



School starts Sept. 3

The voice of the Key Peninsula

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Rain or shine...the fairs bustled

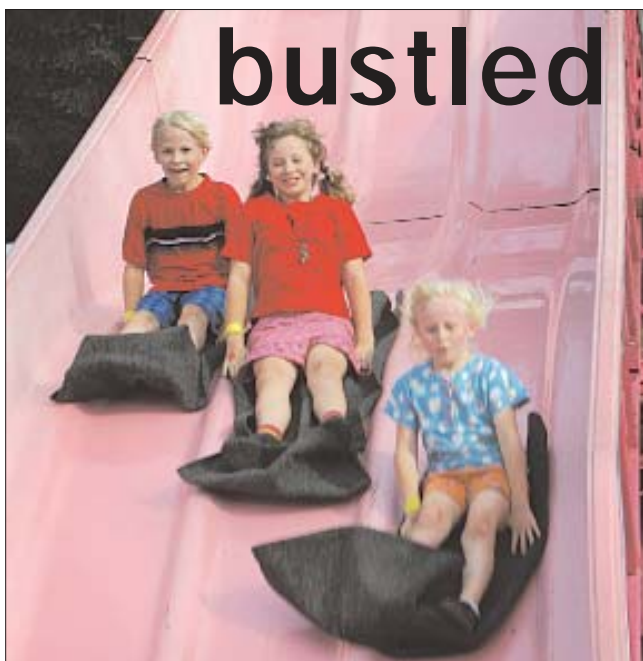


Photo by Hugh McMillan

Sam, 11, Anna, 10, and Claire, 6, Ingram of Lakebay were having, in their words, "a wonderful, fun time" at the fair.

The three fairs got rained on — but not rained out — on an August Saturday. Thousands of residents and visitors traveled the Key Pen roads to get their share of food and entertainment at the Old Timers' Day, the Key Peninsula Fair, and Renaissance Faire (which, on the Saturday in question, happened all at the same time). To see what you've missed, turn to page 21. The fairs were just wrapping up at press time but the KP News plans to catch up with organizers for the October issue to get their success stories.

Goats, llamas and ponies— Every animal is a champ

By Danna Webster
KP News

The love of fantasy has taught Carolyn Willis that, with a little bit of magic, all things are possible. Her imagination led her to perform at the Renaissance Faire as a faerie personality riding in a cart pulled by a unicorn. After faire hours, the unicorn assumed a llama disguise. It must have been a disguise because llamas don't pull carts. You can't train a llama like a horse, Willis was told. This, of course, inspired her to do exactly that. According to Willis, training a llama just takes a little longer than training a horse. "Only the rhythm is different," she says.

Extraordinary training abilities, a love of animals and a belief that all things are possible have led to her latest endeavor, the creation of an animal competition that includes all species. In this event, it doesn't matter whether the animal is a feline, canine, reptile, rodent, flying



Photo by Danna Webster

Carolyn Willis in one of her "disguises."

bird or flying pig. They can all go away as champions. The "Inter-Specie Competition" premieres this September at the All Critters' Fair at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds.

The Key Pen resident has observed that people who work with their pets

(See WILLIS, Page 18)

Park district sets eye on new park

By Irene Torres
KP News

Imagine the scene: A 93-acre jewel in the middle of the Puget Sound, a pristine forest with primitive trails, few signs of civilization, different habitats for wildlife and birdwatchers, and passive recreation activities, all preserved for posterity. That's what lies in store for the Key Peninsula...if. Yes, there are some big "ifs" before such a scene becomes reality, but several groups and individuals have been working for a few months to make it happen.

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, following the lead of the Key Peninsula Park and Recreation District in 1999, passed a resolution in August to support the acquisition of property known as "Devil's Head Properties" for future park designation.

Don Duprey, director of Conservation Programs with the Great Peninsula Conservancy, told the KP News, "The Great Peninsula Conservancy hasn't yet started serious negotiations with the owners; but they have listed the property for sale, and they know of our interest."

"The application for funding through conservancy futures is likely to be successful, but that is speculative at this time...The KP Metropolitan Park District is the logical entity to keep an eye on the property," he added.

Grant Griffin, senior planner with Pierce County Parks and Recreation department, acknowledged that the property is on the top 10 priority list, but that the Conservations Futures Advisory Board has not determined the order of priority. He expects that recommendation by the end of September.

Caril Ridley, commissioner for KPMPD, makes a case for conservation of the varied environment, and preservation of this nearly mile-long

(See PARK, Page 24)

New Key Pen task force to address safety

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

A new task force began its work on the peninsula in August with the goal to reduce and prevent crime in the neighborhoods. The Key Peninsula Crime Prevention Task Force, organized by Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets and Judi Holley of the county's Neighborhood Action Team, includes community leaders and members of neighborhood groups, businesses and agencies: the county health department, the school district, state Department of Corrections, Citizens Patrol, I.M.Pact domestic violence program, fire district, community council, associations, Community Services, county code

The Key Peninsula Crime Prevention Task Force will meet once a month. For information, call Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets at 884-7899.

If you would like to report a crime but fear retaliation and would like to stay anonymous, call Judy Holley with the Pierce County Sheriff's Neighborhood Action Team at 798-3624.

enforcement and many others.

"Reducing and preventing crime is not just the responsibility of law enforcement," but everyone's, Taylor said at the first meeting.

Taylor is a community mobilization specialist for Safe Streets, which focuses on crime and safety in communities. He

said part of his job is organizing the communities and building a network because areas that have civic involvement have reduced crime. A group of creative thinkers working together on a strategy can brainstorm ideas and create a strategy to address safety issues, he said.

The Key Peninsula's remote nature along with limited law enforcement could be a hotbed for criminal activity, and several neighborhoods have been in fact identified as "hot spots," including the Horseshoe Lake Estates and Lake of the Woods, based on the number of reported incidents. But not all residents report crime because in many instances response time is very long — which means part of the hot spots statistics could be due to the fact that some neighborhoods are more

alert and organized.

A community needs assessment survey recently conducted by the KP Community Council identified crime as one of the top concerns for residents, Taylor said, and one of the goals of the task force will be to work together with the council. The task force will focus on methamphetamine-related issues as well as brainstorm aspects such as targeted law enforcement, block watch, education, illegal dumping, access to vacant land. It will also discuss deputy patrolling and block groups among other topics.

"We all deserve a safe place to live," Holley said. "They say it takes a village — it takes everyone pulling together... There is a role for everyone."

Neighbors take a night out against crime

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

When Gina Urcuyo moved to the Key Peninsula less than a year ago, she learned there was no active block watch in her Lake Minterwood neighborhood. A former association president in a Bellingham community, she wanted to get her new neighbors together to raise crime awareness.

In August, about 50 neighbors did get together for a potluck, at a National Night Out Against Crime organized by Urcuyo. The gathering was held at the same time, on Aug. 3, in thousands of neighborhoods nationwide, as a message to criminals that residents are watching and are organizing to fight against crime. Last year, about 34 million people participated in more than 10,000 communities.



Gina Urcuyo with her son, Connor, at the Lake Minterwood the National Night Out Against Crime she single-handedly organized.

Photo by
Rodika Tollefson

"The volunteer in me had to get out and do this."

-Gina Urcuyo, organizer

son Connor rode their bicycles around the blocks.

"It's an easy program to organize. It took three hours of my life," she said. The National Association of Town Watch helps residents like Urcuyo get their neighbors together, and provides flyers and other support materials. Local agencies are also enrolled to help — the national organization put her in touch with Dennis Taylor of Safe Streets, who arranged for a sheriff's deputy to visit the potluck and provided other resources.

Urcuyo started a block watch when she moved to Bellingham from Los Angeles but ended up moving to the Key Pen about two years later, leaving all her neighbors — her friends — behind. But a new job offer for her husband is taking the family back to its old neighborhood, and now she has to leave behind other friends.

So the Night Out, though successful, would have been left without a leader. But the neighbors didn't let her down. About 15 people signed up to organize the potluck next year.

"My goal is for people to know each other and exchange phone numbers," Urcuyo said. "We want people to know we are watching."

"The volunteer in me had to get out and do this," said the mother of a 5-year-old son. "It's such an easy program."

Urcuyo's outgoing nature was a good

fit. She went around handing flyers to residents, meeting new people and spreading the word. Although she can't drive due to an illness, she and 5-year-old

Peninsula KEY NEWS

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

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News brief

Key Pen News editor resignation rescinded

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association voted in August to adopt a new contract for executive editor Rodika Tollefson, who had resigned in early July stating personal reasons as well as frustrations over the need for creating an independent publishing board.

With the Publishing Board of Directors creation approved by the Civic Center at the end of July, the solution was in place to the contentious issue of editorial control and management.

Following the change, the newspaper staff expressed their strong sentiment to keep Tollefson as the editor. The staff requested that greater effort be taken to retain her, and several staff representatives spearheaded an effort to present the new proposal, which was subsequently approved.

"On behalf of the newly formed publishing board, our support for Rodika Tollefson to remain as editor is unanimous," said Irene Torres, longtime volunteer writer and newly elected president of the created publishing

board. "We appreciate the confidence of the KPPCA board to make the KP News more independent. Keeping the team intact, and moving ahead together, will provide continuity for the newspaper. We all share a vision for the paper to grow stronger and improve news coverage."

Tollefson will remain as the editor for at least six months, although she will take a leave of absence in September and October. Assistant editor Danna Webster will be the acting editor for those months.

"I have received incredible support from our staff, and I am thrilled to continue as we look at ways to become a stronger organization and a better newspaper," Tollefson said.

Betty Kelley, president of the KPCCA executive committee, said the board accepted the proposal as the best solution for having an editor who is established and has demonstrated skills. The board received a positive response to its advertisement for the job in the meantime, and board members intend to respond to the applicants and encourage them to participate with the newspaper. "The board felt that it would be in everybody's interest to get the other applicants to participate and get acquainted," Kelley said.

Cultural intermission



Story and photo by Hugh McMillan

Lions' YEP (Youth Exchange Program) guest, Yuki Imakubo, of Osaka, Japan, visited the Key Peninsula Lions Club at its regular meeting on Aug. 18. Her host family, Edward and Lori Robison and their daughters, Cassie, 17, and Julie, 12, accompanied her. Edward is the son of KP Lion George Robison, the Club YEP chairman, who made the introductions. Imakubo, a senior in an Osaka high school, learned of the YEP program from her school and won the trip with a winning jury-judged speech in English. Her father is a construction engineer and her mother is a teacher; she has one younger brother and a younger sister.

Imakubo plans to study nursing. Her hosts kept her busy seeing the sights of Seattle and the South Sound, for which she expressed gratitude and wonderment. She was to return to her home in Japan the last Sunday in August.

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Editorial

Community Council needs input as it starts its work

If you build it, they will come. So the saying goes, and it usually works pretty well. But not as well on the Key Peninsula, as we witness on many occasions.

After widely publicizing a community needs survey (including in the KP News), the newly created Community Council received back roughly 120 replies, out of the Key Pen's 7,500-plus households.

Council directors say the response rate is pretty good, all things considered. And if we account for the somewhat popular attitudes that come with a remote location, the kind of "don't call us, we'll call you," the number is a good average. The council is digesting the comprehensive survey in detail, trying to understand the local needs, and will use it to jump-start its effort to improve life for the citizens of Key Peninsula.

But we must ask: After all the complaints, and the talks of poor representation and lack of services on the Key Pen, and after all the easy ways and incentives given for filling out a simple survey, what do we make of such response? Do we only have 100-some people who truly care?

Hopefully the residents will better embrace the idea of the grass-roots council and participate in the upcoming meetings, available public committees, and other discussions. Without that, the council risks becoming just another body greeted by public apathy.

That is certainly not what the handful of council organizers have worked so hard to achieve for many months, and they deserve your attention. If you want to be represented, you need to speak out.

Fire district asks for levy lid lift

By Eric Livingood Nelsen
FD-15 fire chief

Fire District 16 will ask voters on Sept. 14 to help the district cope with increased operating costs through a Lid Lift Levy. The levy only needs a simple majority vote to pass.

Due to the passage of Initiative 747, the district is held to a 1 percent increase from the previous year's tax revenue. Costs for operating the fire department have increased significantly. Call volumes have increased by approximately 28 percent over the last five years alone. There are days when our firefighters respond to over 12 calls



per day.

This Lid Lift Levy will authorize the property tax to remain at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This is not a new tax; the lid lift would only restore funding previously authorized by the citizens in 1994.

Currently, the district collects \$1.45 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The additional 5 cents would equal approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 more in the district's operating budget. With this added revenue in the budget, the district will be able to keep up with increased costs for operating and keep our personnel properly equipped and trained to respond to fire and emergency aid calls.

The additional revenue cannot be used to pay for any equipment that is

purchased through the Fire Truck Levy passed by the voters in 2003. These additional funds would only be used to fund the district's basic costs for operating.

Our district managers are constantly making every effort to be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars; however, the time has come when the cost of doing business is greater than the revenue we receive. Our district can no longer keep up with the cost of living.

Without your help, the district could face some very tough decisions, such as potential elimination of special services, cancellation of emergency medical equipment purchases or other such similar cutbacks.

We urge every registered voter to please vote Sept. 14.

Letters to the Editor

Shoreline rules may affect current property owners

Pierce County Executive/Planning and Land Services Department have proposed Ordinance #2004-56, for wildlife habitat protection. It states, in part: No development shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended, converted or altered or land subdivided without full compliance with the terms of this title. For marine shoreline owners, it requires landwards of the ordinary high water mark, a 100 foot vegetated (including 3 large trees per 1000 square feet) no use buffer zone.

Owners of fresh water shoreline, streams, wetlands, and associated buffers are also adversely affected by this ordinance. The proponents would have us believe this only applies to new developments, but the way I read it is if I need a permit to remodel, I would come under the new rules.

I urge all concerned readers to familiarize themselves with the proposed ordinance and contact Terry Lee, our county councilman, and share your views with him. I think current regulations, if enforced, would continue to improve fish and wildlife habitat without any additional negative impact on adjacent property owners.

*Frank L. Slater
Vaughn*

ASHES appreciates rummage sale support

The ladies of ASHES would like to thank the KP News and Peninsula Gateway for advertising our rummage sale. We thank Fire District 16 personnel who were there and helped in many ways. And, thank you to those who donated items and to those who came and shopped. By doing so, you helped the community and helped the fire department as well.

To the ladies out there, please join us for our meeting Thursday, Sept. 2, at 10:30 a.m., Key Center Fire Station 2. There's a potluck lunch afterwards.

*Sharon Cavanaugh
ASHES secretary*

A slice of Key Pen life Geoducking

By Carl Tucker

One spring day, my friends, family and I were enjoying a campfire, when someone asked if anyone had dug geoducks. None of us had, so the conversation turned to how to harvest these mollusks.

In the next three weeks, my friend Vern and I studied up on geoducks. We found out they are a bivalve mollusk, usually found in about three feet of sand-rock,

and extend a long neck to filter the seawater for food.

Meanwhile, Vern and I came up with a design for a geoduck gun made out of an old hot water tank. We modified it to 4 feet in length and a diameter of 18 inches, with handles on the top and a serrated edge on the bottom. The idea was to slide a 2-by-4 through the handles, and have one person sit on the top. Two others would rotate it back and forth auguring it into the ground. When the gun was ready, we waited for the next low tide.

When the day came, we drove to Harstine Island and parked as close to the

beach as we could get. We offloaded the gun and shovels, plus gunnysacks to carry the geoducks. Vern and I hauled the gun and getting down the steep hill was quite a task. We had to zigzag. Half way down, we lost our hold on the gun, barely missing Marlana and Jo Ann breaking trail below us. We finally got to the beach.

Jo Ann and Marlana spotted for air holes, while Vern and I lugged the gun around. When Jo Ann spotted a hole, we rushed over, situated the gun over it, sat Jo Ann on top and started auguring. We reached the proper depth and started to shovel. Two people couldn't dig in one small area, so I elected myself to dig the

Do you have a slice of Key Pen life to share? Submit to news@keypennews.com.

first one up. When I got down two feet, low and behold it was a horse clam. We bagged it and went to another air hole.

Vern took his turn digging out this hole, careful not to gouge the geoduck. He got down three feet and, luckily, came up with the first one. We sped up the process and got 11 before the tide came in enough to stop us.

I still have trouble telling the difference between a horse clam air hole and a geoduck's.

Carl Tucker lives and writes in Palmer Lake.

Family Resource Center faces funding uncertainty

By Irene Torres
KP News

The Key Peninsula stood to lose one of its greatest assets last month when program manager, Edie Morgan, announced her resignation from the Washington Children's Home Society's Key Pen Family Resource Center. Now that Morgan's resignation has been withdrawn, she and her staff have their work cut out for them.



MORGAN

"We make a great team. We're determined to move forward together and rely on the strength of each other," she said.

For six years, the last two as program manager, Morgan has served the community in many ways with the help of her staff. Under her direction, the Parent Information and Resource Center, based at Evergreen Elementary, assists schools and parents. The Little Buddies program operates in two locations, Evergreen

Elementary and the KP Civic Center. The holiday program has grown from 150 to 415 children, and the five-week summer program enrolls about 100 children. These programs serve children from preschool to middle school, with high school students as volunteer mentors.

Funded by private foundation money, some corporate support, and the Department of Health, CHS was, at press time, facing funding cuts as Title 19 funding is scheduled for reallocation for Pierce County on Dec. 31. This could translate into a loss of about \$60,000 for the Key Pen, including one and a half staff positions, office equipment and supplies. But Morgan, Luella Coldeen Hudson, Claudia Goczeski and part-timer Karen Payseno are committed to continue their work on the Key Peninsula.

Hudson, family support worker, leads the Alternative Response System. She receives referrals from Child Protective Services to keep families intact when risk of future harm is considered low after investigation of complaints about child abuse or neglect.

Morgan fully realized the challenge ahead when she made the decision "to stay at CHS and devote myself to that effort." She said she would look for grant funding to fit the mission of CHS "to develop healthy children, create strong families, and speak and advocate for children." The goal to "help children thrive, by building on the strengths of children, families, and communities," will continue, she said.

As part of her overall strategy, the team will conduct an in-depth analysis of the Key Peninsula CHS budget. "We need to be most streamlined and efficient, and make the best use of our resources to diminish the effects of the cuts and still meet needs," Morgan said.

Vicki Husted Biggs, CHS family support worker, said, "Edie is a person dedicated to making social change and working for children and families. She is particularly committed to the community of the Key Peninsula. She's a hard worker and she loves what she does. We're very pleased she decided to stay."

Biggs works with schools in the Readiness to Learn program, making

For information about programs provided by Washington Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, call 884-5433.

Community members are invited to an Open House to meet the leaders and get an update on the funding on Sept. 23, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the KPFRCC located in the Civic Center.

referrals for health care, parent education, counseling and home visitation. The program addresses problems that may be interfering with a child's success at school, works to build closer home-to-school connections, and links with other resources to promote family well-being.

"We have had an incredible amount of support from the community. Now is the time we will need more support to succeed in meeting the challenge," said Morgan. "We've been told the services we provide are valuable. Now we need to demonstrate that as we look for alternative funding."

Meanwhile, "it's back to business," Morgan said.

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Metro parks receives money, begins intense work

By Irene Torres
KP News



“The plan, all along, was for the KPPRD to go out of business.”

- Kip Clinton, KPPRD commissioner and clerk of the KPMPD

The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District (KPPRD) and the newly formed KP Metropolitan Parks District (KPMPD) are working together, and quite well, despite a number of hurdles yet to be crossed, according to commissioners who are on both boards. The two boards are in the process of transitioning park assets from the old organization to the new one according to the law.

The KPMPD budget projections for the next year, for a total of \$90,000, have been submitted to Pierce County, and the county has turned over KPMPD's share of the collected per capita zoo/trek excise tax. KPMPD had \$27,000 in its treasury as of mid-August, and projects an annual collection of \$90,000 over the coming year.

KPMPD, already functioning, has signed an interlocal agreement with KPPRD for a \$10,000 purchase of Home Park. “Under an obscure law, the KPPRD cannot gift its assets to a

metropolitan park district. The sale of the property to the KPMPD will enable KPPRD to pay off its election expenses and pay its utility bill. When the property is transferred in late August or early September, there will be a symbolic ceremony to mark the event,” according to Kip Clinton, KPPRD commissioner and clerk of the KPMPD.

Ed Taylor, the KPMPD representative to the Land Acquisition Committee, will be involved in negotiations for interlocal agreements for acquisition of Rocky Creek Conservation Area and other future park land. Other volunteers are needed to participate in master planning/design of the park system, to negotiate interlocal agreements with entities such as the school district, and to write grants.

KPMPD board members hope to reach agreement with the KPPRD by year's end, to allow KPMPD to take over ownership of KP Sports Center and Fairgrounds (Volunteer Park). Any major capital expenditures at that location will be applied as payments toward the purchase price, against the asset value. The expense of lighting the parking lot, the addition of security lighting, and improvement to the water system at the KP Sports Center are examples. The water system is being upgraded with a larger pump and lines extended to the edge of the property, thanks to a generous donation by former KPPRD Commissioner Fred Ramsdell. Insurance companies require ownership to be clearly established before they will issue a policy, so both

groups are moving the interlocal agreement along.

Early on the agenda for next year will be an application for matching funds through the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), funding for which KPMPD qualifies, if they can raise up to \$150,000. That money will be used for capital improvements and park land development at the sports center.

KPMPD plans to add staff next year; but this year, the current park maintenance employee and volunteers worked overtime to get ready for the fair, Clinton said.

These efforts follow the original plan for the KPMPD when it was formed, she added. “The plan, all along, was for the KPPRD to go out of business,” Clinton explained.

The three current commissioners who serve on both park boards see no need to resign before dissolving the KPPRD. “It doesn't make sense to replace three commissioners on the KPPRD for the one or two months it might take to complete the transition,” she said.

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Sumi Painting Workshops - Workshops combine beginning and continuing levels. Learn brush and ink techniques that make Sumi a popular art form. Have a great time with an expert (and fun) teacher of this ancient art.

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Cleanup program targets junk cars and other problems

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Any motorist heading south on the Key Peninsula Highway likely noticed a blue pickup at the intersection of 134th Avenue near the Shell gas station. The beat-up vehicle, full of other junk, apparently was being moved from one spot to another within a 10-yard radius until finally rested on the side off 134th for several months.

The sight is not unusual around the Peninsula, though most times these dumped loads are in remote neighborhoods or roads away from main traffic.

A couple of years ago citizens looking to report such nuisance may have become stuck in a loop trying to get to the right agency, but a relatively new program called Pierce County Responds now offers a centralized hotline for complaints — and engages an entire anti-blight task force comprised of several agencies.

Pierce County Responds, overseen by the county's solid waste division, has two main elements in addition to the hotline: a cleanup program that targets large-scale, longtime dump sites, and a nuisance vehicle program backed by a county Nuisance Vehicle Law passed in June 2003.

The Home Park, formerly a dumpsite, was cleaned with the help of the program. Thousands of pounds of debris were hauled away by the county from the site, which was subsequently beautified and turned into a park by local volunteers with the help of several business owners.

Steve Wamback, county solid waste administrator who coordinates Pierce County Responds, said nearly 4,000 calls were received to the hotline during the first half of this year, and about 1,800



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

This pickup truck, full of garbage, had been abandoned on a private property and later moved to the side of the road off Key Pen Highway, but finally disappeared, months later.

vehicles were removed during the same time, a big portion of those coming from private properties.

Private property owners who cooperate are given priority. An owner who cooperates to have a nuisance vehicle removed, whether after a complaint or by voluntarily calling it in, agrees to pay half of the removal costs (the 50 percent of the bill is usually \$35 per car). The fee may be waived for low-income or senior citizens.

The program, however, is not proactive and relies on residents to identify problem areas, much like the code-enforcement office does for zoning violations. The response time for someone who calls the hotline is usually about six months, Wamback said, because the program started taking calls about a year before it was staffed to actually do removal — so formal enforcement only started last December. The program is funded by a portion of garbage-disposal fees.

"When County Executive (John)

Ladenburg created Pierce County Responds in 2001, he directed county agencies and the health department to work together on two main problems: junked vehicles on private properties and illegal dumping of solid waste," Wamback said. "(He) was motivated by our research into the 'broken window' syndrome. Once a broken-down car has its window broken, soon the tires are gone, doors pulled off, and trash accumulates. The same has been shown to occur with boarded up homes or entire neighborhoods...The county executive created Pierce County Responds to fix the 'broken windows' and start to free our neighborhoods from the scourge of meth labs, car theft rings, and chop shops."

The eyesore pickup that decorated Key

"The county executive has created Pierce County Responds to fix the 'broken windows' (syndrome) and start to free our neighborhoods from the scourge of meth labs, car theft rings and chop shops."

-Steve Wamback, county solid waste administrator

Pen Highway finally disappeared one day around late July or August. The Key Peninsula News could not track its whereabouts or whether it was hauled away by the cleanup program—but whatever it took to get rid of it, it worked.

Officials do warn that residents who find a dumped vehicle on private or public property should not touch its contents. If the vehicle was used for a methamphetamine lab, it is highly toxic.

Illegal wrecking

Another big problem is illegal wrecking yards. Several agencies collaborate in spotting illegal activity, and law enforcement officers say often times a site has the entire gamut: wrecked cars, a chop shop, and drugs. Although investigating wrecking yards falls under Washington State Patrol, code enforcement officers' inspections result in a call to detectives as needed (for more about this collaborative effort, read the Key Peninsula News July edition).

Long before Pierce County Responds was in place and the task force was

organized, one Glen Cove area property had more than 50 junk cars removed. The case, which started more than 15 years ago, is still in the courts, according to county officials.

"We generally get called out if there is a land-use, shoreline, or illegal business issue," said Mark Lupino, a county code enforcement agent whose geographical area includes the Key Peninsula. "We send out a letter with a seven-day response time then make a site visit. If we see wreckage or cars that appear stolen (and other problems), we call the state patrol."

WSP Trooper Willie Hernandez, who investigates illegal wrecking yards, said a person dismantling cars or selling parts is considered to have a wrecking business and must be licensed. But storing junk vehicles, while a code violation, doesn't automatically mean criminal activity.

"If there is a volume of vehicles in different stages of dismantlement and parts scattered about the property," then law enforcement gets involved, he said, adding that such calls are frequent in the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula area.

Whatever the potential problem may be, Wamback said Pierce County Responds was created to listen to the citizens, and as a tool to help improve quality of life. "Pierce County government has listened to the people...that illegal dumping and nuisance vehicles are a problem that degrades their neighborhoods," he said. "We have listened and are trying to address them, but we can't do it alone."

PC Responds Hotline

If you have a complaint about a dumped or nuisance car, suspicious activity, or excessive garbage on a private property, call 798-INFO. County officials urge residents to leave as many details as possible as well as a phone number for follow-up questions. Property owners who would like to voluntarily cooperate in getting junk cars or garbage removed from their property should also call this line.

The cooperative abatement program will pay 50 percent of the cost of a vehicle removal in exchange for property owner cooperation; fees may be waived for seniors and low-income residents. A litter credit program is also in place, in which households can receive up to \$100 in garbage disposal aid after a code enforcement officer inspection.



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Community Council to look at priorities, concerns

At their second official meeting, on Aug. 24, the newly elected Key Peninsula Community Council directors agreed they would like to maintain their decision-making process in the spirit of the council's organizing committee: Not rushing into decisions and making sure there is adequate public notice and input. To facilitate public participation, the council will also seek out community members to serve on various committees.

Council members elected their officers in August as follows: Jeff Harris, president; Joyce Tovey, vice president; Arlene Williams, secretary; and Russ Humberd, treasurer. Several directors volunteered to serve in an office, and Harris commended the interest.

"I think the number of people who stepped forward to volunteer (for office) is an indication of a strong organization," he said at the meeting.

A needs assessment committee is still working on details of the community needs survey that asked residents detailed questions on local priorities and concerns. Preliminary tabulations of the 122 replies showed several patterns and have indicated primary areas of interest.

Of the 122 responses:

- 68 identified police patrols as a priority or a concern
- 62 identified EMT response time
- 75 emphasized road improvements
- 94 emphasized 24/7 urgent care
- 79 said a youth activity center and teen programs were priorities
- 77 felt maintaining rural character was a priority.

Other top categories included community activity centers, no user-fee parks, and quality of schools.

Community member are wanted for the following committees: Executive, Finance, Communications, Safety, Human Services, Community Planning, and other. Those interested should contact Harris at 884-4697.

Residents are encouraged to attend the meetings, currently held every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Key Pen Middle School. The next meeting is Sept. 28.

For information regarding the council or how to support it, call 884-0557.

Bus service statistics right on schedule

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

About a year since Pierce Transit reopened routes on the Key Peninsula, the ridership has been steadily growing and meeting projected statistics, the agency says. Buses that saw an average of seven commuters per day last year now carry an average of 40 or more — and occasionally up to 70, according to Senior Planner Eric Phillips.

"It's on course for exactly what we were shooting for...and on budget," he said.

Some changes were implemented in February based on riders' feedback, including the addition of scheduled stops in Home.

The hybrid service concept is not new around the country, but it is new for Pierce Transit, and in July, the agency started a similar service in mid-county. Phillips said it's proving a good fit for a community such as the Key Peninsula because residents have the flexibility of scheduled stops and additional ones based on reservations. "We have been

able to meet all requested reservations so far," Phillips said.

The ridership dropped in wintertime — most likely due to weather — but picked up again in spring, and the service seems to be popular with students who need to get around after school.

"We've been very proactive in trying to meet the community needs and making some small changes on the fly," Phillips said.

Bus Plus replaced a service called Dial-A-Ride that was eliminated in 1999 due to funding cuts. "We knew there was a market out there we were not meeting. We had a lot of requests and the community stayed active (in telling us the needs)," Phillips said.

The Key Pen route stretches from Home, through Vaughn, and on to the Purdy Park and Ride, where commuters can connect to buses traveling to Gig Harbor or Tacoma.

As demand for the service grows, Pierce Transit will consider adding more scheduled stops and making other adjustments.

Bus Plus in a nutshell

Bus Plus offers two kinds of stops: scheduled (look for yellow signs) and reservation-based (marked by white signs). To be picked up at a reservation-only stop, you must call 253-581-8002. Service is offered Monday through Friday and starts as early as 4:43 a.m., with the last bus arriving in Home after 7 p.m.

Special fare such as a Youth Pass is available. For a detailed schedule and other information, see www.piercetransit.org.



Map of Bus Plus Key Peninsula service; other stops are added intermittently, check with Pierce Transit for current routes.

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Fogel Sound Tides, time and height corrected for

North Bay (Case Inlet)

September, 2004

(16:16 hours to 15 minutes, 2004 NOAA estimate)

Day	Time	Feet H/L	Tide	Feet H/L	Time	Feet H/L	Tide	Feet H/L
3 F	3:20 AM	1.0	L	9:39 AM	12.0	H	3:26 PM	4.1
4 Sa	4:12 AM	1.5	L	10:46 AM	11.6	H	4:12 PM	5.5
5 Su	5:00 AM	1.3	L	12:03 PM	11.4	H	5:02 PM	6.2
6 M	5:55 AM	1.3	L	1:33 PM	11.5	H	6:19 PM	7.7
10 F	2:24 AM	10.6	H	9:56 AM	0.5	L	5:28 PM	13.5
11 Sa	3:26 AM	10.9	H	10:40 AM	0.2	L	5:57 PM	13.8
12 Su	4:19 AM	11.4	H	11:18 AM	0.2	L	6:20 PM	14.0
17 F	2:13 AM	1.2	L	0:19 AM	13.0	H	2:17 PM	3.4
18 Sa	2:53 AM	0.3	L	9:15 AM	12.9	H	2:50 PM	4.7
19 Su	3:37 AM	-0.4	L	10:19 AM	12.8	H	3:42 PM	6.1
24 F	1:19 AM	11.5	H	8:55 AM	-0.5	L	4:26 PM	14.3
25 Sa	2:46 AM	11.6	H	9:57 AM	-0.4	L	5:07 PM	14.5
26 Su	4:03 AM	12.0	H	10:50 AM	0.0	L	5:40 PM	14.8

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The Everetts raise healthy cattle

By Cristi Watson
KP News

Red velvet spots the 75 acres that consist of Everett Farms. Those “spots” are Red Poll cattle and belong to Dean Everett. Dean and his family, wife Kathy and children Cassi, Libby, and Emilie, have lived on the Key Peninsula for 23 years. They have been raising cattle for 20 years but the Red Poll breed for 12.

The Everetts own the largest herd west of the continental divide and the only herd in Washington state. What’s so unique about this breed, besides their aesthetic qualities? They are classified as “rare” on the endangered watch list.

In a society of mass production, Red Polls are more suited for the family homesteads. They are dual-purpose animals, good milk and tender beef producers but not in quantity. They mature quickly and can be weaned at 200-plus days at 650 pounds, with steers averaging 1,200 pounds in a year. The females are genetically predisposed for calving ease and the breed is gentle. Add to that the red velvet appearance of their shiny coats, the white switch at the end of their tail, and you can see why they make good farm animals.

Dean has also owned a framing shop in Gig Harbor called “Framers Workshop” for 10 years. He’s been framing for 33, but is not quite ready to give up his shop to farm full-time. “I’d miss the creativity, and I’ve got great customers,” he said.

In a society of mass production, Red Polls are more suited for the family homesteads. They are dual-purpose animals, good milk and tender producers but not in quantity.



Dean Everett with his wife, Kathy, and their daughters Cassi, Libby, and Emilie on their farm. The family has been raising the rare breed of cattle called Red Poll for more than a decade.

Photo by Cristi Watson

He looks at his Red Polls not just as meat products but as living creatures. He gives them constant attention, naming many of them; he has clean pastures, plenty of water, fermented hay called

“Haylage” because it’s higher in protein; and the cattle are free of antibiotics and hormones.

Dean Everett reminds people how farming used to be, clean, ethical, and humane. What

does he have to say about the mad-cow disease scare? “Come meet your breeder! See where the cattle are, how they live.”

When the cattle go to “the other place,” it is a USDA-approved, humane packaging facility. Everett respects these gentle

creatures and is proud. He sells the meat to independent buyers, but with 46 head, only 10 to 12 go for packaging. The rest are for breeding purposes, so the meat is only available until gone.

Business briefs

Mercantile sale deal sealed

Longbranch residents Denise Carron and husband Mike Hays finalized the purchase of the Longbranch Mercantile at the end of July. The couple has been working on an agreement since January, but cleanup of contamination from the previous gas station delayed the process.

“We will look at the structure’s integrity, which will help us make a decision on whether we should replace it or refurbish,” Hays said. Either way, the new business will be similar to the former Mercantile, a convenience store.

The new owners anticipate the store to open in the next two years.

Brookside plans reopening

At press time, Ron and Shirley Bustad of Lakebay, new owners of the Brookside restaurant in Minter, planned to reopen the newly remodeled facility on Aug. 26. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served, with hours from 5:45 a.m. until 9 p.m. The restaurant is located off SR-302, near the 118th Ave NW intersection.

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Shiloh Farm — a local farmer's market

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Larry and Sharon Wingard operate their own farmer's market on Herron Road, a mile west of Home. From apples to zucchini, a wide variety of produce can be found in their little sales booth and garden in season. All fruits and vegetables are organically grown, and some are U-pick.

Wingard bought the property in 1987 and started a garden before he moved in. He did the regular farmer's market in Kitsap County for a while, then decided he could open his own at home. He is involved in the Senior Citizen Farmer's Market Program for low-income seniors. Eligible people can bring their coupons to pick up fresh produce when it's available.

The gardens have expanded over the years, and he continues to experiment with different varieties, but has narrowed selections down to what he believes are the current best.

His latest gardening experiment is giant pumpkins.

He starts the seeds inside. Six days later,



Photo by Frank Slater
Larry Wingard and his giant pumpkins.

they fill the quart container with roots and are ready to go into a specially prepared pit — 3 by 3 by 3 feet in the middle of a large "bed." This 18 by 20-foot bed has been prepared with 8 inches of aged cow and chicken manure, rock phosphate and wood ash. Each plant sends out three to five main stems, and only one pumpkin is allowed to grow on a main stem. The

On Oct. 2, the Wingards will host an all-day open house at the farm to show off his giants. At Home, next to the post office, turn on Herron Road, drive 1 mile west. The Shiloh Farm sign is on the right. Pass two houses and continue to the right.

extras are culled off gradually, and the vines that reach out beyond the marked area are cut off and tucked into the ground to grow more roots. Wingard uses compost tea foliar spray while the plant is small.

Wingard's seed this year was Dill's Atlantic Giant No. 1106, which he bought from a reliable grower. Pumpkins from this lot came from one weighing over 1,000 pounds.

Approximate weight is determined by the circumference. For example, an 84-inch circumference pumpkin would weigh approximately 163 pounds.

He has a set of three books on growing gigantic pumpkins. He planned to enter his largest pumpkin in competition this fall, but after a recent tour of growers, decided that competition is beyond his

reach already. He learned some new tricks of the trade on the tour, and will aim for more competitive pumpkins next year.

Sharon Wingard has her own giant pumpkin patch next to a large dahlia garden, and although her pit was only 2 by 2 by 2 feet, her largest pumpkin is giving her husband a stiff run for his money.

In October, he will lease his giants to businesses for display during the month. They are leased rather than sold, which means Wingard will deliver them and pick them up at the end of the display time.

They also have jack-o-lantern size pumpkins in a corn patch this year, as Native Americans used to do. Wingard says he won't do that again, as he could hardly get to the corn when it was ready to harvest. These pumpkins will be for sale in October, with \$1 of each sale being contributed to Key Peninsula Community House. If successful, this is an event he plans to continue.

Wingard is enjoying retirement doing the kind of business he loves — gardening, meeting people, and contributing to his local community.



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Garbage in, garbage out:

A day in the life of a KP garbage man



A DAY IN THE
LIFE

By William C. Dietz, KP News

This story is garbage, or will be, once you wrap it around what's left of a salmon dinner and drop it in the can. That's because Webster's defines garbage as 1.) "offal; the refuse animal or vegetable matter of a kitchen or market," and 2.) "anything worthless or offensive," which some newspaper articles certainly are.

As part of the ongoing series "A day in the life of," the Key Peninsula News struck a conversation with a young man named Matt Buckler to get a data dump on dumps. He's young, clean cut, and, if the American Disposal Co. had recruiting posters, he'd be on them. His official title is that of "Refuse Collector," although Buckler has no objection to the more traditional "Garbage Man," and he's been on the job for nearly two years now.

When asked to talk about the worst thing associated with his job, the answer comes quickly. "Definitely the dogs!" Buckler says. "A lot of people leave their dogs unleashed. If you look at our trucks, you'll see that we have baseball bats on both sides. Sometimes, if we think we might get bitten, we don't get off the truck. The key is to empty the can before they have time to run up."

As for other problems, Buckler admits that "the smell gets pretty bad in the summer, plus our trucks stir up a lot of dust. Actually out here a lot of people go on vacation in the winter. I finish my route an hour and 15 minutes earlier in the winter than in summer. That's because more people are here, the kids are home, and all the summer camps are in session."

As for the contents of the garbage cans that he has to deal with, Buckler shrugs them off. "We get the occasional dead cat or dog. During hunting season we get deer carcasses. We take them if they're in a can." He grins. "Sometimes people ask me if I see really weird stuff — but no



Photo by Frank Slater

"Refuse Collector" Matt Buckler, a.k.a. "the Garbage Man," starting his Key Pen route early one Monday in August.

hands or feet so far."

The working conditions could be worse. Believe it or not, modern garbage trucks come equipped with some creature comforts.

Buckler's vehicle boasts a radio with six-station memory, air conditioning, and an automatic transmission. And, with the simple flick of a switch, the intrepid refuse collector can shift control from the left side of his truck to the right and back again! A feature that not only promotes efficiency — but keeps Buckler and his peers from having to exit into traffic.

And, according to American Disposal's Sales Manager Gordon Wheeler, safety is an important concern. "In the summer time the kids are out of school and the garbage man is the cheapest show in town. It's important to watch out for them. We have regular safety meetings too."

Fortunately there's more to collecting garbage than vicious dogs, smelly garbage, and deer carcasses. Buckler likes his job. "It keeps me in shape, cuts

"Sometimes people ask me if I see really weird stuff—but no hands or feet so far."

- Matt Buckler, garbage man

down on the time I spend at the gym, and I like a lot of the customers. There are people who leave cold pop out for me every week—and go out of their way to

show their appreciation of how hard our job actually is. During Christmas I get a lot of cards, tips, and presents. I was surprised when I first started, but it's very nice."

When it comes to the more traditional forms of compensation, Buckler is happy with those as well. "It's a good job, has good benefits, and a good retirement plan," he says.

What about the future? How long can somebody like Buckler throw 45-pound cans before it starts to take a toll? Wheeler says, "The average age of a guy lifting cans is 22 to 29. There's a few that are older than that... As guys get older they move into easier jobs like driving front loaders, roll-off trucks and semis."

While American Disposal has experienced some labor difficulties, Wheeler believes that those problems are in the past. "They brought in Keith

Kovalenki as district manager. He knows how to provide good service, keep our equipment in good shape, and has the respect of the workers."

So that's the first part of the trip... But what happens after Buckler, or one of his co-workers, hauls your 10-day-old tuna salad off the peninsula? First it goes to the Purdy Transfer Station, where it is loaded into a rail box. Once that has been accomplished, the box is trucked to Tacoma, where it is loaded onto a train and taken to Roosevelt, Wash., which, according to information posted on the Web "is located in eastern Klickitat County, on Washington Highway 14 along the Columbia River." (www.a2zgorge.info/community/towns/roosevelt.htm)

The Web posting goes on to indicate that the "2000 census lists the population of Roosevelt at 79." So, why do the 79 people of Roosevelt want the Key Peninsula's garbage? Because it's valuable, that's why! Once the garbage has been dumped into "cells," or "sections," it is covered with soil to "eliminate odors and to discourage seagulls, rodents and other scavengers" and left to rot. And not just rot, but produce methane gas, which the shrewd Rooseveltites use to power five generators. Generators that produce electricity that they promptly sell! So maybe Webster's is wrong, maybe garbage is worth something, if only to the residents of Roosevelt, Washington.

And that brings us back to American Disposal's Gordon Wheeler, a man who used to throw cans himself, and is therefore well positioned to put the whole process in perspective. "I call garbage America's most valuable resource," Wheeler maintains cheerfully. "There will always be garbage."

Statistical garbage

It takes seven American Disposal Co. trucks and drivers to service the Key Peninsula.

Each truck costs from \$135,000 to \$140,000, has a service life of about 10 years, and weighs about 31,000 pounds.

Since the average 32-gallon garbage can weighs between 40 and 45 pounds, and the average one-man route involves about 300 stops, the collector will lift at least 6 tons of material into the back of his truck each day.

The citizens of the peninsula produce 52 tons of garbage each week—which adds up to approximately 2,704 tons per year.

CHS summer 'camp' fills vacation days



Volunteer Dale Loy demonstrates a rhythmic beat to a group of elementary school kids.

Photo by
Hugh McMillan

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

The last Friday of July found the Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center wrapping up its five-week summer program for children with a family-style picnic at Penrose Point State Park. The kids were from throughout the Key Pen and represented all three elementary schools, Evergreen, Vaughn, and Minter Creek.

Vicki Biggs of CHS said this Summer Fun program took place at Evergreen Elementary School Mondays and Tuesdays, with Wednesdays and Thursdays at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn. It hosted some 40 elementary children at each site along with 10 KP Middle School mentors and five adult staff. In addition, Karen Payseno oversaw and directed a Kindercamp at the respective sites each day with about 12 preschool children and their parents attending.

Sunnycrest Nursery's Dale Loy volunteered his passion for percussion with the kids and brought an assortment of drums, bongos and other instruments on which he, together with volunteer Voski Sprague, demonstrated and gave lessons in playing drums. Voski also gyrated amongst them, leading the kids in a dance routine.

Among the rhythmically absorbed students were soon-to-be KPMS sixth grader, Katy Losdahl, and her sister, Vaughn fifth grader Sasha Losdahl, both

of whom came from Russia to live with their new parents, the Losdahls, a few years ago. These two young ladies had forgotten how to speak Russian. They can't even understand the language. They now speak with totally Americanized, accent-free English.

Biggs said, "CHS Director Edie Morgan has been directing this program for about six years and has established many traditions for the campers including this wrap-up family picnic." One highlight most children agree upon is a field trip to the Hi-Joy Bowling Alley in Port Orchard. Many of them had not bowled before and enjoyed the new experience.

"A feature of the program children also never tire of is the reptile exhibit, a very hands-on presentation by the staff at Camp Seymour," said Biggs. "Until recently, well known local educators Marty Marcus and Ann Waldo had presented the program in which the children always pick a favorite snake, Rosie or Midnight, perhaps." Sue Surratt organized a whole bunch of cooperative games. With help, Linda Youngchild covered picnic tables with enough food to make Caesar's chef envious.

"Each week is planned for cooperative play games, snacks, crafts such as tiling terra cotta pots taught by Lorina Schauler, and, of course, singing," said Biggs.

The kids are already looking forward to camp next year and can hardly believe, "is it really over?"

Fire district asks voters for levy 'lid' lift

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The Key Peninsula Fire District will ask voters in September to authorize the collection of \$1.50 levy per \$1,000 of assessed property value, an increase from \$1.45 currently authorized. The additional nickel will keep the district at the current taxation level, which, according to district officials, is needed to maintain the current level of services.

The voters approved the \$1.50 collection in 1994. However, Initiative 747 mandates a 1 percent limit of increased revenue over the previous year. The limit means every year the jurisdictions affected by the "levy lid" will see a gradual decrease in the amount collected. The complex formula for all local districts (including library, metropolitan parks, and some county services) currently has a limit of \$5.90 aggregate amount per year. According to I-747, jurisdictions can go to the voters to lift the "lid."

FD-16's expenses have increased by 3 percent in the last few years due to high fuel and power costs, increased 911 dispatch fees and other operating costs. Without the additional collection, the district will need to cut its operations by \$50,000 per year, said FD-16 Chief Eric Livingood Nelsen. The district is already short-staffed, he said, because

FD-16 proposition details

Informational pamphlets regarding the levy lid lift will be available at Fire District 16 headquarters in Key Center other fire stations. For information, call 884-2222.

additional emergency personnel have not been hired since 1997 while the call volume grows each year. The district no longer has an assistant fire chief, because hiring one would mean losing two paid firefighters, he said.

Nelsen said the district has a reserve fund but it is allocated for the purchase of ambulances in the near future. The levy authorized last year for the purchase of new fire engines cannot be used for operating funds.

If the voters approve the increase, Nelsen said the district could keep the level of services in 2005. If they don't, he said the cuts would probably be made in the area of programs, training or similar.

"At some point, when operating costs keep going up and there is a gap (in revenue), there will be a critical mass point, and we're trying to avoid that," he said. "We have more demand for service and we are trying to do it with the same number of people."

The proposition, on the ballot Sept. 14, requires a simple majority to pass: 50 percent plus 1 "yes" vote.

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T. O. P. S. will host the Harvest Festival

Can you believe fall is upon us? The summer has zoomed on by and school will be starting soon. Our Summer Weight Loss contest against other TOPS chapters has just finished. A lot of weight was taken off sensibly. We applaud all those who participated.

The Vaughn chapter of TOPS #WA 1019, is busy getting ready for the Harvest Festival on Oct. 31 in the Key Peninsula Civic Center gym. The time is 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer or your group would like to host a booth, please call us.

“The Pirates of Key Pen” is our festival theme this year. We are excited about this big event. The event is free and we will be having a costume judging contest, cakewalk, games and activities, prizes, lots of candy and tons of fun. So bring the kids and come on out and join us for a fun and safe evening. If you would like to contribute to funding our Harvest Carnival, donations of candy, toys, or cash are appreciated.

Here are some ways to strive toward weight loss: 1) Strengthen your resolve by deciding why weight loss is important; 2) Know your weaknesses—keep yourself out of temptation’s way when possible; 3) Set specific, measurable, realistic goals; and 4) Be flexible. Successful weight losers have a plan, yet “go with the flow” to alter that plan when the need arises.

If you have any questions or would like to stop by for a visit, feel free to do so. We meet every Tuesday night in the VFW room at the KP Civic Center. Weigh-in is at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. For information call the Civic Center at (253) 884-3456.

—By Jena Henak

Seniors celebrate 25th anniversary

The Key Peninsula Senior Society will celebrate 25 years of their organization, notes club President Virginia Adkisson. On Sept. 23, they will add decorations and have ham and scalloped potatoes for lunch.

The group meets every Thursday at the Key Peninsula Civic Center to share a potluck lunch, socialize and play card games. Membership has dropped in recent years with loss by death or moving out of the area, but they hope new people will be interested in joining this cheerful, friendly group. Requirements are minimal.

For more information about the group,

Left to right: Cub Scouts Jonathan Crane, Donnie Roberts, Kelson Mills, Jakob Morton, Josh Lewis, Alex Ramirez, Don Warmbo, and Kevin Pszczola. Instructors are Ted Lilyblade, center behind kids, and Glen Pszczola, far end.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



Cub Pack 222 holds day camp at LIC

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Cub Scouts of America’s Pack 222 of the Pacific Harbor Counsel wound up its weeklong Summer Day Camp recently at the grounds of the Longbranch Improvement Club in a flurry of activities that looked as if they’d stumbled upon man’s age-long search for perpetual motion. It was one of those almost-never Puget Sound days of blistering heat under a sky clear of anything but a great golden heat-radiating globe.

The cubs, an explosion of bubbling energy, seemed oblivious to the temperature. The adults were not. But they were good scouts (no pun intended) and, although only barely, kept up with their enthusiastic brood. Assistant Den 2 Leader Matthew Mills, proudly noting that his dad, Don, was once Key Peninsula’s fire chief, said, “The event was blessed by loads of parent support and by the Longbranch

Improvement Club, which provided space for our five-day camp.”

This was not a sleepover event. Each day went from 3 to 9 p.m. for some 35 Cub Scouts, ages 5-11. The schedule helped working parents participate. Mills noted that it was “also cooler in the evenings.

The kids were treated to five days of rifle marksmanship training with BB guns by U.S. Navy range officer, Scott Sherman. “The Cub Scouts safely trained in a professional manner under his guidance,” said Mills.

The camp’s archery instructor Ted Lilyblade made sure that the youngsters understood the need to be serious about the business of safe target practice with bows and arrows. It was apparent that no horseplay would be welcomed on the range and none of the kids appeared ready to tolerate any deviation from this practice on the parts of their fellow cubs.

Mills explained that the theme for

this year’s camp was “Cubstruction.” Translation: “The cubs built a toolbox, birdhouse, windowbox, and gardening tool holder.”

“Materials for this came from Lowe’s Home Improvement, which donated 88 kits.” He added, “Other materials were prepared by Michelle Morton’s father. She was camp coordinator and did a great job.”

Michelle’s husband, Rob Morton, ran flag football, marshmallow blowguns, and catapults.

Camp culminated in an awards ceremony in which each den prepared and presented a skit, “during the potluck dinner after which all parents got to watch their cubs show off what they learned all week,” said Mills. “It was a rousing finish to a good year of Pack 222 cub scouting, with many awards, badges and rank advancements,” he said.

Anyone interested in being a part of or supporting the pack should contact Michelle or Rob Morton at 884-6927.

call Rose Malmgren, 884-5052. She invites all interested seniors to stop by and join them.

Bayshore Garden Club meeting agenda

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at the Longbranch Fire Station at 1:00 p.m., Sept. 7.

The hostess is Liz Fore. Theme Program is “Corn” by Doris Boudreau; horticulture and conservation by Dorothy Parrot; design by Doris Boudreau. For more information call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487

Back to school at S.A.V.E. Thrift Store

Back to school time is an excellent time to take advantage of the values available at S.A.V.E. Thrift Store in Purdy. Operated by the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund Committee, profits from the shop benefit activity groups and the scholarship program at Peninsula High School.

Articles in the store include high quality clothing, shoes, jewelry, toys and games, housewares, books, and a variety of other items. Prices are always low, but of particular interest to families on a

budget are the frequent bag sales. On Tuesday, Sept. 7, will be a \$3 bag sale on clothes and shoes for kids only, from infants through children’s size 12. The customer selects the contents of the bag, of course.

Saturday, Sept. 18 will see a \$5 bag sale on clothes and shoes of all sizes. And then the final \$3 bag sale of Sept. for clothes and shoes of all sizes will be on Sept. 28. These sales are repeated every month along with other daily discount specials. The management of the store is currently creating an email sales calendar to be sent to everyone who wishes to register to receive it. Monthly sales as well

as one-time special offers will be listed.

S.A.V.E. Thrift Store welcomes shoppers, donors and volunteers during regular business hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day but Wednesday and Sunday when the shop is closed. S.A.V.E. is conveniently located for Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula and Kitsap County shoppers at the foot of the hill below Peninsula High School in Purdy.

For more information call 857-2800 or just drop in. With its high volume of sales, there is always something new to catch your eye at S.A.V.E. Thrift Store.

—By Marsha Williams

ASHES rummage sale support appreciated

The ladies of ASHES appreciate all the rummage sale support. The sale helps the fire department and the community.

To the ladies out there, please join us

for our meeting Thursday, Sept. 2, 2004 at 10:30 a.m., Key Center Fire Station 2. There's a potluck lunch afterwards.

—By Sharon Cavanaugh

Get fit at the Civic Center

The Civic Center offers a variety of new and continuing classes to help you stay in shape. Tae Kwon Do starts in September on Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Tennis lessons start Sept. 13, Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 10:00 a.m. (gym). Yoga starts Sept. 20, Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8 - 9:30 a.m. (VFW room). For information call the Civic Center at (253) 884-3456.

Friday night is skate night

Friday Night Skate night is back this

fall at the Civic Center, and the first one is Sept. 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$4 per child. Parents of children under the age of 8 skate for free.

A reminder: Skate at your own risk! The Civic Center is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please do not bring in skates that have been used outside. The center has skates and some roller blades (included in price). A full kitchen is open as well.

Check your child in with the door monitor and come inside to pick your children up. No parking lot drop-offs are allowed. For information call the Civic Center at (253) 884-3456.

Oktoberfest fund-raiser planned at the Civic Center

Save the date, Oct. 23! The Key Peninsula Civic Center's fall fund-raiser is an Oktoberfest. "BLUES, Brews & Brats"

will feature microbrews, brats and the blues music of "Little Bill and the Bluenotes." Watch for more info or contact the Civic Center at 884-3456.

—By Edie Morgan

Annual Peninsula High School 1948-1960 reunion

Peninsula High School classmates of 1948-1960 are invited to attend a reunion on Saturday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m. at Gig Harbor Eagles Hall.

This annual event is scheduled for the first Saturday night following Labor Day each year. A \$5 donation per person is asked to be paid at door for food expenses. Dress is casual.

People who attended Peninsula with those classes but did not graduate with them are encouraged to attend.

Pre-registration is not required. For information, call Colleen at 884-5403.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer spotlight

Ruth Matthews

When the Communities in Schools program asked for volunteers for their new reading program last year, Ruth Matthews jumped at the chance. She grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan, Canada, "where it was part of life that you always help everybody," she says. "It was just second nature."

Becoming a reading mentor was her second volunteer job last year. She has volunteered for about a dozen years for the Community House, where she drives the senior van.

She found mentoring young readers an exciting occupation. Since it is an after-school program, both the parent and the child have to make a time and transportation commitment. Kids are paired, one-on-one, with their own mentor.

The goal is to get the kids excited about reading. So the mentor took time to have conversations about the books they were reading. It worked. Eager young voices would ask, "Is my mentor here today?"

The mentor and child conversations grew into a large group activity. At the end of the day, kids would sit in the teacher's chair and lead a discussion about their book. Talking about the book is the key to comprehension, Ruth

explains. It was exciting for her to see a child become safe and comfortable with reading.

The program's executive director, Colleen Speer, is looking forward to another successful year and hopes for more great volunteers like Ruth. "Ruth is a delight to work with," says Speer. "She takes a vested interest in education and does all she can to make this community a better place for our young people." Both the mentor and the director have high hopes for a second successful year.



Photo by Danna Webster

"She takes a vested interest in education and does all she can to make this community a better place for our young people."

-Colleen Speer,
program executive
director

Volunteer opportunities

Communities in Schools of Peninsula

Adult mentors for elementary age children for after school reading and/or homework help. Spend two to four hours a week with a student helping them be more successful in school. Contact Colleen Speer at 884-5733.

Peninsula School District - AFTER 'OURS Program at Evergreen & KPMS

Individuals interested in helping as academic tutors in math, reading and general homework assistance. Opportunities are available September through May for people to share their knowledge and interest with students as volunteer enrichment instructors such as photography, arts,

Junior Achievement, Future Scientists, running, and more. Contact Carol McLaughlin at 857-8183.

Key Peninsula Community Services

Six bread run volunteers to drive our bread van to pick-up bread at various locations six days a week, approximately 2 to 6 hours weekly. Also need assistant volunteer coordinator to help with program volunteer efforts and RSVP. Contact Cristi Watson, 884-4440.

Children's Home Society

High School "Big Buddies" wanted to spend time with "Little Buddies" from local elementary schools. Qualifies as Community Service hours. Adult volunteers are also needed. Contact Edie Morgan at 884-5433.



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14403 82 nd Ave. NW	Wana	\$225,000.00
10210 Minterwood Dr.	Lake Minterwood	\$179,900.00
16209 48 th St. KPN	Lakebay	\$189,000.00
14103 Hackleberry Lane	Lake Holiday	\$174,500.00
9514 131 st St. NW	Wana Shores	\$259,900.00
71 st St. KPN	Lakebay	\$4,168,500.00

Second Homes

The second home market is booming in the South Sound and the Key Peninsula is definitely being discovered as part of this phenomenon. In the last couple years we've sold many properties to Seattle area residents who are amazed to find our wonderful beaches and beautiful rural wooded area are only about an hour away from Seattle. There has been a recent popular book authored by Tom Kelly & John Tuccillo titled "How a Second Home Can Be Your Best Investment" and this has certainly "fueled the fire" as far as second homes are concerned. There was also a recent article in the Seattle Sunday Times about Herron Island, which has become a popular haven for second home buyers from the Seattle area. All this has generated a very "hot" market this summer with multiple offers and "back up" offers on well-priced properties.



LOG HOME \$225,000

Allow this natural log and cedar custom home to lure you into its spell of old world charm merged with modern day amenities. The spacious master suite on upper level, warmth of hardwood and freestanding stove create a cozy atmosphere. Enjoy the best of both worlds with a private wooded acre and short walk to the community lake.

MLS #24107847



CABIN NEAR THE LAKE \$82,000

This wonderful cabin near the lake offers more room than appears, such as the loft and mud room in addition to the two bedrooms. There are also storage sheds with electricity and a work bench. A must see at this price! MLS #24103786



SPACIOUS COUNTRY LIVING \$225,000

This comfortable home offers plenty of space inside for relaxation or outside in the 18 x 34 above ground pool, or on the 1.24 acres w/ 2 pastures, barn, and beautifully landscaped yard. The work is already done; come and make this your new home!

MLS #24035744



CHARMING VICTORIAN! \$425,000

Quality custom built home located on Glen Cove. Enjoy the beautiful gardens as you wander down the cobblestone path to view the unique waterfall meandering down to the fishpond. Relax on the covered wraparound porch, that provides a wonderful view of Glen Cove, as do the many rooms in this beautiful home. MLS #24078777



VIEW OF LAKE \$119,000

This home offers an open floor plan, with extra room for a den, family room or extra bedroom. You will enjoy the view of Palmer Lake from your spacious living room, back porch or hot tub. There is space for your projects in the detached 2-car garage. Located on the end of a cul-de-sac, this property includes beach rights for your enjoyment of fishing, swimming or boating. Come see! MLS #24077974



TERRIFIC VIEW! \$349,000

Wow! You will enjoy breathtaking views of Mt. Rainier and Carr Inlet from both levels of this large, light filled home that includes a family room and two fireplaces. Property has terraced landscaping with two decks, fruit trees and beach rights. Roomy 2-car garage with work area and extra parking for those visiting RV's and cars. MLS #24068632



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Sustainable living on the KP: Gardening with chicken tractors

By Karen Hale
KP News

Editor's note: This is part of our occasional series featuring inexpensive ways to live sustainably.

Sustainable living doesn't have to be limited to the home — the garden is another place for opportunities. Local sustainability experts Ed and Dana Bressette say their method keeps down weeds, pests and fertilizer use all at the same time by just putting chickens in the garden.

How do you put chickens in the garden and not let them eat everything, or worse, get eaten? Simple: Build a chicken tractor, the Bressettes suggest.

Chicken tractors come in any shape or size desired by the creator. You can build one that looks like a coop house or one that isn't heavy enough to require a trailer or tractor to move it. Some have wheels with handles to allow rolling; some have only handles for lifting.

The number of tractor types is mind-boggling. One popular design is in a triangular style that allows for easy moving, and easily accessible nest boxes on the



Photo by Paul Pattee

A chicken tractor without its inhabitants.

ends. Just a little door on the outside will do. They also enjoy ramps to go up and down for nesting as well as a cover to keep out weather. Some covers are attached permanently, some with removable sections to allow the sun on a nice day.

If you live in an area with a frequency of predators, you need to use a heavier gauge wire in your construction, make sure your construction is durable materials and well crafted. Most importantly, be sure to put wire completely across the bottom of the tractor so weasels, raccoons, foxes, coyotes and other predators can't get under. That would be the one and only shortcoming of a chicken tractor without a bottom. A

bottom is not needed in every location.

Costs of building or purchasing a chicken tractor vary widely, due to size, materials, and addition of other amenities such as running water or a heater for the feathered "weeders."

You will need to move your chickens approximately every two weeks, as that is about how long it takes for them to eat their area to dirt. If your design incorporates wheels, try to use a wheel assembly that moves as you need. Some wheel assemblies have been imported from overseas because of their special design. One type from England (pictured) folds up and down as you lift the tractor on that

Information and designs:

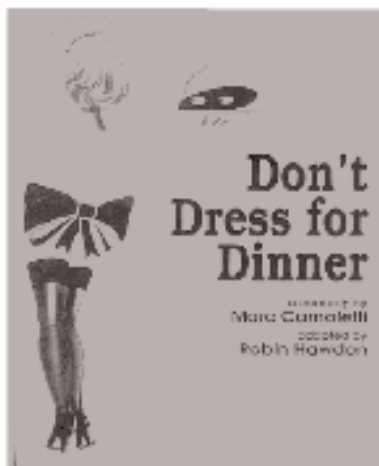
www.winecountrycoops.com
www.easy-garden.com/chicken.htm
www.sru.edu/pages1290.asp
www.goodearthpublications.com
www.kountrylife.com/content/gal231.htm
www.dragonflyfarm.net/chickentractor.shtml

end to allow rolling while moving and then replacing the tractor to the ground when done.

There are many published books on the subject, and one particularly informative one, "Chicken Tractor: The Permaculture Guide to Happy Hens and Healthy Soil" published by Good Earth Publications, can be found at Amazon.com. (\$13.97 or less for used).

Using chickens as a sustainable way of gardening is environmentally friendly. It prevents usage of pesticides and non-organic fertilizers. The by-products of this gardening solution are farm-fresh eggs, natural fertilizer, extra meat for the table (if they don't become pets first) and hours of time saved from pulling weeds in the garden that most people would rather use for anything else.

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Carolyn Willis trains her llama with the help of her service dog, Keisha.

Photo courtesy of Carolyn Willis

(From WILLIS, Page 1)

learn to love their animals more. She has seen too many people get an animal and then lose interest. She believes that getting ready for a trail ride, a parade, a fair or any form of competition can keep that interest.

"The happiest animals are the ones worked with. They are the most cared for animals," she says. This conviction inspired the interspecies competition idea. Willis' experience of being excluded from a cart-pulling event, because a llama instead of a horse pulled her, is the reason why animals of every species are invited to compete. Any trained pet may become the Champion Over All. When she was asked what if the grand champion were a gecko, her reply was, "I would love it."

Animals have always been a necessary ingredient in her life. After Willis spent third grade in an iron lung fighting polio, her mother thought getting a horse would be good physical therapy. The big black stallion they bought made it a habit to rub her off at the nearest tree. Young Carolyn had to walk home. That physical therapy program worked very well. She grew to have many favorite physical activities like swimming, hiking, belly dancing and training horses.

Turning away from a career in belly dancing, Willis went off to Everett Community College wanting to be a veterinarian. She took her horses and dogs along as roommates. She switched her major to visual communications and worked her way through as a horse trainer and dog groomer.

These days, the joy of her life is to present the talents and skills of her animals and to encourage others to do the same. She lives and writes on her Key Pen farm among a menagerie of angora

goats, one llama, one Welsh-Arab pony, a cat known as Mischief Kitty, and a stout little amber dog known as Keisha, the Royal Service Dog. "We all belong to Keisha," Willis confides.

These animals all have costumes made by Willis for special occasions. In the interspecies event, costume is part of the competition. Carolyn Willis loves the art of costume construction. Her current project is the construction of a pair of collapsible fairy wings. Wings, beaded gowns, turbans and glamorous Arabian regalia are included in her sewing credits.

"From the minute I could sew, I never made anything practical," she admits. In recent years, the Arabian outfit has become the unicorn costume for El Duende the llama at the Renaissance Faire when Willis performs as Sahaja, the Apple Tree Diva.

Her many talents and interests have merged in her latest effort to develop the interspecies competition for fairs. Great care has been taken to insure that a little friendly competition will produce a fun time for all participants.

"I absolutely like people to do something with their animals," she says. "My little part is to give them something to do with their pet." The challenges are set, the judges are ready. Medals and ribbons await the new champions.

All-Critters' Fair

All-Critters' Fair and Inter-Species Competition is presented by StillPointe Llama Rescue on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. For an application or further information contact Carolyn Willis at 253-884-2036 or email sahaja@centurytel.net.

From pioneer stock Johnny Larson, expert high climber

By Colleen Slater
KP News

John Larson, a spry octogenarian, doesn't know a stranger. His ready smile is an opening for conversation, whether about his days as a logger or the view of Mount Rainier from his kitchen window in Home.

Raised by pioneer parents on Lackey Road in Vaughn, he left school after ninth grade.

"Algebra was all Greek to me," he says with a grin, "and when square roots came up, I just walked out."

He cleared land on his dad's place, and before he was 17, peeled piling for Davidson Brothers Logging Co. It was piece work, so a hard worker could earn good money.

Johnny and brother Clarence fished in the Vaughn Bay and Dutcher's Creek, hunted ducks and trapped. The hides weren't good quality because it wasn't cold enough to make thick pelts.

The brothers worked on various logging jobs. Every so often, Johnny got



John Larson. *Photo courtesy of KP Museum*
Below, the first big tree Larson climbed in Klondyke Bay, west of Hood Canal Bridge. *Photo courtesy of John Larson*

mad and quit, but later returned because a high-climber was needed. He also worked with CMC Timber Co. — Campbell, McEwan and Carlson — which logged most of the old growth around the lower peninsula, Johnny says. That was his first job for wages, and he climbed for them off and on until 1941.

In 1942, he was drafted into the Army Air Force and flew 64 missions in Libya and Corsica as tail gunner. After 50 missions, the pilot was retired from duty, but his pilot did 55 and John put in 56. John was then reassigned to a lead aircraft, which he says was the best place to be. The best pilot operated that ship, and both pilot and co-pilot were older vets. The lead plane was what the gunners on the ground zeroed in on, and by the time they were set up, that first plane was out of range. He returned home in 1945.

He partnered with Rog Johnson, who had a "Cat," for three years, but when Johnson wanted to do backhoe work, Johnny felt he was "too old to pick up a new line," and logged a while for himself.

He also worked with Harmon Van Slyke, Albert Krause, Henry Stock locally, and had some jobs out of the area.

One hair-raising experience was where the wind was blowing, and he was nervous about being up in the air on a 200-foot tree. The foreman egged him to get the job done, but Johnny opted to return on a different day with just his brother there. Scary, but Johnny accomplished the job.

At 33, he married Sylvia Kraal, and helped raise her daughters, Katha and Toni. This marriage lasted 45 good years before cancer took her, and included hikes into areas Johnny had logged, and a trip to where he had worked in Alaska.

In grade school, he fell in love with a pretty girl and her big smile. "I was a little shrimp," he says, and she was interested in the older, bigger guys. She eventually moved away and married, but he never forgot Phyllis Bradley.

He saw her at various gatherings of friends and her relatives over the years.

A year after Sylvia died, Phyllis lost her husband. Later, on a visit to sister Jane Van Slyke, she called Johnny, and at 83, he married his first love. They had a few good years together before she died.

Johnny climbed and topped trees into his 70s, but is pleased to just do his own maintenance these days. "A little at a time," he says, noting a list of jobs, and turning down an invitation because he has "too much to do" during good weather.

Keeping his house and yard in order, a wealth of great memories, and many friendships fill this man's days, as he looks forward to celebrating 89 years of good living.

News briefs

Key Pen News elects new board members

Following the approval in July by the Civic Center Association to create an independent newspaper publishing board, five members were nominated including three newspaper volunteers and two KPCCA executive board members.

The group held its first meeting in August and selected new officers as follows: Irene Torres (KP News), president; Frank Slater (KP News), vice president; William C. Dietz (KP News), secretary; Ed Taylor (KPCCA), treasurer; Tim Kezele (KPCCA), at large.

The board, which will act as the publisher, will tackle issues including budget and organizational policies in the upcoming months.

Fire commissioners to change meeting days

Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 28, the Key Peninsula Fire Department's Board of Commissioners will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 9 a.m. in the district's headquarters station in Key Center. The board is set to vote on a resolution on the changes at its next meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m.

The change is needed to accommodate Pierce County's new voucher payment schedule, to give KPFD enough time to approve and process payroll and vendor payment. The board encourages public input; call 884-2222.

Date correction

In an August article on Pierce Conservation District, a farming workshop at Equerry Stables has the listed date of Aug. 31. The program will be held Thursday, Sept. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m.



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Fairs



At the Key Pen Fair: Above, Larry Nelson's tractor pulled ahead on a rainy Saturday. Right, Bullwackin' Kass teaches Ashley Bower, 3, of Everett. *Photos by Danna Webster*



Above, The Seattle Knights duel, Blue knight vs. Purple knight, at the Faire. Blue Knights are preparing to joust in a "fierce" battle of power as Renaissance Faire crowds watch. Inset, Heather Graham, one of many Renaissance Faire performers, entertains the crown on Queen's Stage.



Photos by Karen Hale

At the Old Timers' Day, Above, Megan Craven of Bremerton and her partner, Jeremy Anunson of Kingston, compete in the "Double Buck" competition. "I'm going to practice and come back again next year," Craven said. Right, Logger Les Kyle does it the old fashioned way, with an ax, in the Pole Falling competition. *Photos by Hugh McMillan*



Key Peninsula Baptist Church invites Children from 3 years old through those entering 12th grade to join us this year for our Awana Club Programs.

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Key Peninsula News asked some August fairgoers what they liked best this year.

KP Fair



"I liked the woodcarvers, the snake and the Ferris Wheel!"

Jordan Robinson



"My favorite was the petting zoo."

Kelsie Nettlebeck, KPMS student from Lakebay, with "Urkle" the angora apricot rabbit

Old Timers



"I think Old Timers' Day is wonderful. It's a way to continue our traditions."

Mike Cope, Boy Scout Troop 272 Scoutmaster



"We like doing this job because it's fun and we're able to help our community."

Boy Scout Corey Cope, who helped direct people at the event

Renaissance



"My favorite thing at the faire was the jousting on horses! It's my brother's 6th birthday and he loves horses!"

Steven Saleen, 8, Puyallup



"My favorite thing at the Ren Faire is the food. Especially the Philly steak & cheese sandwich at Franko's."

Melissa Butler, Olympia

Photos by Danna Webster, Hugh McMillan, and Karen Hale

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Then & Now

The Home School, built ca. 1908, is now a private residence, owned by Steven and Mona McCabe. The current photo was taken from the southeast of the house, which was the back of the school. The old school photo was taken from the northeast.

*Current photo courtesy of Frank Slater
Early photo courtesy of Key Peninsula Historic Museum*

Summer festivities across the water

By Danna Webster
KP News

Summertime is the time of fun and festivals. Our neighbors across Case Inlet, Allyn and Grapeview, are no exception. The 22nd Allyn Day Salmon Bake and Brew Fest was held in July at the Port of Allyn park, with food, entertainment, music, vendors and a children's carnival. The beer and wine garden featured micro/craft brews from six Washington breweries and wine from Hoodspout Winery. New this year were the kayak rentals as an introduction of a kayak park addition to the Port of Allyn and a live salmon display courtesy of the Allyn and Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Groups.

The Grapeview Water Festival was the last Saturday in July at the Fair Harbor Marina. This festival can be reached by boat or by car. By boat, it is across Case Inlet on the west side of Treasure Island. By car, it is just south of Allyn around the Grapeview Loop. The harbor is picturesque with its blue water, long white pier, hanging flower baskets and beautiful landscaping. This



Photo by Danna Webster
Festivities in full swing at Grapeview.

was the 11th year for the festival, which featured a wooden boat tour, a fishing contest for the kids, a silent auction, and lots of happy vendors. The vendors were pleased with the reasonable rates, excellent organization and special consideration given to them, like a cold bottle of water at sign-in. There was a lot of consideration for guests, too. Good food, good music, nice toilets and even a golf-cart shuttle for long distance parking. Mark your calendars for next year. Allyn Day Salmon Bake and Brew Fest is the third Saturday in July. The Grapeview Water Festival is the last Saturday in July.



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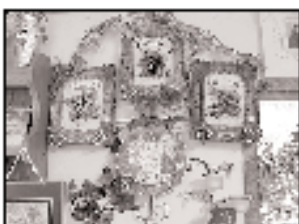
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(From PARK, Page 1)

beach, "an environmental gem." The first survey expedition to the "Indian Peninsula" referred to the southern tip as "Park Point" and Ridley has encouraged the Conservations Futures board members to make it a park, preserved for generations to come. Hearing that conservation futures were being considered, Ridley has initiated an environmental survey to study the delicate nature of Devils Head's lagoon, spit and upland biomes. She said, "We need to better understand the human impact on these sensitive regions," and

**"The Pierce County
Council wholeheartedly
supports the acquisition
of the Devil's Head
property."**

-Terry Lee, Pierce County
Council representative

stressed the point that "once these areas are gone, they are gone for good."

For several years, the Key Peninsula's Trails Association has been designing regional trails that terminate at Devil's Head, located at the most-southern tip of Key Pen. "This is a perfect hike-in destination and one of the 15 established marine locations highlighted in 'Kayaking Around the Key Peninsula,'" Ridley said. "We need a broad base of citizen support for conservation initiatives such as this."

Pierce County Council Representative Terry Lee, who has supported the park idea and has been in discussions with the park and conservation entities, said the county council will look into the possibility of bonding against the projects on the list when it is received from the advisory board. The

conservancy funds amount to about \$2.5 million to \$3 million a year. For each million, bonding can raise \$10 million. Lee said, "The land being considered this year for acquisition is valued at about \$24 million. We have to ask, 'Is it all the best property?'"

The final decision rests with the county council. Lee said, "The council will weigh bond interest rates and current property values, which are as low as they are ever going to be." He added, "If the council decides to issue bonds against two-thirds of the projects, it will effectively tie up all conservancy funds for the next 20 years. If they only bond against one-third of them, we will have more flexibility to fund other projects in the shorter term."

This means not all the proposals can be funded with conservancy funds at this time. Lee said, "The Pierce County Council wholeheartedly supports the acquisition of the Devil's Head property." If accepted, the parks department would negotiate a purchase and sale agreement with the owners for the property, which has an assessed value of approximately \$1 million.

As Key Peninsula enters a period of increasing growth, Ridley emphasized, "it takes public involvement to preserve natural beauty and responsible planning takes time, work and public input," and she encouraged support for the acquisition and preservation of Devil's Head to be sent to carilridley@hotmail.com.

If (there's that word again) enough public support is demonstrated, and if the Devil's Head proposal is one of those recommended, acquisition of the property would be subject to negotiation of a bond sale, a process that takes several months. Public comment and support letters are being accepted by the Conservancy Futures Advisory Board until the end of September.

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Longbranch Players back for laughs

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

If you missed last year's revival of the Longbranch Players with their dinner theater production of "Sylvia," don't make the mistake again this year. If "Sylvia" is any indication of what the Players group can do, the Key Pen is in for another round of cultural bliss, community style.

The 2003 "season" was a great success, with a talented crew, good food, and an extra touch of class added by a Two Waters Arts Alliance's art show. All that is back this year, save for the different play, director and some new faces on the cast.

Some faces will be familiar: Longbranch's Kim Gebhardt who last year made an extraordinary theatrical debut as Sylvia the dog in the play, and Bret Nebel who played Phyllis.

The six actors entered intense rehearsals at the end of August, under the direction of Rick May, an actor-director from Seattle whose résumé includes small film roles (think George Lucas' "American Graffiti"), television commercials (Great American RV) and game voice-overs.

The Canadian-born veteran actor has a long list of acting roles and has directed at such community venues as the Renton Civic Theater and Seattle's Civic Light Opera. So which does he like more, acting or directing? He has a politically correct answer, reminiscent of one a child may give when asked if he loves mommy or daddy more: "When I'm directing, I like directing more; when I'm acting, I like acting more."

May's choice for the Players' 2004 production is slightly less politically correct. The play, "Don't Dress for Dinner," centers on a plot of double adultery — and all the mishaps that come with it.

May says his philosophy of choosing a

"Don't Dress for Dinner" show details

Play time is 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Oct. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16. Gallery and no-host bar open at 5:30 p.m., dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and are available by calling 884-1061 or by emailing lic@longbranchimprovementclub.org. Special rates are available for tables of eight.

Seating is limited, tickets are by paid telephone reservation.

play follows the rule of playing to the room, the audience, and the space limitations. It helps that it's funny, too.

"I have done the show once, and it's a screamingly funny, fall-down farce," he said.

Mary Mazur of the Longbranch Improvement Club, who is the show producer, said the theater group looked for a director who was interested in working with small, nonprofessional groups. "We were especially attracted by Rick's broad experience with little theater and his clear interest with...directing amateur actors. His active sense of humor makes working with him a great pleasure," she said.

May said he gets a "big kick" out of watching an inexperienced actor "really come along and do a good job." The volunteer actors spend many long hours before the play — but they are not the only ones whose commitment is required in order to make the production a success. From catering to serving the dinner and selling tickets, all sorts of talents are needed.

"Sylvia" provided a lot of opportunities for people last year...and I am trying to

keep the momentum and take it up one more level," May said.

The Longbranch Players team hopes to keep the momentum as well. Mazur said the group, which is backed by and part of the nonprofit LIC, is seriously considering adding another production in wintertime, a Readers Theater that provides a more relaxing atmosphere because the actors do not have to memorize their lines (but they still must audition and rehearse).

In addition to providing a fun — perhaps even rare — opportunity for the local residents to be entertained or participate in a theatrical experience, the Players has another goal. The plays are a fund-raiser for the LIC, and proceeds benefit the LIC building, which is on the National Historic Register.

"We have the audience. It's a matter of building a tradition that is well-known," Mazur said, adding that a core of six to 10 people are working diligently toward that goal. And they invite the community to come along for the ride, whether by spending an evening to be entertained, or spending some volunteer time helping to make it happen.

"Don't Dress for Dinner"

by Marc Camoletti

Synopsis

Marc Camoletti's comedy was a hit in Paris under its title of "Pyjamas pour Six." The English adaptation premiered in London in 1991.


The comedy about double adultery and gourmet cooking is set in a converted French farmhouse. Bernard, hoping to entertain his Parisian mistress, Suzanne, for the weekend, has arranged for a cordon bleu cook to prepare the gourmet dishes and at the opening curtain is packing his wife, Jacqueline, off to her mother's. To provide cover for the escapade he has invited his best friend, Robert, as an alibi.

All sorts of comical things happen when Robert, Jacqueline's secret lover, arrives, not knowing the scheme for the weekend and having ideas of his own. The cook, Suzette, is mistaken for the mistress when she arrives, and the mistress can't cook. Hilarious confusion develops as Bernard and Robert improvise excuses at break-neck speed and the cook's husband, George, comes to take her home.

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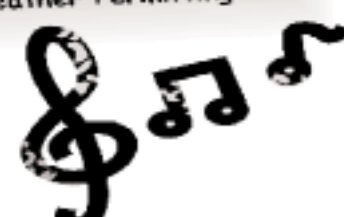
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Fall R&R activities around the Key Pen: Mark your calendars

Labor Day dance promises fun in Longbranch

Tickets are still available at advance sale prices for the annual Longbranch Improvement Club's Labor Day Dance. The show band Latigo Lace will play for the first time at the community clubhouse in Longbranch Saturday, Sept. 4. Doors will open at 8 p.m. Tickets will be \$15 at the door and \$12 in advance on sale at the Longbranch Marina, Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, and the Home Country Store. There will be an open cash bar for refreshments at the dance. The KP Community Services will provide van service from Filucy Bay marina.

This holiday dance, a long-standing tradition in the South Sound area, draws dancers by car and boat from all over South Sound. Latigo Lace, a versatile show band with vocalists and musicians, plays country and classic country music as well as vintage rock, R&B, swing and dance tunes. The Improvement Club events chair, Linda Leblanc, urges people

to take advantage of the advance sale price and get their tickets now. More about the band can be found at www.latigolace.com.

Free jazz concert at the Art Barn

The Two Waters Art Alliance presents "Concert on the Key" Saturday, Sept. 18, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Angel Guild, weather permitting, and is free.

Everyone is welcome. Bring your family, friends and neighbors and enjoy some smooth jazz sounds at the Art Barn. The Art Barn is located ¼ mile south of the flashing light at Key Center. Turn left onto 85th Street and follow the signs. Bring your own picnic basket and a blanket.

Key Pen artists part of Open Studio Tour 2004

Several Key Peninsula artists are

featured on the Open Studio Tour 2004 that winds around Gig Harbor, Fox Island and the Key Pen Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18-19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featured locally are Jeanne Crider, decorative painting and fine art (15214 126th Ave. KPN, 857-5132) and four artists at the Art Barn: Beverly Pedersen, silk and watercolor; Ann Stockdale, silk and oil painting; Karen & Norman Geiger, jewelry; and Laura McClintock, watercolor (15916 84th Street KPN, 884-2149).

The self-guided tour is free and provides a rare glimpse into the artist studio environment. For more, see www.gigharboropenstudiotour.org.

KPMPS sponsors hikes

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District is sponsoring an exploration of Key Peninsula's future parks and their recreational potential. These hiking events will examine the esthetics and ecosystems of each region, providing opportunity to flag potential future trails

and define their study areas in terms of passive and active recreation. These hikes may include uneven terrain, log crossings and beach walking. Trips will begin at noon every second and fourth Saturday depending on weather, so be prepared. Most of these events are accessible and family friendly but call Caril Ridley for difficulty-level and meeting locations.

For more details contact Ridley at carilridley@hotmail.com or telephone her at 884-5461 or find more information at www.keypen.org

Schedule is as follows:

Sept. 11 Devil's Head

Sept. 25 Rocky Creek

Oct. 9 Maple Hollow Marine Park

Oct. 23 Lind conservation area and Home Park

Nov. 13 Dutcher Cove Marine Park

Nov. 27 Penrose Park Trails

Year 2005 highlights will include Key Peninsula Central Park, Key Park, High Point Park and assorted mini parks and potential trail routes using GPS navigation.



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Out & About



Photo by Karen Hale

A burned-out carcass of exposed fiberglass and wires was all that remained of the Wizard after it sailed too close to power lines on Aug. 11. The electricity arced off the mast and a fire ensued, forcing the owner overboard. Some Key Pen residents were without power for more than an hour.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Dwarfed by Ezra the ox, are left to right: Roger Kaffer, Nathan Greenly, Amanda Stocking, Cadence Michel, John Sherman, Robert Sherman, Michael Oney, Alex Montrey, Megan Montrey, Spencer Hamilton, and Hannah Stocking, under the guidance of owner Sheryl-Kaye Curtis, also known as Bullwhackin' Kass. Kass brought her oxen for the KP fair and held a "Pioneer Days" camp the week before the fair.

Photo by Karen Hale

Right, Soccer season has begun on the Key Peninsula. The Purdy Pistons held their first practice on Aug. 12. PAA teams are a mix of students from the area and two-thirds of this team goes to Minter Creek Elementary.



Above left, Key Peninsula Middle School student volunteers from the KPMS summer school's Jump Start program Zak Hanson, Ryan Brackens, Kirstin Chandler, Mackenzie Miller, Travis Reisen, Rusty Harper, and Jesse Hawkins, under the guidance of teacher Jan Siburg, tidied up the school's entryway sign preparatory to sprucing it up with a fresh paint job. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Right, Shelby Bottiger examines the garden stepping stones, still moist, made from mosaic materials and concrete by a handful of attendees to a Two Waters Arts Alliance class led by local artist Lorina Shaufler. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Some flower pots just aren't meant to hold flowers. This Key Pen cat claimed her nook.

