



In this issue



◀ The world through the eyes of artist Beverly Pedersen, page 27

Sunnycrest helps grow gardens and friends, page 11 ▶



News

- Park negotiations on hold . . .5
- KPCCA considers options . . .7
- Bridge tolls go hi-tech . . . .7
- Meth lab dangers . . . . .14
- Easter events . . . . .16
- Volunteer spotlight . . . . .17
- Logger goes to Finland . . . .24
- From Pioneer Stock . . . . .26
- Gospel choir comes to LIC . .28
- Purdy bridge a landmark . . .29
- Out & About . . . . .32

Sections

- Peninsula Views . . . . .4
- Schools . . . . .8
- Business . . . . .11
- Crime Watch . . . . .14
- Community Works . . . .16
- Politics . . . . .18
- People & Lifestyles . . . .19
- Arts & Recreation . . . .27
- History . . . . .29

## Citizen of the Year is a prestigious award

By Danna Webster  
KP News

The Key Peninsula Lions Club will present the 21st Citizen of the Year Award in March. The awards ceremony was an idea of the second president to serve the club, Hugh McMillan, who has continued to be a prominent supporter of the event. "Hugh has been the backbone to this event, he has been the MC for many years. He really got it started," said this year's president, Frances Challenger. The first award went to Sally Cornman

For profiles of this year's nominees, see page 20.

and she may have been the only nominee. The second year had a number of nominees and Doctor William Roes was the recipient. McMillan says the first two years were the only times when he knew who the winners would be. Today the selection is a highly secretive process based on a complex voting system. The opening of the plaque, which will reveal the winner's name, is done with the flair and the drama of an Academy Award envelope.

The opportunity to recognize and appreciate the volunteers of the Key Peninsula is a highlight event for the Lions Club, as well as the participants. The Lions dedicate their service and efforts to sight and hearing conservation, and diabetes and drug awareness programs. It is especially an honor to receive this award from the Lions, who are prominent in their support of the Peninsula. Their work on behalf of the Youth Exchange Program, Habitat for Humanity and their support of Volunteer Park, Little League and Volksmarch are familiar contributions to residents.



McColley Hall celebrated its opening last month after an extensive community effort.

## The house that Phil built New hall honors McColley

Story & photo by Colleen Slater  
KP News

Philip McColley, a native of Glen Cove, was involved with church and other activities in the various places he lived. When he and wife Marianne (a native of Home) retired in 1999 and moved to Home, he was soon busy with community activities. As a member of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, he became building chairman, and was

immersed in the whole process, from dreams and plans, through financing and permits, to actual construction of a proposed social hall. McColley, who died in 2002, didn't get to see the hall completed, but last month, this pillar of his church and community was tied to the dream forever — with the new building named McColley Hall. (See MCCOLLEY, Page 30)

## North Bay reopened for commercial shellfish harvesting

By Irene Torres  
KP News

The state Department of Health issued an initial order in January for the commercial shellfish classification of a portion of North Bay, upgrading the beds classified as "conditionally approved" to "approved." Bonnie Knight, Port of Allyn executive director, said, "There were a tremendous number of old septic systems basically dumping sewage directly into the bay. Some of the oldest consisted of a rotted out 50-gallon drum, which had been buried, with piping run to the shoreline. We were all tremendously relieved when the last of these were cleaned up." The Port of Allyn was involved directly in



Robert Mansania and Erin Sparber of Belfair are walking Samson on the Port of Allyn's waterfront park dock. Thanks to an extensive restoration project, North Bay's water quality has greatly improved.

Photo by Mindi LaRose

the early stages of a cleanup project, starting as far back as 1988. After the initial study phase was completed, port commissioners realized it made more sense for Mason County to take the lead, and the port stepped aside, Knight said.

Mason County Health Department staff identified the sources of the pollution in the area as faulty main sewer connections and domestic animal waste. The county (See ALLYN, Page 25)

# KPVI joins tsunami aid efforts

By Hugh McMillan  
KP News

Members of the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute joined worldwide efforts to help victims of the tsunami in Asia. In February, the group collected used clothing and other items, then spent long hours sorting and packing them.

Eileen Young, chairwoman of the project and Key Peninsula Veterans Institute secretary, said, "We met Tuesdays and Thursdays, as long as there were clothes to sort and pack, in the karate building in Key Center."

About 10 people worked every four-hour shift two days a week. "They put in roughly 16 hours per person, and this does not count the hours our members put in collecting the clothes from the different pick-up points or the time and travel necessary to collect the boxes,"



KPVI members helped collect and sort multiple boxes of donations that were later delivered to World Concern in Lynnwood.

*Photo courtesy of KPVI*

Young said.

KPVI worked cooperatively with World Concern of Lynnwood in this effort. They accepted clothing and other items such as shoes, blankets, quilts, sheets and fabric.

On Feb. 1, the first load of approximately 200 boxes went to Lynnwood, "thanks to the generosity of the Key Peninsula Community Services/ Food

Bank in Home, which loaned us its box van for the trip," Young said, adding that several businesses supplied the boxes that were instrumental for the project.

"We wish to extend our thanks to a generous community, to all who have contributed their time and efforts to make this worthwhile job a success. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you," Young said.

# Teen killed in car accident

By Hugh McMillan  
KP News

Four young people en route to a party driving on 118th Street KPN on Feb. 19 failed to stop at a stop sign at Creviston Road and were hit broadside by a pickup truck, said Key Peninsula Fire District 16 Capt. Chuck West. The force of the impact, according to witnesses, rolled the vehicle over and off the roadway where it landed on its wheels. Its back door was ripped off.

The two passengers in the rear seat were ejected. Rescue personnel at the scene were led to believe by the vehicle's occupants that there were only three of them. Police investigating the scene found the fourth person, who had been a rear seat passenger, only several hours later during accident scene reconstruction, under the vehicle that had landed on him. He was pronounced dead at the scene. He carried documents identifying him as Donald Jackson, 15, a student at Henderson Bay High School in Gig Harbor and a resident of Tacoma. The other three teens were from Tacoma and were transported to area hospitals with minor injuries.

"It's tragic that no one at the scene knew (the fourth teen) was a passenger in the car. Our hearts go out to all the families involved," said Lt. Larry Bauer with the Peninsula Detachment.

Pierce County Sheriff's Department Detective Ed Troyer said officers were quite familiar with the 18-year-old driver, who had been booked into jail multiple times, is listed as a suspect on many police reports, and does not have a driver's license.

"The car was going at a high rate of speed, at least 50 miles per hour when it went through a stop sign and was T-boned," he said.

## News briefs

### Penrose park shellfish classified

A large area of Pierce County tide-lands near Penrose State Park in Lakebay has been classified by the Washington State Department of Health as approved for commercial shellfish growing, according to county officials.

Approximately 1,450 acres of tide-lands in the Penrose Point area meet water quality and shoreline criteria for the "approved" classification following a state Department of Health sanitary survey of the area, while an additional 54 acres in the southern portion of Mayo Cove do not meet the standards and are classified as "prohibited" for commercial shellfish cultivation.

The classified area includes Mayo Cove, Delano Beach and Penrose Point State Park, which has a popular recreational shellfish harvesting beach. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that thousands of recreational shellfish harvesters dig clams or oysters from the park each year. The classification applies only to commercial shellfish operations, but provides shellfish health information for recreational harvesters as well.

This is the first time the entire area has been classified, according to the county, although a zone was closed to

shellfish harvesting by DOH in March 2003 near three marinas in Mayo Cove. Two of the marina facilities are part of the park and the third is the privately owned Lakebay Marina.

### Peninsula Light Co. receives settlement

Peninsula Light Company will rebate \$47,925 to its commercial and industrial customers as a result of a lawsuit settlement resulting from the energy crisis of 2000. This amount represents the utility's share as determined by the Washington State Attorney General's office, which filed a lawsuit against three energy companies on behalf of Northwest electricity customers.

"We are pleased to provide these refunds but it is a drop in the bucket

compared to what Duke, Williams and El Paso Energy made at the expense of Penlight members," said Chief Executive Officer Rob Orton, referring to the energy crisis of 2000, when Duke Energy, Williams Energy, and El Paso Energy reduced the amount of available electricity, causing wholesale rates to skyrocket for utilities.

The state Attorney General's office filed suit against these companies three years ago, and as a result of a settlement, checks totaling more than \$10 million began to be mailed out in February to electric utilities in Washington that raised rates during the crisis.

Commercial and industrial customers are expected to see the credit on their March bill. Penlight residential customers already received a one-time credit of \$8.84 as their portion of the settlement in 2004.

## Peninsula KEY NEWS

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

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# Vaughn resident elected to fraud association BOD

By KP News staff

Vaughn resident Joe Dervaes is one of five Certified Fraud Examiners recently elected to the board of directors of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Volunteering his time in this position, Dervaes continues a tradition of service to the membership of this worldwide organization since 1988.

Certified Fraud Examiners lead in the prevention, detection, and investigation of various fraudulent acts.

"I submitted my application after I was encouraged to do so by Joe Wells, the organization's founder," Dervaes said.

"By this vote, the membership has placed a great deal of trust in my ability to represent them with distinction in this position... In addition to personal recognition, I will represent the state of Washington, the state auditor's office, and the citizens of this



DERVAES

**"It certainly will be the pinnacle of my professional career as a Certified Fraud Examiner."**

-Joe Dervaes

state in this capacity.

"It certainly will be the pinnacle of my professional career as a Certified Fraud Examiner."

Dervaes joined the ACFE in its first year of operation, founded the Pacific Northwest Chapter, and has been on its governing board of officers continuously since 1993. He also served on the board of regents for a four-year term.

He is an adjunct faculty member and has written a column on "fraud's finer points" in the ACFE's bimonthly journal, The Fraud Magazine, for the past three years, and wrote two training manuals.

Selected by ACFE leaders to be a member of the Board of Review in 2003, Dervaes said he has dealt with some of the most complex disciplinary cases in history. He also presents fraud awareness seminars to over 2,500 audi-

tors and management officials of governmental entities and professional associations throughout North America each year.

As the audit manager for special investigations at the Washington State Auditor's Office, Dervaes oversees the agency's fraud program.

Specializing in employee embezzlement in state agencies and local governments, he has participated in the investigation of over 640 fraud cases involving losses of over \$12.5 million, and has received the agency's outstanding employee award five times.

Two years ago, Dervaes received the coveted Donald R. Cressey lifetime achievement award for fraud detection, deterrence, and education, considered the top international award in the fraud examination profession, similar to the Pulitzer Prize in journalism.

## Scholarship group to celebrate 20 years

The Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund (formerly known as the Peninsula High School Scholarship Fund) is looking for any former members of the Scholarship Committee and/or S.A.V.E. Thrift Store volunteers, as well as interested community members, to help commemorate 20 years of local college and vocational scholarships for graduating PHS seniors. Spouses and significant others are welcome.

There will be a celebration dinner on March 29 at the Canterwood Club House at 54th Ave. and Canterwood Drive. A social hour (with no-host bar) will precede the dinner from 6 to 7 p.m. Dinner will be at 7, followed by a short program. The price is \$35 per person.

The group's goal is to give at least one one-time, \$1,000 20th Anniversary Scholarship to a member of this year's graduating class. Donations may be made to The Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 298, Wauna, WA 98395.

For information or to request an invitation, please call Gail Kenney from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 857-8021, or Jean Flynn at 858-6277.



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## Editorial

### March is Key Peninsula's unofficial volunteer appreciation month

Watching the 20-plus residents take the stage during the annual Citizen of the Year awards dinner is an inspiring sight. These volunteers, who at any other time of the year quietly go about their business, do some pretty amazing work without expecting much in return. But what's even more amazing is that for every person nominated this year, there are perhaps as many as several dozen others whose names remain anonymous. The Citizen of the Year award is about these generous citizens and their work in

the community as much as it is about the spirit of the Key Peninsula. Ask any local organization and you'll get confirmation that without volunteers, they would not exist. There would be no Angel Guild, no KP Community Services, no Little League, not even Key Pen News. And those are just a few random names on the long list of local nonprofit groups that are at the heart and soul of the community.

People who move to the Peninsula usually say they like the remoteness, the small-town feel and the spirit of the area. It may not be as evident to newcomers, but what really creates the spirit of the Key Peninsula is the incredible number of people who give of their time and money to help their neighbors. And that's not just the retired folks who have extra time on their hands — many volunteers are teens busy getting ready for college and

working parents with their plates already full with work and family duties. As you read the stories of the 2004 citizen nominees in this month's Key Peninsula News, think of those stories as a mere sampling of many others. Some of the other stories were told in previous Citizen of the Year nominations; some are told on the pages of this newspaper; others are simply told through thank-yous by the organizations.

Yet many other stories can be told by the Key Peninsula Lions themselves, who as organizers of this recognition ceremony are not eligible to be nominated. Which is why it's we declare that March is the Key Pen's unofficial Volunteer Recognition Month, and we challenge everyone who knows persons making a difference in someone else's life to let them know that they are very much

appreciated — even if their name has not made it yet to the nominations list. Or better yet, next year when the time comes around, nominate them yourself. Although the kudos all go to volunteers this month, it may be important to mention that many other leaders are pillars of their organizations and go far beyond the call of duty that is part of their jobs. Even as these leaders are expected to contribute to the betterment of the Peninsula through the nature of their paid jobs, they too deserve to add their stories to the Big Book of People Who Make the Key Peninsula What It Is. We take our hats off to all these men, women and youth, and hope that the stories told on this month's pages will inspire new people waiting for their chance to give back, so the Big Book could continue to grow.

## Letters to the Editor

### Reader concerned about dogs

I have lived on Lackey Road approximately six years, in that time I have lost six dogs, including three of them run over or hit, one stolen, and one shot. The sixth died of poisoning the second week in February. I am concerned about the cruelty involved in these examples and some other incidents: The 2-year-old red and white Siberian was ran over not once but twice in front of my grandson who is 12. At the same time about a block way, my 7-month-old Alaskan sled dog was found in the ditch. The car tracks show that they deliberately swerved to hit her. That should scare all of us, that we have young human animals that find this a fun game. When they get bored with that, what's next—a child?

The 1-year-old shepherd-mix was shot in the head right in front of my place. My sled dog was hit by a guy in an old black raised-truck who races fast up and down Lackey. Some kids were walking by and saw the truck. Some kids were witnessed calling my white dog, Bianca, to the gate and stabbing her in her side. She required stitches. Big rocks are found in my yard where kids have thrown them. One rock hit one of my sled dog's leg and smashed her paw. In the meantime, my dogs are accused every time something happens. Recently, Bianca was accused of killing a

rabbit when she was locked in the house. My fence gets torn down by people's dogs trying to get in, which lets my dogs out. I'm called at the Tavern constantly that my dogs are out. We get there and sometimes they aren't mine. No one spends as much money and time repairing fence to try to keep their dogs safe as I do. My dogs go to schools, and teach kids about the Iditarod. They visit senior homes and give love. They don't deserve this. I hope all the neighbors will work together for the safety of our dogs and of our kids! Neighbors interested in talking about animal cruelty problems may call Tracy Manning at 884-9766.

*Tracy Manning  
Lakebay*

### Changes are coming to the Key Peninsula

Time has brought drastic change. County records show that there were no white men living on the Key Peninsula in 1850, only Indians. The number of non-Indians has swelled from 100 or so in 1900, to 15,000 today. This is a 14-fold increase over the last 50 years. Government agencies want us to “manage” the Peninsula so that there is only a 10 percent increase in population between now and the year 2022. Good luck! Projections have the population doubling within 25 years. Personally, I believe we will grow much faster than that. Just imagine how crowded we'll be 50 or 100 years from now. All these new residents will require their share of ground water to drink and

will leave behind their share of sewage. We can take only so much water out of the ground before salt water will be drawn in to contaminate our drinking water. There is only so much buildable land. Does anything need to be preserved for parks and recreation? Or should we allow a residential sprawl from Purdy to Devil's Head? These are some of the questions being considered by the Key Peninsula Planning Board. Some longtime residents still wish for the same lifestyle they enjoyed 20 or more years ago. Just like the change we forced on the Indians, those times are gone forever. We can only do what we can to minimize the negative effects of the changes yet to come. Mistakes have been made in planning in recent years. Those planners failed to fully recognize the force of “change” and failed to plan far enough into the future. The current planning board is looking only as far as the year 2022. This is shortsighted and will no doubt result in disastrous consequences if they only plan for this short period of time. I caution those planners to use a great deal of foresight and flexibility. It is very easy to miss an obscure consequence which may not appear for decades into the future. Don't build us into a box that we can't get out of. Leave us some options. We need concern now for our grandchildren who will inherit our land and their kids who must live in whatever change has then been created. The Key Peninsula Planning Board is currently holding committee meetings studying environmental issues. Call 798-

2700 for times and places. The public is encouraged to attend and participate.

*Rick Sorrels  
Glen Cove*

### Letters to the editor

The Key Peninsula News welcomes letters to the editor that pertain to Key Peninsula issues and news. Letters regarding local issues may be accepted so long as they don't violate IRS 501(c)3 restrictions, and are published subject to space available. The Key Pen News reserves the right to edit the letters for length and clarity and to reject any submission considered inconsistent with editorial philosophy or publishing guidelines. No more than one letter per quarter will be published from each letter writer. Letters should be no longer than 150 words, though longer letters may be occasionally published as space permits. The deadline is the 17th of each month. Send submissions to news@keypennews.com or mail to PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394. Please include your town and hone number for verification. The Key Pen News also welcomes opinion columns from readers and others; the columns are accepted based on available space, appropriateness of the material, and consistency of style and subject with editorial philosophy and voice. Anyone interested in submitting an opinion guest column should email news@keypennews.com or leave a message for staff at 884-4699.

# Devil's Head park dream on hold

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Following the approval of Pierce County Conservation Futures funding for the potential purchase of 93 acres on Devils Head for a park, things looked set for beginning negotiations with the owner.

That's when Pierce County found out the property was not for sale, at least not at the moment: It had a pending sale in the works. Now, the county can only sit and wait to find out if the sales goes through, said Grant Griffin, a senior planner with the county parks department who manages the conservation futures program.

The Great Peninsula Conservancy applied for the grant with the county. Don Dupree, conservation programs director for the nonprofit organization, said they

too are waiting to see what happens. If the deal goes through, they would be interested in talking with the new owners, and if it doesn't, the county can probably move into negotiations. The property owner had previously expressed interest in selling it to the county if terms could be negotiated.

"The community has been interested in seeing that property protected for years," Dupree said.

The real estate agent with John L. Scott who represents the owner said the property is in the "feasibility study mode of the agreement" with a projected closing date for May.

The property was one of many in the county to be funded by a total of \$24 million in conservation funds. The portion allocated for Devil's Head would go back into the fund if the purchase does not come through.

## Peninsula Detachment receives defibrillator grants

Story & photo by  
Hugh McMillan

On Feb. 11 at Narrows Park, State Farm Insurance, in cooperation with Gig Harbor Troop 244 Eagle Scouts, presented a check for \$4,800 to PCSD Lt. Larry



Bauer for the purchase of two automatic external defibrillators to be carried in two Pierce County Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment patrol cars. Left, from the Pierce County Sheriff's Department patrol car open door, are Deputy Rich Folden; Gig Harbor Troop 244 Eagle Scouts Andrew Himmer, Ryan Nelson, and Sam Larsen; State Farm Insurance representative Ken Uddenberg; PCSD Sgt. Rusty Wilder; and Troop 244 Scout Master Richard Himmer. Uddenberg said, "State Farm's mission statement is 'helping people manage the risks of every day life and recover from the unexpected goes far beyond issuing policies and settling claims.' It's important that we give back to the communities we serve and to partner with our local law enforcement agencies to make our communities safer." Lt. Bauer said, "This will greatly enhance our life saving capabilities this side of the Narrows."

Keep in touch while away! Visit us at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

## Vaughn Community Church



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## News briefs

### Camp Colman among environmental award recipients

YMCA Camp Colman was among the recipients of Lu Winsor Memorial Environmental Grants, awarded by Peninsula Light Co.'s Green by Choice Program and Pierce County Water Programs through the KGI Watershed Council. Funds are granted to organizations, schools and individuals to work collaboratively with the Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor/Islands Watershed Council to solve drainage, water quality, and habitat issues within the KGI watershed.

Pierce County Water funded grants to three projects, including to YMCA Camp Colman to purchase plankton nets and compound microscopes and fund ongoing education. Peninsula Light funded grants to two projects, Camp Colman for the purchase of a video microscope and ongoing education, and Pierce Conservation District for a Farm Management Workshop series.

The grant program is named in honor of past KGI Watershed Council member and Wauna resident, Lu Winsor, who retired from the National Park Service in 1980 after 33 years of service. Lu and his wife, Wickie, settled in the Wauna area in 1982. He was one of the founding members of the Rocky Creek Conservation Area and the Peninsula Heritage Land Trust. He dedicated his life to the environment until his passing in July 2003.

"I can't think of a better way to honor the dedication that Lu had to preserving the quality of life on the Peninsula," said Peninsula Light Co.'s Jonathan White. "In spite of his failing health the last few years, he was still able to attend meetings and contribute his valuable insights."

Applications for 2006 Lu Winsor grants will be available in September. For information, contact White at 857-1514. The KGI Watershed Council meets every third Tuesday of the month from 4 to 6 p.m. at Peninsula Light Co.'s headquarters.

### North Bay holds fund-raiser

North Bay's 7th Annual Community Dinner, Auction & Dance was presented by the Allyn Community Association on Feb. 12. It was held at the Victor Improvement Club as a fund-raiser to benefit local projects. Lennard K's of Allyn catered the generous lasagna dinner. The auction proved great entertainment with lots of laughs and great bargains conducted by auctioneer

George Kenny, who is also known as "the Chainsaw Guy." Auction items were donated by 34 local businesses, artists and ACA members. Guests danced the night away to the music of "Swing Fever," under the direction of Stan Yantis.

### Park district asks for Home Park input at meeting

To seek public opinion regarding the type of structure users and residents would like to have built at Home Park, a public forum sponsored by the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will be held at the Home Fire Station Saturday, March 26th, at 2:30 pm. The structure will be built by the KP Lions Club. KPMPD Board President Paula DeMoss said, "We have discussed the merits of a large picnic shelter, or two small picnic structures, or one gazebo. We would like the public to inform us what they would like to have before proceeding." For details, call 884-7650.

### Ex-resident helps raise \$3,400 for food bank

Former Key Peninsula resident John Van de Brooke called on friends and other community members last month to donate money toward the Key Pen Community Services and Food Bank's building fund. For every person to donate \$100 by Feb. 14, he wrote in a letter to Executive Director Cristi Watson, he would match another \$100. Sixteen people sent in contributions to KPCS, bringing in \$3,200 after matching, for a total fund balance of around \$20,000, Watson said.

KPCS would like to thank: John Van de Brooke, Richard and Marjorie Radonich, James and Vicki Hauk, Ray and Tawnie Binion, Michael and Sara Odash, Larry Henderson, Michael Williams, Ann and Thomas Fisher, Rand and Joanne Haffly, Barbara Bence, Robert and Ann Larson, William Sorsdahl, Carol Zuerlein and Lakebay Metals Co. Inc.

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# Narrows bridge will feature high-tech tolls

By William C. Dietz  
KP News

When the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge opens for service in 2007, drivers who sign up for the Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system will be able to pass through the west side toll plaza at highway speeds. That's got to be good news for anyone who commutes into Tacoma or has reason to cross the bridge on a frequent basis.

Here's how it will work: Those who wish to take advantage of the ETC system will require a "transponder." David Pope, Tacoma Narrows Bridge toll system manager, explains the technology this way. "The transponder sends the customer transponder number (via radio) to a computer at the toll plaza, which records transaction information such as time, date, and the number of axles on the vehicle."

Why would the WSDOT care how many axles a vehicle has? Because the Washington State Transportation Commission may wish to introduce variable tolls in the future. When the bridge opens, the \$3 toll (eastbound only) will apply to cars, trucks and motorcycles. Assuming the Transportation Commission approves, the \$3 toll is scheduled to increase to \$4 in 2010, \$5 in 2013 and so forth until the year 2030, when the \$800 million debt will be retired.

Once the customer information has been collected from the passing vehicle, the data will be sent to a second computer where \$3 will be subtracted from the customer's account. Details remain under discussion, but Pope indicates that a minimum balance of \$50 (give or take) will be required. When the account balance falls to a predetermined level, the fund will automatically renew itself by charging a set amount to the driver's credit card. That's the preferred method in so far as WSDOT is concerned, and based on input from potential customers, they believe it will be the most popular approach.

Service centers will be established on both sides of the Narrows where customers can open accounts, obtain transponders, and take care of related issues.

Transponders will be available in two sizes, a thin credit-card-sized sticker appropriate for most passenger cars, and



*Photo courtesy of WSDOT*

A transponder such as this will be placed in vehicles as the fastest way to pay for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge toll.

a larger unit for commercial vehicles. And, according to Pope, "Transponders will be available within the six-month period prior to the opening."

But what about security? Pope responds this way. "If you lose your transponder, or someone steals it, there is no personal data that can be stripped out of it. Then, if you report it, we'll turn the device off so no one else can use it."

What if you don't want "no blankety-blank transponder" cluttering up the windshield of your shiny Lexus, 15-year-old mud-splattered pick-up truck, or tricked-out Harley? The answer is simple... Plan on stopping at one of the toll booths, and make sure that you have U.S. currency, or a traveler's check. The policy regarding personal checks is up in the air — and debit cards are a no-no. (WSDOT won't have the necessary infrastructure to support them.)

Finally, some advice for those who would like to blow through the toll plaza without paying: Don't. Something called a photo enforcement system will take a picture of your license plate and send you a bill. And, if you persist, handling charges will be added to your bill and the Washington State Patrol will send you a citation.

So, if you cross the bridge 240 days per year (260 working days minus 20 days of vacation/legal holidays), be prepared to pay \$720 per year in tolls. But not during power outages, right? That's when the fancy technology goes belly-up and we cross the bridge for free, you think? Wrong. "We have backup batteries," Pope said with a smile, "and a backup generator, too!"

# Civic Center examines insurance options

By Danna Webster  
KP News

Current insurance fees threaten to put the Key Peninsula Civic Center out of business, the KP Civic Center Association says. At a February meeting, the KPCCA board was asked to consider three options for reducing the nearly \$26,000 annual fees.

One option is to deed the property to Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District. The KPCCA would continue to be responsible for the operational portion of its organizations and finances. The insurance cost would be reduced to \$11,400. The second option would be to deed the property to the KP Parks and Recreation District as the parent organization with the same qualifications. The insurance cost would become \$13,000. The third option is to purchase insurance through a nonprofit insurance specialist in California, which would cost under \$13,100. This option is preferred by some members as a way to buy the Civic Center some more time before a long-term decision is made.

Bruce Macdonald, KPCCA executive committee member, told the meeting that some in the committee feel it is best to go with metro parks option because it has its own formal organization, is separate from Civic Center and KPCCA can be independent of the election of metro officers.

He pointed out that the KPPRD option would require election costs for new commissioners. He said the choice should not be made based on sympathetic park commissioners but that "the key here is the document [contract] that describes the relationship between the

parent organization and operations of the Civic Center."

Ben Thompson, KPCCA executive board member and current KPPRD commissioner, presented the argument in favor of having the KPPRD as the parent organization for the Civic Center. "This is probably one of more important decisions this board will make," he said.

He said the election costs could be reduced by not holding elections each year and that "the argument that KPPRD was supposed to go out of business is correct and that was the plan until (the) Civic Center thing came up."

According to Thompson, the only reason people would run for the KPPRD would be to act as caretaker for the Civic Center. He said choosing the KPPRD would decide whether that entity would stay in operation or would dissolve.

The board did not vote on which option to pursue but at press time a special meeting was scheduled for Feb. 28 to make a decision.

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# Show & Tell



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Above, Students in teacher Anita Huysman's all-day kindergarten class at Minter Creek Elementary wanted to show off their cool Valentine's Day glasses.

Below, Key Peninsula Middle School's Community Spirit Club members recently joined their friends from the Companionship program, coordinated by Pierce County for people with special needs, on a scavenger hunt at Tacoma Mall. *Photo courtesy of KPMS*



Above, A group of Vaughn Elementary School environmentalists are in awe at their release into Vaughn Creek of tiny salmon they watched develop from eggs in the school's aquarium over the past several weeks. Every Vaughn student got a water-filled cup with one little fish that, in wonderment, they then gently slipped into the cold creek waters, bidding them a safe journey and return. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Left, Key Peninsula Middle School students work on the school's newspaper, Eye of the Cougar. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Below, Recently at Evergreen Elementary School's Eagle Academy, one-on-one reading partners Mrs. Robers and second grader Olivia Bowmer share a story. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



Photos by Darrin Tollefson

KP resident Marty Marcus with the Pacific Northwest Herpetological Society was one of several people who brought critters to a Vaughn Elementary Family Fun Night in February for a "Reptile Roundup." Above, This little guy pays no attention to visitors as he munches on some lettuce leaves.





## School briefs

### Kindergarten registration open for 2005-06 school year

The Peninsula School District has begun half-day and full-day kindergarten registration for 2005-06. Register at your home school office from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday until the end of the school year, June 22.

Students eligible for kindergarten must be 5 years old by Aug. 31. A birth certificate, immunization records, proof of address and \$300 deposit (applied toward tuition) are required for registration.

Full day kindergarten is tuition-supported, as Washington state only provides funding for a half-day program. Tuition is \$3,000, with options of a 5 percent discount for payment in full, or a monthly direct deposit of \$300 per month for 10 months.

Full scholarships are available to families, based on family size and income levels; qualification require-

ments and applications can be picked up at the time of registration and parents will be required to show verification of income.

Families interested in joining an all-day program may also sign up for district-wide placement in extra spaces available at other elementary schools.

For information, contact Deb Wolfley at 857-8100 or check the district Website for building activities at [www.peninsula.wednet.edu](http://www.peninsula.wednet.edu).

### PSD M&O levy passes

The Feb. 8 Peninsula School District Maintenance and Operations levy passed with about 62 percent of yes votes. Nearly 16,000 voters cast ballots. The 2006-09 levy replaces the one that expires this year, and collection will begin in 2006.

"We thank our voters for their overwhelming support. The levy will continue to make a big difference in making us a great community and a great school district," said Deputy Superintendent Marcia Harris.

The levy will pay for curriculum programs, instructional materials, technology and custodians, among other items.

# Vaughn students selected for 'report card' testing

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

Vaughn Elementary was one of three Peninsula School District schools selected for the 2005 National Assessment of Educational Progress, often known as the Nation's Report Card. A group of fourth-graders took assessment tests in math, reading and science, and their results will be included in determining Washington state's scores. Nationwide, about 20,000 schools were part of the assessments that started in January and will include more than 1.2 million students in grades four, eight and 12 representing 11 million students nationwide.

The tests are similar to the mandatory Washington Assessment of Student Learning, or WASL, but the NAEP testing doesn't record the names of individual students, and results are not reported back to the schools. Although students are selected randomly from the schools, parents have the option to decline participation.

All the states and school districts that receive federal Title 1 (Learning Assistance Program) funding are required to take part in the NAEP, and schools are selected based on a stratified sampling method—based on

## Nation's Report Card

For more information about the National Assessment of Educational Progress, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

school size, type of location, demographics and other criteria. "The goal is to identify schools based on demographics and location criteria to be representative of each state," said Kathryn Sprigg, from the Washington state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In addition to the state level, NAEP has a national assessment that requires a smaller sample of students and is only intended to represent the country as a whole; only the national level tests 12th graders.

The Nation's Report Card is a 35-year-old project that was mandated by the U.S. Congress, although the state-by-state program was only introduced in 1992.

"We can look at how students in Washington state compare to students across the nation or to other states of interest with similar demographics," Sprigg said. "We have done better than the national average and are in the top tier performance among other states."

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Photo by Mindi LaRose

Teacher Robin Horne of Minter Creek Elementary stands amidst the intensely popular knitting club. She started the club and has seen over 100 kids attend over the past semester.

## Knitting spins magic at Minter

By Hugh McMillan  
KP News

Donna De Vries Sanders, an involved mom at Minter Creek Elementary School, alerted us to the school's Knitting Club under the leadership of teacher Robin Horne, a Title 1 reading instructor, who made clear that "we only do this during the recess periods."

It's interesting that the kids are more interested in the club than in playing during recess. Shortly after the girl students took up knitting, some boys wanted to be involved. Now boy/girl participation is almost half and half.

"Kids who thought they would never be interested in knitting are surprised at how good they are," said Horne. "It's wonderful the way they help each other. It's given them a whole new way to relate to their grand parents who knit."

Horne described how helpful the school's PTA has been in providing financial help for purchase of knitting needles, yarn, and other materials. She said the club started with fifth graders. Then fourth graders wanted to try. "This was all with knitting needles. We ran out of needles. Then the little kids wanted to do it, and with them we use spool knits," she said. Those are made of the core spool of a toilet tissue roll with what look like popsicle sticks glued to its side. The sticks extend beyond the spool and are used to hold yarn the kids slip around them in a fashion to create a knitted thing like a scarf or whatever the kids fancy.

A recent article in the Seattle Times captioned, "How's this for a yarn? Guys go crazy for knitting," said the craze is in Chicago, the University of Oregon, New

York, Tahoe, Calif., college campuses and coffee shops. Knitting was once dominated by males, mainly sailors who whiled away slow time sailing across the seas knitting themselves windproof sweaters for long trips. A men's knitting group off Du Pont Circle in Washington, DC, has a Web site, Menknit.net, with the motto, "Man enough to knit, strong enough to purl."

De Vries prepared a questionnaire for the kids to answer: Why did you join the Knitting Club? What are the things you have made? What have you learned from Mrs. Horne and this class? Here are some of their responses.

Kaitlyn Ready, fifth grader, said, "I joined because on my first day of school in November my friends showed me the knitting club." She has made a purse and lots of scarves, and sold the scarves for 50 cents. "We decided we will donate the money to the Humane Society," she said.

Katherine De Vries, also a fifth grader, "came to Knitting Club just to knit and because I saw a lot of kids coming in to knit." She was wearing a necklace, a scarf, and bracelet she'd made.

Fourth grader George Sanders said he "liked learning to tube knit because it makes me happy to help the other kids knit." Fifth grader Meaghen Thomas likes coming to the club "because it is fun making things that started off as yarn... I am learning new things every time I come here."

Knitting seems to sooth the savage beast in kids and gears them up to return to class after a recess of knitting refreshed and ready to learn.

Those involved in the project would be grateful for any contributions of yarn, knitting needles, or related items to this cause.

## Meth Forum

### "Is Meth Cooking In Your Neighborhood"

**Learn:** How to recognize the signs of meth activity  
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How to identify signs and symptoms of drug use generally and meth specifically

**Date:** Saturday April 2, 2005 **Time:** 8:30am - Noon

**Location:** Key Peninsula Middle School, 5510 Key Peninsula Highway North, Lakebay

**More Information:** Call 884-7899

#### Topics/Speakers:

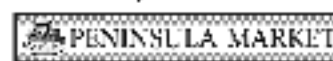
Open Booth Time	8:30 - 9:00am
Lieutenant Larry Bauer, Pierce County Sheriff Department Topic: Law Enforcement and Community Partnerships	9:00 - 9:15am
Ron Evans, Pierce County Sheriff Department Crime Prevention Unit Topic: Block Watch Organizing	9:15 - 9:30am
Pierce County Sheriff Department Staff Topic: Identify Theft & Meth Connection	9:30 - 10:00am
Break	10:00 - 10:30am
Pierce County Sheriff Department Staff Topic: Recognizing Meth Labs	10:30 - 11:30am
Daniel Bissonnette, Executive Director, A Chance To Change Topic: Parent Education	11:30 - Noon

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Kitsap Recovery Center  
Meth Lab Exhibit  
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# Spring has sprung at Sunnycrest Nursery

By Danna Webster  
KP News

Spring is in the air and it is evident at Sunnycrest Nursery, where flowers and friendships have blossomed for nearly 25 years.

In 1981, the nursery at the main intersection in Key Center was called Sakura and it was owned by Sam Momi. Sam Momi was a veteran of WWII who had also experienced internment in a U.S. Japanese incarceration camp. The Sakura nursery was housed behind the Key Center Tavern, next door to the barber-shop. One day Momi was watering his plants along the back fence that separated the nursery from the Olson family property and the Olsons' daughter, Claudia Loy, asked, "Sam, you haven't thought of selling this, have you?"

Momi said, "Yeh, it's for sale." And the transaction from Sakura Nursery to Sunnycrest Nursery began.

Claudia Loy and her husband, Dale, had moved to the Key Peninsula nine months earlier. They had lived in Sun Valley, Idaho, where Claudia had a lunch and sandwich business and Dale worked maintenance jobs for golf courses and private yards. The couple came as caretakers for the Civic Center. They enjoyed returning to the Peninsula, where Claudia was born and raised. Their daughters had the same school bus driver as Claudia and they all enjoyed basketball and roller skating at the center.

While the Loys were working three jobs and wishing for one, they thought about owning a business. "We were always working hard for other people, why



Photo by Danna Webster

Dale and Claudia Loy at their Sunnycrest Nursery.

couldn't we run our own business," Dale Loy says. Some nursery and produce businesses were available. "We didn't know plants but we did know how to work with people," he says.

Momi wanted to sell his business out right but since the Loys couldn't afford such a transaction, he eventually offered a deal with terms and on May 3, 1982, Claudia and Dale Loy went into the nursery business. "Sam stayed with us for three months. He introduced us to all the suppliers and all his customers," the Loys say. "There were a lot of loyal people because Sam made sure he had the best."

The property the couple bought was

adjacent to part of the 1887 Olson family homestead. The homestead was a major strawberry-growing operation. Elmer Olson, Claudia's grandfather, built a house near the homestead in the early '20s; he and wife Elsie called it Sunnycrest Farm.

The strawberry fields were the source of summer spending money for the children. The first sales experience for 10-year-old Claudia came from the family's roadside fruit stand. Of course, the strawberries had to be picked first. "Yes, I picked them. If you were related, you picked," says Claudia and admits that she is not fond of strawberries to this day. Picking strawberries was not the best job. "On a good day, I got to pick raspberries...Then I didn't have to bend over," she says. But picking strawberries in the summer was what all the kids wanted to do. "That was the place to be...all the cousins were there."

Claudia and Dale were allowed to use the Sunnycrest name with the admonition they respect the name.

The first years were lean. Dale read the "Better Homes and Gardens Plant Encyclopedia," but it was some of their customers who were their best teachers — like Valda Young from Maple Hollow. Young was a Bayshore Garden Club member who came into the nursery and talked about all the plants. Her experience in Japan after the World War II taught her about Japanese gardening. She and Dale went to shop for Bonsai and pots. Many of the people, like Young, met the couple through the business and have remained best friends.

After three years, Claudia's father, Don Olson, built a bigger building for the nursery. And now, in 2005, they are experiencing a real growth time as the threat

of the "big boys" like Home Depot looms over their heads. They believe their knowledge and their willingness to talk to people makes the difference.

"We sell success because we tell customers what they need to do to make it work," says Dale Loy, while his fingers weave a pine needle basket. "This is a luxury business, we feed the soul, we don't feed the mouths," Claudia adds.

**"We didn't know plants but we did know how to work with people."**

-Dale Loy

Many changes have occurred over the years and the Loys love the changes, they love the variety. The couple have immersed themselves in those changes, being active in community groups ranging from the Civic Center to the Key Pen Community Fair, and supporting various events, from Flavor of Fall to Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild's annual dinner.

The Peninsula is becoming a commuting community unlike Claudia's girlhood days, when her neighbors were loggers, farmers, fishermen, and some Boeing employees. The nursery business has changed, too. Floral design and delivery has been added to their services. They say that florals help pay bills in the quiet time of winter. Their products have changed, they have gone away from chemicals and are more organic. They say the whole industry is headed in that direction. Safety for the environment is the priority.

Claudia says she has seen "a larger increase in the diversification of incomes and lifestyles over the years," but it remains the "best community around, people are still connected." If she were to write a book about the changes in the community she would call it "As the Key Turns." Her appreciation of change and new things in life is reflected in a favorite aspect of the Sunnycrest business. "I do love the spring, I love the annuals and all the color," she says.

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# Key Saloon remains under management of Manning

By Danna Webster  
KP News

As of Feb. 15, the Key Saloon officially reopened under the ownership of Tracy Manning. The sale agreement for new ownership dissolved.

According to Manning, each license and regulation became more and more of an obstacle in the purchase process. Each requirement soured the deal and caused the new buyer to wonder what he had gotten himself into. There was the gambling license, the health department inspections, the liquor license, the Pierce County regulations, and when the time came to sign the final agreement for closing, Manning was the only one at the table.

The prospective buyer could not be reached for comment by the Key Pen News.

When Manning is asked what is next for her, she says, "I still want to sell it [the Saloon] but, for now, my Doggie Day Care business has been put on hold." She sees the chance to start over as a chance to make the Saloon a better business. She has new booths up front and a nonsmoking



MANNING

area. Manning hired Johnnie Price to create a new menu that features mini-breakfasts and daily lunch specials.

Price has a long history of wedding and banquet catering and enjoys the opportunity to run her own kitchen. One star menu item, so far, is her "Southern Tater Salad." She said she hadn't been in a bar for 30 years but she likes the friendly social feel of the Saloon. Price says, "It is a comfortable place to be."

Manning says the new menu will feature good, homemade food for people

**"I still want to sell it [the Saloon] but, for now, my Doggie Day Care business has been put on hold."**

-Tracy Manning

in a hurry. She says lunches will be available for delivery to Key Center businesses and that she hopes the meals are so

affordable that they are "cheaper than if you went home and cooked." In addition to the new menus, there are new TVs and new dart boards. She wants to provide as many activities as possible and establish the Saloon as a sports bar. Her aim for the saloon is to be the best.

That will include the best chicken, the best potato salad, and the cleanest kitchen. "I can't stand to come in any way but first," Manning says.

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March 27th is our **Easter Cantata, "Nail Scarred Hands"**, at 11:00 am.

**Awana & Youth Group**, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, KPCC, ages 3 years through 12th grade.

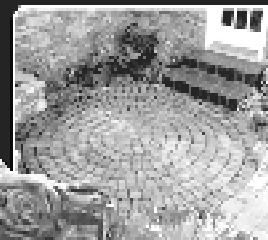


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# New business faces around the Key Peninsula

By Connie Harris  
KP News

There have been many new business faces around the Key Peninsula in 2004 and 2005. Below is a roundup of some of the new neighbors not previously mentioned in the Key Pen News:

Wooden Toys and Gifts opened for business in December. After studying their nieces and nephews, and a lot of research, Maureen and Dennis Nixon discovered that the wooden toys of the old days stimulate imagination. They are building a home in Olalla, which is where they develop and manufacture their toys. Their wholesale outlet is located beside the Bridgeway Market in Purdy, where they also sell crafts made by other artisans.

Log Tekniq' specializes in log furniture, family heirloom furniture, and furniture restoration. Owner Bob Hanna said he was looking for a certain ambiance with a lot of solitude to work on his craft. He found both when he discovered the old Vaughn Post Office, near the Key Pen



Civic Center, last October.

Dexter's, located next to Bridgeway Market in Purdy, changed owners last year. Danny Dosanjh remodeled and decided he could provide fresh, made to order food and ice cream by the beach in Purdy.

Rudolph's Espresso was opened by Vince Rudolph in November. He chose his location wisely on Key Peninsula Highway in front of the Shell gas station. Soon after taking over the coffee shop, he extended his hours of operation and expanded the drink menu to accommo-

date the commuter traffic on the highway. Rudolph says he is very pleased with his location and plans to open an additional deli and espresso next to Volunteer Park later this year.

Rib Ticklers left Gig Harbor and now resides in Bridgeway Market, bringing barbecue chicken and baby back ribs to the Purdy Spit. Opening at the new location on Jan. 21, Dennis Ofsthan said he answered the same demands of his former customers. "I love the location and plan to have outdoor dining in the warmer months on a new patio," he said.

Also in Purdy, Jaci Parrish followed her passion for beading to open the Beadin' Path in January. With a beautiful view of Henderson Bay, the store offers a collection of beading supplies along with classes.

Mother and daughter, Genevieve and Laurie Ellis, who are a tax preparer and an accountant, relocated their Ellis Accounting firm from Tacoma in May to Key Center, next to the library. The business also offers notary service. They said they are looking forward to new clients.

Floor Covering Direct was opened in October by Paul Turnpaugh in Key Center. He says he can meet all floor covering needs at his location. Turnpaugh takes appointments, and also offers carpets and tiles that can be selected for immediate installation.

Friendly Food Mart/76 is the new name for the former Texaco store and gas station on the corner of Elgin-Clifton and State Route 302. Owner Max Lee has owned a store in Kent. Lee has reorganized his new business and is offering various new specials since taking over the store in January.

Photo by  
Danna Webster



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# Fighting against 'meth'

By Connie Harris  
KP News

Methamphetamine, also called "meth," "crystal" or "crank," is a drug that is manufactured and used throughout the state of Washington and has been found here on the Peninsula. Community awareness and education is vital. Recently, Jesse White, president of Horseshoe Lake Estates HOA and member of the Key Peninsula Crime Task Force, suspected the existence of a



Photo by Connie Harris

Common household items are used to cook meth; if you see several of them in one location, it could be a sign of a meth lab.

meth lab in his neighborhood and took action. As a result of his efforts and with the support of the community task force, he filed a code violation complaint. This resulted in the arrest of four people who were found to be "cooking" meth in a detached shed behind a residence. White said, "Thirty percent of the residents living here are single mothers who don't feel safe. I am not going to give up. If you are cooking, selling or using drugs in our neighborhood, we are going to get you."



WHITE

The chemicals used in the production of meth, as well as the airborne toxins they cause, will permeate into floors, walls, carpets, furniture and any area they come in contact with. It takes an average of \$20,000 to \$30,000 to complete a cleanup of a meth lab, according to the Koch Crime Institute and the state health

department. White stated that the cleanup team was there for 12 hours to secure the site. The county health department was primarily responsible for the cleanup, and checking for contamination.

Dennis Taylor, community mobilization specialist for Safe Streets, heads the Key Peninsula Crime Task Force and has implemented many programs to help protect and inform the community of the existing methamphetamine problems.

"For every one successful meth lab finding, there are most likely six more yet to be found or in operation," he said, joking that "Jesse White should be cloned" because "he took all of the necessary steps to ensure the safety of his neighbors."

When asked about the growing concerns of existing meth problems here, Lt. Larry Bauer, who heads the Peninsula Detachment of Pierce County Sheriffs' Department, said, "The reallocation of manpower now provides 24-hour coverage on the Peninsula, which should prove to be some relief to the residents.

**Signs of a meth lab in your neighborhood may include some or all of the following:**

Frequent visitors at all times of the day or night. Increased traffic.

A strong chemical odor or "cat urine" smell

Residences with windows blacked out or curtains always drawn

Collection of excessive and unusual trash such as chemical bottles, hoses and pressurized cylinders

Evidence of chemical or waste dumping (i.e. burn pits, or "dead spots" in the yard).

If you suspect a meth lab or want further information on the signs of an illegal methamphetamine operation, call the toll-free meth hotline at 1-888-609-6384, or Safe Streets Campaign's' Key Peninsula satellite office at 884-7899.

## Meth education forum

The Key Peninsula Crime Task Force plans are to target prevention, education, and offer treatment programs to combat the meth problems locally.

A forum on April 2 will address the topic, "Is Meth Cooking in Your Neighborhood." Speakers include Lt. Larry Bauer with the Pierce County Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment, Ron Evans, with the county sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit, and others, and topics will include recognizing meth labs, parent education, the connection between meth and identity theft, and more. Several informational booths will be displayed.

The forum will be at the Key Peninsula Middle School, 5510 Key Peninsula Highway North, from 8:30 to noon.

For information, call 884-7899.

The department will be utilizing updated technology to access localized trend analysis."

It is important to be aware of the dangers of a meth lab in your area. It is estimated that making one pound of meth creates five to 10 pounds of contaminated waste. Large amounts of this waste can be piled up in the yard. Even more may be poured down the drain, or left to leak into the back yard, the lot next-door or other areas in the community used for dumpsites.

After a meth lab is discovered, local law enforcement, in conjunction with the health department, must test or swab for any further contamination. Never touch a suspected meth lab, whether it is in an abandoned vehicle or in a building.

# Vandals destroy trees, dump junk on couple's property

By Connie Harris  
KP News

When Pierce County fenced off the gravel pit at 150th Street and State Route 302, some private property owners began to experience an invasion of off-road vehicles upon their lands. One Rocky Creek-area landowner, Roy Lampson, is trying to deal with this problem.

As he walks his 35 acres at Rocky Creek with his dogs, overlooking the growth of the 2,600 trees he and his wife have planted by hand over the years, he is

alarmed to be faced with paths of vandalism and destruction to his property by the recent invasion.

Off-road vehicle tracks running in every direction, beer bottles and empty shotgun shell casings scattered everywhere he looks, and dumped appliances are just a few of the things he sees. Lampson suspects that many of the trees have been shot in half and destroyed by a 12-gauge shotgun, devastating the careful planting he and his wife have done.

"It all brings tears to my wife and me,"

he said. "I just think every landowner should be aware of what is happening and possibly work on landowners rights, after the posting of 'No Trespassing' signs have failed to work."

As he is investigating possible solutions to halt such destruction, Lampson is also communicating with the sheriff's office to increase patrols in the area.

If you see illegal activity at a property, call the sheriff's office at 798-4940; for concerns regarding suspected activity at vacant properties, you may also call Safe Streets at 884-7899.



Photo by Connie Harris

Roy Lampson surveys the damage to the trees on his property.





## Key Peninsula Real Estate Trends

Since we've all been hearing about the record breaking real estate market across the country this past year, we, at Windermere/Key Realty have been asked by many of you if the Key Peninsula is participating in that boom. Following are some of the statistics which show we are definitely part of that trend:

### Real Estate Sales on the Key Peninsula

	2003	2004
# of Sales	359	444
Avg. Price	\$181,722	\$213,508
Median Price	\$159,950	\$168,050
Avg. Days on Market	83	73

In addition, there were three (3) homes sold on the Key Peninsula this year for over 1 million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) including the highest price sale in Pierce County which is in Lakebay and sold for \$4,168,000.00.

Sales continue to be brisk in our Windermere Office at Key Center and, fueled by low inventory and low interest rates, our prices continue to rise. NOW is definitely a good time to take advantage of the current conditions and list or buy a home.

Windermere/Key Realty would like to welcome Jim Carroll to our office. Jim retired as an officer with the City of Kent Fire Department and he and his wife, Holly, now live at Rucky Ray.



## Windermere Real Estate / Key Realty 253-884-3304 “In the Heart of the Key Peninsula”



**RESTORED ANTIQUE SCHOOLHOUSE** \$290,000  
Built in 1901, this old schoolhouse has been lovingly restored & expanded. Seller used old wood, windows & fixtures when possible, but enhanced with granite, Corian and carpet. Upstairs bath features claw foot tub & rain style shower on main level. The living room is the old classroom w/ chalkboards intact, high ceilings and classic tall windows. The hardwood & refinished softwood floor make this restoration complete. MLS 25018677



**JACKSON LAKE AREA** \$169,000  
Roomy open floor plan, large deck in back, all on 5 wooded acres. This home features double paneled windows, skylights, bath off master and walk around deck outside. Has detached garage with covered area for RV. MLS 25015328



**LAKELAND VILLAGE** \$225,000 & \$339,000  
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**EXCELLENT LOCATION!** \$149,000  
In an area of nice homes, on a dead end street and only 5-7 minutes from Purdy Spit. This home has a detached carport, is located on a gorgeous 1.29 acre, has a nice lawn and woods in the background. Home needs lots of TLC, but priced to sell now! MLS 25018799



**CUTE AS A BUG!** \$110,000  
1920's home, Craftsman style porch out front, located in the town of Home and close to public bus stop. The basement is unfinished and there is a detached garage. Home needs a lot of TLC, but when done would make a wonderful cottage get-a-way winter or summer! MLS 25015294



**AFFORDABLE COUNTRY LIVING** \$149,950  
Close to schools, shopping and down a quiet, paved country road, this newer 1,700 sq. ft. mfg. home could be just right for you. Large master suite, 2 more ample bedrooms plus a den all nicely situated on a lightly road level acre. MLS 25013204

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## Free house painting applications accepted

Applications for free house painting are now available for low-income seniors and low-income disabled residents throughout Pierce County. Volunteers do all the work for Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful, a program of Associated Ministries in its 21st year. There is no cost to the homeowner, since the painters are volunteers, and the paint is purchased with donated funds.

The deadline is April 1. To be eligible, applicants must: (1) be a senior (60+) or have a disability (including disability income), (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.

The program only offers exterior house painting. Last summer, 100 homes were painted by volunteers. Since the program began in 1985, volunteers have painted 1,479 homes. For applications and information call (253) 383-3056, ext. 106 or visit [www.paintbeautiful.org](http://www.paintbeautiful.org).

## Women golfers invited to join a league

The Horseshoe Lake Women's Club invites all women golfers to join a league this spring. Their first general meeting is March 8 at 6 p.m. in the Lucky Horseshoe Restaurant at the golf course. Come meet the members and learn about the leagues. They encourage all women who are interested to attend this meeting. The leagues begin play the first week of April.

For information contact Jan Simerson 253-884-2010 or Janette Ryan 253-858-7452. Information may also be obtained by calling the golf course at 253-857-3326 or visit the pro shop.

## Historical Society invites public to meeting

The Key Peninsula Historical Society met Feb. 3 in the museum at the Civic Center for its monthly meeting. The 2005 calendar is set so mark these dates: Annual meeting is March 26, noon to 3 p.m. at the Civic Center. It's a potluck so bring a dish to share. May 7 is the museum's 10th anniversary, join KPHS for an open house at the museum. Monthly meetings are held at the museum the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. You don't have to be an antique to join — just someone who wants to learn more about the Key Peninsula and support our community.

Members invite you to come to one of the monthly meetings, the annual meeting, or the open house and see if it

## Easter events

### Camp Colman family fun

YMCA Camp Colman invites community members for a Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26, starting at 10 a.m. Please RSVP to 884-5772.

### Boy Scouts host egg hunt

The Key Peninsula Civic Center and Boys Scout Troop 220 will hold the annual Easter Egg hunt on March 26th, at 12:00. Any child from toddler to 12 is invited and encouraged to participate in this fun event. The traditional egg hunt will begin at 12:00 noon. There will be specially stuffed Easter eggs, redeemable for special Easter baskets filled with candy and prizes. Ester, the Easter Bunny, will be there, greeting and handing out candy to all children. This fun event is sponsored by the Key

would be something you'd be interested in. The museum is open Thursday and Saturday from 1-4 p.m. Bring grandma, bring the kids. It's a neat place to see various photos and items from our past. Do you know who Matthew or Sallie Sloan were and how they affected our community? Come check out the new exhibit to find out more about this couple. Contact Ronda Anderson, 884-4979, for information.

### TOPS #WA 1019, Vaughn news

Have you noticed all the advertising for weight loss on TV lately? There are some really high powered, money making companies out there and if you are telling yourself, "I need to lose weight," but cannot afford it, then TOPS is for you. You can join TOPS for \$20 a year and \$5 a month to the chapter to help defray costs of the local group.

We really want to help you to get to your normal weight for your health. TOPS has an ongoing program to help you keep the pounds off. TOPS relies on contests and incentives and a buddy system. Our weigh-in is confidential. You do have to face the scale every week and declare if you are up or down. TOPS meetings have programs to keep you excited and informed about weight loss.

One of our members, Bill Leacy, has been leading us in exercise movements before the meeting starts. Bill has done a wonderful job and we thank him.

We will be electing new officers for our

Peninsula Civic Center, Boy Scout Troop 220 and Venture Crew 220.

If you have any Easter baskets or materials to donate to support this event, please contact Bill at 884-3133.

### Easter Sunrise Service

An Easter Sunrise Service is scheduled at the Vaughn Cemetery at 7:30 a.m. by the Historic Vaughn Bay Church. It is open to all interested in celebrating the Risen Christ.

Bagpipes will open and close the service; hymn singing and Scripture reading will be included. A breakfast will follow the service and precede the regular worship service at 10:30 a.m.

The congregation meets every Sunday morning in the VFW room at the Key Peninsula Civic Center at Vaughn. All are welcome to come and worship. For more information call 884-5403 or 884-9303.

chapter and they will take the reins on April 5.

You are welcome to come any time and observe a meeting or join us. We are in the KP Civic Center every Tuesday night at 6:00 p.m. to weigh in. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. and is over promptly at 8 p.m. Call 884-3456 for information.

—By Jena Henak

### Angel Guild has new merchandise!

Have you been in the Angel Guild thrift store lately? It is stocked fresh daily. We are open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 to 4. There are one day sales, special sales and sometimes two for one sales.

You will find the most economical toys in the area at Angel Guild, clean stuffed animals, books for youngsters and oldsters, gently used clothing for all sizes and ages, household items and even some "What Is It" items. It is interesting to put one of those on the counter and ask customers what they think it might be and, as a rule, someone will have the answer.

Angel Guild donates its funds on our peninsula only. We give to worthwhile groups, not individuals. In order to present the requests for funds to the membership so they can vote on it, the request has to be received, in writing, by the 10th of the month. There is a new mailing address for this: Angel Guild, P.O. Box 172, Lakebay, Wash. 98349.

—By Betty Barkubein

## LCC Players perform 'Who Do You Say I Am?'

The Longbranch Community Church is adding something new to their traditional Maundy Thursday observance on March 24.

The newly formed LCC Players will be performing "Who Do You Say I Am?," a one-act play by David S. Lampel, at 7:30 p.m. at the Longbranch Community Church. Everyone is invited to attend this free performance.

Set in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of Jesus' arrest, Oliver Coldeen, Julie Coldeen, and Doug Gould portray a gardener and his acquaintances who discuss and argue over just who this Jesus of Nazareth really is.

## Bayshore Garden Club meeting

The Bayshore Garden Club will meet at the Longbranch Fire Station at 1 p.m. on March 4. The hostess is Erma Dunn, the presenters are Dorothy Rome, theme program; Peg Robertson, horticulture and conservation; and Dolores Argabright, design. Members are starting potted plants for the plant sale on May 7 at the Livable Communities Fair at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For information contact Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.

## TOPS #WA 1325 helps get in shape

If you still have all the tread on your tennis shoes; if you don't park in the shopping center until you find a place less than 100 feet from the door; or if you wait for your mail until the kids get home from school, so one of them will bring it to you — then you might be in dire need of exercise.

Exercise is just moving. You can increase the amount of moving by simply doing everything you already do a little bit faster or a little bit fancier. Rise up on your toes and step from side to side as you wash dishes. Waltz through putting away the folded clothes and make squishing, yawning faces when you are absolutely alone. Put away one clean dish at a time and come back to the dishwasher with a swooping bow to pick up the next dish.

Go get your own mail. Pull a few weeds on sunny days and park further and further from the store when you shop. You will be surprised how soon you will be inventing new ways to extend your exercise.

To get some help with all aspects of becoming a healthier you, why not join a TOPS group? We are the Morning TOPS



Group #WA 1325, Lakebay, which meets in the Lakebay Lutheran Church Social Hall. Come in for a visit between 9:00-11:00 a.m. any Tues. morning. Anyone between the ages of 9 and 90+ may join for \$20 a year and \$5 a month Call Gloria at 884-2554, or Dotty at 884-1721 for information.

—By Mary Nelson

## Planning board sets March meetings

The next meetings for the Key Peninsula Pierce County Community Planning Board - Natural Environment Committee are scheduled for the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of March. The dates are March 2 and 15, at 7 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Middle School Library.

The Natural Environment Committee is working on policy development for the Key Peninsula Community Plan. Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the committee meeting.

For more information, see [www.pierce-countywa.org/landuse](http://www.pierce-countywa.org/landuse).

## KP Sportsmen volunteer at trout pond

The Pierce County Sportsmen's Council sponsored the trout pond at The O'Loughlin Sports Show at the Puyallup Fairgrounds Jan. 26-30. This annual event is fun and exciting for small children, many who have never fished before. The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club contributed to the success of the event by providing 12 volunteers for a total of 72

hours to help the children learn to catch fish. The volunteers baited hooks, helped land the fish and bagged the fish for the kids that did not want to release them.

If you would like to learn more about The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club and their involvement in our community, plan on attending their annual Fishermen's Breakfast held April 24, located at 3503 Jackson Lake Road KPN, in Lakebay.

## KP Lions accepts youth exchange applications

The Key Peninsula Lions Club participates in a cultural youth exchange sponsored by Lions Clubs International. The exchange involves travel and hosting opportunities. The involved youth are

ages 16 through 21. Host families are selected from among numerous volunteers in an attempt to assure a safe, pleasant and productive exchange for the youth. Hosting and travel often lead to lifelong friendships.

Applications are being accepted through February for travel to Peru, Brazil and Europe. Applications for travel to Japan, Australia and New Zealand are due during March. Cost of the exchange varies and is the responsibility of the traveler.

Host applications for this July and August are now being accepted. The host periods are three weeks. The host family provides room and board along with local cultural activities such as sightseeing.

For information contact any Lion or George Robison at 253-853-2721 or by e-mail at [georgerobison@juno.com](mailto:georgerobison@juno.com).

# Volunteer spotlight

## John B. Glennon

Story and photo by Danna Webster

There are many who claim John B. Glennon Sr. as their own, most extraordinary volunteer: KPCS food bank, Friends of Home Park, the Elks Club of Tacoma, the schools, the KP Seniors, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, some special pets who have had visits from Santa, and most especially the little creek that runs freely behind Home Park.

In February, Glennon paid a visit to the creek. When he noticed all the leaves, the debris and the runoff from up on the hill, he told himself, "Well, time to get my boots on again." His dedication to the creek began with a call from Nancy Lind, who was organizing work parties to clean up Home Park. When she asked Glennon to volunteer, he said, "Sure I will."

"Nobody's as enthusiastic as John Glennon Sr.," Lind says. "He is willing to do whatever you ask him to do." She says he cleaned up the blackberries where the Angel Guild bench is then started at the creek and was determined to open it up.

"I got quite a few fellows to help me on the project on the creek," he says and reports seeing a few salmon in what has been called Salmon Creek. But no one knows for certain the name for the creek that originated at Jackson Lake and makes its way behind the post office to empty into Von Geldern Bay (a.k.a. Joe's Bay).

The creek has been a project for Glennon for a couple of years now but volunteering has been important in his life since he moved to the Key Peninsula in about 1970. "I just like to help and do things. Keeps me busy," he says. He explains that he is a "double dipper" retiree because he retired from both the



Navy and the Bremerton shipyard.

Glennon looks forward to more improvements at Home Park, which "could be a nice little place: with a gazebo for orchestras and musicians." He thinks the Lions Club picnic area idea is great. He hopes to see many volunteers join the work parties and maintain the spirit on the Key Peninsula that built Volunteer Park.

## Volunteer opportunities

### Evergreen Elementary School

Volunteers wanted for the AFTER 'OURS program. If you enjoy being with children and have a talent to share, contact Olga McDonald at 884-3393.

### Children's Home Society

Seeks volunteers for the front desk and clerical support. Contact Edie Morgan, 884-5433.

### KP Community Services

Volunteer wanted to answer phones Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact Cristi Watson, 884-4440.

### Angel Guild wants more angels

Angel Guild is looking for new members. You will meet new friends and old, and will have fun doing it. Contact Bonnie, 884-5983.

# TWAA unveils new offerings

By Jerry Libstaff



The Genuine ARTICLE

Two Waters Arts Alliance begins the 2005 Key Peninsula art experience with classes in March. If you're a budding artist, an experienced artist looking for inspiration or someone who has yet to find your muse, TWAA classes are exciting and fun. At the end of class, you'll have your very own piece of art to take home.

Beginning March 7, Laura Mosley teaches Chinese Brush Painting at the Art Barn. You'll learn to use ink and opaque watercolors on rice paper to portray the world through seasonal symbolism. Laura studied Chinese Brush Painting with Dr. Ning Yeh for 12 years and has received several awards for her work.

March 9, 11 and 16, Dale Loy teaches the art of Pine Needle Basket Weaving. Dale's baskets are featured in TWAA's 2005 calendar. Through years of working with his art, Dale has developed a personal technique that provides beautifully striking designs. He acquires the

distinctive 6- to 9-inch pine needles in areas as diverse as California, Florida and Eastern Washington.

March 12, 19 and 26 Marty Lewis offers Beginning Drawing, a workshop for those of us who've always wanted to draw but need a bit of direction. Marty says she can teach anyone to draw in three days. If you've had the desire but haven't taken the step, now is the time to set aside your fears and get started.

March 22, learn the art of Glass Bead Making with Brynn Rydell and Jan Buday. These accomplished artists will demonstrate how to form molten glass into a thing of beauty. You will learn the beginning techniques to the glass bead making known as "lampwork."

Upcoming classes include:

Sumi Painting Workshop with Reni Moriarity, Beginning Weaving for the Scardy Cat with Margo Macdonald, Introduction to Watercolor with Beverly Pedersen, Name Board Carving with Nate Slater, Travels in Journal Writing with Vicky Schauer, Ornamental Leaf Garden Art with Doris Sharp, and Framing and Presentation with Beverly Pedersen.

The Peninsula Writers' Guild meets Saturdays to help inspire those involved in the literary arts. We regret to announce that the Acoustic Jam Session will be on hiatus until further notice. Anyone interested in coordinating it, or reserving space for any TWAA class, call Brynn at 884-2029 or email [brynnfoss@harbornet.com](mailto:brynnfoss@harbornet.com).

## Legislative brief

### Bill would reduce bridge debt

Rep. Derek Kilmer, who represents Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula, introduced a bill that would eliminate the collection of the state sales tax on construction of the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge. House Bill 1865, co-sponsored by Rep. Pat Lantz, could take off about \$45 million from the cost of the bridge for toll payers. A separate bill would guarantee stronger representation for those most affected by the bridge on the citizen committee that will advise

on future toll collections, Kilmer's office said, and would allow that committee to consider discounts to frequent users, senior citizens, or students.

"All we want is a fair deal for the people who will be most affected by this project," said Kilmer. "At this point, the residents of Gig Harbor, the Key Peninsula, and South Kitsap will be picking up a large share of the tab for an essential piece of the state's highway infrastructure. These bills, if passed, will lower the tolls and will raise our voices with regard to how tolls are set."

The bills were awaiting a hearing in the House Transportation Committee.

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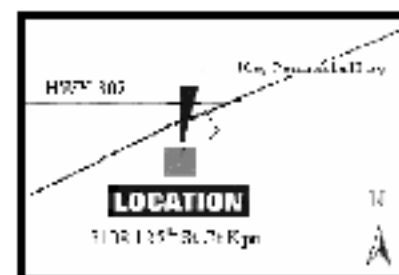
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# Citizen of the Year 2004 nominees

A man of many distinctions, **Larry Balzar** drives the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank bread van two days a week, is its lawn maintenance guru, striking fear into many a weed, and an all round handy man continually fixing many odds and ends that happen at the KPCS. Though gruff in nature, Larry is all bow and no wow, showing his big heart on his sleeve often.



BALZAR

**Kathy Bauer** was one of the driving forces who made the Two Waters Arts Alliance such a success and has served as its president for the past two years. Thanks in large part to her drive and organizational abilities, this group has not only brought together local artists, it has filled a vacuum for the creative arts on the Key Peninsula. From the Tacoma Youth Symphony's presentations of concerts in local elementary schools, to the free Concert on the Key, to low-cost art and writing classes and the Artists in Schools program, her leadership has shaped the important role of arts in our lives. Thanks in large part to her diligence and vision, TWAA was honored by the Pierce County Arts Commission with the Margaret K. Williams Award in celebration of its contribution to the arts in Pierce County.



BAUER

**Phil Bauer's** vision of an integrated Key Peninsula in which the spirit of coopera-

The 21st annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards Dinner will be held Saturday, March 12, at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn and will be catered by Outback of Tacoma. All nominees for the honor will be guests of the sponsoring Key Peninsula Lions Club. Tickets for dinner and the ceremonies, which are priced to cover costs, are \$18 for adults, \$10 for those under 12 years of age, and free for 5; they are available at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, the Home Store at the bridge in Home, Country Gardens in Wauna, and the KP Community Services in Home. A no host bar with all your favorite beverages will be available. Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner is at 7. Keynote speaker is retired U.S. Navy Capt. Larry Seaquist. For information, call 884-3319 or 884-3485.

tion exists between all communities has led to his volunteering for the KP Fair Board, and to accepting the presidency of the KP Civic Center Association's Board of Directors. Tasks he has done for these two organizations are legion, yet he finds time and energy to help neighbors and other organizations when they need assistance. He is so important to the Vaughn community that last August he was "awarded" a square foot of land in a land trust in Scotland. His activities on our behalf have had great impact on all of us on the Key Peninsula.



BAUER

**De Cluff**, known at the KP Community House for her organizational skills, every year gets the basement ready for the holiday food programs. Diligently working every day for two months, taking great pride and bringing raves for how easy and wonderful the food baskets are, De never complains of the long hours she puts in. Many a time De has been asked to take a house-bound person to a doctor's appointment and her "can-do" attitude and sense of humor have endeared her to all who walk through KPCS' doors.



CLUFF

**James Getty** has been actively involved in

our local community for several years. He moved his family to the area in 1993 then moved his business, Getty Computers, to Gig Harbor from downtown Tacoma. His ability to act as both a positive role model and an educator is tremendous. Jim's heart and dedication, positive "can-do" attitude, and skills along with his wonderful ability to teach and connect with the kids turn them around. The kids get on a good road with positive reinforcement and it's very rewarding for Jim to know he was able to help. He believes in discipline, structure, setting goals and most of all, respect. He has been coaching soccer, baseball, basketball and fastpitch softball and sponsored several teams. It's a gigantic commitment of time and money. He promotes high standards which, in turn, enhance the kids' roles as American citizens.



GETTY

The huge smile on this man's face is only equaled by the bigness of his heart. With the statement that he would take "care of his own back yard," **Ty Hardin** has made good on that with his volunteer efforts at Key Peninsula Community Services. His diligent work with the holiday baskets and tsunami relief projects show that he backs



HARDIN

up his words. If you wonder more of his altruism, ask about his plans for a community garden, or the charity golf tournament he's spearheading for the KPCS' food bank and senior center. Ty is living proof that charity does begin at home.

**Jeff Harris** has been active in the Longbranch community for years and a steady supporter of the Longbranch Improvement Club. Some five or six years ago, Jeff took on the task of Executive Director of the Communities in Schools Peninsula organization and gave it solid, intelligent, creative leadership before turning it over to his replacement. He works annually as an organizer of the Key Peninsula Community Fair and participates as a leader in its operation each August. He enthusiastically joined in the formation of the now-operating Key Peninsula Community Council, was elected to its board and now serves as its president. He has dedicated untold hours to every community service volunteer position with which he has been affiliated and at all times as a self effacing, modest, efficacious leader. He has long deserved recognition for the very substantial accomplishments with which he has gifted our community.



HARRIS

**Kristen Herold** is a loving mother of two beautiful girls and an avid PTA member at Evergreen Elementary School. She also found time to organize a major food drive when she heard of the need at the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food bank, not just one month



HEROLD

(See CITIZENS, Page 21)

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†From another financial institution.

(From **CITIZENS**, Page 20)

but during both scant holiday months. A terrific organizer, she weekly volunteers time at the KPCS assisting in multiple areas, senior center, food bank and administrative duties.

“**Victoria Hawkins** deserves to be KP Citizen of the Year,” writes her nominator. “Within a day of starting my assignment at Key Peninsula Middle School, I met Victoria. At that time, she was leading a group of parents and students who were doing a total makeover of the staff room at KPMS. This was done as a surprise for our teachers. I was impressed with the energy and organization of this project. I quickly recognized that Victoria was the driving force behind it. Since then, I have seen her support our school in a number of projects and activities.” Victoria cares about her community, she is dynamic, knows how to inspire others, and sees opportunities where others see barriers. Our Key Peninsula community is a better place due to her efforts. Additionally, she organized with the help of the management at the Harbor Rock Cafe in Gig Harbor the chance for volunteer groups to serve as order takers and waiters and collect all tips for their volunteer organization on Monday nights. When her daughter, Chelsea, attended Minter Creek Elementary School, Victoria was very active in that school’s PTA.



HAWKINS

**Patricia Latshaw** is in her second term as president of Citizens Against Crime and its Citizens Patrol, which has witnessed an increase in membership and activities under her leadership. She has served the Longbranch Improvement Club as its Vice President and actively participates in its various activities as a volunteer. She is secretary to the KP Sportsmen’s Club, a member of the Evergreen Basenji Club, and serves on the KP Crime Prevention Task Force. She contributes many hours to our community and, additionally, is the office manager for a psychologist in Port Orchard.



LATSHAW

KP Fire Department Division Chief **Tom Lique** is an exemplary leader, a very involved parent and husband, a model citizen and good father, and has coached soccer for the kids. He was the catalyst for

a very successful cooperative preschool at Evergreen Elementary School. Tom is a rather private person and never brags or boasts about what he does. He makes you feel he is never too busy to assist you, even though he has a very full plate. When he does something, he does it well and does it unassumingly.



LIQUE

**Larry Mayer** is vice president of Citizens Against Crime and its Citizens’ Patrol and with his wife, Betty, is frequently on patrol throughout our communities deterring those who would commit crime. He also cooks up a mean, prize-winning barbecue for the CAC membership from time to time and volunteers this expertise frequently with other members of Operation BBQ at very large meals for U.S. troops returning from combat zones and their families. He cooked the annual holiday season dinner for over 100 attendees at his church. He monthly volunteers as a cook for the Sons of Italy and volunteers at the VFW Hall. He cooks at charitable organizations’ fund-raising chili cookoffs. He’s a hard working volunteer whose good deeds do credit to our community.



MAYER

**Jayne and Kate McCourt** are an important but quiet part of our volunteer community base. Together they cook, serve, and clean up after the free I.M.Pact meal on the fifth Sundays at the Community House that is free to all and sponsored by various churches. Jane and Kate work on Lakebay Community Church’s Sunday. Kate is very involved in 4-H with her horses and Jayne volunteers helping in what ways are needed to help things run smoothly. Jayne loves to cook and has been involved in a program at LCC that provides meals for people who have had babies, have been hospitalized, or are ill. Both are involved at LCC where Jayne goes above and beyond the call of duty to keep things running smoothly and Kate volunteers to do child care supervision for special events



MCCOURT

(See **CITIZENS**, Page 22)

(From **CITIZENS**, Page 21)

at LCC as well as other churches. They are both involved at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Gig Harbor and sing in the choir. Jayne volunteers her time to help there also. Together they make a good team to help others in our community.

**Mark Rasmussen** has been involved with Key Peninsula Little League almost from its beginning and has held many positions on the KPLL board. He has helped the league grow. He was a driving force for getting the signs of advertisement that are hanging on the fence at Volunteer Park. He has given many hours to ensure the success of the KPLL and all that it means to our kids. He does all this without expectation of recognition or reward.



RASMUSSEN

**Dexter Susan Reuhl** has volunteered over 30 hours a week for the past 20 months for Communities in Schools-Peninsula, the past seven months as chair of the board, and also serves on the State Board of Directors for CIS of Washington State. She spends hours and hours on tasks

that further the work of CISP, many behind the scenes things that others do not see. Her commitment to the families on the Key Peninsula is inspiring. Dexter has never hesitated to pitch in on whatever was necessary to build the CISP program. Her "loaned executive" expertise has been critical in the expansion of services CISP has been able to accomplish. When Dexter believes in a mission she does not hesitate to do whatever it takes; for example she painted offices, fought off spiders at the CISP barn, held the hand of a child at the Seahawk First and Goal luncheon, provided child care so parents could attend classes, all without expectation of reward or acknowledgment. At the Seahawk luncheon she got a player to sign autographs for kids who were in awe of all around them; they were the only kids to receive autographs. No one can say no to Dexter when she sets her heart on something that will benefit children. She was an election official for the establishment of the KP Community Council, and is a trained domestic violence prevention advocate.

During her 22 years living on the Key



REUHL

Peninsula, **Caril Ridley** has played a pivotal role in the development of our area by her work as a member of the KP Community Planning Board, Commissioner for KP Metro Parks Board, Chair of KP Trails Committee, contributor to KP News and Peninsula Gateway, co-author of the book "Kayaking Around Key Peninsula," trails designer and supervisor for the construction and maintenance of trails in parks on the Key Peninsula, founding member of KP Outdoors Club, founding member of KP Explorer's Forum, member of KPPRD's task force on comprehensive planning, and an organizer for multiple community events such as May Day celebration, walkathons, Volksmarch, Puget Sound Paddling Symposiums, and the development of local tourism, parks and trails.



RIDLEY

**Matthew and Edward Robison** do not live on the Key Peninsula but have already had several connections through KP community projects. Matt, a retired framing contractor, lives at Wye Lake, just North of the Key Peninsula, and together with his brother Ed and their father,

George, installed the trusses on the two Habitat For Humanity houses built in the Horseshoe Lake Estates. In addition, Matt and Ed have agreed to assist in the construction of picnic shelters to be built by the Key Peninsula Lions at Home Park and Volunteer Park. As a Gig Harbor civil and structural engineer, Ed has drawn the plans for the picnic shelters to be built by the Lions. Ed and his family were the host family for two youth visiting under the sponsorship of the Key Peninsula Lions Club's participation in Lions International's Youth Exchange Program, one from Australia and one from Peru. Ed and wife Lori are presently developing property on Creviston Road for their new home and equestrian center, which they hope to have ready in late 2005.

**Deanna Russell** works quietly and tirelessly in support of Minter Creek Elementary School, its students, staff and

(See **CITIZENS**, Page 23)



E. ROBISON



M. ROBISON

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(From **CITIZENS**, Page 22)

families. When there is a volunteer project that needs leadership, organization and steadfastness, Deanna's name is one of the first that comes to mind. She has a can-do attitude and her energy stimulates contributions from others. Deanna has contributed to the school in many ways. She has been instrumental in coordinating and completing the construction of a new playground structure, helped organize an art auction, has been checking to ensure that the emergency preparedness supplies are current and is always involved in the coordination of PTA sponsored events. In all of these activities, as with her almost daily volunteer work assisting staff at school, Deanna puts her heart and soul into the task at hand. She doesn't like the limelight, but displays a deep-seated commitment to the support of her school.



RUSSELL

**Colleen and Frank Slater** have long been supporters and volunteers of several community groups, including the KP Historical Society, the Vaughn Bay Garden Club, the Key Pen News and Key Singers. Both are part of the volunteer KP News staff and Frank is also on the publishing board. Colleen is publicity chair for the historic society and has been the secretary for the garden club for five years. Frank spends a lot of time helping at Camp Soundview, as well as any neighbors, friends and others who need a hand. They volunteer extensively for the Historic Vaughn Bay



C. SLATER



F. SLATER

Church, and also with groups outside of the Key Pen, including a Gig Harbor writers group. Whether it's delivering monthly church collections to the food bank or organizing the Grange's 75th anniversary, they can be counted on following through and giving of their time.

**Cristi Watson**, executive director of KP Community Services/Food Bank, is a member of the KP Planning Board, a founding member of the KP Community Council, member of the needs assessment subcommittee for the KP Community Council Formation Committee, member of the Communications Committee and the Social Services Committee for the KP Community Council, member of Truancy Task Force for the Peninsula School District, Advisory Board member for Children's Home Society, coordinator of a tsunami relief supply drive, and reporter for the KP News. She regularly contributes to I.M.Pact, Dental Van, Metropolitan Homeless Coalition, United Way, Aging and Long Term Care, coat and blanket drive, Longbranch Improvement Club, Lutheran Church, Lakebay Community Church, Longbranch Community Church, Chapel Hill Church, and provides numerous meals for community projects, dances and parties.



WATSON

**Phyllis Whittington** serves as president of Vaughn Elementary School PTA, is in charge of the school's family night, and puts in lots of volunteer hours. She is a sponsor of the Key Peninsula Little League and has helped with its fund-raising. She sponsors families in need with a



WHITTINGTON

turkey dinner for the holidays. She picks up stray animals and finds them homes. She is involved in her neighborhood watch and is the Girl Scout cookie mom for her daughter's troop. This supportive mom puts in a huge number of volunteer hours on the community's behalf.

**Michael Williams** puts his life on the line continuously in his job as a fireman in Bellevue and yet finds time, on his days off, to put others before himself as he unselfishly gives to the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank. Whether it's buying huge amounts of milk for food bank recipients, signing his overtime check over for more food to be purchased, mowing the community house's yard, or doing blood pressure checks for the seniors, he shows that his heart is right here on the Key Peninsula.



WILLIAMS

If **Danna Webster** is quiet, it's only because she's deep in thought. Being on the KP Community Council, the KP Planning Board, Key Pen News and the KP Writers Guild gives her continual cause for creative, constructive and community

enriching input. As if that's not enough, Danna assisted in assembling the Thanksgiving food baskets at the KP Community Services/Food Bank where her organizational skills were definitely put to the test and she cooked and shared Thanksgiving dinner with other area people who would have otherwise had no one to have a meal with. Always a smile and quick wit, Danna is indeed a wonderful plus for the Peninsula.



WEBSTER

**Allan Yanity** is the immediate past president of Citizens Against Crime and its Citizens Patrol and continues to be a regular patrol provider. He has assisted the Key Peninsula Fire Department in maintaining some of its emergency generators and assisted in landscaping at the department's Longbranch station. He helped install the security gate at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn and assisted in laying the new floor in the Center's Whitmore room. He contributes volunteer assistance hours to various causes.



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# Vaughn logger observes logging in Finland

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

Dale Van Slyke of Vaughn Bay Logging Co. was offered a trip to Finland last fall by John Deere and Timberjack Companies.

As a thank-you for people like Van Slyke who buy and use their machines, 42 people from across the northern United States plus Nova Scotia flew to Amsterdam, and on to Finland.

They rose early for their daily bus tours, and were given first-class treatment in hotels and restaurants, said Van Slyke.

Their first day was out to the woods, which they call "bush." These forests, about 60 percent privately owned, are operated on a 100-year cycle. Trees on logged land are planted thickly, about 1,100 to the acre, about twice as thick as replanting in this country.

The trees being harvested were 100 years old and about 22- to 24-inch in diameter.

The first cutting after seven years removes poplar, birch and a few other trees. After 35 years, the first commercial cuts are made, thinning the plantation to about half.



Photo courtesy of Dale Van Slyke

Dale Van Slyke during his recent visit to Finland.

Their clear-cutting is called "final restoration harvest" and a few trees are left in each area for reseeding.

Pine, birch and spruce are the major commercial trees. Uses include building, furniture, pulp and 70-foot transmission poles.

The trees are processed at the stump, and machinery with which Van Slyke is familiar demonstrated the procedures.

The processor cuts the tree, lays it down, and cuts it to length. All lengths are determined before cutting is done. The forwarder, with an extendable boom, loads the logs and hauls them to the roadside, where trucks will pick them up.

The log trucks are dispatched from the mill by computer. They may need to go to three different sites to make up a load.

Later a biomass bundler picks up about

60 percent of the slash. This machine gathers up the "trimmings," spins it with twine, saws it to length, generally about 12 feet, and hauls it to a chipping plant. The chips are hauled to a power plant for fuel.

"The men drive Volvos," said Van Slyke, a reasonable choice where fuel prices are high. "I saw maybe four pickups the whole trip."

The tour included Joensuu, where the processor factory is located. Only the main frame is made at this factory, with other parts brought in for the assembly. A "walker" processor with 6 feet that can be manipulated separately was demonstrated at the factory.

The trip wasn't all work. They took a boat across the Baltic Sea to Estonia, visited a glass factory, and were treated to a Finnish sauna. They even got to eat reindeer stew.

It was Van Slyke's first trip to Europe, and the opportunity of a lifetime. He observed how logging practices are similar and different halfway around the world, and noted with a grin that he arrived in Seattle an hour after he left Amsterdam.



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(From ALLYN, Page 1)

fixed these problems and water testing shows that the area meets the water quality standard for an "approved" classification.

Don Melvin with the state Department of Health Office of Food Safety and Shellfish Programs said, "North Bay ... is one of the most successful shellfish restoration projects for the program. In 1991, 1,260 acres of North Bay were listed as prohibited and closed to shellfish harvest due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria."

DOH upgraded most of the bay to "conditionally approved" in 1992 after many of the malfunctioning on-site sewage treatment systems were repaired. In 2002, workers completed construction of a community sewage treatment system. The quality of water in the bay improved significantly and the DOH upgraded nearly all conditionally approved areas to approved. The treatment plant eliminated the use of on-site systems for almost all the homes and businesses surrounding North Bay.

The Port District has contributed over \$20,000 to the project. "Every property within 200 feet of North Bay (from approximately ¼ mile south of State Route 3 on Grapeview Loop Road to just north of Rocky Bay on State Route 302) was included in the initial installation," Knight said. "Each property had to install a grinder pump and electrical service to hook up to the system."

On-site system repairs by area residents enabled DOH to upgrade much of the bay to "conditionally approved," a classification requiring a five-day closure of the bay any time the area receives a half-inch or more of rain in 24 hours. "Approximately 50 acres of shellfish beds were not included in the upgrade and were closed to harvest due to a local pollution problem. The area that is presently closed to all shellfish harvest includes all of the shoreline and tidelands extending from the mouth of Sherwood Creek to the boat ramp north of the Allyn dock," Melvin said. "Most of this area was active for commercial shellfish harvest prior to the 1991 closure, but it has not been in production since the closure."

Melvin said the county health department personnel is investigating the possibility that untreated storm water from Allyn and Sherwood Creek, flowing into the closed area, are the most likely sources of the contamination. Approximately 150 acres of North Bay tidelands including a public beach remains closed because of continued high levels of bacteria.

"The North Bay restoration project involved a huge amount of effort and expense on the part of the residents and the county," Melvin said.

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# From Pioneer Stock The Greethams - three generations

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

Don Greetham, former Key Peninsula teacher, traces his family back to England, but his father, Tom, had ties to the peninsula as far back as the early 1900s.

Don's grandfather, George, arrived in Tacoma on a ship from England, and decided to stay in the area. He soon became superintendent of stevedores, organizing the Tacoma dock workers, and earned the nickname "King of the Waterfront." Don is unsure of the date, except that George married in 1885, and Greethams have the original bed and dresser purchased and labeled "Seattle, Washington Territory."

George bought property in Arletta area in the 1890s, and great-grandson Tom still owns a piece of it. He is a familiar face to many around the peninsula, as he's a substitute UPS driver.

The family moved out to the Arletta "stump farm" in 1908 when Don's dad, Tom, was 14.

Tom was a commercial fisherman with Alberg Brothers, and used a purse seiner to fish Taylor Bay vicinity with a partner. It was a deep dory, with one man standing and rowing while the other worked the nets. They fished at night, netting 142 salmon one time, built a fire on the beach at daybreak to cook their breakfast and clean the fish. They then rowed to Gig Harbor to sell the fish, and returned to Taylor Bay by the next evening.

"They had biceps like grapefruit," Greetham says, and had little competition on the water. His father used to say, "The only ones out there but me were the Indians."

Tom made his own gear, including a herring rake that is in the Key Peninsula

Museum. Don has Tom's huckleberry picking tub and club.

Tom also worked on Mosquito Fleet boats "Burro," "Bay Island," and "Virginia IV."

At one time he was a logger at the railroad camp near what is now Lake Holiday.

He was a sociable sort and loved to dance. Once, he and his friend walked from Arletta to Victor Hall to attend a dance.

When Don came to the area in 1962, Vaughn Postmaster Bertha Mills said, "I used to dance with your dad!" At a teachers' breakfast, Myrtle Hunt Finholm told him, "I used to dance with your dad!" About a year later, Lakebay Postmaster Ellen Shellgren repeated the same words.

An early girlfriend of Tom's was Hetta Samuelson, whose father built the recently replaced Home Bridge. The Samuelsons (a family of 14 children) and Greethams have been friends for three generations.

Greethams may have had the first car in Arletta, and Tom took his sister Irene and her friends to dances at Horseshoe Lake, a popular gathering place for young people in those days.

When Don first taught at Vaughn, he asked his dad if he knew any Niemanns because there were so many in the community. He played baseball for Home (as well as Arletta and Clear Fir Lumber Co. at Day Island) and was well acquainted with other ball players of that era, including the Niemann brothers.

Don has led a life of physical activity, although different from his father's. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service many years, and helped build the Pacific Crest Trail, Wonderland Trail and the Longmire-Paradise road on Mt. Rainier. He's been a hiker, photographer, and ran marathons until he was 70. The high point of his



*Photo courtesy of Don Greetham*

Home Baseball team players, left to right, Tom Greetham, Civil and Bob Buckmaster, 1915. The Buckmasters lived at Rocky Bay.

marathon career was the 1987 London Marathon, for which he received a medal.

Pat, Don's wife of 45 years, notes he can still chop wood faster and better than his sons.

From Don's earlier visits to the Key

Peninsula, he decided he wanted to someday live in Lakebay. Although their eventual home didn't get to be in Lakebay, he can look across the water and see the Arletta property where his grandfather, George, once lived.

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# Forever an optimist: Veteran artist 'plays' her way to creative ideas

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

**B**everly Pedersen says it's magic when artists have a studio. So she's worked on that magic at her own, opening up her Art Barn to other artists, whether they've been discovered yet or not. Classes, concerts, tours, networking — the Barn has seen them all.

Pedersen herself is a study in artistic diversity. Widely known for her exquisite silk paintings and watercolors, Pedersen has taken her talents in many other directions, toward "whatever we want to play with," she says.

"Artists play with all kinds of stuff," she says. "I have a PhD in messing around."

There is, perhaps, "a reason to the madness," to borrow from an old saying. They may not have "a grand agenda" for the skills, as Pedersen claims, but they do need a creative problem to solve.

One such problem for Pedersen presented itself one day in the form of a commissioned 10-foot by 7-foot silk painting. How does one stretch the silk for such a creation? How does one even work on such a giant canvass? Just as these challenges get solved, keep in mind another: The colors have to be exact, as this artwork is unforgiving of changes.

"Nobody could tell us how to do this," she tells of the project, which depicted beautiful scenery of a beach in La Push. "I believe in persistence and optimism. If you have those two qualities and love art, you can be an artist."

Pederson discovered her love of art more than 40 years ago, starting on a journey that earned her an art scholarship to the Pittsburg Art Institute, one-year



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Beverly Pedersen shares her Art Barn studio with a couple of cats (including Mouse, pictured), and many local artists and residents coming for Two Waters Arts Alliance classes.

travel and studies throughout Europe, and brought her to the Northwest, where she opened her first studio gallery in Federal Way in 1975. Four years later, duty called in the form of a 33-acre farm and family in Lakebay, and for the next 12 years art remained mostly in her heart.

Not that she didn't have fun in the meantime. As the first full-time, paid administrative assistant for Fire District 16, where she basically had to create the job description, she recalls some interesting stories from the time when "the

Peninsula was fun and people were wild." But she promised herself that by age 50, she would no longer be sitting behind a desk — and so came the return to life as a full-time artist.

Pedersen had to relearn the craft, so she surrounded herself with books about the new techniques, colors and styles. "It was just another world," she says.

The world she entered 14 years ago has proved very exciting for Pedersen, who has been teaching classes and mentoring others who have stumbled on her path.

Eight years ago, she began experimenting, "like a mad scientist," some say, with a new outlet: silk painting. Her dancer son, David, was in such awe of a silk skirt worn by Carmen in his opera production in San Francisco, he bought his mother a how-to book. Since then, there has been no end to her silk-painted scarves, ties, jackets and wall paintings.

Even as she's mesmerized by what can be done with silk, Pedersen keeps her versatility. Recently, she was one of 14 area artists selected for a "Salmonchanted Harbor" project for historic downtown Gig Harbor. Pedersen's "Spirit Salmon," a soft leather covered, pieced and stitched salmon will be among the works of art featured for public viewing over six months. The art will be then auctioned as a fund-raiser for art programs in schools.

Also in the works is art for Camp Seymour's 2005 anniversary poster, which Pedersen calls her biggest challenge of the year. "I know enough to have a good time," she says of her work. "The bottom line is, you have to enjoy what you're doing."

These days, Pedersen has slowed down a bit. Struggling with an illness for the last couple of years, she recently felt well enough to consider herself recovering. Even during the worst of times, she has used the Art Barn as a refuge, quietly napping in a chair as other artists worked, or painting when she could. This magic place she's created has been essential for recuperating.

Perhaps the same applies to her attitude. "Artists are optimists," she says. "They see the world the way they see it."

The Art Barn is merely a peek into the world that Beverly Pedersen has seen — and has shared with so many.

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**Beginning Drawing With Marry Beards:** This 3 day workshop is for anyone who has ever had the desire to learn to draw. Marry says that she created a course to teach in three days. Due to the time to see your face and several outlets \$45 per person, \$30 for family.

**Saturday March 12th, 15th, 25th 10:00 AM - Noon at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.**

**Pine Needle Basket Weaving With Dale Loy:** Learn the art of basket weaving with pine needles and raffia. This is a 2 day workshop. At the end you will have created your own basket. \$40 per person. Materials fee \$10. Mondays 5 - 7 PM, 7 PM - 9 PM at Key Peninsula Civic Center.

**Glass Bead Making With Bevan Rydell and Jan Budley:** Come enjoy a fun and easy class. This is a concentration class that will give you the beginning techniques to glass bead making. Know as: amper, At the end of class you will have made your own wonderful glass bead. \$30 per person. Tuesday, March 15th 6:00 PM - 9 PM at Key Peninsula Civic Center.

**Writer's Workshop With Donna Webster:** A group of local writers who meet to share their work and write together. Join them at the Key Peninsula Library on Saturdays 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. For details call Donna Webster at 884-6822.

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Two Waters  
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# It's almost 'batter up' time!

The Key Peninsula Little League is gearing up to open its season on Saturday, April 2, at Volunteer Park.

On Feb. 5 and 6, KPLL sponsored manager/coach clinics to offer instruction in pitching mechanics, tips on coaching children, and fundamentals of coaching softball. The Saturday clinic was led by Jim Parque, former pitcher for the Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago White Sox and Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Richard Marsh, a former trainee of Ted Williams with the Boston Red Sox, presented a clinic on coaching children, and Bob Michaels, past president of Tacoma's BAM organization, directed a clinic that covered starting and coaching a team and hitting, throwing, and defensive mechanics.



*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Coach Andy Mattingly shows the finer postures of good batting practices to Key Peninsula Little League hopefuls, Kyle Self, Matt Burkey, and Tyler Bosch on the weekend of Feb. 12 and 14. On again, off again rain swept one of the days.

On Feb. 12 and 14, Volunteer Park played host on their first days of the season's batting practice sessions to scores of Key Peninsula Little League enthusiasts, both the kids who will be doing the playing and the adults who will be doing the coaching, managing and umpiring and all the other tasks that go into making a great season.

The KPLL sponsors, board members, managers, coaches, volunteers and their families invite the community to join them on 2005 Season Opening Day on April 2 for a chance to meet Little League

2004 AllStars as well as this year's team players.

The opening day is sponsored by CenturyTel. Dan Roso, area manager for the Central Puget Sound Region, will deliver the first pitch of the day. Roso said he was excited to represent CenturyTel in its effort to help Little League and the community. "We've always believed it's commitments that build communities, because we don't just work here, we live here too. And we want to lend a hand where it's needed," he said.

## 'Total Experience' choir brings gospel to LIC

By Rodika Tollefson  
KP News

The Total Experience Gospel Choir has become one of Seattle's most prominent musical groups since its inception more than 30 years ago, entertaining such VIPs as President Bill Clinton during his visit to the area and Gov. Gary Locke at his 2001 inauguration. Becoming the first black choir to sing in the Mormon Tabernacle in 1989, they have performed with such music greats as Ray Charles, the Rev. James Cleveland, Quincy Jones, The Winans, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Pete Seeger and many others.

A talented and vibrant group that has won a long list of awards and accolades, Total Experience has become an internationally known gospel performer.

In March, Key Pen residents will get to hear for themselves what makes the choir great, thanks to a concert sponsored by the Longbranch Improvement Club.

"We had the Divalicious concert in December, and sitting there and



*Photo courtesy of Total Experience Gospel Choir*

The Seattle-based choir has performed at various venues around the world and received numerous awards and honors.

listening to them got me thinking about gospel music," said Linda Leblanc, LIC events chair, who thought about inviting Total Experience to LIC. "I thought, it can't hurt to ask them to come out here." And the choir welcomed the opportunity.

The Rev. Patrinell Wright started the choir at Franklin High School in Seattle, and the group since then has included various ethnic groups. "The precise discipline, the feelings of complete joy, the loving voices — this group is fantastic and definitely a treat

for patrons of all ages," wrote Paul L. Stewart at parentcafe.org.

Wright, who has been singing since age 3, has received various honors as well, including the state governor's Ethnic Heritage Award for helping preserve gospel music in Washington. She has taken the choir on several spiritual pilgrimages, educational ventures and tours around the world, with performances reaching far beyond the stage and into churches, schools, parks, prisons and alleys, delivering messages of hope, love and faith.

The March 19 concert starts at 7 p.m. Admission is \$7 (at the door only) and a donation of a nonperishable food item for Key Pen Community Services' food bank.

"Out here in our little corner of the world, we try to help each other," Leblanc said. "I thought \$7 is very affordable, and the food item gives people an avenue to help out."

To learn more about the Total Experience Gospel Choir, visit [www.totalexperience.org](http://www.totalexperience.org).



## Music is in the air on the Peninsula

*March arts and entertainment happenings*

### Blondie's

*(Friday and Saturday nights, 8:30 p.m.)*

March 4	Little Bill and the Bluenotes
March 5	Steve Stefanowicz
March 11	Janice Mann
March 12	Billy Shew
March 18	Little Bill and the Bluenotes
March 19	Billy Shew
March 25	Maia Santell and House Blend (jazz & blues)
March 26	Steve Stefanowicz

### Karaoke Thursdays

8:30 p.m. with Danny Ray, DJ

### Huckleberry Inn

Karaoke Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, Bar Time 9:15 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

Presented by M & R Karaoke Co., Rhonda Young, owner.

The KJs (Karaoke jockeys) are Rhonda (W) and Gary Richardson (F-S)

Gary has done Karaoke for about 10 years, six with Rhonda. He says their company has "one of the best books around. Lots and lots of songs. If it exists, you can sing it here!"

### Key Center Saloon

Karaoke Friday and Saturday 8 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. The KJ is "The Lovely Lady Linda." Her beautiful voice recently won first place in a statewide Karaoke singing contest.

Pool and Dart In-house Tournaments.



# Purdy Bridge considered engineering landmark

By Colleen Slater  
KP News

The Purdy Bridge, connecting the sandspit in Wauna to the Gig Harbor peninsula, was put on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1982, although less than 50 years old.

The bridge, of unique construction for its time, was the fourth to cross this piece of open water between Henderson Bay and Burley Lagoon.

The first one was a wooden draw-bridge, built in 1892 on wooden pilings. A large key fit into a slot-swinging turnstile, and the center pivoted to allow the tugs in to pick up log rafts at the Wilson Logging Co. When the tugs neared Dead Man's Island, they blew whistle signals, and members of the Knapp family in Purdy would go down to open the bridge.

Soil from the Wauna hillside was dredged to raise the sandspit to make the roadway. Prior to that, high winter tides covered the spit. Posts were put in along the edge to catch drift and keep the natural spit from eroding.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

The Purdy bridge today looks very different from its early days.

The trip to Tacoma from the Key Peninsula as well as Kitsap and Mason counties was shorter with the addition of the bridge.

A second bridge, a high arched

wooden one, was constructed in 1905, but collapsed when strong tidal currents swept away some pilings.

In 1919, a bigger, better bridge with the swing span of steel was moved from Puyallup to replace the previous one. Apparently local landowners were against this construction and instituted a lawsuit against it.

The current bridge, dubbed of historic significance by the National Park Service, was started in 1936 and completed the following year.

It was the first bridge in the United States to use reinforced concrete box girders, although such constructions had been used in Europe for some time. At 550 feet, it was the longest bridge across concrete girders in the country. The central span is 190 feet. The girders are hollow concrete boxes, 6.5 inches thick, and the piers were set on sand-packed gravel rather than on piling.

The bridge stood out in a national Park Service survey of all bridges and tunnels in the state because it was considered an engineering landmark — a "unique design for its era."

## Bridge 'facts'

◆ "Willie" Knapp is noted as being tender of the first Purdy bridge, but he was not related to the Horace Knapp family, who were later bridge tenders. Oral history from Laura Knapp Otto tells that Willie didn't seem to have a last name, stayed with the Knapps for awhile, and "adopted" their name. He also had the job of lighting the oven fires at the bakery where the Purdy Park and Ride is now. One time he somehow spilled kerosene, lit himself on fire, and ran to the creek to douse himself, but died on the way.

◆ From Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting Minutes of December 2002: Fred Ramsdell, of Fire District 16, "suggested that the Purdy bridge was an unlikely terrorist target at present. Its destruction would produce little economic chaos in an area with a relatively low population density." It was good to report no terrorist concerns.

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(From MCCOLLEY, Page 1)

The church congregation celebrated completion of the extensive kitchen and the official naming with a dinner gathering on Feb. 6. The name sign was unveiled by church Vice President Jim Davis and Devon Hopkins, daughter of McColley.

The building planning began in 1999, with the emphasis being on a facility for community use as well as for church needs. In the process, it was determined that the 3,838-square-foot building would make an ideal emergency preparedness center. The building includes showers, the extensive kitchen, a storage area of emergency food and supplies, and can house 250 people in such an event. Two large generators are still needed for the well and the facility to be approved as such a center.

The building is "a presence in and for the community," noted Alan Marshall, church pastor. More than a social hall for the congregation, "it is an asset for the whole community."

"It was built with generosity," said Erlene Twidt, "both money and time."

"The people in this congregation are workers," noted former pastor Richard Brandt.

Plans for the immediate future are to



Photo by Colleen Slater

Marianne McColley, Shelley Wiggins-Nordseth and Pearlita McColley at the dedication celebration.

have a Teen Coffee House, Boy and Girl Scouts, and a place for community meetings or social occasions.

Special thanks were given to Larry and Wanda Kamahele and John and Shirley Nederlee of the Geneva Foundation for assisting in provision of funds for the hall.

McColleys joined the church where Marianne's mother, Irma Nordquist, was a member, and became involved with choir

## Teen Coffee House

A target date of March 11 begins a new program for 9th - 12th graders at 7 p.m. in McColley Hall.

This will be an Open Mic event, to be held every Friday evening. After the kick-off date, the Coffee House will also be open from 3 - 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays for talking, music, crafts, snacks and homework help.

Interested students can call 884-3312 or email kpluth@juno.com for more information or to be put on a contact list in case the date is postponed to March 18.

and various other activities, as well as the building program.

"He was my stalwart bass," noted Barbara Bramhall, church choir director, "and my ego booster. He'd always cheer me up when I was down."

Lora Livingston commented on his friendly teasing. She sat in front of him in choir, and he said about her long hair, "If you had pigtails, I'd try to dip them in an inkwell."

"He was a prince of a man," noted fellow building volunteer Lynne Johnson. After a work

session, they would go to Johnson's shop and discuss the progress and questions that came up. "There was no job he wouldn't do," Johnson said of McColley, and others echoed that attitude.

Several friends noted that McColley was a natural leader, but a low-key one. He wanted to be involved, and encouraged others to do their best.

"Phil would be floating around the room, talking to everybody, if he could be here," said Marianne, as she accepted a small plaque with McColley Hall and the date on it. She praised Vice President Jim Davis for finishing off the work of permits, etc., after Phil was gone.

Marianne always thought of it as "Phil's building," she said recently. He was so involved in the whole process, she is delighted McColley Hall is named for him.

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# Out & About

Alan Marshall, pastor of Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, and newly adopted son, Andre, from Jamaica, enjoy a moment together during a recent function at the church.

*Photo by Colleen Slater*



Mount Rainier looks beautiful and mysterious from Carr Inlet on a late morning in December, with the mountain casting a shadow on the sky.

*Photo courtesy of Bill Trandum*



*Photo by Connie Harris*

A fire gutted this vacant house that was for sale at Jackson Lake in mid-January. Fire officials believe the cause was electrical. A heater was reportedly left on an extremely high setting. Neighbors witnessed the Fire District 16 crew quickly responding and stopping the blaze from spreading to nearby homes.



Above, Members of the Two Waters Arts Alliance take a minute for the camera, as they discuss their annual Spring Fling that was approaching on Feb. 26, as Key Pen News went to press.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Right, Friends of the Library, who sponsored this art sculpture by local artist John Jewell, make sure the two kids stay dry and warm—which usually means providing them with raincoats in wet weather or hats and scarves when it's nippy. *Photo by Connie Harris*



Dick and Barbara Granquist, retiring KPFD chaplains, receive the KP Firefighters Association award for years of dedicated service. The Key Peninsula Fire Department held its annual Awards Dinner in mid-February at Miracle Ranch, with firefighters, family members, and supporters of the district attending the heart-warming affair held to honor the dedication and service of all firefighters and emergency medical providers throughout the Key Peninsula.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*