

Photo by Hugh McMillan

KPMS students in Janet Buday's class created this quilt using the batik technique.

PATRIOTIC QUILT TO BE RAFFLED AT WINTER VISUALS

The stunning patriotic quilt created by 7th and 8th grade students in Jan Buday's art class at the Key Peninsula Middle School has found a new and exciting route to assist the American Red Cross and those who suffered in the September 11 tragedy. It will be raffled at the KPCC/CAC "Winter Visuals" event on Saturday, February 2.

The quilt was created using the technique of batik, an ancient Indonesian method of dying fabric. Each panel reflects the individual student's patriotic interpretation of the motifs of the American flag. Each panel is unique. The PTA donated materials and quilter Joyce Shinn assisted in the final construction. The plan was to send the quilt to New York City's then Mayor Giuliani, but eventually communication and timing made this impossible, so the decision was made for the raffle, with the proceeds going to the Red Cross.

The students who contributed are Dane Allen, Nicholas Bassett, Christopher Best, Sudha Boris, Kelsie Cortez, Brianna Davis, Harrison Forbes, Karis Gohnick, Sean Greer, Elliot Gurr, Kevin Heath, Tara High, Donny Jackson, Marie Joyce, David Martin-Miller, Taylor McDaniel, Rickey Pettigrew, Cody Radke, Nick Ricigliano, Vanessa Schroeder, Michelle Shoemaker, Jessica Scott, Chrystalina White, Samantha Wolf and Brianna Zottman.

2002 Citizens of the Year

Nominations for Citizen of the Year were closed on January 25th. Chairman Hugh McMillan reports that about a dozen nominations have been received. Last year, by the deadline, there was a total of 26 nominees, and we hope more have come in by now. Photos and bios should appear in next month's KP News.

These Citizens are people who live, work or own property on the Key Peninsula (not Lions' Club members) and who deserve recognition for volunteer service to the KP community. Their deeds may have occurred over years of service or in one special activity. Each nominee will be the guest of the Lions at a banquet dinner in the Civic Center and will receive a framed certificate commemorating this expression of respect and recognition.

This year the celebration will be on Saturday, March 16, beginning at 5:30 PM, with dinner at 6:30 PM. Pat Lanz, 26th District Representative, will be the keynote speaker. Tickets purchased in advance are \$15.00 a person, or \$55.00 for a party of four. They will also be sold at the door for \$20.00. Tickets are available at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, Country Gardens near Lake Kathryn Village and Home Country Store across from the Home/Lakebay Post Office.

Peninsula Community Chorus at Winter Visuals

The Peninsula Community Chorus will perform at the Key Peninsula Civic Center as a part of Winter Visuals on Saturday, February 2nd. They will include the following selections: *Embraceable You*, *Scarborough Fair*, *The Road Not Taken*, *The Pasture* (TTB), *A Girl's Garden* (SSA) and *Choose Something Like A Star*.

The Peninsula Community Chorus is open to everyone with a desire to sing, to learn and have a really good time. Call Rosina Vertz at (360) 876-84-34 or Gretchen Russell at (253) 858-6729 for information.

KEY PENINSULA CIVIC
CENTER ASSOCIATION
presents

JUNKYARD JANE
COMEDY TUNE FOR THE DEBBS
A DANCE
FEBRUARY 9, 8:00 PM

KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER
1700 JOHN WILSON ROAD, VAUGHN
TICKETS:
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FRAMERS WORKSHOP 858-1624

NO HOST BAR
BAR SERVICE

JUNKYARD JANE PERFORMS AT KPCC ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9th

Doors open at 7 PM and the music starts at 8 PM. The dance will feature a no-host bar and will take place in the newly decorated KPCC gym. Tickets are \$10 per person and may be purchased at Sunnycrest Nursery and Floral in Key Center or at Framers Workshop in Gig Harbor. For more information, call Sunnycrest at 884-3937 or Kathy Bauer at 884-9172.

IS THIS FOR REAL ?

Starting February 1, 2002, residents in unincorporated Pierce County [that includes us on the Key Peninsula] can call 253-798-4636 with complaints about junked or abandoned vehicles on private or public property, as well as complaints about illegal dumping. The line will be staffed by Solid Waste Division employees between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM on weekdays and will record messages at other times. Callers will receive a follow-up response.

What counts as a junked vehicle? In Pierce County, a vehicle is junked if it meets any three of these four criteria:

- (0) It is three years old or older.
- (1) It is badly damaged, with damage including, but not limited to, a broken window or windshield or tires, wheels, motor or transmission are missing.
- (2) It is obviously not operable.
- (3) Its fair market value is the same as its value as scrap.



The Children's Home Society's FAMILY ROOM

The Children's Home Society on the Key Peninsula has completed another successful *Holiday Helper Program*. With the assistance of four dedicated volunteers and over fifty individuals and organizations from the community, we were able to provide Christmas gifts for 373 children this year. The program really gets rolling about Thanksgiving, and activity keeps up until the last hour before the holiday. Parents sign up for their children to receive two fun gifts and two items of clothing needs. Sponsors are found to match the need of the families whose names are kept confidential. When the gifts arrive at the center, the parents are called to come in and pick them up (along with wrapping paper, ribbon and tape), and then they're able to wrap their children's gifts. We have been witness to many poignant moments with these grateful families.

Children's Home Society is also grateful to the many sponsors who participated in this year's program: Larry and Connie Day, Carol Wall, Susan Ritchie, Mike Tinder, Virginia Liebergsell and family, Dave and Sabra Stratford, Robert and Voskie Sprague, Lori Smith, Mark and Reni Runions, Teresa Anderson, Jessica Carr, Sandy Smarr, Jack Donachie, Sharon and Loyd Miller, Virginia and Ray Thompson, Norma Iverson, Don Blischke, Lolly Ketcham, Claudia and Dale Loy, Debbie Ehrhardt, Connie Schaefer, Trish Thompson, and Michele Morgan. Also included in our thanks are participants from Ignition Mortgage Technology Solutions, POSData, Betty Watkinson and Longbranch Church, Longbranch Bunco Babes, Jo Jenson and Coldwell Banker, Vaughn Elementary School and Laurel Young, Val Snelson and the Peninsula Education Services, Sally Dullum and Key Peninsula Middle School, Sally Crabtree and Gig Harbor Thriftway, Sophie Perkins and Kellerwood Perkins Realty, Dave and Joni Dahl and International Sigma Phi Gamma Chapter Lambda Delta, Windermere Realty and A.J. Milion, Camp Seymour Staff, Debby Kingsbury and Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Lakebay Church and Laura McClintock, Lighthouse Christian School, Doreen Patten, and Mo Anderson. Also Margaret Japhet and the Gig Harbor Eagles, Key Peninsula Tops, Betty Hicks and Evergreen Elementary, Julie Higgins and 4-H Differences, St. Nicholas Church in Gig Harbor and Agnes Dei Church in Gig Harbor.

In addition, a special word of thanks to Doug and Dawn Trueblood for their fundraising efforts. Also, we are grateful for a very generous anonymous donation dedicated to the Evergreen and KPMS students. We would not be able to have a Holiday Helper Program without the inspired efforts of these many people, who gave generously and thoughtfully of their time as well as money.

The Children's Home Society is starting out the new year with a new staff member, Ms. Rika Addington. Rika is a new *Readiness to Learn* worker at Vaughn Elementary and Minter Creek Elementary. She comes to us with many years experience from the Eastside Family Resource Center in Tacoma. Rika is a resident of the Key Peninsula and is happy to be working in the community where she lives.

The *Readiness to Learn* Program is a partnership in 44 individual schools, between parents, Family Support Workers and school staff. The goal of this program is to help children be successful in school. By combining access to social services and identifying family strengths, children are able to achieve improved attendance, behavior and academics. Readiness to Learn services are also available at Evergreen Elementary School with Vicki Biggs.

The Children's Home Society Family Resource Center offers various support groups such as *Relatives Raising Children* which takes place on the second Monday of every month at 1:00 pm. The *Parent Connection* meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am. Both of these groups are free and childcare is available. *Indoor Park* is a twice weekly event, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 am, where children ages one to five meet in the Civic Center gym with their mom or dad to play and visit. Recently 28 children attended one session. A one dollar donation per child for *Indoor Park* is requested.

Children's Home Society also sponsored the latest session of parenting classes, featuring *Love and Logic* teaching at Evergreen Elementary, led by Dennis Taylor. These parenting classes are offered quarterly.

Little Buddies is expanding to Evergreen Elementary as part of the After 'Ours program. The Little Buddies program at the Civic Center has openings for elementary school age girls. Please call if you are interested in this fun mentoring program.

Juveniles United through Music and Poetry (JUMP) is planning a teen concert for Saturday, February 16th at the Civic Center. Weekly JUMP planning meetings are held at the KPFR office on Thursdays at 4:00 PM. Any interested teens or adults are welcome to attend.

Don't forget we have the free clothing bank and lending library available. If you have any questions regarding our services or programs, please call the Children's Home Society at the Family Resource Center at 884-5433. Our staff looks forward to hearing from you. Happy New Year!

HEAR AND THEIR ON OUR KEY PENINSULA

by Keith Stiles

Our Fire District 16 has a new Chairperson in Commissioner Fred Ramsdell, a veteran of 35 years service to the Key Peninsula who has been a vital part of the operational side on almost all matters. As the new Chairperson, he now leads a Department with an excellent set of managers and a Board facing some small town political bickering and a tendency for micromanagement. But Fred, with the assistance of newly-elected Commissioner Rick Stout, is a good bet to help lead the District through the next two years.

This year of 2002 is the organization's 50th Anniversary of service. The Commissioners are already planning a study of what we will need to do for paid staff to meet the steadily increasing calls for service in the years to come. With average call volume running between four and five calls per day, and about three-quarters of the calls being for medical aid, it is not unusual for at least two ambulances and the on-duty crews tied up either going to Tacoma or returning. At that point protection for the District (us) becomes problematical, and a solution for the future needs to be found.

The Key Peninsula Business Association, meeting at noon on Friday, January 18, heard John Biggs and Jeff Harris describe the pending formation of a Community Board, or group, comprised of perhaps 15 individuals who would be recognized as a "voice" for our area. Some other unincorporated parts of the County have such groups and John and Jeff seem to feel that such an organization would be to the benefit of our area. First step would be a form of recognition by the County Council, to be set in motion by current Councilperson Karen Biskey. Might be a real help as we currently draw about as much water with the County Council as do the citizens of Pluto. Speaking of County affairs, we really probably should not mention it, but did you notice that after our Key Peninsula had asked for more coverage by the Sheriff's Department for years that District 13 was suddenly awarded a new deputy just about two weeks after a section of Gig Harbor complained that they had very low law enforcement coverage? OK, I'm sorry I mentioned it.

Lori Deacon of Windermere Realty gave the group a rundown on real estate activity on our Key Peninsula; bottom line appeared to be that if sellers can wait long enough something will happen. It's more or less slow, but reasonably steady.

In news of some of our local churches a spokesperson has told us that Pastor Jan Otto of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church has resigned, effective as of January 31. She has been Pastor there for six years now, and church leaders will be starting a search for a new pastor almost immediately. Meanwhile "visiting" pastors will be invited to lead the services.

And at the Vaughn Church opposing views regarding that church's home will reportedly be resolved in a court session this coming March. The background seems to be that one group within the church wishes to sell the present property and move to (reportedly) a new building at a different location. Those opposing such a move feel that the Vaughn Church should stay right where it is and has been for quite a while. Undoubtedly we will hear more about this in the months to come.

In the world of local business if you haven't heard the story elsewhere, it looks like the Restaurant known as "Pearls By The Sea" over at the Purdy end of the Wauna Spit will re-open in April sometime with lots of modernization and improvements ... might be quite nice. Back to the KPBA again, the group there heard about the increasing number of folks said to be shopping for all kinds of things on the Internet, staying home and thereby avoiding The Bridge, carjacks and other varieties of problems at The Mall.

And, finally, for you agriculturalists out there, we hear that someone is going into the "Key Peninsula Grape Growing Business" again, setting out ten acres of vines in the endeavor. Grape growing, including the raising of the "Island Belle" variety, has quite a history around the South Sound, but problems such as variable May-June weather has given the effort a checkered history. Let's hope some of the newer varieties will do well!!

TO OUR READERS

The Key Peninsula News needs your help.

Two and a half years ago, the staff of the *KP News* decided that we would distribute the paper to all the residents of the Key Peninsula, rather than only to subscribers and at pick-up locations, and that we would try to expand our advertising base to cover the costs. But the income has not been sufficient to do this. Our basic costs are about \$2,000 to \$2,100 per month. Printing and postage take the major portion of that and we operate with a part-time, minimal paid staff. The editors volunteer their work. The income has varied between \$1,500 and \$2,100 but it is never enough to catch up with the expenses. The Civic Center Association and the Angel Guild have been very supportive, but their funds are also limited.

We want to continue our policy of free distribution so that everyone in the KP community can be informed regarding activities and resources. We have received a lot of moral support from members of the community, and we believe that there are many in the community who would be willing to offer financial support as well.

So, we are asking you for donations, and we thank you for your support.

Ann, Marty, Alice, Bob, Hugh and contributing columnists

The Key Peninsula News, P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394



Veterans' Voices

By Eileen Young

The next couple of months will be reasonably quiet for our Post and Auxiliary. Time to take some deep breaths before plunging into 2002 and our many commitments. Each month the Post and Auxiliary report to our Department of Washington on our projects. The month of December we reported 1082 hours of community service and \$9,882 in donations to our community, veterans and nursing homes. The men and women of the VFW take their vows very seriously and do all this extra work with pride. For those members who DO NOT fill out their reports each month, please do so, as your post and auxiliary deserve the recognition for their many contributions. Call (253) 884-4551 to report (Post only), or send to 18418 - 104th Street, KPN, Gig Harbor, WA 98329. Auxiliary: Roxyanne Wooldridge, P.O. Box 145, Lakebay, WA, 98349.

Sara Mountjoy-Peka, Voice of Democracy winner from Peninsula High School and sponsored by Post 4990, is headed for State competition after winning District. Congratulations to this multi-talented young lady. Our best wishes are with you all the way!

Did You Know - When nothing else is available, a meat tenderizer can be used as a gavel for gentle persuasion during meetings !!

Your prayers and good wishes are needed for this month's members in our CARE CIRCLE. Love to, and prayers for Marge Adams, Irene and Roxyanne Wooldridge, Kathy Collier, the Sorsdahl family and Kathy Wisniewski. [Ed. And to Eileen Young and her family] Get Well! We care!

Anyone interested in an evening class of the "55 Alive" driving course? The VFW has arranged one to be held at the Longbranch Fire Station - February 12th and 13th from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Please phone (253) 884-4407 for information and reservations.

Our sincere condolences to Betty Beal and family on the passing of her husband Bob on January 15th. Bob was a life member of Post 4990 and will be sorely missed by his fellow comrades and sisters.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day and remember, if you love someone, let them know it. See you next month.



LIVING AND LEARNING ON THE KEY PENINSULA

by Dale Skrivanich

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Key Peninsula Historical Society - Annual Meeting March 28th - Longbranch Improvement Club

The annual meeting of the Key Peninsula Historical Society is set for **March 28th** at the Longbranch Improvement Club. There will be a social from 6:30 to 7:30 PM and the business meeting will start at 7:30, including the election of officers and the approval of the 2002 budget. The program, starting at 8:00 will be by the architectural firm of Olson, Sundberg, Allen and Kaudig. They will present the preliminary design for the addition to the Museum Building. This meeting is open to the public and all interested community member are encouraged to attend.

Historical Society members will be receiving their annual newsletter in early March, giving more details about the annual meeting, a list of officers, the 2002 budget, the annual calendar and a membership renewal form. If you have not received a newsletter by March 20th, please call 884-2712. The first Board meeting of the year will be on February 7th at 7:30 PM in the Museum. Board meetings are open to all members.

The Museum will start the regular hours for 2002 on Saturday, February 2nd. Museum hours are Thursday and Saturday from 1 PM to 4 PM or by appointment. The Museum is located on the grounds of the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 17010 Vaughn Road, Vaughn, WA. Call 884-4538 for more information.

INFORMATIONAL EXPOSITION OF KEY PENINSULA NON-PROFITS PLANNED

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association is inviting all non-profit organizations on the Key Peninsula to participate in an exposition of local Non-Profits to be held on Saturday, March 11, 2002. Each group is encouraged to put together a staffed information booth for this one-day event. This will be an opportunity for each organization and staff to present an overview of its services to the public and to involve members of the community in its activities.

There will be no booth fees charged to the groups participating. Tables and chairs will be provided and power is available for those who request it. Call the Civic Center office at 884-3456 for more information and to reserve space.

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A View From Home

by Marty Marcus

A recent publication of Washington Kids Count, prepared by the Human Services Policy Center, Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington, shows that Pierce County is behind the state average in some aspects of health care for children, but ahead in others.

Prenatal care is one needing improvement. Early and continuous prenatal care results in healthier mothers and children. The "Healthy People 2010" goal is for 90% of all mothers to receive early and adequate prenatal care. Over the ten years from 1991 through 2000, the number of babies born to mothers who received no prenatal care, or for whom prenatal care was delayed past the first trimester of pregnancy, decreased from nearly 26% of all babies born to just under 20% in Pierce County. For the state, the number decreased from 20% to 16%. So to reach the year 2010 goal, Pierce County needs to improve by 10%, the state by 6%.

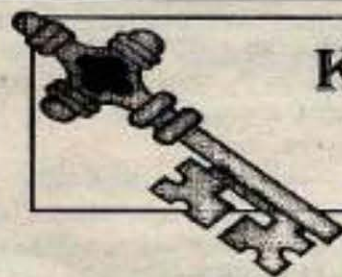
Another area of this study has to do with birth weight. Low birth weight (below 5 1/2 pounds) increases the risk of infant mortality as well as later developmental and neurological disabilities. The year 2010 goal is for no more than 5.9% of babies born below the healthy birth weight. Pierce County was at that figure in 1991, but by 2000 it had increased slightly to 6.2%. Statewide, the percentage of low birth weights went from 5.1% in 1991 to 5.6% in 2000. Pierce County needs to bring its number of low birth weights down 0.3% to reach the year 2010 goal.

Oral health is another area of concern. Dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease. It affects both overall health and readiness to learn. Yet only about one-third of the Medicaid-enrolled children in Pierce County are receiving dental care. The average Medicaid caseload per dentist in Pierce County is 122. Not all dentists in the county accept Medicaid-enrolled children, but, fortunately for Key Peninsula residents, Dr. Olsson in Key Center does, and his caseload of patients in that category is above the county average.

Does the economy play a role in health care considerations? Of course it does. We are the only major industrialized nation that does not have universal health insurance for all its people. The U.S. has some 44 million people without health insurance, and as layoffs continue unabated, that number increases daily. While housing costs (including rents)

and childcare costs in our county are about 10% below the state average, the average annual wage in Pierce County is about 20% below the state average, making it more difficult for families to afford health care.

Here in Washington we're looking at a revenue shortfall that will certainly impact health care. According to Dr. Federico Cruz-Urbe, director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, the proposed state budget would cut the general fund of the T-PCHD by 40%. With lowered levels of immunization, more people losing their health insurance, "globalization" making it easier for contagious disease to get here from other countries, and the continued threat of bio-terrorism, is this the time to make drastic cuts in public health programs?



KEY DATES 2002

BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

KP Business Assoc.	1 st Friday - 7:30 AM	Home Port Rest.
	3 rd Friday - Noon	Horace Lake Rest.
Fire Fighters Assoc.	4 th Wednesday - 7:00 PM	Key Center Fire Sta.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Ashes	1 st Thursday at 10:30 AM	Key Center Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop #220	Tuesday-6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	KPCC Whitmore Rm.
Coatlettes	3 rd Thursday at 7:00 PM	KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
KPCCA Exec. Comm.	1 st Monday - 7:00 PM	Civic Center
KPCCA Board	2 nd Thursday - 7:00 PM	KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
KPCS Board	2 nd Monday - 10:00 AM	Comm. House - Home
KPHC Board	4 th Thursday - 7:30 PM	Health Center
KP Lions Club	1 st & 3 rd Wed. - 6:30 PM	KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
VFW & Auxiliary	2 nd & 4 th Mon.-7:00 PM	CC/VFW Room/WM Rm.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Adult Literacy Classes - Call for Appointment 851-6552 - Gig Harbor
 Angel Guild 4th Monday - 10:00 AM Brones Rm./KC Library
 Children's Home Society Family Resource Center - Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Key Peninsula Civic Center, Lower Level - Call 884-5433
 Food Bank - Tues. through Fri., 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Comm. House - Home
 Hot Lunch for Seniors on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noon
 Community House - Home
 Also food & clothing assistance. For More Information, call 884-4440.
 Immunizations (FREE) Thursday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Urgent Care, Gig Harbor.
 IMPact Key Peninsula 1st Tuesday - 9:00 AM Lakebay Community Church
 The Key Peninsula Well Child Clinic at the office of Dr. Roes every Tuesday at 9:00 AM.
 Key Center Library 884-2242 - Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 11 AM - 8 PM, Thursday & Friday, 11 AM - 6 PM, Saturday, 11 AM - 5 PM.
 KP Baptist Bible Study Wednesday - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM KP Civic Center
 Overeaters Anonymous Wednesday - 7:30 PM St. Nicholas Church
 There Is Hope 12-Step Christian Support Group Thursdays at 7:00 PM at Lakebay Christian Assembly Church - 253-884-3659.
 WIC (Women, Infants & Children) Every Tuesday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Civic Center, in the VFW Room. Call: 884-3835 on Tuesdays for an appointment.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Fire Commissioners	2 nd Wednesday - 7:00 PM	Key Center Fire Sta.
	2 nd Monday after 2 nd Wednesday at 4:00 PM	Key Center Fire Sta.
KP Parks & Rec.	2 nd Monday - 7:00 PM	Volunteer Park Annex

SELF-HELP GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous - Wed. at 7:00 PM and Fri. at 8:00 PM
 At the Key Peninsula Community Services in Home.
 Alcoholics Anonymous -Thursday at 6:00 PM at Longbranch Community Church
 IMPact Key Peninsula - Help for victims of Domestic Violence Call 884-5086.
 Peninsula ALANON - King of Grace Lutheran Church, Purdy - Tuesday 1:30 PM
 Contact Norma at 884-2205 for more information.
 T.O.P.S. Tuesday Evening Weigh-in 6:15 PM - Meeting at 7:00 PM - Civic Center
 T.O.P.S. Tuesdays at 9:00 AM at Fire Station, Home, WA

SOCIAL & HOBBY GROUPS

Bayshore Garden Club 3rd Friday of each month, for more information call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487. Longbranch Improvement
 Key Center Duplicate Bridge Club meets on Tuesday Evenings. If you play Bridge and are interested in playing Duplicate Bridge, please call 884-2663.
 KP Historical Society 1st Thursday - 7:30 PM KP Historical Museum
 Museum Open Thursday and Saturday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
 LB Improvement Club 3rd Wednesday - 7:00 PM Longbranch Improvement
 Peninsula Neighbors 2nd Tuesday - 10:00 AM Longbranch Fire Station #4
 Lakebay Fuchsia Society 1st Thursday - 7:00 PM Brones Rm./KC Library
 Ruth Circle Meeting 3rd Monday - 10:00 AM Bible Study, lunch and Meeting at 12:00 Noon at the Longbranch Church.
 Senior Society Luncheon Thursdays - Noon KPCC/Whitmore Room
 Vaughn Bay Garden Club Call 884-5403 for more information.
 Key Singers Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:00 PM Longbranch Comm. Church
 Contact Jo Sturm - 884-1350

Notice: If your organization is listed in our Key Notes 2001, please check to be sure the time and location are correct, so we can bring it up to date.

NOTE: IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION LISTED HERE, PLEASE MAIL THE INFORMATION BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH TO: KEY DATES, KEY PENINSULA NEWS, P.O. BOX 3, VAUGHN, WA 98394, OR FAX IT TO US AT: 884-4053.

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MISSION STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, PURPOSE AND OPERATION OF THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS

1. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS is a community newspaper, owned and published by the KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION, a non-profit, 501-C3, corporation with main offices in Vaughn, Washington. The name, goodwill and any copyright assets that may exist pertaining to the NEWS are among the financial assets of the KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION.
2. The primary purpose of the NEWS is to serve as communication between the KPCCA Board (and its activities) and the residents of the Key Peninsula, generally corresponding with the defined geographical area of Pierce County Fire District 16.
3. The secondary purpose of the NEWS is to serve as a communication means between the KPCCA member organizations and the residents of the same area.
4. The NEWS shall be entirely free of political bias, and shall advocate no particular religious point of view. Further, its service will be open to all local organizations and residents, subject to the availability of space and generally accepted good taste and legal considerations.

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

Editors: Marty Marcus, Ann Waldo
 Ad Sales: Bob Stackhouse
 Production: Alice Truitt
 Staff Reporter & Photographer:
 Hugh McMillan
 Staff Cartoonist: Liz Kassler
 Proof-readers: Marty Marcus, Ann Waldo
 Accounting: Vicky McClung

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

T.O.P.S. NEWS

by Frankie Johnson

Our first meeting of the month was well attended with returning members and many new faces. Misty, our weight recorder, gave us a new challenge and a visual aid to remind us during the week to keep on track. She also issued a special challenge to our officers. We are going for 10 pounds off in 6 weeks or we have a penalty to carry out in front of the membership if we don't meet the goal. We will report on it next month.

This is a good time to start on a weight loss program. Summer will be here before you know it. (I promise.) It is always better to be slimming down when you wear less clothing. Right! And just imagine, are you ready for a bathing suit? A good rate of weight loss is 1 1/2 to 2 pounds a week, so you could be down several sizes by summer if you start now.

We have said that nothing tastes as good as thin feels. This is so true. When you have a success, even a small one, it really raises your self-esteem. We strive to encourage all of our members to set small goals to achieve that success. One pound a week of weight loss is a very positive goal. Just think about it. That would be 52 pounds off in a year. Many of us don't need to lose that much, however some of us need to lose even more. Remember if you have a lot to take off, you didn't gain it overnight and it won't come off that way. Slow and steady is the best. We are here to support you in your personal weight-loss challenge. Come to see how much fun we are having as we help each other in our quests for normal weight.

We meet in the small building on the west side of the Civic Center every Tuesday evening. We start the private weigh-in at 6:00 PM. The meeting is from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We aim to have a meaningful program every time to help you get to your goal.

Healthy People/Healthy Communities

February is National Children's Dental Health Month, a good time to take note of our oral health. Brushing and flossing routinely is a great habit to teach your family about 'good oral health', as well as visiting your dentist every year. Children, however, need other interventions to ensure their total oral health.

As parents, please take the time to ask your oral health provider about 'Dental Sealants'. This procedure provides a thin coating in the grooves of the back molar teeth. This 'sealing material' protects the teeth from harmful bacteria that can cause tooth decay. When placed properly, 'sealants' can last ten years or more. Sealants are preferred when placed at age seven, or when the molars show no signs of decay.

Another easy procedure is a 'fluoride' treatment, either topical, chewable tablets, drops, or a fluoride varnish treatment. Fluorides are natural compounds, always present in ground water in trace amounts. Even water filters have a difficult time completely removing all the fluoride. Fluoride has been added to water systems in many areas as a preventive tool against tooth decay since 1945. But only a portion of Pierce County is fluoridated. Please check with your water source to find out if your water supply contains fluoride. Please visit our Web site in February to learn about fluoride during National Children's Dental Health Month.

The incidence of children's tooth decay is on the rise. Make sure that you are protecting your family against unnecessary tooth decay by using some of the interventions that have proven to be effective tools against this terrible epidemic we call 'tooth decay'. Please visit our Web site, www.tpchd.org/dental, during February to learn more about 'oral health'.

Linda D. Gillis, Public Health Dental Hygienist
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

4-H Differences Are A Busy Group

By Kaitlin, Emily and Deborah Dunn

4-H Differences recently held their monthly meeting at the Home Fire Station. The Angel Guild, located in Key Center, has generously given the club a \$3,000 donation. Some of this donation was used to enable club members to attend the "Know Your Government" (KYG) conference in Olympia on January 31st. The conference, titled "Slicing The Budget Pie", consisted of a project to work through the forming of a budget and an opportunity to meet with various legislators. It was indeed a valuable experience.

Other news items include the annual Panhandle Sewing Retreat, held on January 18th - 21st, under the leadership of Julie Higgins. Sheryl Hedin, leader of the Arts and Crafts Project, has completed projects of Tin People and Making Soap. Presentations will be held at Lake Panhandle on March 23rd. If you are able to volunteer, please call Chris Schlicht at 253-884-7840. On February 18th, Presidents Day, there will be an opportunity to get extra leader training. The year is progressing and so are we.

Letters to the editor

I would like to make people aware of a very special event that has taken place at the K P Civic Center for the last twenty years. It is the Salatino Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day. I have been a part of it only for the past three or four years as the Santa Claus.

The dinner is for people who would be alone or in some other way not have a very nice Christmas. Many local people attend and others come from other areas by bus. These people are either alone or their families have grown and gone their own ways.

Mr. and Mrs. Salatino put the dinner together with the help of many community volunteers. They cook a big meal for everyone and Mrs. Salatino has a gift for everyone who attends. She wraps each gift for each individual with his or her name on the gift for Santa to hand out.

The first time I was asked to give up part of my Christmas Day to play Santa, I was wondering if it was worth it. When I got there I looked around and saw many older local people who have meant a lot to me over the many years. These are the same people who have helped me in many ways. Yes, it is worth it to give a small amount of time for others' happiness and it certainly does not hurt my attitude either.

Next December, if you don't have much going on at your home, volunteer to help others have a happier holiday.

Fred Ramsdell



TAX TIPS
By
Marv & Myrtle
Ketzur, CTP

Be careful then you enter the world of small business. It pays to seek the advice of your tax preparer on the tax requirement that your business could be obligated to pay. There are the different types of business arrangements - sole proprietor, partnership, C corporations and S corporations to start with. The sole proprietor is the most frequently used and probably has quite a bit of opportunity to be offered. One thing most people are not aware of is that if a husband and wife have a small business together, the IRS does not consider this a sole proprietorship but rather a partnership with the spouses being the partners. Check with your taxperson on what is necessary to be done about this.



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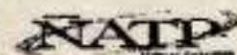
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IN THE LIBRARY

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE: LESSONS FROM 20 YEARS OF LIVING OFF THE GRID, Saturday, February 2 at 1:00 PM.

Getting tired of high utility bills? Wishing you could cut the cord and make your own electricity? Want to reduce your utility bill? This presentation by Ian Woofenden will include off grid living, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Ian Woofenden is the Associate Editor for *Home Power* magazine (which is available at the Key Center Library). Ian and his large family have been living off the grid for 20 years with wind and solar electric systems. In addition to his job as primary text editor with *Home Power*, he coordinates renewable energy workshops in the San Juan Islands for Solar Energy International. The presentation will include information on how to reduce your utility bill and the environmental impacts on your grid home. Lessons from off grid living can help grid homes become much more efficient. A brief overview of solar-electric, wind-electric and microhydro-electric systems will be included. Renewable energy hardware will be shown and literature will be available.

TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY by Maria Fletter of the Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a non-profit organization on **Saturday, February 16 at 1:00 PM.**

This presentation will be geared to help people manage their personal finances. Topics will include: "money gobblers", record keeping methods, cost cutting tips, proper use of credit, debt management, credit reports, reestablishing credit and ideas for saving money. Packets of information and forms will be available.

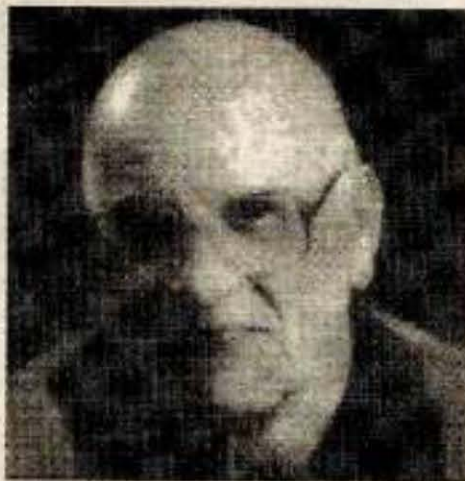
GLOBAL EXPLORER'S FORUM, the second in the series, **Saturday, February 23 at 7:00 PM.**

Caril Ridley will contrast life in the sub-continent of India with jungle living in South America. Caril is widely traveled and has made history in both places with the first hang glider flight in India and the first to navigate the origin of the Amazon River in South America.

These free programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library.

FAMILY STORYTIMES will be held January 30th through March 20th, each Wednesday at 2:00 PM. Registration is open now. Register at the library or by telephoning 884-2242. Family Storytimes feature picture book stories, songs, fingerplays and movement games. Programs are geared to preschool children, but all ages are welcome.

Obituary of Charles Robert Niemann



Charles Niemann, 78, died at Tacoma General Hospital on January 7, 2002. Born in Vaughn on December 30, 1923, to Edward and Dora Niemann, pioneers of Vaughn. He attended Vaughn Grade School and Vaughn Union High School. He was the last survivor of the Niemann boys who played football, basketball and baseball for the Vaughn High School teams under "Inky Hageness". There were seven of them playing during the 1935 to 1942 years. Charles entered the Navy after graduation and served aboard several ships. His last ship was the USS Lansdowne, a destroyer, which escorted the USS Missouri when it sailed into Tokyo Bay to sign the peace treaty ending WW II. The Lansdowne was selected to go on a Good Will Tour around the world after the war, so Charles had to serve an extra year before being discharged.

Upon returning home, he married Joyce Olson in 1947 and they raised four children. Chuck drove a logging truck here and in the Tillamook Burn. After taking over the Sunnycrest Farm from Joyce's parents, Chuck raised Hereford cattle and worked for the Pierce County Road District until he retired in 1986. He was diagnosed with "Farmers' Lung" twenty-one years ago, and the family wishes to thank Dr. Roes and Dr. Koontz for their efforts in keeping the old Farmer going for these last twenty years.

Funeral services were held on January 11th at Haven of Rest, Gig Harbor, followed by graveside services at Vaughn Bay Cemetery and a reception at the K P Civic Center. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to "Save Our Old Vaughn Bay Historical Church", in care of Joyce Niemann, 15820 Olson Rd., Lakebay, WA, 98349.



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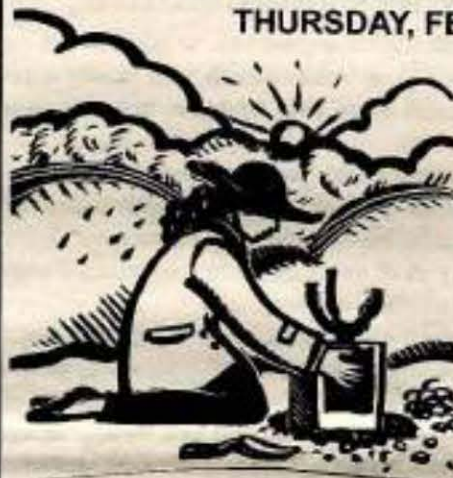
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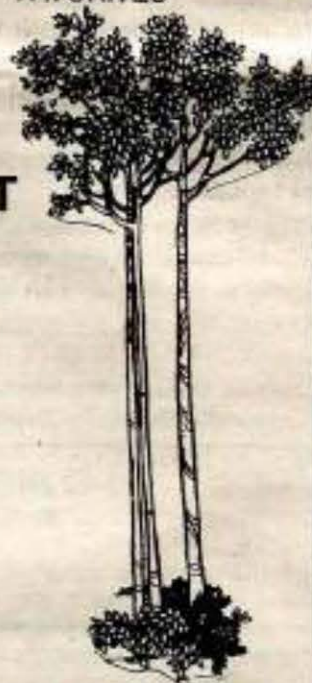


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The Girls Heard...

By Kristen Bottiger, Betty Kelley, Claudia Loy, Vicky McClung

The "Girls" hear lots of interesting tidbits about people who live here on the Key Peninsula. We think it might be fun to share some of these local items with you. And we want to encourage you to share items with us so we can incorporate them into the *K.P. News* when space is available.

First, there's been a great deal of aging taking place on the Key Peninsula within the last 30-45 days. Birthdays have been celebrated by: Nancy Howard, Kathy and Phil Bauer, Cran McCutcheon, Sabra Stratford, Georgeann Trandum, Jacqui and Mike Hickey, Dale Loy, Lance Englund, Britta Brones, Mike Kelley, Barb Chiado and Rene Moriarty. Let us know if we've missed anyone. [Ed. Note: And we wish a belated Happy Birthday to the other at least one thousand people on the Key Peninsula who celebrated birthdays during that same time period.]

We are pleased to report that Zech C. West, son of Sandee and Chuck West, recently completed his basic training at the U.S. Navy Training Center in Chicago, graduating with an E-2 rating. Zech will stay in Chicago for further training and hopes to become a Navy SEAL! Congratulations, Zech!

Home recuperating from knee cap surgery, Don Olson is catching up on reading and the afternoon "soaps." After four days of hospital food he's finally admitted that Shirley is a "damn good cook!"

Ladies, we've learned that Shear Magic (located in downtown Key Center) is expanding. We will have a "mini spa" at our fingertips. In addition to Gaye's hair salon, and Lynn's manicures and pedicures, a massage therapist will be joining the group at Shear Magic. And it gets even better as Laura Huddleston, a massage therapist (and Yoga instructor) at the Health Center in Key Center is adding an additional massage therapist in her office. [Ed. Note: Men can get a great haircut at Shear Magic.]

Did you hear Christopher Mathie's good news? Christopher, one of our best known local artists, hopes to open his own gallery in Gig Harbor by April. It will be located on N. Harborview Drive in the space that formerly housed the Harbor Bread Company. Good luck, Christopher!

We have heard that if you add liquid dishwashing detergent to a container of warm water and pour it all over icy door steps in freezing temperatures, the steps will not refreeze; candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least three hours prior to burning; and if you use air-freshener to clean your mirrors, it not only does a better job but also leaves a lovely smell to the shine. [Ed. Note: How do we get Peninsula Light Company to give us three hours advance warning of a power outage so we can get our candles well-frozen?]

Finally, we want to share three things that we recently learned about Queens. All Queens know: (1) a person who is nice to you but rude to the waiter is not a nice person; (2) nobody cares if you can dance well, just get up and dance; and (3) no matter what happens, somebody will take it too seriously.

Until next time, *The Girls*.



Zech West



Moms To Be....Exercise Good Judgment

by Dr. Robert B. Campbell, D.C.

As chiropractors, we have often been called on to help alleviate the back pain associated with child-bearing. As a result of our experience, we are very happy to report that pregnancy and backaches do not have to go hand in hand.

In a great many cases, much of the back pain associated with pregnancy is avoidable. During early pregnancy, lower back pain can be traced to a history of poor posture combined with fatigue in the lower back muscles. Later on, increased weight, a change in the body's center of gravity and weakened back muscles are the prime factors in back pain.

However, toward the end of the last term, chemistry takes over. Hormones designed to loosen ligaments and encourage the distension of the pelvis for the birth, also affect the supporting structures of the lower spine. When these ligaments release their normal tensions, the lower spine loses some of its ability to support. The back muscles strain, and pain occurs. To a good measure, that pain is avoidable. Not through drugs, but by taking preventive measures early in pregnancy, or even before it.

The best way to suppress back pain during and after pregnancy is to adopt an exercise program designed to strengthen the supporting muscles of the back as soon as pregnancy has been determined. We have found that a well-planned, well-supervised schedule is just as important as avoiding caffeine, and staying away from alcohol, smoking and sugar substitutes. Freedom from the back pain associated with pregnancy is possible, but only with the time and effort invested in a properly supervised exercise program.

If you are a mom-to-be, and have not included exercise in your weekly schedule, we urge you to do so. If you know any mothers-to-be, do them a favor and tell them about the contribution exercising can make toward their comfort during and after pregnancy.

Chiropractors can and have adjusted women safely throughout their entire pregnancy.

MINIMIZE PAIN

by Farrell Allen, MS, PT

Often the best cure for aches is the simplest one. To relieve serious pain, reduce the swelling of the injured part quickly.

In the 14 years I've been a physical therapist, the most frequently asked question I've encountered is, "What do I do when I first sprain or strain something?" What people are also thinking is, "It hurts! Make it stop!"

Your goal is to minimize the pain and to do this you must reduce the swelling and prevent further injury. A simple way to do this is - ICES.

I = Ice: Immediately after injury, ice should be applied for 10 to 20 minutes every one to two hours and it should be used for the first 72 hours. There are several ways to do this: Immerse the injured body part in ice water, use plastic bags of crushed ice or bags of frozen vegetables, massage directly with ice or use a manufactured ice pack. A good homemade ice pack can be made with a ziploc bag of two-thirds water and one-third isopropyl alcohol.

C = Compression: Some type of mechanical pressure should be applied to the injured body part. The most common way to do this is to use an ace wrap. The wrap should be put on with even pressure (not uncomfortably tight) and without gaps. The pressure should be continuous, and circulation to the area below the wrap should be checked periodically.

E = Elevation: This means that the injured body part should be positioned higher than the heart. This should be maintained as long as possible for the 24 to 72 hours after injury.

S = Support: The injured body part should be immobilized to prevent further injury. Most often this can be accomplished by not moving the affected area, but with a more severe injury, splinting or taping or bracing may be needed.

Using all of these techniques together is the most effective. By following these instructions, you can reduce the swelling, the pain and the rehabilitation time.

However, if the pain and swelling has not decreased after 48 hours, you should consult your physician to determine further treatment.

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VOLUNTEERING - JOINING THE FIRE FIGHTER ASSOCIATION

by Ruth Bramhall

I believe that this would be a good time to explain what the "Key Peninsula Fire Fighter Association" is. It is a group consisting of individuals who have an interest in the Fire Department - but also in the community. They could be paid department employees, their wives or husbands, retired employees, resident fire fighters, volunteer fire fighters, commissioners and spouses and members of the community who are interested in helping with community projects that support individuals, groups or causes.

I believe you will agree that this covers a broad area. An example is that each year a graduating High School student (hopefully interested in fire fighting) is supported with a scholarship. Money is donated to a fund the department can draw upon to assist someone in need (when the department makes a call and see the need for food, materials or other assistance to the occupants - not tax money).

The last couple of years some local families found themselves with a loss of income and without medical insurance. Anyone who supported our fund raising helped assist them. Almost every year a Firemen's Ball is held. This is to re-supply the funds, request your support and have some fun. We need to point out that this requires time, energy and ideas - it requires people to supply this.

Another of the activities is Volunteering to help with the Santa Sleigh runs. The Sleigh is kept in good condition with plenty of candy canes - all without tax money, only Association money and members' work and time.

I hope that after explaining what this Association is that you will want to come forward and volunteer. Attend a meeting a month, become acquainted with the people and express your interests, join and become involved.

For information, call the Fire Department at 884-2222 or 857-5184.

Strengthening Families Program

by Marilyn R. Perks, Middle School Prevention Resource Coordinator

Have you ever wondered how your child will handle the challenges of the teen years? Would you like more tools to cope with family management?

The AFTER 'OURS Program at KPMS is pleased to offer a wonderful, free program, designed for all families with youth 10 - 14 years, called the Strengthening Families Program. The program is a lot of fun, with door prizes, dinner for all, and childcare for younger siblings. Seven - two-hour sessions will be held from February 28 through April 11th 2002, with four booster sessions in October 2002. Parents and youth meet separately at first then get together during the second hour for the family session.

Parents/caregivers learn how to effectively discipline and guide their youth. They also learn skills that support their children and strengthen the family. The youth acquire a healthy future orientation and an increased appreciation of their parents. They learn skills for dealing with stress and peer pressure.

This program is sponsored by AFTER 'OURS, Communities in Schools, Puget Sound Education Service District, and KPMS Prevention Advisory Council. Longitudinal studies have shown that this program has long-term, positive effects for the youth and families.

The program is limited to 10 families (several slots have already been filled) with youth 10 - 14 who are transitioning to KPMS for the school year 2002-03 or who are already attending KPMS. Please call Penny Gazabat at 884-5725 or Marilyn Perks at 884-4800 for information or to register. More information about the program is available at www.exnet.iastate.edu/sfv/

Want to be a trainer? Free instructor training for the Strengthening Families Program is being offered by Puget Sound Education Service District in Des Moines. February 28 from 8.00 - 5.00pm plus March 5th from 4.00 - 8.30 pm. Call Marilyn at 884-4800 for details.

Valentine's Day Is February 14th!

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To Your Health

by William F. Roes, M.D.

Typically we think of bedtime as a time of rest and relaxation for our tired bodies, but for many people, bedtime is a time of tossing, turning and cramps, the time when our muscles take on an unwanted life of their own. The term dysomnia refers to limb movements at rest, usually unwanted and often disruptive of a good night's sleep. This is actually a common problem and one worth exploring.

There are several varieties of dysomnia, some associated with specific disorders, and some that just "happen", with no signs of underlying specific medical problems. One of the more common forms is called "restless leg syndrome", a condition in which a patient has an irresistible urge to move, frequently indentifying a creeping or crawling sensation of their legs that resolves with motion, and so the activity is somewhat voluntary. This can be the result of iron or vitamin deficiencies, and also is exacerbated by caffeine and stimulants. It usually is most prominent before falling asleep and can postpone sleep.

Many people also experience involuntary muscle contractions of the large muscle groups as they near sleep called periodic limb movement disorder or nocturnal myoclonus. This condition is also often associated with insomnia, or the inability to fall asleep. The contractions are frequently jolting in nature and can be solitary or repetitive. When this disorder is severe it is sometimes treated with medications used for Parkinson's syndrome and seizures, but for most of us that is not necessary.

The most common type of nocturnal muscle disorder is the good old muscle cramp. This occurs most often in the foot or lower leg, often the result of a stretch or extension of the muscles of the lower leg. It occurs most often when there has been vigorous exercise or the converse, absolutely no exercise. The simplest treatment is massage of the muscles in spasm, but there are also ways to prevent it. Most physicians agree that gentle stretching of the affected muscle before bedtime is helpful, as is making sure there are no electrolyte imbalances, such as low calcium (available in milk) or low potassium (available in bananas). These are both conditions associated with prescription medications, and can be tested for by your physician. An old remedy that sometimes works well is quinine. This used to be available without a prescription, but is now available in pill form only by a doctor's order. It is the ingredient in tonic water that gives it a bite, so if you are experiencing nocturnal leg cramps, you might want to try a gin and tonic (hold the gin) before bedtime.

Pierce Transit Vote Feb. 5th

Voters will have the opportunity on February 5th to increase the sales tax by 0.3% (3 cents on a \$10 purchase), to replace state funding lost when the motor vehicle excise tax bit the dust. This allows Pierce Transit not only to continue providing local bus service, SHUTTLE service for people with disabilities, the Key Loop, vanpools and park & ride lots, but to increase and improve service as population increases and more and more people get tired of the daily crawl in their cars. Not passing this sales tax increase will result in major cuts in existing service, according to detailed figures released by the transit district.

While the present service out here on the Key Peninsula is less than adequate for a community of 15,000 people, it's pretty obvious that if this sales tax increase doesn't pass, the possibility of restoring and maybe even improving the service, at least to Key Center, is about as likely as teaching an Orca to fly.

KEY PENINSULA PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT

by Nancy Lind

The Park Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Volunteer Park Annex. The officers are Marilyn Tagert, Nancy Lind, Pat Medveckus and Dick Granquist. Fred Ramsdell is also still involved in handling many of the operations of the park.

Volunteer Park

Field Lighting - Lee Spangle is working to get the lights on Field 1 operational by April.

Concession Stand - The Board is still looking for another concessionaire to run the stand. If interested contact Marilyn Tagert at 857-3660.

Little League Registration - At the Wright-Bliss Fire Station: Wednesday, Jan. 30, 6:00 to 9:00 PM; Saturday, February 2, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM; Sunday, February 3, 1:00 to 4:00 PM; and Saturday, February 9, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Late-comers registration will be at Volunteer Park on Saturday, February 23, 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

Men's & Women's Softball Sign Up - Call Volunteer Park at 884-9240.

If you have been wondering about the battery operated light stands on the field near the highway, that is the only way for ball-playing groups to extend the short days for playing on that field. This Key Peninsula Park District could certainly use a goodly chunk of money from somewhere (like a portion of the county excise park funds) to light and improve OUR fields. As the years go by the continuing need for upgrading the Volunteer Park becomes more apparent.

Rocky Creek Conservation Area

We encourage anybody interested in a good place to walk in the woods to go to RCCA and find the circle of trails that are being built by just great people who come out on cold days like Martin Luther King Service Day and bring tools, gloves, energy, enthusiasm and a love of the woods. MLK Service Day was a wonderful day, with about 40 people of all ages (students, neighbors, friends), working for several hours (with a campfire and a hot dog break), fanning out over the area to pick up garbage, cut trail, put up a bench, plant trees, clean up around new trees, trim, prune and have fun. One day, we'll have an information kiosk showing where things are and more signs letting you know what the trail is and how long. This site is a continuing project, being there to always attract the people interested in making the land better for all of us. Of course, it still attracts the kind of people who damage it, but the more that the other kind are there, the less likely the latter will show up. (See picture on Page 15)

On the last Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM, a group of us have a walk-a-bout at RCCA and you are welcome to join us. We meet in the large open area by the road at the Dedication Site.

Call me at 884-3347 if you are interested in participating at RCCA and/or for more information.

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YESTERDAY'S TEENAGERS!
Key Peninsula Senior Society
 by Jim Nolan @ 851-4847



JANUARY 2002 - A good month for the Senior Society. We installed officers for the New Year (same tried and true folks who served in 2001), we had good attendance each Thursday noon at our Pot-lucks in the Civic Center, we welcomed some new members and some returning OLD members, including Bob Smith, Bob and Lou Mauk, Don and Ruth Blakemore and Sally Kruger, who has been making the trip from Auburn weekly. NEW FOLKS include Louise Parsons, Terry Hartman, Eleanor Manza, Bonnie Dibble and Ruth Chambers — may they all continue with us on Thursdays.

It was especially good to welcome back Ruth Blakemore, former KPSS president. She and husband Don have given the past three years of their lives helping others, full time, through their LDS church. Currently they are involved in a church-sponsored employment and counseling effort for ANYONE who needs to get or prepare for a job. If you know someone who needs a job, or who needs to decide what kind of a job would best suit them, contact the Blakemores or any LDS church. This service is for anyone, not just church members. Call (253) 471-4890. And it was really nice to hear Don Blakemore on the Piano again !!

Incidentally, our editors missed the "funny stories" that should have been included in the January column, so we promised TWO of them for February. Here's the first one, courtesy of Ruth Blakemore: She said she was 90 old that many of her friends who had passed on and were permanently in PARADISE had given up on her — convinced that she wasn't going to make it. (Another "Ha-Ha" at the end.)

January 17th was our SOUP & SANDWICH day, with more than two kinds of soup and several varieties of tasty sandwiches, a menu that everyone enjoyed. It was a change from our normal potluck fare. We have a PARTY DAY every month, a "special theme with special eats" and of course for February it will come on the 14th, and with hearts and flowers and "sweet talk", will be centered on VALENTINE'S DAY. Better come !!

All Hail J.N. Edmiston of Nebraska. You may not recall, but he is the father of Marie Schwenka, who traveled back to Nebraska on January 16th for Dad's 108th birthday. Hooray for him and hooray for her - they're both pretty sharp at the Pinochle table. HECKUVA healthy state, that Nebraska !! Got that ? 108 — Wow !!

You may recall, we told you of MARY SVARRA of Key Peninsula winning one of the our two table-cloths in December at the Senior Raffle. Well, when we called her number, we discovered that she was in Arizona for the winter, but her daughter, Mrs. McKinley, allowed she could pick it up. We were supposed to call her with directions, but we were a bit tardy. Finally Mrs. McKinley called us again, since by now we had mislaid her phone number. She made arrangements to pick it up on her way home from work in January, but we again gave her the wrong directions and she tried, but the neighbor across the street here on 82nd knew nothing about a table-cloth. Another phone call — poor Mrs. McKinley was being run ragged. However, we gave her the correct directions and she rang our doorbell the next night. I rushed to the door, but so did our feisty little dog, Herky. He was through the door and upon Mrs. McKinley before I could hand her the table-cloth. Luckily, he was all bark and no bite, thank heavens, and once I had the little stinker under my arm, we FINALLY managed to convey the table-cloth to Mrs. McKinley who will present it to the raffle winner, Mary Svarra. WHEW !!

That's all for this time. Come pot-luck with us SENIORS any Thursday at noon in the Civic Center. No charge. Love to see you.

As promised, this month's "funny" —

Eight year old Mikey had not gotten passing grades in Math in the past two years, so his Mom enrolled him in the parochial grade school. Mickey came home the first day after school, went straight to his room and did his Math homework. Same thing every night for 3 weeks. His first report card showed an "A" in Math and Mom was astounded. She asked, "Mikey, how do you account for the wonderful 'A' in Math?" Said Mikey, "Well, Mom, when I got to school that first day and saw that guy nailed to a PLUS sign, I knew they weren't foolin'."

Bye - Happy February !

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There's a woman everyone calls Jane,
 Typed on a Selectric without any pain.
 But following the drought
 Her fingers wore out,
 And from typing she had to abstain.
 She then moved to a land of fine wine,
 Where each day the sun tried to shine.
 But her house nearly floated away,
 (Not a good way to enjoy your Birthday),
 So now, Jane, you get a Valentine.



THE LAW COLUMN

by Michael Misner

So, what's the deal with this Enron mess?

Trying to get a feel for what happened down in Houston with this company is sort of like trying to pick up dimes with boxing gloves; you can probably do it, but you're going to get pretty frustrated in the process. The first thing to understand is that this was no ordinary company.

Aside from its close relationship to the President, the Vice-President and other high-ranking officials in the Bush Administration, it also had ties to Democrats such as Charles Schumer and Christopher Dodd. From my review of a current list of political contributions from 1989 to 2001, except for Governor Locke, no one from our state received any money from Enron. That old Seahawk wide receiver, Steve Largent, received \$5,123 and even Sonny Bono's widow, Mary, received \$5,000. According to *The News Tribune*, Locke is returning the \$2,000 donated by Enron for his 2000 election campaign.

The most striking thing about Enron's collapse may be that everything leading up to it was perfectly legal. As a company providing a retirement plan for its employees, it had the option of deciding how its employees' investments in the company could be managed. Many companies do this by placing restrictions on how stock may be both bought and sold. There is nothing illegal about that. It's a retirement package offered by the company and, as such, the company has some say as to how those funds will be managed.

Similarly, there is nothing illegal about senior management selling some of its stock, if the compensation and retirement plans permit such sales to take place. Again, perfectly legal. Keep in mind, all retirement plans need to qualify with the IRS before they are legal. Therefore, the Enron plan was obviously reviewed by people at the IRS who didn't see anything that jumped off the pages at them as being illegal.

Okay, so if things were legal, what rights do the former employees and the investors in Enron's stock have available to them?

The most obvious option is to bring a lawsuit based upon securities fraud. The suit would allege that Enron filed bogus financial statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission. When that commission began operating in 1934 its first chairman was Joe Kennedy — father of Jack, Bobby and Teddy. The young man who wrote the rules for the SEC was William O. Douglas, some unheard-of small town lawyer from Yakima.

Because taking on Enron one investor at a time will be such a drain both emotionally and financially, it may be necessary to try to get a class action started. This, however, may not be as easy as it seems since there is legislation pending in Congress (the Class Action Fairness Act) which would transfer all class action suits filed in state court to Federal Court. In other words, if you want to bring a class action suit, you'll do it in front of a Federal judge.

Those are the same Federal judges who are appointed by the folks in Congress who took Enron's money in the first place.

KPCC ASSOCIATION 2002 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WINTER VISUALS	February 2 nd
JUNKYARD JANE DANCE	February 9 TH
BOY SCOUTS BLUE & GOLD	February 19 TH
FIREFIGHTERS BALL	March th
BOY SCOUTS PINEWOOD DERBY	March TH
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BANQUET	March 16 th
TOPS RUMMAGE SALE	April
ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT	April
ORTHOPEDIC GUILD & FUCHSIA SOCIETY	April 28 th
HARBOR HEIGHTS SCHOOL AUCTION	May 4 th
JAZZ IN JUNE	June 1 st
KPCCA FIREWORKS DEMO	June th
FIREWORKS BOOTH SALES	June 29 th
HALLOWEEN HARVEST CARNIVAL	October 31 ST
HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT FAIR	November
VFW THANKSGIVING DINNER	November 21 ST
SALATINO'S CHRISTMAS DINNER	December 25 TH

Tires, Wipers, Common Sense Are Keys To Safe Driving In Wet-Weather Conditions

Heavy rains in Western Washington have contributed to a multitude of traffic accidents and miles of snarled traffic recently. Many rainy-day wrecks are caused by motorists failing to appreciate the vast difference between wet and dry driving conditions. In fact, nearly one million vehicle accidents happen each year in wet weather, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Washington Insurance Council offers these tips to help drivers protect lives and property:

- * **Slow down.** As your speed decreases, the tire footprint (the amount of a tire's tread contacting the road surface) increases, providing better traction. You also reduce the risk of hydroplaning should you run into deep puddles on the road.

- * **Maintain a safe distance.** Even with good wet-weather tires, be prepared for longer stopping distances on wet pavement.

- * **Choose tires carefully.** For optimum performance in the rain, select a tire designed to provide enhanced wet-weather driving capabilities.

- * **Maintain your tires properly.** No tire can provide good traction in wet weather once the tread is worn below 2/32's of an inch tread depth. Check your tires regularly and replace them at the proper time. One way to check the depth of the tread of your tires is to place a penny (Lincoln's head down) in the tread. If you can see the top of Lincoln's hair, it's time to change your tires. [Eric Moreland reminds us that since tires often don't wear evenly from one side of the tire to the other, it's important to check the tread depth in several different locations on the tire's surface. Eds.]

- * **Maintain the proper air pressure in the tires;** check your vehicle handbook for specifications.

- * **Check the wipers.** Install new wiper blades at least once a year to ensure good vision.

- * **Avoid hydroplaning.** If you feel the vehicle starting to hydroplane, take your foot off the accelerator, but **don't hit the brakes.** If you have a manual transmission, push in the clutch and let the vehicle slow down until control is regained.

- * **Turn on the lights.** During daylight hours, they may not help you see better, but it will help other drivers see you.

For more information on safe wet-weather driving, contact the Washington Insurance Council at 206-624-3330. The Washington Insurance Council is a non-profit, consumer education organization funded by member insurance companies.

The Golden Rules of Bird Feeding

by Robert McCrossin, Bayside Animal Lodge Ltd.

By following the Golden Rules of Bird Feeding, you can be certain that you are doing all you can to avoid any feeder-associated dangers.

- < **Keep feeders clean:** Thoroughly and regularly clean your feeders using a 10 percent bleach solution.
- < **Keep the ground clean:** Rake underneath each feeder to turn under or discard the empty seed hulls.
- < **Discourage crowding:** Widely space your feeders across the yard.
- < **Optimize cover:** Although your birds will appreciate being close to cover, be careful not to place your feeders too close to cover where domestic predators, such as cats, can hide.
- < **If you have cats, consider making them indoor cats.** (This is healthier for the birds and for your cats.) If yours must be outside cats, be sure to place bird feeders well out of their reach.
- < **Limit garden chemicals:** Use environmentally friendly means to control pests and weeds.

For more bird feeding tips, go to <http://birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse> on the Internet.

KEY PENINSULA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

by Nancy Lind

The Key Peninsula Business Association meets twice a month. On the first Friday of the month there is a breakfast/business meeting at the Homeport Restaurant at 7:30 AM and on the third Friday there is a luncheon meeting with a speaker at the Horseshoe Lake Golf Course and Grill at 12 Noon.

Marcia Harris, Deputy Superintendent of the Peninsula School District, was the speaker at the January 18 meeting. She handed out a packet with information about the previous levy and the upcoming levy. The first page of the packet showed that everything that the District said it was going to do with the last levy money had been accomplished. The second page was a pie chart showing the breakdown of the general fund revenue by source for the 2001-2002 budget. The Board of Education Goals for 2001-2002 (and I am paraphrasing) are: 1. a safe learning environment; 2. a dynamic curriculum; 3. a systems approach to district operations; 4. a comprehensive set of policies and programs; 5. an evolving plan for facilities; and 6. a communications plan with the community. The levy date is March 12, for a 3-year term, estimated at \$2.34 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

The second quarterly Adopt-A-Road cleanup by the KPBA will be on Saturday, February 2 at 8:00 AM. We meet at 8th Avenue and do a two mile stretch from near the Home Store to almost Lackey Road.

ANGEL NOTES

by Frankie Johnson

We were so happy to see all of our loyal customers back in the shop as we reopened on January 9th. It was a wild scene! Also it was very gratifying to hear the positive comments about all the cleaning, painting and general upgrades. As always, many hands helped. There were husbands and sons doing a lot of the heavy hauling. Special thank yous go out to Fred Ramsdell and Dick Johnson who repaired a broken door and installed the new bathroom floor. The broken door came about when someone went to a big effort to break into our sorting shed. This is really dumb. But then thieves have never been known to be smart. There is nothing of big value in our shed. No money, no drugs or big ticket items to fence. The burglar had to jump the fence and the gate and then kick in the door. I would have liked to have seen the look on his face when he got inside to see used clothes, toys and books. What a disappointment! It just made a mess and caused us much anguish to repair and clean things up. If any who read this will please talk it up that it isn't worth the trouble to break into a thrift store and/or storage area. Our value is in the \$1.00 and 50-cent sales through our shop and the fact that we are volunteers doing the work. All profits go right back into the community. So, again, it is dumb to try to rob us when we only benefit everyone who needs our help here on the Peninsula. Anyone who needs housewares or clothing can get a free voucher from the Community Services at the Food Bank in Home or over at the Civic Center in Vaughn through the Children's Home Society.

Again, we want to thank all of you who donated the wonderful items that were left for us to restock the store. It was a real leap of faith to take everything out of the store and pass it on to the Boys' Ranch and actually be EMPTY! Then to hold our breaths and hope to have enough to sell two weeks later. Our community certainly rose to the occasion and filled our donation porch over and over. Then a really big thank you to our wonderful volunteers who spent many hours sorting and restocking the store.

It has been our goal to have two clerks on duty every shift. This became a reality this month as we welcomed many new angels. There are now about 45 volunteers who donate approximately 800 hours of their time and talents each month to keep us going.

Be My
Valentine
February 14th!



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Another View
by Liz Kassler



"Help! I think I swallowed my micro-mini cell phone!"

<http://lizkassler.com>

**K P Baptist Church Welcomes
New Associate Pastor**

K P Baptist Church is proud to announce the addition of a new Associate Pastor, Bruce Fuller. A native of New York, Bruce retired from the Navy after 22 years with the Submarine Force. He and his wife, Nora, have two sons who attend Olympic High School in Bremerton. Nora is employed at Pinecrest School in Bremerton.

Key Peninsula residents can meet Bruce and his family during services on Sundays at 10:45 AM at the K P Civic Center in Vaughn.



New Associate Pastor, Bruce Fuller

**It's Free House Painting
Time Again**

Applications for free house painting are now available for low-income seniors and low-income disabled men and women throughout Tacoma and Pierce County. There is no cost to the homeowner. The deadline is April 1st, so now is the time to apply. Locations range from Buckley to Longbranch, from North Tacoma to Lakewood and out to Elbe and Ashford.

To be eligible, applicants must: [1] be a senior (60+) OR have a disability; [2] own their own home in Tacoma/Pierce County; and [3] be low-income. People may apply for themselves or request an application in order to help someone else fill it out. For applications and/or further information, call 253-383-3056, ext. 105.

*We know of a lady named Esther,
Sailed to Norway without her sou'wester
While avoiding an iceberg
Ended up in St. Petersburg,
Shivering in her coat of polyester.*

*Knowing no one believed such a tale,
Blamed it all on a really great whale.
Took photos galore
Of a church and a store
And managed to stay out of jail.*

*We're glad she decided one day,
Russia wasn't the best place to stay.
When she finally returned
All those candles still burned
And we wished her a Happy Birthday!*

KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KPCCA 253-884-3456			8:00am M - F Gym Walk		1 Skate night 6:30-9:00pm	2 Museum 1:00-4:00pm Winter Visuals 12:00-5:00pm
3 Key Peninsula Baptist Church 8:30am-1:00pm	4 Yoga 10:00am-Noon CHS 1:00-2:30PM Brownies 3:30-4:30pm Karate 7:00-9:00pm EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7PM	5 CHS 9:00am-Noon WIC 8:00-4:00pm TOPS 6:00-8:00pm Scouts 6:30-8:30pm Yoga 7:30-9:00pm	6 Yoga 7:30-9:00am Bible 6:30-8:30pm AWANA 6:30-8:30pm	7 Seniors 10:00-4:00pm Museum 1:00-4:00pm Karate 7:00-9:00pm Yoga 7:30-9:00pm	8 Skate night 6:30-9:00pm	9 Museum 1:00-4:00pm Junkyard Jane Dance 8:00 pm
10 Key Peninsula Baptist Church 8:30am-1:00pm	11 Yoga 10:00am-Noon CHS 1:00-2:30PM Brownies 3:30-4:30pm Karate 7:00-9:00pm VFW 7:00-9:00pm VFW Aux. 7:00-9:00pm	12 CHS 9:00am-Noon CHS 3:00-5:30pm WIC 8:00-4:00pm TOPS 6:00-8:00pm Scouts 6:30-8:30pm Yoga 7:30-9:00pm	13 Yoga 7:30-9:00am Lions 6:30-10:00pm Bible 6:30-8:30pm AWANA 6:30-8:30pm	14 Seniors 10:00-4:00pm Museum 1:00-4:00pm Karate 7:00-9:00pm KPCCA BOARD MEETING 7PM VALENTINE'S DAY	15 Skate night 6:30-9:00pm	16 Museum 1:00-4:00pm Teen Coffee House 6:00 PM
17 Key Peninsula Baptist Church 8:30am-1:00pm	18 Yoga 10:00am-Noon CHS 1:00-2:30PM Brownies 3:30-4:30pm Karate 7:00-9:00pm	19 CHS 9:00am-Noon CHS 1:00-5:30pm WIC 8:00-4:00pm TOPS 6:00-8:00pm Scouts 6:30-8:30pm Yoga 7:30-9:00pm	20 Yoga 7:30-9:00am Bible 6:30-8:30pm AWANA 6:30-8:30pm	21 Seniors 10:00-4:00pm Museum 1:00-4:00pm Karate 7:00-9:00pm Yoga 7:30-9:00pm	22 Skate night 6:30-9:00pm	23 Museum 1:00-4:00pm
24 Key Peninsula Baptist Church 8:30am-1:00pm	25 CHS 1:00-2:30 PM Brownies 3:30-4:30pm Karate 7:00-9:00pm VFW 7:00-9:00pm VFW Aux 7:00-9:00pm	26 CHS 9:00am-Noon CHS 1:00-5:30pm WIC 8:00-4:00pm TOPS 6:00-8:00pm Scouts 6:30-8:30pm	27 Healthy Families 10:00am - Noon Lions 6:30-10:00pm Bible 6:30-8:30pm AWANA 6:30-8:30pm	28 Seniors 10:00-4:00pm Museum 1:00-4:00pm Karate 7:00-9:00pm		February 2002

Livable Communities Fair Aims At Transportation, Other Issues

Pierce County is among the state's fastest growing counties, and the effects of population growth are both evident and a concern. At the present rate of growth in population, by the year 2017 at least 200,000 more people will be residing among us. Can we preserve our quality of life?

Shortly after taking office in January, County Executive John Ladenburg started looking at ways to address the issue. The result is an educational fair promoting ways to save money, cut energy costs, learn about recycling, make cost-effective home improvements, provide neighborhood safety and strengthen the local economy.

According to Ladenburg, "The Fair on February 9th at the Tacoma Narrows Airport will be a countywide effort aimed at raising awareness about projects and programs that make communities more livable. It's an opportunity for individuals, companies, developers, non-profit organizations and government agencies to bring together ideas for making our community the kind of place we want it to be for our families today and in the years to come."

Over the years, people in our region have developed a variety of exciting, powerful ideas and projects, which redirect the relations of the individual to the automobile, to the built environment, and to each other. But in order to make these ideas take hold, they have to be accepted and acted upon by the larger mainstream community. However, for the most part, the discussion of these ideas remains with advocates and activists — they have not penetrated to the grass roots in a way that would impact the lifestyles of large numbers of people who live in neighborhoods.

The Fair is intended to reach the individual residents of neighborhoods — a person concerned about feeding the children, paying the mortgage, and keeping the family safe — but who is also tired of the crippling traffic congestion, frustrated with the loss of the sense of "community", and looking for solutions. Thus the Fair provides an opportunity for the local jurisdictions and organizations to showcase and share their livable/sustainable communities projects and programs with the public and each other, in order to raise awareness about the steps individuals and communities can take to ensure the long-term health of our economy and environment.

Much like garden or home shows, the Fair will feature exciting and interactive booths and displays which will demonstrate practical ways people can improve the quality of their own lives and neighborhoods. Sponsors' displays will provide information on topics such as: making your home more energy efficient; carpooling; using recycled building materials; starting a block watch; traffic calming; how to testify at council meetings; walkable/bikeable communities; transit-oriented development; neighborhood small businesses and pea patches.

Set-up time will be Friday, February 8th from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The Fair will be Saturday, February 9th, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The exhibits/booths will be open all day while speakers and workshops are on-going.

Are Arsenic & Lead In The Soil At Your House?

Pierce County is getting a \$1.65 million grant from the Department of Ecology to test for possible arsenic and lead in the soil resulting from years of smokestack emissions from the former Asarco smelter. The funding, generated by a state tax on petroleum and waste materials, will allow the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to collect and test soil samples from properties in northern Tacoma and western Pierce County. Based on this information, a sampling plan for child-use areas will be designed and implemented. Arsenic detected from past sampling indicates that the health threat in the smelter plume area is small and not imminent.

"The size of the area we'll be sampling is very large. We're taking it one step at a time and plan to keep community members informed as we go," said Steve Marek, the health department's environmental-health program manager. "We are concerned about long-term exposure to low levels of arsenic and lead-contaminated soils, especially for children," he said. "We all deserve to live in a healthy environment, and we believe everyone should be made aware of the possibility of contact with environmental contaminants."

"It took many years for the arsenic contamination to build up, and it will take many years for us to find it and educate people about how to avoid coming in contact with it," said Marian Abbett, who manages the Tacoma Smelter project for the Ecology Department.

To receive information by mail, call Frank DiBiase at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, at 253-798-7674, or Molly Gibbs at the Department of Ecology, at 360-407-6179.

Using Kerosene Heaters Requires Common Sense

Info from the WA Insurance Council

Kerosene heaters can add warmth and reduce electric bills, but can also cause fires if not used properly. Here are some safety tips: [1] Place heaters near the center of rooms away from furniture, drapes and other combustibles; [2] Children and pets should be kept a safe distance from heaters; [3] Be sure to follow the instructions; [4] Kerosene heaters use up the oxygen as they burn. Have adequate ventilation; [5] Don't try to use a convective type heater in a small room, they're intended for larger areas or several rooms. For a small room, use a radiant type.

Free safety brochures are available from the WA Insurance Council by calling 206-624-3330.

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To all Key Peninsula residents. I have been here for over 21 years. Rather than say how much I appreciate your friendship and patronage over the years, I extend to you and your family, from our family, the offer listed below as a way of saying thanks in these difficult times.

"FREE Massage & Chiropractic Visit For Everyone"
For the month of February 2002

(If x-rays are needed a \$50.00 charge may be included)

CALL 884-2144 TODAY!

The Garden In FEBRUARY 2002

by Sylvia Retherford
(253) 884-2487



We are so lucky to live near Puget Sound with the usual moderate temperature. Some semi-tropical trees, shrubs and vines that thrive here are figs, kiwis, palms, loquats and giant *Gunnera* with its 6 foot wide leaves. Life is beginning to stir for these plants now. The two *Sarcococosa ruscifolia* (red fruit) and *S.confusa* (black fruit) - both called vanilla bush because of their flower scent - are coming into bloom. *Daphne odora* is perfuming the air already. These three plants grow easily from cuttings, so ask for a snippet when you see them.

Crocuses, snow drops, hellebores and violets have joined the primroses and large *Bergenia* blossom clusters. Fragrant maroon and orange perennial wall flowers (*Cherianthus cheri*) bloom now if they were planted early last fall.

Many vegetables, such as peas, lettuce, and root vegetables, including potatoes, can be seeded now for summer use. These should be put in sandy well-drained soil. Peas planted any later may develop the disease called enation when the weather warms. Winter vegetables planted last summer, such as cabbage (red and green), cauliflower, broccoli, red and green kale, Brussels sprouts, radicchio and winter root vegetables continue to provide for the table until April when they start to send up seed stalks. Food from your garden provide superior flavor and nutrition.

There is still time to dig perennials: lilies and irises need to have the grass and weeds removed from the clusters and thick clusters should be divided, tearing them apart if necessary. Bearded iris and lilies need well-drained areas, while Japanese iris require plenty of moisture and can even grow in a swamp or in a pot set into the edge of a pond. Then there are Siberian iris and Pacific Coast native iris that can grow so vigorously in a damp garden that they may become an invasive nuisance and have to be dealt with accordingly.

Vaughn Bay Garden Club

The Vaughn Bay Garden Club will meet on February 22nd at the home of Betty Arms. Lee Stiles will be co-hostess.

Tim Kezele will present the program on pruning.

For more information about the club, call 884-1527.

Evergreen Auction & Dinner March 1st

Evergreen Elementary PTA is hosting a "Parents' Night Out" fundraiser Auction and Spaghetti Dinner. The event will be held on Friday, March 1st at the Longbranch Improvement Club on Key Peninsula Hiway S. in Longbranch. The Key Singers are scheduled to perform from 6:00 to 7:00. Dinner is \$5.00 per plate and includes salad and bread, coffee or tea. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:00. The No-Host Bar (beer & wine only) will be open from 5:30 to 8:30. The Silent Auction runs from 5:30 to 7:15, and the Live Auction begins at 7:30, featuring Auctioneer Mark Boardman of Stokes Auction House. For more information, please call 884-3393.

WANTED !!!!

Do you have a flair for the dramatic ?? Do you have experience in theater and/or theater arts ?? Would you like to put your talent to good use ?? If so, the Civic Center needs you and would like to hear from you !!

After extensive exterior and gymnasium renovation, the Board of the Civic Center is about to embark on the renovation of the stage. Assistance is needed on design, lighting, sound system, greenroom design — all the elements needed to create the "perfect" stage! We need community assistance in designing all of these facets so that we can apply for grants to accomplish the project.

If you are interested in joining the Stage Renovation Committee, please call Jena at the Civic Center at 884-3456. We look forward to hearing from you !

Bayshore Garden Club

The next meeting of the Bayshore Garden Club is at 12 Noon on Friday, February 15, at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Hostesses for lunch are Peg Robertson and Liz Fore. The program includes *Spring Bulbs*, by Ann Waldo, *Design* by Dorothy Rome and *Horticulture/Conservation* by Ann Waldo. Guests are welcome. Contact Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487 for information.

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This program is free, but seating is limited. Call or stop by for reservations.

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Questions & Answers
Financial Focus

Submitted by Connie R. Rose

It's Tax Time Again - So Get Organized

With all the Palm Pilots, laptops, desktops and every other gadget in this high-tech world, do you know what you may find most useful as you get ready for filing your taxes? The humble manila folder.

It's true. As you get organized to do your taxes, you probably won't find anything as helpful as a manila folder - or, to be more precise, three manila folders. You can label them "income", "deduction" and "medical deduction".

What should you put in these folders? Let's take a look.

Income folder - This should contain all the records of your income from earnings and investments. Use this folder for your W-2 forms (wages) and your 1099 forms (interest and dividends). This is also the place for your year-end bank and brokerage statements, mutual fund reports and any other documents related to earnings from savings and investments.

If you have sold any stocks during the year, you will also want to put your 1099B forms in the income folder. However, these forms only indicate your sales price. To calculate your taxable gain or loss, and to determine whether short-term or long-term capital gains rates apply, you'll also need the paperwork or canceled checks showing when you bought the stocks and how much you paid for them.

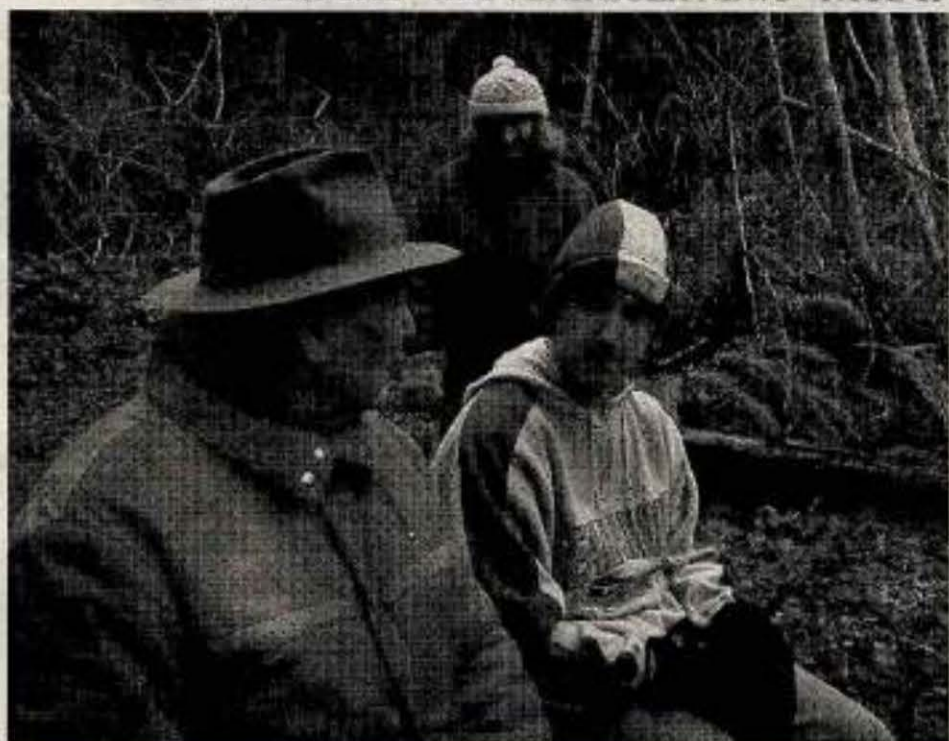
Deductions folder - It's important to keep track of all your itemized deductions, because they can significantly affect the amount of tax you'll owe. Your biggest deduction will probably be your mortgage interest, so save your Form 1098, which contains this information. And save the receipts for your charitable contributions, personal property taxes, real estate tax payments and state income tax paid.

You may also incur a lot of unreimbursed business expenses. Keep tabs on everything that's work-related, such as tuition for classes, books, uniforms, professional journals, etc. If you're self-employed, all your office supplies and computer equipment will likely be deductible. If you work out of your home, you can deduct a percentage of your mortgage payments and utilities. (To learn more about deductible business expenses, request the IRS Publication 17.)

Medical deduction folder - You can't deduct your medical bills unless they exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income. That may be a high threshold to cross, particularly since you can't deduct medical costs reimbursed to you by your health insurance provider. Nonetheless, it might be worth your effort to keep records of the various medical expenses you incur, such as out-of-pocket hospital costs, lab work, dental and eye care costs, prescriptions and insurance premiums.

It may seem like your manila folders will be stuffed to overflowing by the time you're ready to work on your taxes or hand them off to your tax preparer. But over the years, you'll learn which documents, forms and receipts you need to keep and which ones you can "weed out".

After you've filed your taxes for the year, you may want to keep all your paperwork in a more permanent binder. But when the next tax season rolls around, it will once again be time to put those manila folders to work.



After a hard day's work Bob Lind and Scout Matt Macaras enjoy resting on the bench. Matt just finished overlooking Rocky Creek. Heather Rogers is in the background.
 Photo by Ann Waldo

2002 Student Photographer Of The Year Award

Applications for this competition will be accepted up to April 30th. Any high school senior graduating in 2002 may enter. The recipient of the award receives a \$1,000 scholarship grant. Judges will be members of the Professional Photographers of Washington, and the finalist will be selected based upon photographic and scholastic studies, as well as the student's desire to continue studies in the photographic arts. The winner of the award will be announced in June.

For more information or to receive an application write to the Professional Photographers of Washington, 12009 37th Drive SE, Everett, WA 98208. Applications and a list of 2001 winners are also available online at <http://www.ppw.org>.

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KPCCA Dog Obedience Class
 Beginners class starts Feb. 23rd at 10:00 to 11:00 AM. To register call Wendy Webster at 253-857-7805. This is a 6 week course for \$70.00.

KEY PENINSULA BAPTIST CHURCH. Meeting Sunday mornings at Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn. Bible Study 9:30 AM, Worship Service 11:00 AM, Wednesday AWANAS 6:45 PM. Pastor James Rouse - Phone 884-9994.

DEADLINE for the KP News classifieds ads is the 20th of each month, call 884-4699 to place your ad.

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For driving instructions, or other information such as Davidic Dance Classes and Bible Studies we offer during the week, visit us online at:
www.congregationbethel.org

New Alcoholics Anonymous Group

A Long Branch of Sobriety
 AA Open Meeting
 Thursday - 6 PM

Longbranch Community Church
 16518 - 46th Street, KPS

KEY PENINSULA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

The KPMS PTA reports that they would like to see more involvement from their parents in the community. They are always open to new membership and would like fresh, new ideas. They have recently purchased a new readerboard, which will be installed soon. They have given teachers mini-grants to purchase such things as a color printer, software and covers for track mats, purchased fleece hats to keep children warm during emergencies and power cord to run the generator during emergencies and helped pay for materials for the quilt making in Jan Buday's art class.

The "After Ours Program", headed by Penny Gazabat, is doing a wonderful job and student involvement seems to increase each session. The program offers many classes, such as Crafts, Cheerleading, Cooking, Guitar, Math Club, Junior Achievement and Dissecting Movies. Please contact Penny at 884-5725 for information about this great program.

In Sports, Girls' basketball is in full swing. Check with the school for the calendar of home games. Boys' basketball will begin on February 25th and continue through April 4th. Track goes from April 7th through June 15th.

KPMS will host the annual Science Fair on February 28th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM with dinner provided by the "After Ours Program". This is an incredible event and parents and community should come and support the children.

The KPMS Safety Committee intends to provide "comfort packs" of food for students to use in the event of an emergency that requires them to remain at school for an extended length of time. Packs for each student will contain water and nutritious snacks. The committee would like to assemble these packs as soon as possible and each family is asked to contribute \$5.00, or whatever it can afford, in order to purchase the food in bulk soon. Donations may be sent to Mrs. Connie Jones, KPMS, 5510 Key Peninsula Highway KPN, Lakebay WA, 98349. If families prefer to make food donations, they should contact Mr. Lyle Miller at (253) 884-4800 or at miller@peninsula.webnet.edu. If the food is not used by the end of the school year it will be donated to local food banks, and donations will be solicited next year for the 2002-2003 school year. (Information submitted by Kristen Bottiger and Hugh McMillan.)

Presentation On NAFTA

The World Trade Center Tacoma is presenting a Speaker and Luncheon event on Friday, February 8th, at the Tacoma Club. The speaker is John Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Pierce County Central Labor Council and Vice President of the Washington State Labor Council. Thompson's educational presentation will help attendees round out the pros and cons of this global issue.

NAFTA is a prevalent issue among many businesses in our community. For some, it is a positive enactment that allows free and fair trade among countries, breaks down barriers to boost productivity and wages, reduces prices on everyday consumer goods, increases consumer choice and stimulates economic growth.

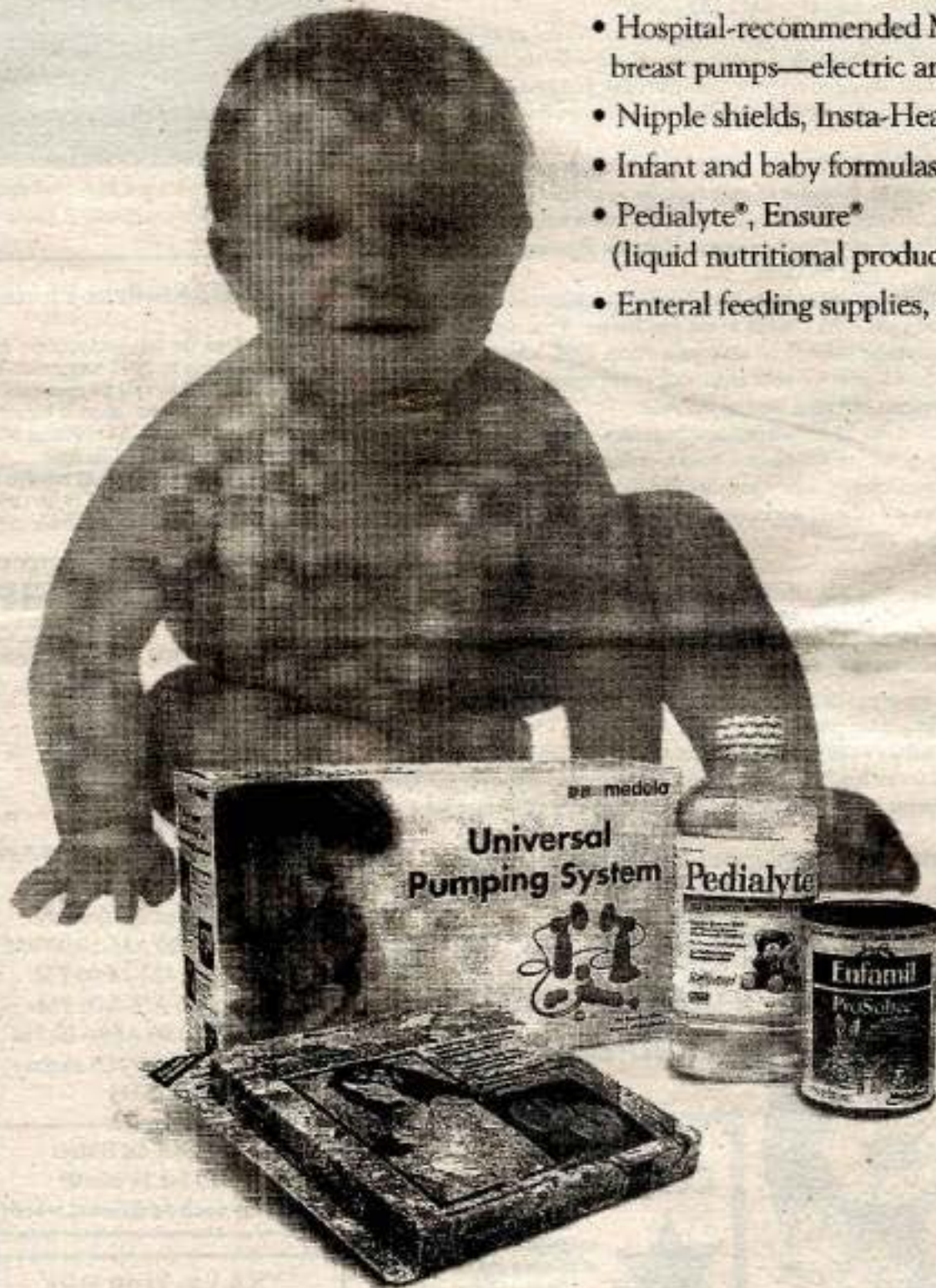
For others, NAFTA is a concern. Critics say it has provided an enormous framework to protect the interests of multinational corporations. They argue that it does not protect the rights of workers, small business owners, farmers, immigrants or the environment.

Reservations are required by Monday, February 4th. RSVP at 253-383-9474.

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