrols throughout the community with fellow CAC members. An active Palmer Lake Beach Club Health and Safety Committee, she daily collects refuse from the streets and brings haz-

ardous waste conditions to the attention of Pierce County authorities.

Norma Iverson, who retired after many years as the Pierce County Health Department's Public Health Nurse in Key Center, has been active in the Longbranch Improvement Club, the Longbranch Church, the Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild as its president, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank. She is always there to help people whenever and wherever. She goes about her volunteer work quietly and without notice and it's high time she receives some of the recognition this modest lady deserves.

Cathlee James is a woman of deep compassion with the desire to serve others with love and wisdom. She has been actively involved in the Key Peninsula community for several years through I.M.Pact and the Lakebay Community Church. She quietly serves many Key Peninsula families by providing meals, clothes, and care for those in need. She has served on the I.M.Pact board of directors and working committee, and has been actively involved in the project that has resulted in a Safe House being established in our area. She has helped to provide a community meal for families of people serving with the armed forces in Iraq; helped coordinate a meals program through Lakebay Community Church. She is committed to children by volunteering with Pioneer Clubs and other children's programs at the church. Her service is a catalyst for drawing together different churches of different denominations.

John Jewell is a retired school administrator and teacher, a child advocate, a relentless volunteer in our Vaughn Elementary's kindergarten classrooms every week and an accomplished artist. He began volunteering at Vaughn several years ago and comes to school almost daily. He often works one on one with students, reading, learning letters, singing nursery rhymes, making forts or painting. His presence is so transparent, staff tend to consider him one of themselves. His

(See **CITIZENS**, Page 11)

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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

The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. All letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Submissions are used on a space available basis and may be edited if used. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to keypennews@yahoo.com

Local Citizens Against Crime assists Anderson Island

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Last month, representatives of Citizens Against Crime met with members of an emerging similar group from Anderson Island to share ideas and experiences toward the development of an Island citizens' patrol emulating the one on the Key Peninsula.

The Key Peninsula-based Citizens Against Crime, an organization of volunteers, has been cooperating with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department to thwart criminal activities since January 1988.

Joined by Pierce County Sheriff's Sgt. Ross Herberholz, Citizens Against Crime's past president, Al Yanity, treasurer Anna White, and Palmer Lake community organizer Miriam Goad met with Anderson Island's Paul Jasperson, president Dave Galentine, and community liaison representative Bob Garnure.

How to join

For further information or to participate in CAC's activities locally, please call President Pat Latshaw at 884-0808 or Miriam Goad at 884-6496.

It was agreed that Key Peninsula's CAC members will visit the island group to assist in instructing the islanders on methods employed in safe patrol activities, what to be on the lookout for, actions to take in various situations and how to identify and deal with methamphetamine activities and evidence.

Over the years, CAC has provided similar assists in the Eatonville, Bonney Lake and Green Lake areas.

Hugh McMillan is a Citizens Against Crime founding member.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Left to right, beginning at the left window, are Paul Jasperson, Dave Galentine, and community liaison representative Bob Garnure, all of Anderson Island; Pierce County Sheriff's Sgt. Ross Herberholz; and representing Citizens Against Crime of the Peninsula, past president Al Yanity, treasurer Anna White, and Palmer Lake community organizer Miriam Goad.




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Editorial

Meth labs, trailers and firepower?

A Seattle writer and “radio veteran” who will remain unnamed said this about the Key Peninsula: “Generally the towns have little to offer aside from a few well-placed trailers and the usual contaminated shellfish, as the communities of the Key Peninsula are utterly lacking in accommodations or anything more appetizing than carbon-dated hot dogs at area gas stations....and a couple of inviting greasy spoons.”

Interesting? Wait, it gets better.

According to the writer, “private property is likely backed up by several calibers of firepower,” and “veering off into the woods in the wrong direction can easily result in the embarrassing and sometimes fatal run-in with a meth lab.”

True, he may have a point on the meth labs, but are we all a bunch of rough necks keeping our rifles by the door, sitting in our “well-placed trailers” while enjoying our hot dogs, and telling all the newcomers to get lost, as the writer also implies?

The Peninsula is indeed a little rough around the edges, and we don't have any fast-food chains (yet), big tourist attractions (yet), and yes, there is that problem of poisoned shellfish (who doesn't have that problem?). And as the writer duly noted, we do like our peace and quiet, so

it's just as well we keep the number of tourists low — or at least those sophisticated megacity types whose idea of vacation may be staying at the Grand Hyatt or spending 12 hours in a casino, sipping a martini and watching their disposable income disappear as fast as you can name all the Key Peninsula “greasy spoons” in one breath.

Luckily, the writer didn't note all the garbage on the roads that is turning this rural gem into one ugly sight. As the tree buds are blooming and the gardeners are coming out of hibernation, the garbage scattered by handfuls is hard to ignore while driving the otherwise scenic roads. And that is truly a shame.

For every brigade of citizens who is out there cleaning up the mess, there are apparently plenty of others who either think throwing garbage on the street is amusing, or most likely don't think at all.

There must be a way for us to wake up our collective pride. It's great that we have an impressive number of community leaders and volunteers who are trying to make the Peninsula a better place to live. But it's hard to make a first good impression when you drive by a miles-long garbage dump.

As the Seattle writer noted, the “rustic charm” of this place is “on borrowed time in the economic engine of Puget Sound.” Can you picture the trash piles once the fast-food chains, new developments and many more people looking for a small-density, relatively peaceful suburbia begin moving in?

looking forlorn and lonely for a week without being touched. Each morning I woke up to a thick layer of ice on everything. It was enough to start melting the icing off the roof, releasing slowly the Necco wafers and Dove chocolate chimney. Not a nibble.

I was beginning to think all the birds in the area just don't trust people or know something I don't — when it started to rain.

After the first day of rain, I noticed two crows walking around the house in circles. After the second day of rain, there were five. The morning after the third day of rain, there were at least 12 — I can't be sure, there were so many!

So the answer is: To dispose nonwastefully of your beautiful but rock-hard gingerbread house, just put it outside and wait for rain. The birds will love you for it.

Karen Hale is a KP News staff writer and sales representative.

Gingerbread-house dilemma solved

By Karen Hale

Last month I put a request for suggestions in the paper asking for nonwasteful ways to dispose of a gingerbread house.

Tim Hall of Wauna wrote and said, “I had the same problem with leftover fruitcake. I set it outside next to my bird feeder. The birds loved it.”

He added, “At this cold time of year they need more high energy food so this can be a real benefit for them.” He indicated sugar and molasses won't hurt birds.

Well, I followed Tim's advice and set my beautiful gingerbread house out in my front pasture. My pasture is frequented by crows, robins, starlings, chickadees, killdeer, ducks, geese, eagles, hawks, guinea fowl and peacocks. You can imagine how hard it is in fall to actually harvest any vegetables.

That gingerbread house sat out there

Letters to the Editor

Group thanks community

Editor's note: This letter was intended for publication in the February issue; however, it was omitted. We apologize to the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center for the delay.

Once again, this community has amazed and humbled us here at the Children's Home Society Key Peninsula Family Resource Center. The outpouring of generosity during the recent holidays toward the children of our community was incredible. Individuals, families, businesses, schools, service organizations, and churches rallied so no child in need went without gifts and holiday cheer.

At our Family Center we coordinated gift giving and receiving for 436 children from the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor. We had dozens of sponsors who “adopted” anonymous children's requests and many other generous donations, which we were able to distribute through our free Holiday Shop, in space graciously provided to us by Fire District 16.

We would not have been able to get all those gifts to the children in time for Christmas without the capable assistance of many volunteers who stepped up, during their own busy holiday season, to help us. We are forever grateful to our “elves.” They truly made a gigantic difference in the success of this endeavor.

As the saying goes, “It takes an entire village to raise a child.” Our village has clearly demonstrated that it values all its children. We thank everyone very much.

*The staff of the Children's Home Society
Key Peninsula Family Resource Center*

Scouts thank contributors

Cub Scout Pack 222 would like to thank the many people who have helped our Pack fulfill its goals this past year. The owners of the Home Country Store and Key Center Auto Repair were wonderful in letting us set up our popcorn and wreath sales outside their establishments. Due to these sales, the boys earned enough money to go to Cub Scout camp this summer without cost to their parents.

Mike and Gary Andersen of Lakebay Pottery designed and gave us two beautiful donation jars that are not only great to have for many of our functions but look fabulous sitting on a shelf when not in use. Angel Guild donated the money for our Pack's new pinewood derby timer. For anyone who has practically gone blind trying to judge these races you know what an awesome donation that is!

KP Video gave us various donations that helped with many projects. The Longbranch Improvement Club members helped in many ways, from purchasing popcorn and wreaths to letting us use the building for functions and teaching our boys about their community. The Lakebay Church, as our chartered organization, also repeatedly helped us out.

Some people find fault with their neighbors, their area or their way of life but the boys in our Pack have found this community to be filled with people willing to be good friends and neighbors, whether they give one of the boys a donation for camp and leave without saying a word, or wave and smile at the boys as they are working on a project. These boys have learned that even though they live in an area with “nothing to do” and “nowhere to go,” there is always something coming up with people who care.

*Vicky Lilyblade
Cub Scout Pack 222*

Writer offers counterview

I'm sorry so many physicians are being adversely affected by major increases in their malpractice insurance premiums (*see Letters to the Editor, February issue—KPN*). But I'm also sorry they have decided that the way to solve their problem is to squeeze financial relief out of the victims of malpractice and to pressure Rep. Pat Lantz to give up her efforts to protect the Constitutional rights of these victims.

We've heard a lot of numbers from the physicians lately. Here are a few they haven't mentioned:

80 percent of the malpractice lawsuits nationally involve just 5 percent of the doctors. Wouldn't it make sense to get those doctors into some other business?

Of the five states with the highest premiums, four have caps on the amount of damages victims can be awarded by a jury for pain and suffering. In those four states, insurance premiums have not gone down. Maybe a cap on insurance premiums would be helpful. But I guess no one wants to go up against the insurance lobby (big contributors in elections).

We keep hearing about how great the damage award cap is working in California. It was passed about 25 years ago, and it doesn't have an inflation allowance, or by now the \$250,000 cap would be over \$500,000. Are there any physicians out there who would agree to not raising their fees for 25 years, regardless of inflation?

*Marty Marcus
Home*

Project under moratorium

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

An apparent language barrier and cultural differences may have propelled a project in Vaughn to the top of Pierce County's worst land-use violations. After a resident inquiry in 2002 into work around a lake on a private property off Wright-Bliss Road, county inspectors discovered that "massive work" was done on the site without any permits, including an expansion of the lake, vegetation clearing and major grading. Violations were also found on the site's wetland and the dam on the lake.

"It was amazing to see the scale of what was done without permits," said county Senior Planner Adonais Clark. "DNR (state Department of Natural Resources) ultimately determined a violation of forest practices rules, and Pierce County was obligated to put a six-year moratorium on two of the parcels in November 2002."

Tacoma-based Slavic Christian Center, which owns the three parcels of about 20 acres each, has requested for the moratorium to be lifted. Although specific plans

for the project are not clear, they indicate the building of a "church camp." Kegel Engineering has since been hired to represent the center, and the company's Fred Kegel said most of the church representatives only speak Russian and usually have to use translators. Key Peninsula News calls to the center, both in Russian and English, were not returned.

According to media articles, the Slavic Christian Center is one of Tacoma's largest churches, with more than 2,000 members, most of whom are immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Little English is spoken at the church; services are in Russian.

For the moratorium to be lifted, the Slavic Center is required to submit various mitigation plans, including for the wetlands and the grading. The departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology are reviewing some of the violations because the area has beavers and the dam may have impact on salmon migration.

The county will recommend lifting the moratorium as soon as all the information is submitted and requirements are met, and a public hearing will be scheduled.

News Briefs

KP Lutheran Church scores on 'Souper Sunday'

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church in Lakebay organized a soup drive on Feb. 1, Super Bowl Sunday. Parishioners were asked to bring cans or packages of condensed, dried or instant soup on "Souper Sunday." The church was participating in the campaign sponsored by the national Lutheran Church (ELCA) to fight hunger.

Historically, there is a rise in domestic violence following the Super Bowl football game. The soup collected was donated to the Key Peninsula I.M.Pact Safe House for victims of domestic violence. I.M.Pact House is sponsored by the Interdenominational Missions Pact Key Peninsula.

For additional information, contact P. Jay Werner, World Hunger Task Force, Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, at 884-4191 or dpjay@comcast.net; or Penny Gazabat, Domestic Violence Advocate, I.M.Pact KP, at 884-9944, or email impactkp@aol.com.


KP News needs site links

The Key Peninsula News Website is continuously growing, with monthly articles and other information posted online. You can now read selected stories, download the entire newspaper, submit your news, and find out deadlines and advertising information online at www.keypennews.com.

A community page was created where local organizations will be featured. If your nonprofit organization serves Key Peninsula residents and has a Website, submit your link along with a two- or three-sentence description by email to news@keypennews.com.

Hospital rebuts opponents

Franciscan Health System completed its final step in February toward gaining approval from the Department of Health to build a 112-bed hospital in Gig Harbor. The hospital submitted a 50-page document to the state in response to the two organizations that have formally opposed the project, MultiCare Health System in Tacoma and Harrison Hospital in Bremerton. For details, see www.fhshealth.org.



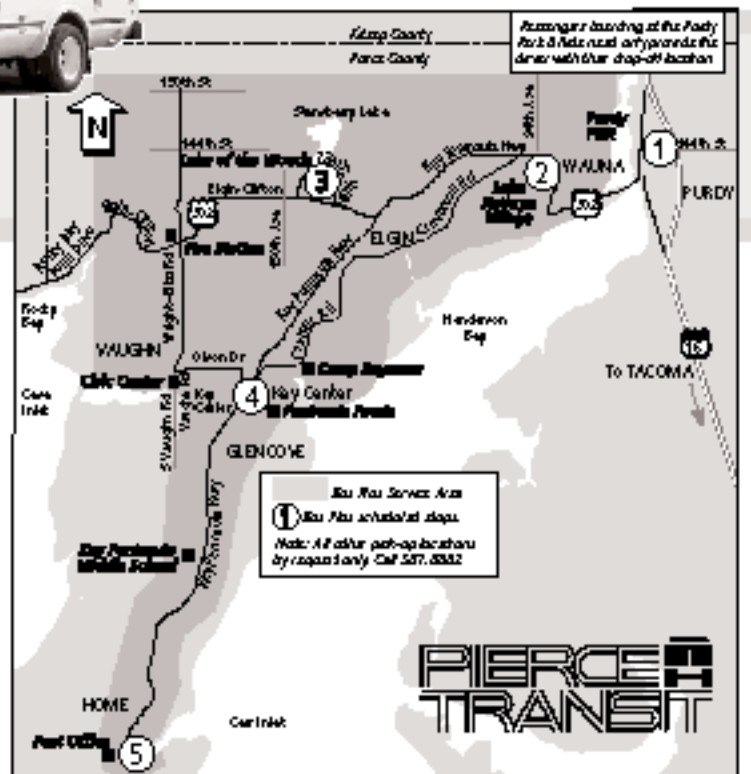
Bus PLUS

The Way to Go on Key Peninsula

Bus PLUS operates weekdays between the Purdy Park & Ride and the Key Peninsula. Bus PLUS is designed to meet the transportation needs of the entire community, including those who may have difficulty getting to established bus stops.

The fare is just \$1.25, with discounts for qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities.

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



Bus PLUS Service Area

Passenger boarding at the Purdy Park & Ride must accompany the driver with their drop-off location.

Bus Plus Service Area
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 Make all other pick-up locations by request only. Call 581.8002

PIERCE TRANSIT

Couple recognized for gift to fire district

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Sheryl and Ricard Raber of Kingston and their daughters Katherine, 10, and Elizabeth, 11, recently made a generous donation to Fire District 16. The Board of Fire Commissioners recognized the family at a recent meeting with a certificate of appreciation.

"We gave a \$2,000 gift to the Fire District after they helped us out in a time of need," Ricard Raber explained the gesture.

The donation was used to purchase a 9-1-1 simulator and a Sparky dog costume used in fire prevention presentations at local schools.

"Their generous gift has provided us with two fantastic tools to have in our proverbial toolbox," Capt. Paul Bosch of KPFD's Fire and Injury Prevention Division said.

"The 9-1-1 simulator will prove most helpful in educating Key Peninsula families how the 9-1-1 system works, when and how to access it, and what information they will be asked during a 9-1-1



Katherine, 10, Ricard, Sheryl, and Elizabeth, 11, Raber together with "Sparky," an anonymous firefighter in the costume used to gain children's attention in the fire department's continuing fire prevention presentations at local schools.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

call. Sparky has been a great aid in our delivery of fire and injury prevention messages to the Key Peninsula children," he said.

At the meeting, Bosch demonstrated the 9-1-1 simulator with an actual fire call.

During the call, a child is reporting a fire and providing details sought by the

Fire Com officer in the conversation. The child conducted herself exactly as the fire service would wish. Bosch said that when asked, the little girl said she did what she did because she "learned it from firefighters at her school."

"The Rabers' gift will prove instrumental in our endeavor to prevent injuries and save lives," Bosch said.

New Brief

Metro park creation committee moves forward

The Pierce County Council will be voting in March on the request to create a Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, and if the proposal is approved, it will be placed on the May 18 ballot. Councilman Terry Lee, who represents the Key Peninsula area, says the council will most likely approve the request, which has already been examined by the Boundary Review Board.

Residents will concurrently vote on whether a metropolitan park district should be created, and elect the new commissioners. The top five candidates with the most votes will become part of the board. The filing period will be announced by the county once the measure is approved by the council.

A group is meeting to promote the creation. The group, headed by chair Ben Thompson, needs residents to help in committees, including marketing, finance and elections. Anyone interested may contact Thompson at 857-5075.

 *Nature's Renewal* 

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Tickets will be sold at
Sunny Crest Nursery
and at the Civic Center.

Community House has change of plans, new dream

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

After months of dreaming up an expansion and renovation of its aging building, the Key Peninsula Community Services finds itself in a dilemma several months ago. Not only did the Army engineers from Fort Lewis—who promised to do all the work for free—got deployed to Iraq, but the building permits for the expansion were declined. Due to the building's structure, its well and septic system cannot be upgraded—and the upgrades are required for an expansion.

The building is already overoccupied, and many potential new services and programs are on hold due to lack of space, says Director Cristi Watson. Especially lacking are services for seniors, and with the food bank spread throughout the two stories and the constant moving of food around, the main room of the building cannot accommodate any additional events.

"Sixteen percent of the Key Peninsula

"Once we get the land, I think there are enough people to help with barn raising, that's how the Peninsula is. It should be a community effort."

-Cristi Watson, KPCS director

residents are seniors, and we are only serving 2 percent," she said. "People would like to come but we don't have the programs to bring them, and we can't bring them in without separating the food bank from the other programs."

As population grows and ages, however, there is no doubt in the minds of KPCS volunteers that demand will continue to increase. The two choices are obvious: Either make do and not serve any more people, or build a new center, Watson said.

The board has been looking for commercial land of at least 20 acres between Key Center and Longbranch because that area has the highest concentration of seniors. Although the choices of commercial

properties are slim, Watson says they are hopeful that something could turn out, along with funding.

The new dream is ambitious: a 6,500-square-foot, two-story building that would double the current space and take care of any future growth needs, add conference room space, a small gym, a senior day care, and plenty of wiggle space for new programs.

No specific plans can be made until a piece of land is secured, Watson said. And once the land is in hand, she is confident the center can raise the money needed to build it. The Army unit will be ready to help in 2006 as well. In fact, while they are no longer available for a remodeling, the engineers are excited to build a new structure, Watson said.

"Once we get the land, I think there are enough people to help with barn raising, that's how the Peninsula is," Watson said. "It should be a community effort."

KPCS has recently applied for a grant through a Pierce County program, and was one of only seven finalists in February. The organization will know by the end of this month whether its \$426,000 request is approved. Watson said even a partial funding would be welcome, because it would allow for the project to be done in phases.

In the meantime, while no new walls can be built onto the Community House, a renovation is still planned to move the food bank downstairs. And since the Fort Lewis soldiers who offered free work are out fighting the war, KPCS will have to pay about \$12,000 in labor, for a total of about \$43,000.

Watson says if the grant application is not approved for the new center, they will keep trying for others.

"We are at the end of our building space, we have to move," she said.

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Show & Tell

Before local schools closed for a week's vacation in February, students young and old were busy doing what they do best...learning and having fun. We caught up with a few of them.

Brianna Miller, a Vaughn Elementary first grade student, gets her turn at releasing salmon fingerlings into Vaughn Creek. Each year, fourth grade students in the class of teacher Doug Smith, who is also a veterinarian, raise salmon from eggs, and students from different grade levels participate in the release.



Photo by Hugh McMillan



Peninsula High School's Debate Team, under the direction of coach Barbara Trotter, departed for Boston, Mass., on "lucky" Friday, the 13th of February, to enter national competitions at Harvard University. The trip, a prestigious honor, gave testimony to the group's excellence in competitions to date. Members on the trip were: seated, Andriana Fletcher, Jolene Hauser-Smith, Sierra Fein, Shannon Gildea, and Lauren Johnson; standing: Jon Stefan, Maura Lewis, Chris Lewis, Ben Jevas, and David Trotter.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Key Peninsula Middle School band teacher Meg Mansfield has received a grant to begin an Afro-Caribbean hand-drumming ensemble, awarded through the Peninsula Schools Education Foundation. The equipment arrived in mid-February. Pictured here are seventh and eighth grade students who were the first ones to try the drums as soon as they were unpacked. An ensemble will be formed as soon as all students get their turn on the drums, Mansfield said.

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- Rody E. Wallace, President,
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Minter students honor, entertain grandparents on special day

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Minter Creek Elementary's annual Grandparents' Day in mid-February was such a huge success, cars were everywhere around the building and some had to walk the equivalent of two city blocks to join the fun.

In addition to accompanying grandparents on a tour of the facility, the kids staged the main event in the gymnasium which, with students seated on the floor, was jammed with an audience that flowed out into the halls and entrances.

The main event was a large chorus of first graders clad in "cow" costumes and masks singing and moving to what were officially declared to be "Mooooo songs." One lady enthusiastically described the performance as "adorable."

It was so good that after everything had ended, the gym emptied and everyone was munching cookies, cupcakes and drinking lemonade provided by Victoria Hawkins and the PTA, on learning that someone had missed the performance, the kids reassembled from their classrooms, recostumed, and joyfully exploded with an encore performance.

Principal Steve Leitz said, "We plan to



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Erica Ma, Emily Soule, and Rebecca Wolf, fifth graders, sing "The Candy Man."

contact the dairy industry to provide a video we've made of this and hope that it will be included in one of their 'Got Milk' promotions. Wouldn't that be great?"

Thirteen wonderful performances in all included renditions of "A, You're Adorable," "The Candy Man," a piano and cello duo with "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah," and a recorder trio that performed the theme music from "Titanic."

The walls of the gymnasium were adorned with the work of student artists' portrait renditions of their grandparents. Some were even rather recognizable.



The Minter Elementary "cows" were so adorable, you could almost hear the milkman say, "Got Milk?" In fact, Principal Steve Leitz hopes that after submitting a taped version to the industry, that's exactly what the Minter students will be asking.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Fish undergo 'autopsy' in Vaughn Elementary School classrooms



First and second graders in teacher Marcie Cummings' classroom first studied the fish, then drew and learned facts about it. The scientists traveled through many of Vaughn's classrooms with their portable "laboratory."

Photo courtesy of Marcie Cummings

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Students from several grade levels at Vaughn Elementary recently spent three days of exposure to marine life through the teachings of David Neault of the Poulsbo Marine Science Center under sponsorship of the U.S. Navy's Undersea Museum at Bangor submarine base. This was hands-on education, as the kids dealt with full-size chum salmon that were dead but brought to their desks from Neault's ice chests.

The youngsters were involved with what was essentially an autopsy and handled and learned about the fish's various

organs. Part of the program involved observing preserved salmon eggs and the development stages through which the eggs become fingerling salmon. They learned how the external structure and life cycle of salmon compare to those of insects and how to communicate these observations in words and drawings.

The Vaughn students have had the advantage of watching real live eggs develop into salmon in an aquarium in Vaughn's hallway in which the whole process took place before their eyes daily and which culminated when the kids released the developed fingerlings into Vaughn Creek the day before winter break.

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(From WAUNA, Page 1)

The adjacent Purdy Spit is just as notorious for cars landing in the water, with two such accidents on the same day recently.

The traffic congestion and safety problems were brought to the forefront the last couple of months, when local residents cited traffic as their primary concern with restoring the dilapidated historic Wauna post office. They have complained for years about the dangers, they said, but no one is listening.

"It's a pretty dangerous stretch of road: It has several blinding curves, lots of driveways with limited sight and there is no shoulder — so when vehicles back down, they block the roadway," said Washington State Patrol's Trooper Johnny Alexander. "We've had quite a few head-on collisions this year."

Last year, there were 70 collisions reported between mileposts 13 and 15 — approximately from the intersection of State Route 302 with Creviston Drive and the crosswalk at the end of the Purdy Spit. In 2001, two people died on that stretch.

Some blame is shared by motorists, oblivious to the 30-40 mph speed limit. "The commuters drive way too fast, 50 to 60 miles per hour, so we do write quite a few tickets there when we have the chance," Alexander said. The trend is certainly not unique. Speed is the No. 1 cause of accidents in all regions of the state, with 32.5 percent of accidents blamed on excessive speeds in the Olympic Region that includes Pierce County.

While Wauna curves are one of the most dangerous areas in the county on this side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, they impact the entire highway. Ask anyone who lives further down the road. "When anything happens on Purdy Spit...it blocks off Creviston," a resident noted at a recent Wauna building meeting. "In one week I heard six wrecks. Come see what the jam does past the spit. It's a long drive around."

According to Washington Department

Meeting planned

A "town meeting" on April 6, at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center, will discuss traffic issues. Councilman Terry Lee, Sen. Bob Oke, and Reps. Pat Lantz and Lois McMahan are expected to attend. Call Nancy Lind at 884-3347 for details.

of Transportation's 1996 Washington State Highway Accidents report, the latest one available, the multiyear accident rate at milepost 15.85—near the Purdy intersection—was 3.4. Same report showed the rate on the Narrows Bridge, that poster child of traffic danger, at 1.6. Even the interchange area with Interstate 5, another area with frequent crashes, had an accident rate of 3.2.

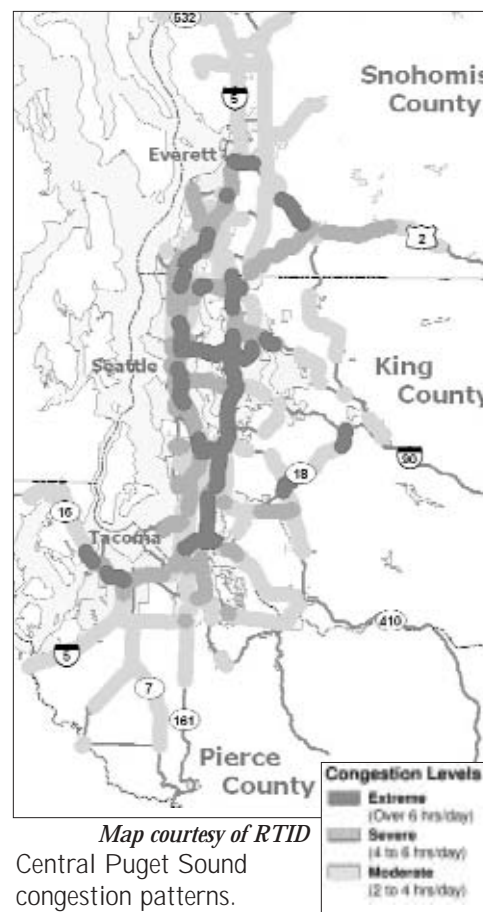
SR-302 called 'not critical'

So with the obvious safety issues SR-302 has demonstrated for years, what would it take to see some improvements? After all, voters here, like everyone else, are contributing their 5-cent-a-gallon tax to fix roads.

The problem is that SR-302 is not considered a "highway of state significance," which makes any state funding not impossible but certainly not likely. Even on the list of highways of regional significance, SR-302 is classified by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) as tier 3 of 3. Only tier 1 highways are recommended for mitigation—which usually refers to congestion.

"Unfortunately, (a road) becomes a priority when we have enough accidents or loss of life," said Sen. Bob Oke, who represents Legislative District 26. "The Burley-Olalla Intersection has been that way for years."

Oke has been pushing for the Burley-Olalla intersection fixes, with an overpass slated to be built in 2011 and funded with the "nickel tax." Oke has introduced a bill to move completion to 2009, closer to com-



Map courtesy of RTID
Central Puget Sound
congestion patterns.

pletion of the second Narrows Bridge. The bill, approved by the Senate in February, had moved to the House.

It's that planned overpass, along with the second bridge and the widening of State Route 16, that could bring even more challenges to the Key Peninsula's overtaxed roads. "The new bridge will unlock the door to the Key Peninsula," said Councilman Terry Lee.

The same view was echoed in 1992 by an SR-302 corridor study commissioned by the Legislature. "The population growth in the greater Puget Sound region has made the Peninsula a popular location for new developments. Its relatively large pool of underdeveloped land has attracted people looking for affordable land and homes...As this formerly rural region becomes more suburbanized, pres-

sure on existing transportation facilities will continue to erode the level of service along SR-302," the report stated.

The report made several suggestions for congestion mitigation, including constructing a preferred alternative in the long term. But that's as far as it went. No further funding for the highway was earmarked, and as other priorities float to the top, SR-302 does not. Since Legislature often favors congestion priorities, and SR-302 has the lowest rated congestion — moderate — it's easy to see why it could remain a low priority.

Improvements to the highway, including widening and several cross-section improvements, are outlined in the Washington State's Highway System Plan for 2003-2022. But the plan is "unconstrained," unprioritized. A summit of various agencies later this year will devise a constrained plan, which will identify projects likely to be funded in the next 20 years. "Having a study done is a major step," said Vicki Steigner, assistant planning manager for WSDOT Olympic Region. "It's a strategy at this point because it's not funded yet...To rank it higher, the strategy is to work with legislators and the PSRC to make sure it's a priority."

According to Steigner, PSRC's recommendations for prioritizing hold a lot of weight. But PSRC representatives say SR-302 hasn't been identified as a critical problem. What would it take to place it on the improvements map? PSRC's regional strategy adviser, King Cusham, agrees that grass-roots efforts often succeed, and cites some examples. County, state and even federal elected officials do listen, he says, as long as there is a well-documented case with merit.

Perhaps it's not that no one is listening, as Wauna residents have complained. Perhaps they just aren't loud enough.

Next month:

A look at one proposal via a Regional Transportation Improvement District.

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(From **CITIZENS**, Page 2)

judgment is so keen that he is sought out by Vaughn's principal and others for advice and counsel on a regular basis. He has volunteered district-wide to assist with levy campaigns, has testified on issues of importance to our school board at board meetings, and continually gives constructive suggestions to all levels of school leadership.

Claudia Jones has long been a dedicated volunteer firefighter/EMT in her Herron Island community and has frequently taken and shared training in emergency procedures provided by the Key Peninsula Fire Department. She serves as a volunteer at Key Peninsula Middle School, eager to help staff and students. She greets visitors and files grade cards for the secretaries. She and husband Bill provide a fun and healthy

social outlet with weekly clogging dance classes at the KP Community Center. She has helped with ideas for speakers for the Community Service class in KPMS' After 'OURS program.

Deedee Kerkes should be Citizen of the Year for 2003 and beyond. She can be seen on a daily basis at the front desk of the Key Center Fire station, where her primary job is answering phones and performing office duties. With the stressful work she does, you'd think she would go home and rest at the day's end. Not Deedee. She continues as a volunteer medical responder and volunteer chaplain for the fire district in the evenings. She instructs Herron Island responders, which often involves taking a small boat to the island in bad weather and bad water. She is a one-woman rehab team for firefighters to whom she is "mother." She gets up and looks after firefighters and

cooks for them when they work the long nights. This year she was the lead for the "Angel Tree Project," coordinating with other local agencies to provide Christmas for those of our community who otherwise wouldn't have one.

Tim Kezele loves this community, to which he has contributed countless hours as the founder and president of the Key Peninsula Historical Society, a former member of the Board of Directors of the KP Parks and Recreation District, caring for the lawns at the KP Sports Center and Fairgrounds, performing limitless maintenance tasks there, scrounging light fixtures, mirrors, furniture, or whatever for the park and Civic Center, and just being there for anyone and anything to improve the quality of life on our peninsula.

Olivia Konicek, a freshman at Peninsula High School where she is a 4.0

GPA student, is a real role model for her peers and other youngsters. She took woodshop in the seventh grade at Key Peninsula Middle School and turned out to be a natural. She made several Adirondack chairs for her parents and one for an auction for her alma mater, Evergreen Elementary School, which raised \$270. She decided to make chairs for a business to raise money and has broadened out to make other things as well, bread/cutting boards, trivets, Christmas ornaments, etc. At the age of 14, she obtained a business license. She has an inherent need to do excellent work, not tolerating sloppiness. She plays piano, basketball and softball.

Amy Livingood Nelsen, a senior at Peninsula High School, is a role model for other young people. She has volun-

(See **CITIZENS**, Page 26)

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Sustainable living on the Key Peninsula

By Karen Hale
KP News

Since he was a teen, Ed Bressette learned how hard it is to pay bills once you reach adulthood.

As he grew up in New York, the winters could be brutally cold. His dad wondered many times aloud what he could do to lower the heating bills, and began researching alternatives for making their house more insulated against the cold. Many things were possible, but as it turned out, there wasn't much help available.

Through trials and errors, Bressette's dad tinkered and figured out ways to help lower their energy costs, such as changing his hot water heater to solar hot water panels and building a greenhouse onto the house that was heated with wood. It also did something else — begin a lifelong passion in Bressette to make life cheaper for everyone, not just his family.

Bressette believes everyone can live in a "sustainable" way. This means being self-sufficient. He likes to tell people, "The more creative you are, the cheaper it will be."

He certainly doesn't lack in creativity: He's got everything from solar panels and a wind generator for electricity to a tractor he built of scrap materials that runs on biodiesel made out of cooking oil.

Bressette built the house he shares with his wife, Dana, and son, Sky. Lots could be done to make it more efficient, and so he did— including using cellulose in a way that makes insulation more



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Ed Bressette would like to see the solar collector, pictured here on the side of his greenhouse, become available commercially again. He says the collector is incredibly efficient and he has detailed plans for how it works.

effective and even choosing a special shape for the house. It has a "clear story," an upper floor with nothing but windows on one side that face to the east. This creates a natural draft that cools the house in the summer, and helps maintain energy efficiency all year long.

Bressette likes to remind people that construction sites and yard sales are some of the best places to get materials for building. Many parts of his house were built using recycled doors, windows, flooring, beams, and bricks. He has a trailer for hauling his tractor that he made himself out of mobile home axles and steel roof joists. Even his log splitter is made out of an I-beam, and he manufactured the rest himself (including hydraulics).

His wife, Dana, loves plants (*See KP News, February 2004 issue*). He built a greenhouse onto the south side of the house — the sunny side in this area. The plants thrive there in spring, summer and fall.

In winter, the greenhouse gets some heat when Dana turns on the dryer vented directly into it. The greenhouse also has what Bressette calls "passive heating," which in this case are the bricks that comprise the floor. The sun heats the bricks, and in evenings when the sun lowers, the heat rises from the bricks

into the air. This can happen any day that the sun makes enough of an appearance to make some heat — even through some clouds.

Bressette has set up his hot water system in a brilliant way. He created an "on demand" system that can save up to 75 percent of a regular hot water tank gas system. It has sensors that detect alternate sources, so it won't turn on unless it needs to. There is also a connection in the water system that runs a copper pipe from a hot water tank set in an attic eave above the house. This tank is full of water that runs down a wall and through the wall to the wood stove, and is coiled around the stovepipe many times. When

Next month:

Read about wind generators, biodiesel, chicken tractors and Yurts at Camp Seymour, as well as Bressette's tip on sustainable and efficient house insulation.

the water heats up, it naturally rises up to the tank, and when someone wants to use hot water, it comes from that source first. Naturally heated hot water!

Bressette has been a major factor in creating the Northwest Solar Group. The group is dedicated to living in a self-sustaining method and teaching others how to do the same. They meet the last Tuesday of every month, as well as hold workshops and educational seminars to get the word out. They participate in the Vashon Island Fair every year. Last year, they provided hot water showers to campers and LED lights generated from solar wind — which they put on the Fair Jester. According to Bressette, the Northwest Solar Energy group was the largest group there for this type of demonstration.

They are all dedicated to self-sustained living, and some are so efficient at it, they are even selling extra energy back to the power companies.

Bressette himself would gladly teach and inform anyone who wants to learn all about this great way to live efficiently. He says that on average, his family's utility bill is \$20 per month. The only reason he has a bill at all is because he still needs to set up a system to run the well pump.

Pretty impressive for a high school educated handyman.

To learn more

The Northwest Solar Group meets last Tuesday of the month at Happy Days in Lakewood off Bridgeport at 7 p.m. The group hopes to publish periodicals for hands-on projects.

If you are interested in joining this group or have questions, call Ed Bressette at 884-6225.

For ideas on self-sufficient or "green" living, try these sources:

"Voluntary Simplicity" by Daniel Doherty (Gallagher Press)

Home Power magazine, online at homepower.com (note: Feb/March 2003 issue features Vashon Island resident Scott Durkee who talks about "getting off the grid" and biodiesel).

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Printing and Presentation - April 23

How Home got its name...

By Sylvia Retherford
Special to KP News

Sylvia Tyhurst was one of eight children and the only one of them who wished to go to college. The family finally allowed her to attend the University of Toronto near their home. She became the first woman to receive a four-year degree from that university.

In her first two years there, she met George Allen and after graduation they

Sylvia Allen named the new village Home because they had moved so often, she never wanted to do it again.

were married, much to her parents' chagrin: He held strong leftist views on both religion and politics.

Their first daughter, Grace, was born in Toronto while George was teaching there but they decided to come to the Pacific Northwest to join his father, who had moved a year earlier. The railroad across to Portland, Ore., had recently been com-

pleted. It was a 10-day trip, quite an experience with a baby.

They lived in Tacoma briefly and then moved to the Glennis Colony near Eatonville, where daughters Leila and Georgia were born. They were not pleased with life in Glennis so along with two other families, the Verities and the O'Dells including their 10 children, they moved back to Tacoma.

In the late summer of 1895, the three men built a rowboat to explore parts of Puget Sound where they could afford to buy property. The depression of 1893 was not over yet so the families needed suitable land on which to produce food. The southeast-facing slopes had just been logged on Von Geldern Cove. The stump land sold for \$2.50 an acre in large plots. The three men arranged to buy 26 acres and moved their families there on Feb. 10, 1896.

Sylvia Allen named the new village Home because they had moved so often, she never wanted to do it again. She didn't.

These first settlers were well educated. The Allens were both teachers. School started for the children the next day after arrival. Soil preparation for gardens among the giant stumps started immediately and shelters for each family were

built. The dynamite to eradicate one stump cost \$2.50 as well as an acre of the land.

George Allen's father, Oliver Hazard Perry Allen, is buried under a holly tree near the Allen property line. Oliver died so soon after coming to live in Home that the surveying had not been accomplished yet, so he was buried in the neighbor's yard by mistake.

Sylvia Retherford is the granddaughter of Home settlers George and Sylvia Allen; Leila was her mother.

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Blues drummer follows lifelong passion

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Tom Morgan, drummer and percussionist with "Little Bill and the Bluenotes," decided as a young adult to be a professional musician. At 18, he knew he wanted to pursue something in the field of arts, and worked at painting and writing. When he discovered he could earn more money playing drums, his future was determined.

Although he didn't play in the high school band in Tacoma, he had a drum set at home. His uncle and grandfather were both drummers. In the late 50s, he played Bongo drums at coffee houses, and one night took his drum set with him. He and a piano player became a team.

After graduating from the Oscar Peterson School of Music in Toronto, in 1962 Morgan asked to "sit in" and play drums with a small band, "Little Bill & The Bluenotes," performing at a club in Tacoma—and was hired on the spot.

That was in 1962, and Morgan has been with "Little Bill" Engelhart ever since, except for a few years when he toured with a country band and did other gigs.

Engelhart, from Tacoma, has become a Northwest legend in Rhythm and Blues music. Morgan is the only member of the current band who goes "way back" over 40 years with him. They are friends as well as fellow musicians.

Morgan has been the recipient of The Atlas Cole Bluesman Award and The Joe Johansen Memorial Award for

Excellence. The band has won many awards, including the 2002 Washington Blues Society's "Best Traditional Act." Their CD "Naked Blues" was called Best Northwest CD by both Washington Blues Society and Real Blues Magazine in 1999.

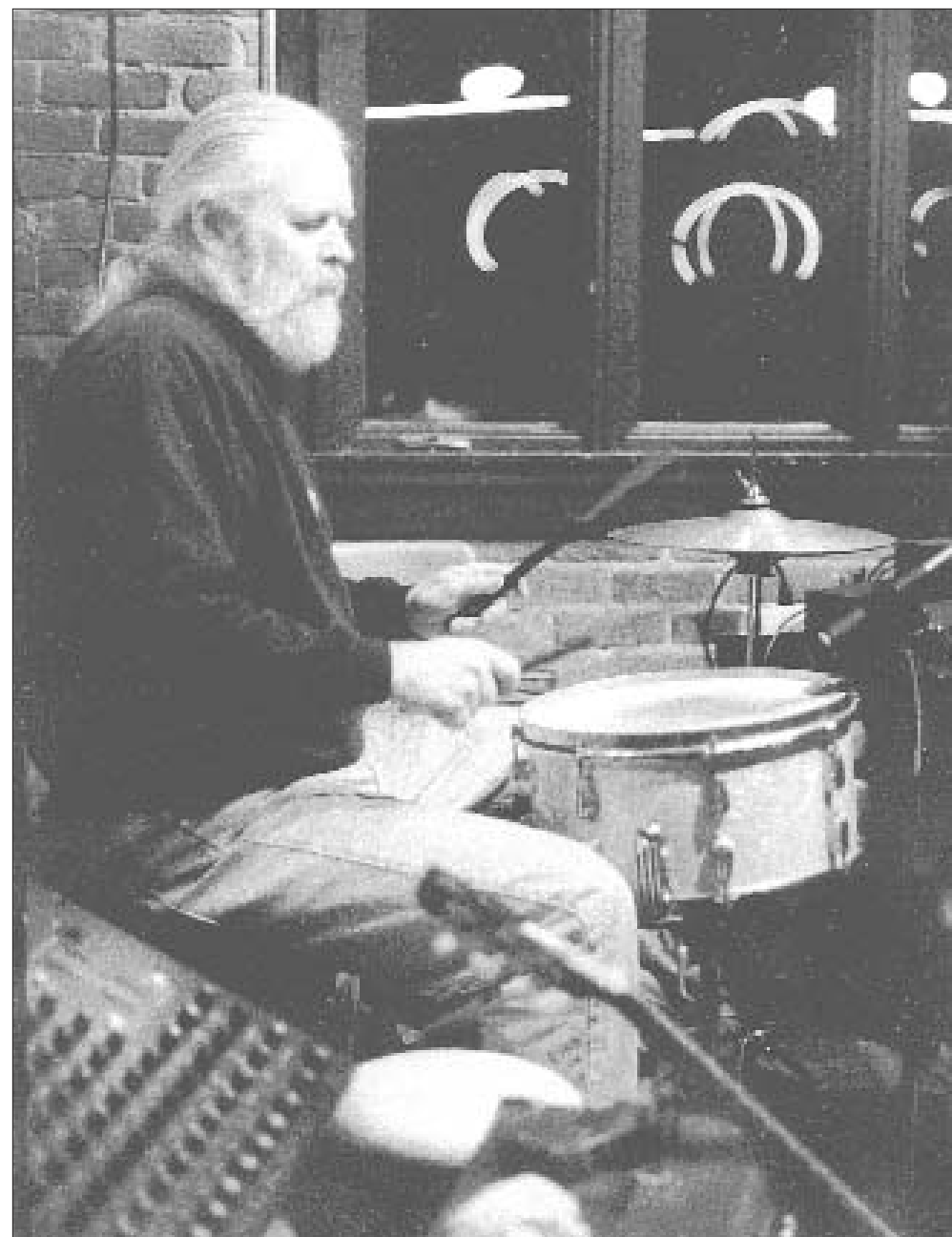
Full-time musicians, they play in bars, schools, churches, stores and at various festivals. They are a fixture at the annual 4th of July Waterfront Blues Festival in Portland, Ore.

The band has traveled as far as Idaho, and various places in Washington and Oregon, but for the most part, they play around Puget Sound. The current harmonica player, who also plays keyboard, is Dick Powell. His father was a band-leader who played at the Longbranch Improvement Club and the Vaughn Civic Center.

Morgan recalls playing at The Mint, in Pike Place Market, one of his favorite venues. He enjoyed those years of being with the people gathered there, and the enthusiastic response of the crowd to their band.

During the '60s, Morgan often visited friends who lived on the lower peninsula, and it fed his dream of moving to a rural location where he could build his own house. When the Tacoma Dome was sited, his house and property were part of the projected location, so in 1981, he and his wife, Edie, left Tacoma and moved to Longbranch. He has done most of the work on their home himself.


Tom Morgan has found his niche as a professional musician, playing the blues music he loves.



"Little Bill"

To see photos of Tom and the band, hear a sample of their music, or learn more about them, go to their Website, www.havemusic.com/littlebill. The band took February off, but their March schedule includes playing in Silverdale, Tacoma and places farther North on the Sound.

Photo courtesy of Spar Tav
Tom Morgan and his passion—drumming.



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Longbranch couple sails 'round the world

By Keith Stiles
Special to KP News

Former Longbranch residents Jeff and Debbie Hartjoy are now nearly four years into their planned 15-year trip around the world in their 39-foot sailing vessel, "Sailor's Run."

The couple, well known on the Key Peninsula for their participation in local events and in the Longbranch Improvement Club, had sold their home and most of their possessions and shoved off from the Longbranch dock on what will undoubtedly be the major event of their lives.

After sailing down the West Coast of the United States, Jeff and Debbie overwintered in Mexico, then set off for a solo sail of 2,800 miles to the west, visiting many different islands and spending time in Fiji and in New Zealand. While visiting islands with largely native populations, Debbie found friends among the women of some of the tribes, and taught them to sing new songs and perform new dances.

Throughout their sailing time so far, the couple has found a large number of other Americans on far-reaching cruises in the South Pacific, more or less resembling "an American colony afloat." The Hartjoys stay in communication with friends and families by email handled through a special marine radio service.

Last October, the couple turned north from New Zealand and sailed to Betio Island in the Gilbert Island Group, arriving there during the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Tarawa, a terrible struggle for

While visiting islands with largely native populations, Debbie found friends among the women of some of the tribes, and taught them to sing new songs and perform new dances.

the 2nd Division of the U.S. Marines in November 1943. The Marines lost over 1,100 men in that battle, one of the fiercest ones in the history of the U. S. Marine Corps. Another 2,300 men were badly injured. The island group, re-named "Kiribati," became independent in 1978 and the native people now face the changes and challenges brought on by the encroachment of "the outside world."

Evidence of the great battle that happened on Betio in 1943 is easy to find. Jeff and Debbie were guided during their visit by Henry Paul Schutz, of German parentage, who, at age 16, had served as a "batman" to the Japanese island commander. The couple toured the relatively small island and viewed the still-obvious remnants of the battle.

Following their visit to Tarawa Atoll, Jeff and Debbie set the sails of "Sailor's Run" for a friendly port in the Marshall Islands, where they will enjoy the South Pacific away from the hurricane season until about April, then head toward other exotic destinations of the Far East, including Indochina.



Photos courtesy of Keith Stiles

Above, An American Marine Corps tracked vehicle remains where it was stopped during the landing on Betio Island. Insert, Live ammunition is still found on Betio 60 years after the major Marine Corps landing and battle there.



Below, Debbie Hartjoy with a Japanese 5-inch shell found on Betio Island (Tarawa); the shell has the fuse removed.



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News from TOPS #WA 1019, Vaughn

We are well into the new year, so tell me, how are you doing on your resolution to lose weight? Our group is staying focused and we have lost 26 ½ pounds in January! Members are supporting each other and building confidence. Support coupled with a change in eating patterns and moderate exercise is showing dramatic results! Wouldn't you like to be able to reach your goals too? TOPS meets every Tuesday evening from 7 to 8 in the VFW room next to the museum at Key Peninsula Civic Center. Doors open at 6 for weigh-in. If you would like more information, call 884-3456.

We will be holding election of officers next month, if you are interested in one of the available positions, please talk with any current officer. We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to our officers for their commitment and dedication this past year. Their enthusiasm and support has been indispensable to our group.

This year TOPS is having a membership special: When you join, your spouse gets to join for half-cost. The annual membership is \$20. We currently have three couples in our group.

The TOPS annual rummage sale will be held on April 24. Stop by and meet some of the TOPS members and maybe find a treasure or two. Hope to see you there!

—Carole Ramirez

Join the vegan potluck

Please join us for a raw vegan potluck on Sunday, March 7, at the Key Peninsula Library from 4-6 p.m. Please call 884-1954 for information on what to bring if you are new to raw dishes.

—Bob & Breezi Peterson

Angels ready for spring

The Angels have been doing a whirlwind of wish granting. At our Jan. 27 meeting, we were able to help five groups. We voted to sponsor a boy's team, a girl's team and another kind. Someone asked what other kind is there and after some consideration (and chuckles) it was decided the other had to be a co-ed team.

Again this year, we are able to help sponsor camp scholarships for underprivileged kids, to YMCA Camp Coleman. Two Waters Art Alliance does many things to raise money for art programs for our schools. We assist them financially in the form of a grant. They also apply for other grants as well as putting on the Spring Fling at the Civic Center March 6.

Key Peninsula Parks needs a scorekeeper's booth replaced. Some of our funds will help accomplish that with the assistance of a senior project. Evergreen Elementary will receive help in the form of toys for their fair.

A special thank you goes to Mindy at the Beauty Shop next door for donating her change collection. We appreciate all those good donations. Peninsula Market receipts are good donations too. Don't forget to save yours and bring them in.

We will be participating in the Livable Communities Fair by having a booth May 8 at the Civic Center. Hope to see you there.

We send wishes for all of you suffering from colds and flu to feel better soon but also send special wellness wishes to those others who have more challenging health issues to deal with.

Thought for the month: Nothing is as strong as gentleness or as gentle as strength.

— Mary Ramsdell

Evergreen Elementary ready for auction

Evergreen Elementary PTA is having an auction March 5 at the Longbranch Improvement Club. The spaghetti dinner and silent auction will start at 6 p.m., the live auction at 7 with Dana Yost of Stokes auction. The cost for dinner will be \$5 per person. Dessert will be available for \$2. Come, have fun, and help support the Evergreen children. For more information, call Becky Pitt at 884-6307 or Marcia Gibbons at 884-9577.

Historic Society features 'Our Home Town,' cruise

"Our Home Town" video will be the program for the March 25 quarterly meeting of the KP Historical Society. The social hour begins at 6 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting, including election of officers. The program will end the evening. Call Leona Britt, 884-3272 for more information.

The Key Peninsula Historical Museum is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m.

Tickets are still available for the Key Peninsula Cruise on April 4, sponsored by the KP and Gig Harbor Historical Societies. The boat leaves Gig Harbor at noon, pauses near a Narrows Bridge caisson, McNeil Island, Filucy Bay, with commentary at these and other points. It will continue as far as Vaughn Bay, and return to Gig Harbor about 4:30. Call Gig Harbor Historical Society at 858-6722 for more information. When you buy tickets, be



A trail in progress

Photo and story by Hugh McMillan

From foreground to back, Rita O'Neal, Reyes Johns, Cindy Reynolds, Rachel Connors, and Willetta Anderson, all inmates at the Washington Corrections Center for Women, helped with trail development in the 224 acre Rocky Creek Conservation Area on the Key Peninsula on Valentine's Day weekend. "These women do a really great job,"

said Caril Ridley, a Key Peninsula resident who works with various groups of volunteers to design and build trails. Ridley intends to seek office as a commissioner on the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Board of Directors, should the results of an election on May 18 authorize its formation.

For information on Key Peninsula Trails go to keypen.org, call Ridley at 884-5461 or email at carilridley@hotmail.com.

sure to note that you are either a member of or support the Key Peninsula Historical Society, as profits will be divided on the basis of that. Members of the Society are given a discount on ticket price.

Dental services available

The Northwest Medical Teams van will return to the Key Peninsula Community

Services throughout the year to provide basic dental services such as cavity fillings, extractions and root canals to low-income residents and seniors.

The dental van is scheduled for March 26, April 16, May 21, June 25 and July 16 & 23, and spots are being filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sign-up is required in advance, call 884-4440.

LakeBay Fuchsia Society has plant pre-sale

April 1 is the order deadline for LakeBay Fuchsia Society's annual pre-sale of a wide array of plants. Half or full flats may be ordered. Order forms may be obtained by calling Sandy at 884-4229. New this year are mixed bedding plants for sun or shade.

The Society's annual plant sale is set for Saturday, May 8 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. A large assortment of fuchsias, as well as annuals and perennials will be available. Proceeds help the society support many projects throughout the community, including the Peninsula High School scholarship program.

Fuchsia specialist Ove Pearson addresses pruning at the next monthly meeting of the group on March 4 at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Guests are welcome. Call Bev at 884-4229 for more information.

July Salmon Bake is organized

The Longbranch Community Church is planning its 4th annual July Salmon Bake. This fund-raising event will be July

24 at the Longbranch Improvement Club. The planning committee meets regularly to discuss the event.

Committee Chairman John Petersen states, "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.

— Gary O. Ostlund

Bayshore Garden Club meeting

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. at the Longbranch Fire Station on March 5. The hostess is Liz Fore. "Cattails" will be a presentation by Doris Boudreau, arrangement design by Edith Pinder. There will be a work party at the Longbranch Fire Station, Bring tools and wear work clothes if you choose to help in their garden. For information call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

PHS Class of '54 looking for classmates

With the 50th anniversary scheduled for next summer, the group is trying to locate all the people who went to Peninsula High school as Class of 1954.

Please call a number below if you know the whereabouts of any of these classmates: Paul Allen, Pat Allison, Jeannie Anderson, Edna Blandford, Norita Conklin, Robert Connors, Carolyn Crichfield, Loretta Cupper, Lavona Cusick, Ronald Early, Bill Graham, Dona

Harding, Howard Hardy, Judy Holcombe, Bill Lipscomb, Jeanette Magee, Tom Morrison, Lawrence Parshall, Barbara Paul, Barbara Phare, Ron Pretti, Del Prosser, Mary Schriver, James Slack, Carol Smith, Georgia Steveson, Phil Whitmarsh, Fern Williamson, Edwin Wright.

Call 884-5403, 858-3170 or 851-6950.

To include your event, email your press release to news@keypennews.com or fax it to 884-4053. The deadline is the third Monday of the month; late submissions are only consid-

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Spring is Coming

March-the month when winter ends and spring begins-when the whole Peninsula springs back to life. Hopefully our real estate market will also spring back from the winter doldrums!

Activity has been very slow during the last couple of months-as it has been throughout the Puget Sound Northwest Multiple Listing System (MLS). This inactivity is mainly due to the lack of listings throughout the Northwest Multiple Listing System and is certainly true on this peninsula. The number of listings in January in the MLS was down nearly 20% from 2003. If this trend continues it will certainly be a seller's market with prices going up.

All this means that it's definitely a great time to put your house on the market if you were considering selling this year. So call now for a free market analysis from one of our Windermere/Key Realty agents and get on the market early!



AFORDABLE WATERFRONT - \$119,000

Really cute home on 90' of lagoon waterfront at Madrona Point. The perfect vacation get-a-way or year round home on a very private lot. Stairs to low bank beach. This also includes beach access to Fibacy Bay. Great area for kayaking! ML #23120027



CUTE 3 BDRM HOME IN GATED COMMUNITY - \$137,000

Large kitchen, pantry, deck off living room, view of So. Sound, newer roof, and garden is loaded with interesting plants. Mostly new windows-all double paneled. Property includes beach rights for extra fun and enjoyment. ML #24000545



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Pristine low-bank waterfront on Fulry Bay. Dock and boat, deep-water moorage. Park-like acreage, groomed lawn with garden space and fruit trees. Home is in wonderful condition, 2bdrm plus den. Spacious rooms, lots of windows to enjoy the view. Garage/shop plus carport & greenhouse. Ample storage space on basement level ML #24012652



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4 BR, 2.5 BA home in desirable neighborhood in Port Orchard. Much detail to extras in this home. Let your imagination run wild with over 1/2 acre to work with.... garden, fruit trees, big toys?? Large 2 car garage w/workbench. Close to shopping and ferries ML #23071391



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Education was businessman's true passion

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Editor's note: This is part 2 of a story highlighting some of the accomplishments of Lakebay's Fred Haley. To read more, see the February issue of the Key Peninsula News.

Long before Gov. Gary Locke introduced a \$1 billion per year plan to help Washington's education, a group of citizens outlined a proposal to reform public education in the state. Calling it "The Paramount Duty" as a reference to the constitutional statement about public education, the group spent more than two years to come up with 53 recommendations and a \$260 million per year price tag.

That was 21 years ago, and the man who chaired that committee, Key Pen resident Fred Haley, says public education still has a long way to go.

He tried to do his share. While his hands were on the wheel of the candy company Brown & Haley (famous worldwide for its Almond Roca), his eyes were on education. Haley became president of the company nearly by default—he says he was the best salesman of all his siblings—but his true heart showed through his decades of work to advance education at levels from preschool to college.

While on Tacoma's school board, he refused to fire a teacher who invoked the Fifth Amendment when accused of being a Communist by the House Committee on



FRED HALEY, 36 YEARS OLD.

Un-American Activities. Margaret Jean Schuddakopf, a school counselor who lived in Gig Harbor, kept her job by a 3-2 vote of the board. The deciding vote was Haley's — the chairman.

"Fred wrote a letter to the FBI saying if they had proof (of her being a Communist), they should show it," said his biographer, Ron Magden. Instead, FBI noted in its file on Haley that he was a Communist too.

Haley is one of the local leaders credited with opening a University of Washington campus in Tacoma. A free thinker, he recognized that higher education was more than professional training.

"His vision always was that the university is a place to expand your mind and

"His open-mindedness came from his own college career. He was a student of the humanities."

-Mike Honey, UW professor

think about the world," said Mike Honey, a UW professor who has worked side by side with Haley for many years. "His open-mindedness came from his own college career. He was a student of the humanities."

Haley tried to pass that open mind on to his children. All of them spent time studying in foreign countries. "I wanted my children to grow up in a world that's not all-American," he explained.

The all-American world at the time saw Haley as a person who pushed unpopular views. His attempts to integrate segregated schools, neighborhoods and even upscale clubs were particularly troubling, and businesses boycotted the candy factory. Some civil rights fights made him such an eyesore that he said he eventually had to quit being a member of the Rotary Club.

His battles in education were successful, although some of his successes could be considered controversial today. In Tacoma, for example, he proposed assigning the best teachers to the poorest schools with low achievement levels. "The 'No child left behind' issues were happening back then," Magden said.

Haley moved through various education boards through the decades, and was recognized by the state Legislature

in 2000 for his contributions to education and civic service. Ironically, when he ran for the state Senate previously, he didn't make the cut.

But Haley didn't need a legislative title to leave his mark. "You're my mentor for education. You have contributed to kids more than anyone will ever know," then Sen. Al Bauer of Vancouver said in a note to Haley.

As much as he worked in the public eye, Haley worked privately to help individuals. Anonymous scholarships to students, letters to help a Tahiti family, and contributions to various causes and organizations ran like invisible threads through the canvas of his life.

Fred Haley had wanted to be a professor of English literature. There is hardly a simile or metaphor to sum up his 90-some years of life. As his biographer and good friend Ron Magden explained, "there are many inconsistencies." After all, the man who "was born with a silver spoon in his mouth" still drives a Geo Metro, dings and all.

"The biography was a hard book to write because I couldn't get to the fundamental roots of why he was who he was," Magden said.

It appears that the would-be professor Haley still has some lessons to teach.

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From Pioneer Stock Hans Quistorff

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Hans Quistorff once lived in “a cracker box house” on the shores of Henderson Bay at Wauna.

His grandfather, a “house mechanic” in Milwaukee, Wisc., not only built houses, but repaired and remodeled, too. In the 1920s or '30s, the elder Quistorff sent his oldest son to Washington to buy lumber. The young man wrote his parents that he'd found the perfect place to live, and wouldn't be going back home.

The next son came to get the lumber. He, too, decided to stay, and settled on Horsehead Bay. After the third son joined his brothers, the parents followed.

The Longbranch Improvement Club stonework looks like his grandfather's work, Hans says, but he's not certain if it is. Albert, Hans' father, obtained his carpenter's license on his first job when he helped his father build the Purdy/Wauna bridge. Hans notes the original plan was for a wider bridge, but the budget didn't allow the extra \$1,000.

Hans' maternal grandfather, Harold Garrettson, a Tacoma city attorney, lived where the Aloha Bed & Breakfast is now. Albert sailed across the bay for a blind date with his future wife. In later years, Hans sailed and rowed many times between Horsehead Bay and Wauna.

His parents first lived in a log cabin on the beach, which his mother had helped build when she was 13. A landslide pushed it into the bay. The “cracker box house” was built near the grandparents' home and Hans believes it is still there, completely covered with blackberries and roses.

The Quistorffs paneled the inside of the house with large pieces of cardboard, then painted over to cover the labels. At times, some labels showed through. Cristy, Hans' sister, was born there.



Hans recalls early days of playing on the beach at Wauna. When the men dug geoducks, he was lowered by his ankles into the “digging can,” grabbed the geoducks and was pulled back out.

At age 4, Hans moved with his family to Horsehead Bay, as his father was tired of having his sailboat wash up on the shore in storms. Gas was rationed, and they were allowed one gallon to move. His father rented a barge, loaded the furniture on it, tied the sailboat beside, and motored across the bay. They were not too concerned about their one gallon of gas, as the barge carried 55 gallons.

Hans cleaned up after his father's carpentry. Another job was cleaning the Wauna Post Office. He had a bus pass, was dropped off there, worked for an hour, then caught the next bus home.

He was a Jehovah's Witness missionary, spending nine years in Maine, then time in California, returning in 1976 to Wauna to help his father, who was in poor health.

He started a janitorial service — Wauna Wash Services — which gave his address as well as the company name. When lifting garbage cans became too hard on his back, he became a massage therapist, working with a chiropractor. He enjoys helping people feel better.

Hans now lives at Lake of the Woods, but his ties to Wauna are never far away.

Left, Hans Quistorff with father Albert in front of his grandparents' home.

Above, Hans Quistorff digging geoducks on Wauna Beach.

FRANCISCAN READY TO START ONCE STATE MAKES DECISION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

At Franciscan Health System, we are profoundly affected by the outpouring of community support for the construction of a hospital in Gig Harbor. More than 700 Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula, and South Kitsap area residents wrote to the state in favor of the hospital. Approximately 250 supporters attended the state's public hearing on January 29th. At the hearing, community members, including local health care professionals, emergency service responders and city and county government officials, testified about the urgent need for a local hospital.

The letters and testimony put a human face on the hard data we provided to the state in our Certificate of Need application outlining the need for comprehensive hospital services in this area. At Franciscan Health System, our mission calls us to address unmet health care needs and to help create healthier communities. We are committed to providing you a full-service, 24-hour emergency department that can take care of 90 percent of all emergency cases. Our proposed \$100 million hospital will offer state-of-the-art medical services so that most people will never have to cross the bridge again for health care.

Today we submitted our final document to the state Department of Health further clarifying and strengthening the case for a Gig Harbor hospital. It was developed in response to challenges from the only two organizations opposing the hospital—MultiCare Health System in Tacoma and Harrison Hospital in Burien. It appears they oppose the project on the belief that access to hospital care is adequate now and well into the future. Based upon our comprehensive analysis and the community's overwhelming response to our plans, we disagree. The project now rests in the hands of state regulators.

Department of Health officials will complete their rigorous review of all documents, taking into account such criteria as need and financial feasibility. They have said they will announce their decision by early April. With the help of community residents and leaders, we believe we have made a very strong case for the hospital. If we receive a positive decision in April, we are ready to immediately launch into in-depth hospital planning and development. It is our hope that opponents will not attempt to deny you access to life-saving hospital services on this side of the bridge through appeals or legal action.

Again, on behalf of everyone at Franciscan Health System, I want to thank community members for their support of this effort. The hospital is much closer to reality because so many people took the time to make their voices heard. For updates on the status of the Gig Harbor hospital, please visit our website www.frhhealth.org.

Sincerely,
Joe Wilkrek

Joseph Wilkrek
President and Chief Executive Officer
Franciscan Health System

Franciscan Health System

Franciscan Health System

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St. Francis Hospital • St. Clare Hospital

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Longbranch Players return

By Mary Mazur
Longbranch Players Working Group

Community theater will be coming to Key Peninsula once again this fall, sponsored by the Longbranch Improvement Club, but this year the number of performances will be increased. Altogether there will be six evening performances by the Improvement Club's Longbranch Players.

In response to public demand, the Players are laying plans for another play on the stage of the LIC community building. The Player's production of the comedy "Sylvia" by A.R.Gurney last September played to full dinner-theater houses with lots of laughter and applause on four weekend nights. This year the Players Working Group has decided to increase the number of performances. The dates were set for the Friday and Saturday of three weekends in October—1-2, 8-9 and 15-16. Some of the performances will include dinner theater and some will serve coffee and dessert.

The Players Working Group, headed by Mary Mazur and Pat Thompson, will

be seeking a director in the next weeks through the Theatre Puget Sound, as they did last year. The TPS is a consortium of theaters and individual artists in the Puget Sound region. Longbranch Players is affiliated with TPS as a non-profit service organization. The director chosen for "Sylvia" in 2003 was Jeri Lee Young of Seattle. Members of the planning group this year include Lisa and George Bryan, Diane Gressley, David Starkweather, Tricia Thompson, and Carolyn Wiley. Catering for the events will be by Tricia Thompson.

Once the play, a comedy, mystery or melodrama, is chosen with the guidance of the director, casting tryouts will be widely announced. Anyone interested will be encouraged to join the production group to work on the production or try out for the cast.

Join the Players

Those interested in knowing more are encouraged to call Mary Mazur at 253-884-1061 now and sign up for further information as it becomes available.

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Dance the night away with the 'French Connection'

The Civic Center had a good turnout with Casanova in February and is set to repeat the tradition with the "French Connection" on March 6.

This duo has come highly recommended, and is well known around the Northwest. After performing on the Regency Cruise Lines, C.C. and Jacques Engel decided to settle down in the Northwest, and have a busy schedule throughout the rest of the year.

C.C. is the master of keyboards but sounds like a full orchestra. Jacques, her husband, is from Dijon, France, and plays bass guitar and sings. He trained and played with many bands in Europe.

The dance is from 8 to 10 p.m. Dance guru Doug Henry will kick off the night at 7:30 with free dance lessons — come early and warm up.

Tickets are available at the Civic Center or at Sunnycrest Nursery. The price has been reduced to \$10 both at the door and presale.

To find out more about the band, see www.ccand-jacque.com. For details about the dance, call the Civic Center at 884-3456.



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TWAA receives grants, launches membership drive

By Frank Garratt
TWAA

The Key Peninsula's Angel Guild recently awarded Two Waters Arts Alliance (TWAA) a generous grant. TWAA has also received a grant from the Lucky Star Foundation, thanks to the efforts of board member Sylvia Haase.

Among other things, these funds will support the program director's position and the Artists in Schools program. The latter enhances local school curriculums by bringing artists into classrooms to share their expertise with students. TWAA also wants to explore plans to offer an outdoor concert for the public. Finally, these funds will enable TWAA to continue offering art classes and workshops.

TWAA's spring classes include quilting, pine needle basket-making, floral design,



The Genuine
ARTicle

Spring classes

Pine Needle Basket Weaving with Dale Loy
Photography with Simon Priest
Sumi Painting with Reni Moriarity
Hand-Built Pottery with Gary Anderson
Stained Glass with Sharan Dickson
Floral Design with Claudia Loy
Plein Air Painting with Kurt Solmssen
Sculpting the Head in Clay with Tip Toland
Rubber Stamping 101 with Scrap Magic
The Art of Drawing with Chris Bronstad
Framing and Presentation with Bev Pedersen
Plus: swap meet, acoustic jam sessions, life drawing and writers group.

sumi painting, photography, hand-built pottery, stamp art, the Japanese Tea Ceremony (demonstration and explanation), oil painting, sculpting the head in clay, and drawing. Details are available on the at twowaters.org, or in brochures

at local schools, libraries, post offices, and select businesses. Email questions to twowaters@hotmail.com or call 884-3407.

Because grants are not a permanent source of funding, TWAA's membership drive is critical to the organization's success. Without the sustained support of local residents, TWAA cannot survive.

The membership drive provides residents an opportunity to support and

encourage the vibrant community of artists living and working on the Key Peninsula. Joining TWAA also gives individuals of all ages, interests, and levels of experience opportunities to learn about and practice a wide variety of art forms. TWAA is the only organization specifically serving the arts on the peninsula. Checks payable to TWAA can be sent to P.O. Box 868, Vaughn, WA 98394.

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Arts & Rec briefs

Women's Club kicks off

Horseshoe Lake Women's Golf Club will kick off the 2004 season with a general ladies club meeting March 9 at 7 p.m. at the Horseshoe Lake Golf Club, 1250 SW Club House Ct. (Port Orchard address).

League play this year offers two possibilities: a Tuesday 9-hole league beginning April 6 or a Thursday 18-hole league beginning April 8.

For membership or league play information, call Horseshoe Lake Pro Shop at 857-3326 or Jan Simerson at 884-2010.

Tae Kwon Do and weight loss classes open

Classes started last month at the Civic Center for those who want to lose weight or just learn a martial arts sport. Youth and adults are invited to join Jung-un Lee, a 7th dan black belt master with more than 30 years of teaching experience who says his classes will improve total fitness level in a gradual and natural manner while helping the mind embrace the martial virtue of self-discipline.

The program is designed to satisfy any interests, from competitive sports or self-defense to weight-loss. The classes, every Tuesday and Thursday, cost \$30 per month. Three sessions are scheduled: 4:15-5:10 p.m. for grade schoolers, 3:15-4:10 p.m. for middle schoolers, and 5:20-6:20 p.m. weight-loss for adults. Call 884-3456 or 838-8934 to register.

Two Waters celebrates anniversary with Spring Fling

The Whitmore Room of the Civic Center will be transformed into an arts extravaganza March 6, as the Two Waters Arts Alliance stages a Spring Fling complete with live music, artists showcase and food. Several local renowned artists will attend, and a variety of art will be for sale.

The celebration, which begins at 7 p.m., marks the Key Peninsula group's second anniversary and the many successes that are the results of the efforts of local artists and arts supporters. Admission is free but donations will be accepted at the door. TWAA also begins a fund-raising and membership drive. For details, see www.twowaters.org or call 884-3407.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Dear Community Member,

Two Waters Arts Alliance is a community-based arts organization started here on the Key Peninsula by your neighbors and dedicated to bringing the arts to the people of the Key Peninsula. In the two short years since we began, Two Waters has sponsored classes and events to appeal to all ages:

Sponsorship of the Tacoma Youth Symphony concert series at Evergreen and Winter Elementary Schools serving over 1000 children.

"Artists in Schools", a collaborative program with the Peninsula School District bringing artists into local classrooms beginning this spring.

Classes and workshops in the arts. Our offerings have included pottery, drumming, felting, Chinese brush painting, beginning and intermediate drawing, sumi painting, oil painting and many more. Scholarships are given to those who are in need.

Artist services. We offer monthly Life Drawing, Acoustic Jam Sessions and a Writer's Group, hold a yearly Artists' Swap meet and sponsor exhibition and sales opportunities for local artists.

Free public events: Mask-making workshop for children and adults, hands-on art activities at the KP Fair.

Two Waters Arts Alliance is a certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and relies on the generosity of our community to make its programs possible. Now is the time to ask for your help. **EVERY PERSON MATTERS! Please join us in enhancing the arts on the Key Peninsula by becoming a member today.** We are pleased to offer our members an opportunity to support the arts on the Key Peninsula and receive mailings of new class offerings and events as well as a 10% discount on classes.

Art is fun! It feeds the soul and makes life interesting. We look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Kathy Bauer, President

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Enclosed is my annual membership fee, or donation for:

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No membership at this time, but please accept my donation of \$_____.

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Please make check payable to Two Waters Arts Alliance and return to PO Box 868, Vaughn, WA, 98394. You will receive a receipt in the mail.



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Who says there is nothing to do?



Photos by Hugh McMillan and Rodika Tollefson

Are you still complaining about nothing to do on the Key Peninsula? Get out, get busy and get in shape! That's exactly what these youngsters were doing recently. If you don't feel like exercising, at least you can come and watch. Left, Brett Lyon, 7, Vaughn Elementary student and member of Peninsula Youth Wrestling, has Payton Reece, 6, of Northwest Washington Wrestling Club, in a hold. The tournament, held Feb. 4 at Key Pen Middle School, was not scored. According to officials, "True meets are for fun. The kids pit themselves against one another but we don't keep team scores." Right, the seats at the KP Sports Center were empty on a recent weekend, but not for long. Youth and adult teams of various sports are holding tryouts and practices, as the game season opening is underway. Pictured here, the Peninsula Hawks of KPMS, who will call this their home field.



**InStep
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Always wanted to learn how to dance? Now is your chance. InStep Dance is offering dance lessons at KPCC Thursday evenings, Feb. 26-April 1
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The Key Peninsula Park and Recreation District is accepting proposals for the operation of a food concession at Key Peninsula Sports Center and Fair Grounds (aka, Volunteer Park). Experience in commercial and institutional food preparation and serving is preferred. Additional experience in the food service industry or in food concessions is desirable. A valid Pierce County Food Worker Card is also required.

Key Peninsula Sports Center and Fair Grounds is located approximately 2 miles south of Key Center. The park address is 5514 Key Peninsula Highway N, Lakebay, WA 98349. Proposals must be submitted in writing and mailed to: KEY PENINSULA PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT, PO BOX 46, VAUGHN, WA 98394. Proposals must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2004. (Please note: only those applicants whose proposals are considered will be contacted.)

For more information, contact: Jerry Schick (253) 884-1560 or call the park at (253) 884-9240. MS#110,4



MILLER



VAN NAMS



SCHNEIDER



SEICK



STRATFORD



TRANDUM



TWIDT



WALLER

(From **CITIZENS**, Page 11)

teered with the PHS Environmental Club's road cleanup projects and trail clearing at Rocky Creek Conservation Area. She is a student mentor and assists elementary students with reading under the Little Buddies Program at the KP Civic Center and volunteers at Evergreen Elementary School during the year and at summer camp. She helped with the KP Firefighters Association's car washes and breakfast fund-raisers and helps assemble the "vital signs" for KPPD's address campaign. She helped set up the Longbranch Church's fund-raiser. With the PHS "Ignite" program, she mentors freshmen, tutors students in need, and welcomes new students to PHS.

Galilee McCarrell is an adorable 7-year-old with a generous heart and a magnificent mind. Her mom, a volunteer at the KP Community Services/Food Bank where she delivers bread products from various bakeries, home schools Galilee and, thus, has introduced her to the KPCS environment where she learned that some children had no toys. With that, and with no prompting, she decided to donate gifts she bought from her allowance for "kids that don't get a lot of toys." She should be a beautiful adult.

Sandy McFarlane emigrated from Canada to Key Peninsula 20 years ago. Several years ago she developed the Family Center for Children's Home Society, which still uses many of the programs she designed and developed to benefit children in this area. She can be

counted on to help families in need whether with a house to live in or food to get by on. She served several terms on the KP Civic Center board. She operates Almost Home Boarding Kennel and has been known to waive fees for those in need. Dogs have a place to stay until owners or rescue groups find them homes. Most of what this unassuming asset to our community does is behind the scenes.

Lloyd Miller has, for many years, kept the KP Civic Center open and running. If the board had to pay for his services and expertise, the Center would long ago have been bankrupt. He is always on call and when things break down, he is always there. He has served on the KPCCA BOD and has done everything from mowing its lawns to being an unofficial watchdog for the facility. He also actively serves Citizens Against Crime, of which he is a charter member.

Stan Schneider, an active member of Citizens Against Crime and its Citizens' Patrol, together with his partner, Wayne Duncan, volunteered 99 hours at all hours of the day patrolling the highways and back roads of our community during 2003. His dedication to the task should be recognized, as it enhances the safety and security of our peninsula.

Jeanne Seick handles one of the most understated positions of a nonprofit organization, that of the secretary/treasurer, the person responsible for so much and recognized so little while working behind the scenes. Over the years she has served as treasurer and/or secretary to

organizations like the Angel Guild, the Longbranch Shores Association, the Lakebay Community Covenant Church, and I.M.Pact KP's Domestic Violence Shelter and Sunday Community Meal program. She has managed many of our community's nonprofits at the same time. Not only has she given of her time, talent, and energy, she has been a wonderful role model for many of us as she has taught us to give to our community with enthusiasm, graciousness, and selflessness.

Since **Dave Stratford** and wife, Sabra, moved back to Vaughn for his retirement, he has jumped in where and when ever his help was needed. He has served as president of the KP Civic Center and worked tirelessly for that organization ever since. He became a member of a group bent on keeping the Historic Vaughn Bay Community Church from being sold and attends and supports its activities to help those in need. In spite of having had a heart attack and recovery in 2003, it wasn't long before he was right back at driving a school bus, having a business with one of his sons and ministering to another son's needs. He is a great, levelheaded asset to our community.

Bill Trandum has poured a great deal of time, expertise and energy into the resurrection of the Key Peninsula News, hired its wonderful staff, encouraged old-timer volunteer journalists and photographers to stay on and new ones to sign up and together they have made the paper a joy to read. It is financially stable, thanks

to his and his colleagues' efforts, and he continues to have dreams about the future of the paper.

Erlene Twidt has quietly served our community for years in projects that affect people in positive ways. I.M.Pact KP is an organization started in 1998 to establish a safe house and eventually a domestic violence shelter for women and children. She was involved at the very beginning on the original steering committee and served on the board of directors. She has supported projects despite serious illness and still remains a member of the working committee. She is also involved in education for our communities and churches. She has served with the Gig Harbor Key Peninsula Family Violence prevention project and the Domestic Peace program, and has served on the board of Key Peninsula Lutheran Church as vice chair of the congregation, where she and her husband are members working on projects to help people in our community with meals, clothing, and other necessities of for life.

Linda and Young Van Nam own the Home Texaco (now Shell) station and the Home Store. They donate merchandise to the Key Peninsula Community Services and Longbranch Improvement Club for various fund-raising events. There is always a smile or a joke but never a "no." During the holidays, many service organizations benefit from Linda and Young. They are so quiet and unassum-

(See **CITIZENS**, Page 27)



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Andrea Davies (Owner)
Ronda Rowan

(From **CITIZENS**, Page 26)

ing, it's time this couple got a little spotlight.

Barbara Waller is a mover and shaker of the Palmer Lake Improvement Club, where she promotes teamwork and encourages new ideas from the members and the community. Her organized style brings about positive changes in a timely manner, from taking homemade cookies to new residents to picking up the debris that thoughtless people throw in our neighborhood. Her cheerful attitude is always present. She is dedicated to making the new Key Peninsula Community Council become a reality by serving as chair of the finance committee. Her telephone often rings with requests for assistance but she prefers to remain very private in her activities.

Cristi Watson is nominated for the honor of KP citizen of the year because she has taken the KP Community Services/Food Bank to a new level of service on the peninsula and is in the process of stepping it up again. She always has a smile on her face and always says thank you. She truly appreciates what is done for or given to KPCS but never fails to remind you that there is always

more to do. Cristi Watson is the type of person many people are truly proud to say they know.

Chuck and Sharon West's latest achievement is the saving of a community treasure, the Glencove School. Chuck has for many years contributed to making our community a more livable one. Much of this would not happen if he did not have Sharon helping and supporting as wives do. If there is a need, Chuck is there to help, whether it be for the Key Peninsula Fire Department, KP Business Association, KP Firefighters Association, KP Fair Association or just plain community good. Without the dedication and love of community assets old and new provided by Chuck and Sharon, the Glencove school would have disappeared from our landscape and this part of the community history forgotten. But they restored and resurrected this fine old building, down to original woodwork, windows and appearance. With Chuck and Sharon, preserving this part of our history became a labor of love.

Anna White, a charter member, has been with Citizens Against Crime for 15 years and has been an active member of its Citizens' Patrol since its inception.

She has served as the organization's treasurer for several years, helped with its yard sale fund-raisers, served at the rest stops along Interstate 5 in the wee hours for Citizens Against Crimes' fund-raising efforts, and encourages other citizens to become involved with Citizens Against Crime.



WATSON



WESTS



WHITE

Also nominated as a group are the following members of the **Vaughn Bay Cemetery Board and Staff** for all of the wonderful things they do to manage a private nonprofit, nonendowment corporation and business as well as to make the cemetery grounds the most beautiful of any cemetery in this region: Joe Dervaes, president; Dale Van Slyke, vice president; Juanita Glass, secretary; Joyce Niemann, treasurer; Dulcie Schillinger, historian; Jim Gibson, member at large; Peggy Dervaes, Diane Sexton, Wess and Chet Van Slyke, maintenance; and Nadine Niemann, Jerianne Burgess, and Don Gabrielson, trustees.

Awards dinner

The 20th annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards dinner will be held Saturday, March 13, at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn. Keynote speaker will be Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m., and dinner, by Lisa's Deli and Catering Service, will be served at 7 p.m. There will be a no-host bar.

Tickets are available at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, Country Gardens in Wauna, and the Home Store at the bridge in Home. Prices until March 3: \$15 adult; \$55 family of four; \$5 children under 10. Thereafter, all tickets are \$20, including at the door. This is to enable the caterer to determine food quantity needs sufficiently in advance for placing accurate orders.



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(From PARKS, Page1)

letter to the board, and because of the contentiousness of the meetings he'd been at, didn't want it (the Wauna Post office) to be a distraction from the upcoming election."

Lind was the third park commissioner to resign since last summer before completing a term—raising the question as to whether internal struggles are troubling the board or whether a high turnover rate is natural to a volunteer-based organization that has very little funding.

The answer appears to lie in the middle, and largely depends on the view of each current or former commissioner. While various people interviewed by KP News disagreed on a variety of topics, one subject everyone seemed to agree on: Trying to run a park district on a shoe-string budget with all-volunteer members creates burnout, a lack of clear direction, and frequent turnover. That makes progress difficult because there is always someone who is on a learning curve. It seems clear that passions flare at times, and personalities clash, but probably no more than in any other volunteer-run organization that is hampered by a lack of community involvement and consistent funding.

Although people may complain among themselves, members of the public rarely attend board meetings, leaving the five board members to prioritize what few resources they have, and make decisions in a vacuum, all while doing the best they can to get the less than glorious chores done.

"The community should attend board meetings to better understand what's going on," Commissioner Schick says. "If you use the park you should at least occasionally participate in the process, and we don't have that."

'You come and snivel'

The citizen complacency may be a recent phenomenon. Former KPPRD Chair Marilyn Tagert—one of the other two commissioners who resigned last year—recalls a time when the board meetings were well attended by the community. The meetings so far this year were attended by a very small handful of residents.

Worse yet, according to Lind, is the lack of respect that some commissioners have shown recently to members of the community. Lind recalls an incident where a representative from Little League raised some issues in front of the board, only to be told by a current commissioner, "You come in and snivel." Users such as Little League are the park's primary source of income. Little League representatives did not return Key Peninsula News phone calls.

And, if Lind finds the board's community relations skills to be somewhat lacking, she finds the management style just as poor. "There is an ongoing failure to get things done in a timely fashion—and to make good judgments," she says.

Aftershocks from some of those judgments have lingered. An apparent lack of clear understanding between the board and Little League over the new, expensive lights at the KP Sports Center propelled KPPRD to endorse the project and pay \$15,000 toward the purchase. But as many of the promises from other parties were not fulfilled, the league was nearly disbanded and some KPPRD board members were left wondering what went wrong. "The lights were a huge issue, and a frustrating process," Tagert says. KPPRD's role was only to support the project, the gap in information has created some hard feelings.

A hasty rental of the park to a private party on Labor Day, without clear rules and background checks, left an underage person injured after a supposed family reunion turned into a "beer blast." Again, the board seemed to make a decision without complete information. The mother of the injured young man reportedly contacted board representatives later asking how they plan to avoid such incidents.

Problems with the concession stand are recurring: The stand, still vacant as of mid-February, was leased then quickly vacated last year, while a prospective occupant pulled out before finalizing a transaction. A real problem, since the income that would otherwise be produced by a resident concessionaire is sorely needed.

'Not organized enough'

Chris Anderson, the last proprietor to consider operating the concession stand, said changing her mind was mostly influenced by a change in her Lakewood business and she didn't want to be stretched too thin. Nonetheless, the longtime Key Peninsula resident did notice that board members "didn't seem to be working as a team" and were slow in making decisions.

"I felt it wasn't organized enough for me," she says, adding her regret at Lind's resignation. "Nancy was wonderful and worked with us really well. The park needs someone who can give their 100 percent... She was giving 125 percent to the district."

Tagert echoed the sentiment. While acknowledging that she resigned because the time commitment became too great and "at one point I felt that's all I was doing all day," she says Lind along with former commissioners Fred Ramsdell—who also resigned last fall—and Dick Grandquist were "three of the hardest working people I've ever been around."



Users like the Little League, seen here during February team tryouts, are the main source of income for the current park district, which says it will run out of money within a few months. A February parks meeting was tense at times, as League representatives said the current schedule shorted players by two days, effectively leaving almost 40 kids without a field to play on. The League and the park board are in the middle of contract negotiations for use of the park, which is very busy during the game season.

Photo by Rodika Tollefson

"You're out there mowing grass and digging ditches. There are no funds. You get tired after awhile. You think hey, it's time to get something done at home," Ramsdell says, explaining his decision to leave.

Clear operating policies and procedures became a casualty of the frequent turnovers. Past commissioners said they had spent a tremendous amount of time developing policies, especially with regards to employment and rentals. And while the employment policies appear successful, other issues have been shuffled away. Lind said she went through mounds of paperwork and even found uncashed checks in boxes piled up in the office when she first started — yet the lack of policy still remains one of the board's weaknesses, one that current commissioners openly acknowledge.

"With all the turnover, procedures and policies tend to get lost," says Schick, who began his term in January. "That's something (that) can be addressed now and needs to be." Indeed, the board has started a process last month for developing policies into one concise document.

'I want what I want'

Consider the titanic job description, add in tepid citizen participation, the game of musical chairs played by board members, and the nonexistent funding—and the dilemma of the park board becomes simple mathematics.

"We just took any warm body that comes out of the woodwork," Lind says, adding that attempts were made to bring certain people onto the board because members wanted to work with them. "I did it too," she admits. Despite those calculated

recruitments, personalities clashed, as various commissioners have brought along their own agendas or preferences, along with their passions. Lind herself says, "I want what I want. Sometimes I p..d people off. But my heart was in the right place. Sometimes things have to get done. I thought I was good at it."

Indeed she was. Rocky Creek Conservation Area and the Home Park were largely due to her pushing and pulling and the ability to get volunteers and resources when needed. That passion for parks and trails may have been her greatest undoing—current and former members openly said sometimes the personal feelings created personality issues.

Now that all the board members are within the first year of their terms, they say disagreements are a thing of the past. "At the present time I know of no rifts on the board," says Salatino, noting that disagreements don't imply rifts and are merely part of a democratic process.

"(Our strength is) we're more united in getting the thing managed correctly and doing things better," Bischoff says.

Despite the difference of opinions, the personality clashes, unpopular decisions and the sometimes-inefficient management style, the park district through the years has nonetheless brought much-needed recreational opportunities to the local residents. Through their long hours of volunteer work and their desire to give back, the human pillars of the park district have built a foundation for a local park network that the entire community could enjoy.

As the park district stands at the crossroads, on the brink of an empty bank account, it would take more than a half-dozen people to build on that foundation.

New domestic violence service available

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Key Peninsula residents will benefit from a new domestic violence kiosk dedicated in January at the Gig Harbor City Hall. The Kiosk enables persons to petition the court for a temporary protection order without traveling to Tacoma. Orders are sent electronically and signed by a judge then sent back electronically for the petitioner. A community legal advocate is available to help victims Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. It is also possible to petition without the advocate's help from 8 a.m. to

4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"This is another step in the right direction," said Penny Gazabat, a domestic violence advocate for I.M.Pact House, a domestic violence safe house on the Key Peninsula. "Victims find it difficult to get into Tacoma and often don't seek the legal resources that are available to them. When a protection order is issued, it adds to an officer's ability to protect victims from abusers."

Gazabat said that even with a protection order, it is critical to create a safety plan. "Support groups like the 'MOMS' program are great resources for victims leaving an abu-

sive relationship. Key Peninsula has had the MOMS program for several years now. This program offers group counseling for victims of domestic violence along with resources and personal safety plans," she said.

Gazabat believes that, "it's not one program or service that is going to end domestic abuse in our community. It will be a conglomeration of services and individuals that will alter the attitudes that foster domestic violence into attitudes, beliefs, and actions that support safe, healthy families."

For further information, contact Gazabat at I.M.Pactkp@aol.com.

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Coping with Alzheimer's disease

By Cheryl Page
Merrill Gardens Community

Aging causes some normal changes in the brain: Memory recall slows down, learning new information may take longer, and it may become more difficult to concentrate when there are distractions. But Alzheimer's and other related dementias are never considered a normal part of aging.

An important reason for seeking a diagnosis for dementia is to make sure there isn't a treatable cause for the symptoms an older adult is exhibiting.

Although Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of memory loss in older adults, memory loss and confusion can be caused by other disease processes or illnesses, such as vascular disease, Lou Gehrig's, head injury, HIV/AIDS, or upper respiratory and

urinary tract infections. Persons with Alzheimer's not only experience memory loss, but thinking and reasoning skills are also affected.

Because communication determines how we relate to our world, and how others relate to us, it is essential to understand that the key to providing dementia care is communication. Memory-impaired adults communicate the way they do because of how the disease has damaged their brain. They no longer possess the skills to adapt their verbal and nonverbal communication to what is considered normal and appropriate. As a family member or caregiver, we are the ones who must accept the persons for who they are becoming and adapt our communication skills to appropriately fit their level of the disease process. We must enter their reality to decrease anxieties and agitation.

We must adapt our mannerisms to get them to accept what is necessary regarding daily care needs. Good communication will increase their self-worth, validate their feelings, stimulate memories, calm, and reassure the individuals.

It is also important to acknowledge what the person is feeling. This is validation. There is usually a reason behind all behaviors someone is exhibiting and unless we listen and validate their belief (even if distorted), the behavior can become worse. For this reason, acknowledgement of a person's feelings or emotion can be calming and reassuring. We call this "entering their reality." It only causes anxiety when we try to reorient them to our known reality or beliefs.

Repetitive behaviors are often exhibited in the middle stage of the disease process. Diverting one's repetitive behavior or communication to a differ-

ent but pleasant activity is important. Creativity, on your part, is the key to success.

Wandering is a significant safety risk and it is essential that a secured area for the person to freely explore be available to them. It may be the person with dementia is wanting to go home or catch the bus, or has excess energy and physically needs to move, or is just interested in everything he or she sees and wants to touch or open things simply because they are there.


It is important that we look for opportunities to help support family and friends who are providing care for a loved one with this devastating disease process.

For education materials or support group information, contact bookkeeping.shorelineview@merrillgardens.com or call 253-858-7790.


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Out & About



Photos by Rodika Tollefson



Terry Nettles, a consulting engineer, makes a preliminary inspection of the old Wauna post office. The building's integrity needs to be determined before efforts to restore it can continue. Nettles said the building was sound, but a more detailed report was pending at the end of February.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Members of the Key Peninsula Community Council Organizing Committee took a little time off from discussions for a group photo during their February meeting, which celebrated one year since the effort to organize a council was launched. With council elections planned for June, the organizing committee was finalizing work on the Articles of Incorporation last month that will be submitted to the state in order to register the organization as a nonprofit. A separate application will be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service to seek 501(c)3 status once the interim board of directors writes the by-laws. The interim board was being created at the end of last month, with an unlimited number of members. The actual Community Council will have 14 members who will be elected by residents. To vote, residents must be registered with the council (they do not have to be registered voters with the county). To learn more, call committee co-chairs Jeff Harris at 884-4697 or Joyce Tovey at 884-3304.



Photo by Hugh McMillan



Above, Peninsula High School students accepted the challenge of their English teacher, Elizabeth Duffy, to make a quilt, then each made a public presentation about the creative process. Duffy said, "In my Advanced Placement Language and Composition class, we finish reading 'Their Eyes Were Watching God' by Zora Neale Hurston. The main reason we study this book is so that students can learn to identify the ways in which an author effectively uses imagery in writing. For the fifth year now, I have asked my students to make 'Image Quilts' based on the images in the book and the artwork inspired by African-American artist Faith Ringgold."

Left, tourists arrived early this year on the Key Peninsula. Spring must not be far behind?

Photo by Irene Torres

Key Pen residents joined those in Gig Harbor last month to testify in support of the proposed Gig Harbor hospital. The room was so packed, people lined the walls and spilled into the hallway.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

