

Spring Fling brings fun, money for park



Photo by Rodika Tollefson
Frankie "The Clown" Johnson, a former cake decorator, was popular at the Fling, offering free face paintings to kids.

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Residents young and old converged to the KP Sports Center and Fairgrounds on March 29 for a Spring Fling, which offered something for every age. T-ball, Little League and adult scrimmage games, family bingo, a beer garden, musical guests and even a KP Idol contest were part of a fundraising event that organizers plan to hold annually.

"Our purpose was to bring everybody down there together and bring awareness," said Key Peninsula Little League President Paula DeMoss. KPLL organized the day together with the Key Peninsula Softball Association and the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District, the first such collaboration.

(See **Fling**, Page 16)

Little League

The Key Peninsula Little League season officially opened Monday, April 14, at Key Peninsula's Sports Center and Fairgrounds. The first Saturday in April, the league held its annual and extremely well attended fundraising breakfast at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a team or teams, contributing funds, or volunteering to help make this program a continued success may call Paula DeMoss, KPLL president, at 884-7904 or email demosspaula@hotmail.com.

Livable Community Fair showcases groups, resources

By KP News staff

The people, organizations and agencies offering resources and opportunities that help make the Key Peninsula more livable will be the center of the May 10 Livable Community Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Civic Center—a chance for local residents to find out about their community works. More than 40 booths will display information, and a special display will feature the Pierce County's Domestic Violence Prevention Exhibit.

As if meeting representatives from all the organizations is not enough, the fair will also feature entertainment from the Peninsula Youth Orchestra, the Key Peninsula Jazz Band, and a cloggers' troupe. The KP Civic Center organized a nonprofit groups' fair last year, and this year Safe Streets has joined in, expanding the event.

Don't miss this chance to see what is happening in your community and learn about programs and resources available to you.

(See more on the fair on page 26)



KP resident trained for space
page 11



Pioneer Marguerite Bussard
page 12

Special section:
Tribute to veterans, p. 27-28

In this issue

News

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Home Park spruce-up | 2 |
| Community Council news | 3 |
| Business spotlight | 5 |
| Fundraiser for Sam | 9 |
| Leisure ideas discussed | 10 |
| Key Singers dazzle | 20 |
| Prohibition Jazz is back | 26 |

Sections

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Peninsula Views | 4 |
| Community Works | 14 |
| People & Lifestyles | 10 |
| Religion | 19 |
| Arts & Leisure | 20 |

Herron gets new bus shelter

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Not Friday, but Sunday the 13th was a mixed good luck/bad luck day. Good luck because a whole bunch of Key Peninsula kids and adults labored throughout the day to remove and replace a dilapidated, oft-vandalized shelter in which students await their school bus. Bad luck because they did it in an almost unremitting soggy, seeping, soaking rain.

Nobody complained. A couple of kids commented that they were chilly but they didn't complain. And they worked. Hard. Dedicatedly. They knew they were doing

something in which they could take personal satisfaction, in which they could feel ownership. And the assorted parents and other adults were aglow with the same knowledge.

It took all day, but the job was completed. Some remarked that they would "return the next day to put the roof on."

They didn't have to. Sue Kingsbury-Surratt, a member of AmeriCorps' Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families, and an ubiquitous volunteer at Evergreen Elementary and the Key Peninsula Middle School, wanted to empower kids in her

(See **Shelter**, Page 7)

Home Park spruces up

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Home Park is a little two-acre "pocket" park at Eight Avenue and Key Peninsula Highway in Home. Until recently, it was "home" to many used appliances being recycled and kept in one place instead of all over the woods or clogging landfills. Last year, Pierce County cleaned up the eyesore as part of the Pierce County Responds program and gave it to the KP Park and Recreation District.

Park Board member Nancy Lind said, "This was our sixth Saturday morning work party. We have been taking out blackberries, garbage, cleaning up areas, and have done some preliminary tractor and blade work. We're hoping to get ready for a park dedication for Home Historic Month in May, when the Angel Guild expects to have a park bench for us to celebrate the Guild's 25th anniversary and the opening of Home Park. We also hope the Home Historic Marker will be ready to install by then."

This has been an all-community effort, Lind said, crediting for all their hard work and dedication to the project Bob and Judy

Home Park dedication

To celebrate Home's historic month, a dedication of Home Park will be held on Saturday, May 24. The Angel Guild has donated a park bench, and the historic marker will be installed. The park is located at Eight Avenue and Key Peninsula Highway North. Friends of Home Park meet the third Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the Home Fire Station. Work parties at the park are ongoing and anyone is welcome to help. For information, offers to help, to donate, or to become a Friend of Home Park, call Nancy Lind at 884-3347, or email nancy lind2000@yahoo.com.

Stickley, John Glennon, Caril Ridley, Danette George and husband Tim Shirley, Evelyn Evans, Stella and Ken Retherford, Kip Clinton, Mrs. Oliver Coldeen and daughters Ruth and Rachel, Ron Van Someren, Heather Rogers, Marty Marcus, Ann Waldo, Fred Ramsdell, Stacy Shake,



Caril Ridley, Nancy Lind, and Bob Stickley at work on the South end fence at Home Park on a wet April Saturday.

Photo by Hugh McMillan
Courtesy of Peninsula Gateway

and Nancy's husband, Bob Lind.

"Our goal is to make this a cultural/historical/contemplative garden park with some walking areas, park benches, and maybe a table or two for picnics," she said. "There are many other things people have sug-

gested that can be considered when we get the park clean, sculpted, and 'lived in' for a few months to get a feel for what is possible."

Lind said a lot has been accomplished in a short time and thanked everyone who has contributed.

KP Community Services, GH Kiwanis, and WCCW make kids' day

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

Sharon Anderson "suddenly became a full custodial grandmother," said Cristi Watson, executive director of the KP Community Services/Food Bank. Living with her are three grandchildren, Jasmyne, 9, Trynt, 7, and Wynter, 4, whose mother is unable to care for them at the moment.

When the Gig Harbor Kiwanis Club learned of this and the fact that Anderson is on low income and the three youngsters

are here essentially with nothing but the clothes on their backs, its members decided to do something about it. One of their programs is the collection of donated bicycles for all ages. They bring them to the Washington Correction Center for Women in Purdy, where inmate volunteers rehabilitate them for use by those who cannot afford them. Their work is impressive; the bikes look brand new, as if they just came off the showroom floor.

The three youngsters were ecstatic with their new acquisitions. Anderson said,

"These agencies are lifesavers for me and especially for the kids." The eldest, Jasmyne, speaks Spanish, French, and English, is a voracious reader, loves history, and has read all of the Harry Potter books several times.

The KP Branch of Children's Home Society is working with Sharon Anderson and the three youngsters, and the KPCS has provided the family with vouchers contributed by the Angel Guild, enabling them to obtain clothing and toys at no cost.



Photo courtesy of John Glennon Jasmyne, Trynt, and Wynter Anderson are proud of their new bicycles. Key Peninsula Community Services President Bud Uish, Cristi Watson, executive director of Key Peninsula Community Services/Food bank, and Sharon Anderson are also pictured. KPCS helped the family along with the Gig Harbor Kiwanis.

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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Community Council makes steady progress

The formation of a community council for the Key Peninsula is progressing steadily after the third and fourth meeting of the organizing committee.

In March, the Finance chair presented a proposed budget. Needs Assessment committee focused on networking and including all Peninsula concerns. The Process/Structure committee is working on a boundary map that will be divided into districts for representation on the council. The Communications/Outreach group is setting up an e-mail network, discussing plans for the Livable Communities Fair on May 10, and developing a phone tree. The Student Projects chair reported on several ongoing and projected student projects including the design of a Website for the Community Council. Jeff Harris, co-chair of the Organizational Committee, presented an idea for a resource center/office to be rented in the Key Center area.

These sub-committees meet in May:
 Student Projects: Thursday, May 1, 3 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Middle School. Chair, David Locey, 857-4505.

Process/Structure: Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m. at Windermere Realty in Key Center. Co-chairs, Irene Torres, 884-6794, and Simon Priest, 884-6446.

Finance: Monday, May 12, 10:30 a.m. at the Communities in Schools office (KP Hwy & 84th in Key Center). Chair, Barb Waller, 884-4464.

Communication/Outreach: Tuesday, May 13, 1 p.m. at Key Peninsula Civic Center. Co-chairs, Ruth Bramhall, 857-5184, and Vicki Biggs, 884-9438.

Needs Assessment: Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m. the Key Peninsula Middle School. Chair, Denise Carron, 884-9498.

These are public meetings and interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Organizers say it is important to have a wide range of input at this time so that the council can truly represent the entire Key Peninsula.

The next meeting of the Community Council Organizational Committee is Tuesday, May 27 at 7 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Middle School. Co-chairs are Dennis Taylor, 884-7899, and Jeff Harris, 884-5733. The sub-committees report and coordinate their work at this meeting.

Wauna building work to start

By Rodika Tollefson
 KP News

Local residents “stopped the wrecking ball” from razing a piece of Key Peninsula history—but now they must turn the landmark into a centerpiece of the community. That was the focus of the Key Peninsula Historical Society’s annual potluck meeting on March 27, which discussed the status of the Goldman/White building that once housed the Wauna post office.

“Part of the Historical Society’s mission is preserving landmarks, and many of our landmarks have vanished,” said President Tim Kezele. “We stopped the wrecking ball ... and I hope we continue the momentum. There are many ideas but the bottom line is to keep the building active in the community.”

Ideas include turning the building into a visitors’ center and interpretive site. Located at the gateway to the Peninsula and passed by every visitor, the building is seen by many as being a greeting point.

One section of the building, an added-on storage shed, will be demolished as soon as Pierce County, which owns the property, approves the permit. Kezele said

he has enough volunteers and the needed equipment to clear out that portion. Other upcoming work will include replacing the roof and site cleanup.

The society is working together with the KP Parks and Recreation District and other groups to restore the building, a former convenience store.

The efforts received the support from Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, who came to the meeting to say the building should be preserved and he will seek the needed funds. “Once there is a plan in place for preserving the building, I will try to find funding to make it happen,” he said. “Once we’ve developed a vision for the future, I will go to work on it.”

More than 100 years old, the building and the adjacent dock were the center of local commerce—which used boats before the Purdy Bridge and the highway brought vehicular traffic to the peninsula.

“(The project) needs to be a community effort,” said KPPRD Commissioner Nancy Lind, adding that the park district will consider managing the center but needs to pass its planned levy before it can undertake the project.

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Editorial

Get acquainted with your community at the Civic Center fair

It's not very often that Key Peninsula residents get the chance to learn about local services and organizations, all in one stop. On May 10, the resources are coming to you—and all you have to do is head over to the Civic Center between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for the Livable Community Fair.

The Peninsula may seem isolated and is often forgotten when it comes to county or state services, but many organizations are working hard to make up for that. You want to know what kinds of parks and recreation are available? Head to the park district or the YMCA camps' booths. Concerned

about crime in your neighborhood? Talk to the Safe Streets representatives. Not sure if you're ready for an emergency or disaster? The friendly folks with Peninsula Emergency Preparedness have suggestions for you. Have an itch for revisiting your artistic talents? The Two Waters Arts Alliance will fill you in about their summer offerings. Still want to join the Community Council Organizing Committee? It's not too late, and committee members are eager to tell you how.

You can learn about all this and much more by driving just a few miles and visiting the fair for a few hours. With music from the local schools' talented groups and more than 40 organizations waiting to share what they have to offer — what else can you ask for? And if that's not enough, on your way out you can stop by the Annual Lakebay Fuchsia Society Plant Sale, outside the Civic Center, for some plants for your garden.

A part of the solution or part of the problem?

By Karl Anderson

Every year we read about meth lab operations on our Key Peninsula, and I wonder just how remote is remote? How are these vermin who manufacture garage methamphetamine getting away with it?

Sure, there are places where things can easily go unnoticed in these woods. But there are also signs — obvious signs — that such an operation is most likely going on close to you. One of them is increased vehicle traffic — if there suddenly seems to be a much larger flow of traffic past your house or road. Another is the familiar smell — an unmistakable stench similar to chemical ammonia, which can be detected up to several hundred yards away. Other signs include increased, short, frequent visits during all hours of the day or night, blacked-out windows, excessive garbage or propane tanks with green, corroded valves.

So if someone sees an obvious increase in traffic or smells odors they never smelled before, they have two choices: ignore it or do something about it. It has been said that in everything we do, we are part of the solution or part of the problem. The only way we are going to clean up our community is by taking a proactive approach to solving this problem. If we turn our heads and pretend it is going to go away on its own, we are living in denial, plain and

simple. It is a disease that will not go away, not as long as there are places to hide and neighbors who are afraid to take a stand when they know something is going on right under their noses.

How do these squatters in our community fund their illegal operations? One way is by stealing cars. In the south part of the Peninsula there are a couple of areas where stripped, stolen cars are in abundance. People in those areas would rather not know what is going on, but they do know. And by not doing anything they perpetuate the problem.

In an effort to help our community, I am urging all of you, my fellow neighbors, to become part of the solution. If we all leave it up to the other guy, it will never happen. The problem will continue on an equal or greater scale than it presently is because those doing it know that no one is going to do anything about it. Crime thrives where crime is able to thrive!

To report suspicious activity in your neck of our woods, contact the Meth Hotline at 888-609-6384 or Safe Streets at 884-7899. You don't even have to leave your name or number if that is a concern. But please — do something! It's our community and our problem. Let's all join to make it a safer place to raise our families and an unsafe place for meth labs!

Karl Anderson is a Key Peninsula resident and KP News staff member.



A note from the newspaper team

Like the mythical Phoenix rising from the ashes, the Key Peninsula News has gotten off to a fresh start this year, and is growing stronger by the month. Our talented and dedicated team plunged into the relaunch of the paper in January — and hasn't stopped ever since.

Thanks to the support of our readers and advertisers, we are able to grow and are looking forward to many new projects and stories to cover. Last month, we were overwhelmed by the support of our readers, who contributed more than \$2,500 in voluntary subscriptions and wrote

heartfelt messages. This community continuously heeds the calls for help—whether from a boy battling leukemia, a school raising money for a program, sports groups looking to improve their field, or the community newspaper.

We hope you continue to support us with your readership. We would love to hear from you — whether a note to say what you like (or don't) about our new format, a story idea about an interesting person or event, or a special interest topic you'd like to know more about. This is your paper and we welcome your input!

Letters to the Editor

Sam Stewart's father thanks community for fundraiser

Thank you to our community for a successful fundraiser. It was overwhelming to stand there, looking over that crowd of people, gathered to support our family. That is what we will remember most about the evening: The feeling of being lifted by the caring of family, friends and neighbors is priceless.

Since Sam's diagnosis in July, we have been held up by the positive energy directed our way. We've discovered new friends and become reacquainted with old ones. People we've never met have called or written, offering emotional support and prayers for Sam. Seeing him as a healthy child acknowledges a prayer fulfilled; that is the most wonderful gift.

Thank you to all the people who worked hard to bring this together. Thank you to everyone who donated items to be auctioned, many of them made by hand. And thank you to all of you who purchased items. Unfortunately, half of the bid sheets were lost, so we can't thank you all personally, as we would like, so thank you all.

We once read "a picture is a poem without words." The Civic Center was vibrational with the energy of love and joy, a beautiful picture we will always cherish. Thank you for being a part of our lives.

*Mac Stewart, Sam Stewart's father
Minter Creek*

Resident thanks Angel Guild

Dear Angel Guild angels,
I had been planning on sending you a thank-you letter, telling you what the Angel Guild means to me. But after the

wonderful coverage of your 25th anniversary in the KP News — I decided to thank you in the newspaper.

The article (*KP News, April Angel Guild special section*) covered your humble beginnings, the good and services you continue to do. You are so much more than a thrift shop. You are Key Peninsula's heart and soul.

It is great to have a local place to donate our outgrown and unused items. We all love to stop by to see what's new — a "needed" item or a treasure. Sometimes we buy the treasure because it matches the one we have at home—only to find out it's the one we donated a while back!

But the Angel Guild is special to me because it's where I look forward to going Saturday mornings. I've lived here for five years and it's my 23rd year of having a daycare in my home—the daycare from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. doesn't leave much time away from home. But Saturday morning I head to the Guild, many times with a couple of the kids with me. We love to hunt for stuff for our dress-up area, toys, puzzles and books, and we head out with stacks of stuff for the daycare kids and my grandkids—a splurge I can afford with your wonderful prices.

I bet you never thought of the Guild as a "social hangout," but that's what it is to me, and some day I hope to have enough time to volunteer there myself so I can become a Guild member. It's amazing what you do with our recyclables and our small cash purchases. You are Angels!

*Helen Macumber, Key to Learning Daycare
Key Center*

Letters to the Editor:

To submit a letter to the editor, write to keypennews@yahoo.com, fax to 884-4053, or mail to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394. The subject must be related to the Key Peninsula. Limit to 150 words or less and include a phone number.

Business Spotlight

Moreland and Sons Automotive Repair

By William C. Dietz
KP News

One way to judge whether a small business is successful is to look at the number of cars parked out in front of it. By that standard the auto repair shop located just north of Key Center is doing very well indeed. With six repair bays and five mechanics, Moreland and Sons Automotive Repair qualifies as the largest business of its kind on the peninsula.

Having already purchased what is now the Auto Value Parts Store on the corner of Olson Drive KPN and the Key Peninsula Highway from the Riley family in 1999, Eric Moreland and his wife, Manuela, bought Black Forest Auto Repair from Ryan Andersen in September of 2002, and have expanded it since.

"I thought the business could be suc-

cessful because of the growth out here and a steady increase in demand," Moreland says. "We've been able to keep most of the customers that Ryan had—and attract new ones as well. That's because we strive to build long-term relationships with customers. No one's perfect, so if we make a mistake, we'll do whatever it takes to make things right."

Moreland says being located out in the country creates challenges for small businesses. "We don't get some of the services that we would in a more developed area, and even though we have our own parts store, we can't stock everything. Parts for newer or more exotic cars have to be brought in — and that takes time."

Other than that the key is to find, hire, and keep top-flight technicians. "In order to get good people you have to offer a good work place, competitive pay, and con-



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Eric Moreland, owner of Moreland and Sons Automotive Repair, sees his business expand in the next few years.

tinuous education," Moreland says. "Automobile designs change constantly. It takes a lot of training to diagnose and repair cars these days."

As for the future, Moreland says, "During the next five years we'd like to double in size, expand the amount of motor home and truck business that we do, and build the inventory at the parts store."

The Moreland family lives in nearby Glen Cove and includes a son at the Key Peninsula Middle School.

"When I was growing up I spent my weekends and summers around Vaughn Bay," Moreland says, "and the Peninsula is a great place to live. We wanted to get involved in the local community and put down roots."

Business Briefs

Sound CU to merge with Valley Community Federal CU

Two of the region's credit unions are merging to provide new opportunities and services to their members. The merger is anticipated to become effective June 1, 2003. Once the merger is complete, members of Valley Community Federal Credit Union will become Sound Credit Union members.

"The merger will benefit both credit unions by expanding services and locations to both membership bases," said Rick Brandsma, President & CEO of Sound Credit Union.

The combined credit union will hold \$235 million in assets and serve over 44,000 members with a total of 10 branches located throughout Pierce, Thurston and King counties. Sound CU is a member-owned financial institution, founded in 1940, open to anyone who lives, works or worships in Washington State.

Close to Home Espresso celebrates

Close to Home Espresso celebrates its 10th anniversary in May. The walk-by coffee booth is located next to Peninsula Market in Key Center. Special drawings and contests will be featured through the month.

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PSD proposes bond issue

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

Peninsula voters will decide at a May 20 special election whether to approve a \$45 million bond requested by Peninsula School District. The bond would fund capital projects, such as construction and modernization, at each of the district schools.

The proposed funding will pay for replacing modular buildings that were built before 1980, new HVAC systems, technology systems upgrades, floor covering at Key Peninsula Middle School, classroom improvements at Peninsula High, and other projects.

"We want to reach a point where all the schools are equal," said PSD Superintendent Jim Coolican. "We looked at what should be done at each school to bring it up to standards. These are basic things, nothing fancy."

Coolican said the student population grew from 6,000 to 9,000 since the last bond was issued in 1990. "Wear and tear ... must be remedied and safety considerations are a priority," he said. The timing is also im-

portant as population continues to grow. "If population increases and we need to build new facilities, a weak infrastructure will crush us," he said.

The estimated tax increase from the bond is 18 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2004 with a decrease after five years. The bonds will be issued in increments, as money is needed. Coolican estimates some upgrades to begin immediately.

He calls the bond the last piece of the puzzle before the district moves to the "next horizon—becoming the best school in the state in terms of meeting student needs." "We can then shift to our real business, which is teaching students—especially focusing on students who are not meeting their full potential. We have all the components to make it happen and there will be no more excuses," he said.

For information, call the district at 857-6171, the county auditor at 798-7430, or see www.peninsula.wednet.edu/support/bond.htm

Restaurant planned for vacant lot

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

A vacant lot at the corner of Key Peninsula Highway and Creviston Drive formerly approved as a convenience store and gas station is now being proposed as a site for a new restaurant. A site plan was approved in 1996, but because of the change in use, a major amendment must be approved in order to build a restaurant. The Rural-10 zone doesn't allow for commercial development, so a hearing examiner must approve the proposal.


"The original developer who permitted the convenience store went away and the property owners didn't want to do a gas station/convenience store," said project agent Carl Halsan with Halsan-Frey Associates LLC. "They are still thinking about what they want exactly but they narrowed it down to several type of users."

The plan is for a deli and fast-food-type diner rather than a full-service es-

For public comment or questions, visit Pierce County Planning Department at 2401 South 35th St. in Tacoma, or call 253-798-7037. Refer to application No. SPR-57-94.

tablishment, and possibly housing as many as three different food shops rather than one. The pad that was slated for the gas station canopy would become a double drive-thru espresso shop. If the permit approval proceeds smoothly, Halsan anticipates the building to be up by next summer.

The Pierce County Planning Department is currently conducting a traffic impact and environmental study, but other reviews may become necessary once more agencies comment on the application, said Planner Mojgan Carlson. The public can submit comments regarding the application, and she anticipates a hearing within two or three months.



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(From **Shelter**, Page 1)

community, personally inviting them to help rebuild the shelter located near the Herron Island ferry landing. Her intention, she said, "is for students, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, to gain pride through production, caring for their community through construction." She believes the students will feel valued through community service and will be more apt to care and maintain the bus shelter over time, diminishing the risk of vandalism.

AmeriCorps is a network of National Service Programs engaging more than 50,000 Americans each year in extensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. Its members tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, help run after-school programs, as well as help clean parks, streams, etc. For their services, they earn a monthly stipend and an educational award to enhance their personal and professional growth.

Surratt expressed gratitude to the Herron Island community and Herron Island Boosters who, she said, "generously allocated memorial funds toward the bus shelter project as a tribute to Rose Mginn

and Donna Everett." Target and Albertson's of Gig Harbor and Gray Lumber of Tacoma supported the project.

Students who participated attend Evergreen and Vaughn elementary schools, KP Middle School, Peninsula High School, and some are home-schooled. They ranged in age from 4 to 18. They were Angela Biddle; Sara and Clair Williams; Jordan Devera Cummings; Kristen Jensen; Skyler, Brooks, and Brittany Surratt; Amber and Ashley Bacorn; Kevin and Kaylee Jones; Tom Swenning; Nick Clark; Jaimee and Chris Miller; Colleen and Pam Cottrell; Julia Jones; Danyal Jaurigue; and Kristen Orcutt. They painted and decorated their own cement stepping stones, which will be added permanently in a cement walk as a reminder of youth empowerment to help personalize the bus stop.

Participating adults were: Jim and Caroline Foote; Kathryn Deuster; Tim Jones; Steven Krammer; Terry Warram; Pam Cottrell; Carl Schaffer; Surratt's son, Cory, and husband, Donnie; Tim Jones; Steve Krammer; Scott Swenning; Phil Foster; Butch Everett; Teri Warram; Kathy Dennis; Netannis Lundy; Pam Cottrell; Kelli Wilson; Amanda Cummings; and Otto Jensen.



AmeriCorps-led volunteers rebuilt the school bus shelter near the Herron Island ferry landing.

Photo by Hugh McMillan/ Courtesy of Peninsula Gateway



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Text and Photo by Karl Anderson, KP News Staff
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Vaughn PTA mounts fundraiser for student

By Hugh McMillan
KP News

The last Saturday in March found the Key Peninsula Civic Center aglow with the warmth of caring, giving, loving friends from, and well beyond, the Key Peninsula. They came to revel in the gaiety of a spaghetti dinner, auction, and dance to raise funds for the staggering medical costs of fighting 11-year-old Sam Stewart's battle with leukemia.

"It was a success beyond our wildest hopes," said Sam's Vaughn teacher, Marci Cummings, a spearhead for the event. "We're gonna beat this awful thing."

Cummings, Deanna English, Terry Fandel, and Vaughn PTA president, Paula Warren, started off with the idea of a small dinner with an auction—which turned into a fun community party with over 50 silent auction items and over 200 people attending.

The Queen Anne Thriftway in Tacoma, which previously supported Sam, donated the dinner, time at the Civic Center and auction items. Other businesses joined in, including Gig Harbor North Starbucks,

Albertsons, QFC, and Peninsula Market.

"All of this to help a special boy name Sam Stewart who is battling leukemia," Cummings said. "It wasn't just the money raised, which was over \$12,000, but the turnout and support of people in the community who wanted to help that touched us all."

Sam's doctor learned at a conference the weekend of the benefit that boys of Sam's age don't benefit from the treatment Sam was on. He, along with all boys of his age will be moved to a new chemo protocol, which is shorter and has a 12 percent better outcome.

This is excellent news for the Stewarts. One of the big benefits is that Sam's immune system won't be as taxed and he may be able to return to school.

Further contributions can be made at First Community Bank (formerly Harbor Bank), (253) 853-3500, "which also deserves a special thanks for all of its support," said Cummings. Checks can also be mailed to: VPTA/Sam Stewart Fund, P.O. Box 657, Vaughn, 98394. For information, call (253) 884-3174 or (253) 884-4175.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson
Sam Stewart with his mom, Donna. At 11, he is fighting a tough battle with leukemia—a battle his family is determined to win together. Donna says despite the trials, the family feels blessed.

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News Briefs

Data collection on water quality

Scientists are getting ready to walk Key Peninsula's streams in an effort to collect data about water quality, fish habitat and flooding. Pierce County Water Programs is developing a surface water management plan, for which the data will be used. The Key Peninsula Islands Basin Plan will include the Key Peninsula and Burley/Minter area, along with Herron, Anderson, Fox and Raft islands. The purpose of the plan is to identify priorities in habitat conservation, stream restoration and other projects.

The county is asking the residents' cooperation in allowing the scientists to walk the streams. Surveys will also be mailed to property owners, and a series of public meetings will be scheduled. For information, contact Associate Planner Barbara Ann Smolko at 253-798-2725.

One month left in logo contest

Time is running out for the logo contest that seekd out an identity for the Key Peninsula. The logo will be available for use to local organizations. Anyone may enter, and the winner receives \$100.

Submissions must be postmarked by June 1. Send to KP Logo Contest, c/o KP Business Association, P.O. Box 439, Vaughn, WA. 98394. Backup submissions are welcomed

by email to framsdell@harbornet.com, but are not accepted as official.

The design must have the potential to be enlarged to a maximum size of 16" by 16" and reduced to a minimum size of 1" by 1" without a loss of clarity or overall resolution. Submit the logo in the 4" by 4" size on a single piece of 8.5" by 11" white paper.

Use no more than two colors and submit no more than three entries. Add your name, age, address, email, and telephone number on the bottom of each submitted page. For information, call Mary Ramsdell at 884-4834.

Councilman proposes planning

Councilman Terry Lee introduced two proposals to the Pierce County Council addressing land-use planning on the Key Peninsula. One proposal is to initiate a comprehensive plan for the Peninsula, the Key Peninsula Commuy Plan, and set aside funding in next year's budget to develop the plan. The second proposal is for an ordinance that will create a Key Peninsula Advisory Commission.

A public hearing on both proposals is planned for Tuesday, May 27, at 3 p.m. at Pierce County Council Chambers, at 930 Tacoma Ave. S., room 1045. Public testimony at the hearing as well as written comments will also be accepted. To receive a copy of the proposals, contact Pierce County Council at 798-7777 or visit the office.



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Leisure programming ideas brainstormed

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

With limited recreational choices on the Key Peninsula for kids and adults alike, the timing seems right for seeking new opportunities. While the Gig Harbor area has a new tri-agency recreational program that includes everything from crafts to kayaking and is open to Key Peninsula residents, most of the

activities are scheduled on the other side of the Purdy Bridge.

A handful of local residents want to change that—and find a way to bring more leisure programming closer to home. At an April 14 meeting, hosted by the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District at the Civic Center, about a dozen people discussed ideas for programs and ways for local civic groups to join resources.

“The purpose of the meeting is to collaborate and find out what is currently offered and what other programs are needed,” said Simon Priest, who facilitated the discussion.

Areas of focus included the addition of a tennis program, teen activities and the formation of a youth programming board, the possibility of a Boys and Girls Club, 4-H programming, senior and intergenerational activities.

Representatives from various organizations brainstormed how they can work together to explore future possibilities, such as senior field trips, family events, community programs at local camps, workshops, and bringing youth and seniors together in joint activities. “If we

can find ways to bring the two generations together constructively, it would knit the community together,” said Edie Morgan, program manager at the KP Family Resource Center.

A petition was put in motion to get local support from organizations for a Boys and Girls Club. “It’s important for our kids,” said Hugh McMillan. “Let’s make this thing happen.”

One key challenge that appeared common in existing and future programs is the lack of volunteers and the need for a good network. The KP Community Center has a variety of programs, said Director Kristi Watson, but not enough people to help carry them.

The ideas generated at the meeting will be presented to KPPRD and incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan currently being developed. Two other meetings are scheduled to gather public input: new parks and green spaces on May 12 and recreation complex development on June 9. Both meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at the Sports Center and Fairgrounds Annex. For information, call 884-9240 or email info@kpprd.org.

Spring brings out Flavor of Fall

It may only be spring, but the scent of fall is already in the air — at least for the organizers of this year’s Flavor of Fall gala. Started 15 years ago as a fundraiser for the Civic Center, the event grew through the years to become the Key Peninsula’s biggest formal party, which includes a catered dinner and silent and live auction with prizes ranging from dinners to handcrafted items.

“This is the gala event of the year,” said founder Claudia Loy. “Everyone who comes to this dress-up function has a good time.” Everyone includes the volunteers, who start planning months in advance. From decorations and donations to publicity — there is plenty of work to go around. “So many friendships have been made from this,” Loy said, adding that new residents are welcome to join the organizing group.

Donations are already coming in for this year’s auction, including a German dinner, a handmade dollhouse and a fishing system. The theme is “Cruise into Fall,” and the decorations will accordingly reflect a cruise ship mood. About \$15,000 was raised for the Civic Center last year, and organizers hope to surpass that amount. For information, contact Claudia Loy at Sunnycrest Nursery, 884-3937.



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Peninsula resident trained for space

By Karl Anderson
KP News

Key Peninsula resident Gary Gebo was hoping to follow into John Glenn's footsteps.

"I used to gaze up at the stars as a kid," he said, "and I always wondered what was up there." It appeared in 1962 that he would soon have his chance, as he began training in the NASA Astronaut Program.

But his dream was cut short. He caught on fire while inside a training capsule, along with two other astronaut trainees and their flight physician. All of them miraculously survived.

As a pilot flying F4Ds for the U.S. Marine Corps, Gebo was given the chance to enter into an extremely competitive training program to become a NASA astronaut.

"There I was at the age of 24, when I received a memo that said they (NASA) were looking for pilots that were interested in training for space. I jumped on it!" he said.

The competition was fierce. Each man wanted to be No. 1. "We were basically their guinea pigs, and the testing included just about every kind of test to measure your physical and mental stamina," he said.

The group was finally narrowed down to eight, and Gebo was one of them. "This was after the first crew had already trained for the Mercury and Gemini programs that included Grissom, Cooper, Schirra, Glenn, Sheppard, Carpenter, and Slaten," he explained. "I was pretty giddy back then, following right after Glenn had gone through the exact same training in the same facility only months before."

The group conducted that portion of their training in sealed capsules in 5 psi (pounds per square inch) — in contrast to 14.7 psi at sea level on Earth — and in a 100 percent oxygen-rich environment, which is extremely flammable and dangerous. A pressurized one-man chamber known as "the coffin" successively connected each man to a larger capsule that ultimately held six astronauts and their flight physician. There they lived for two straight weeks, with no window to view the outside world.

It was at the end of this two-week period, after three of the astronauts had already been transferred one by one from the larger capsule, when the accident occurred.

"I was climbing into my bunk," said Gebo, "when I noticed that a light bulb was missing from the light fixture next to me. I got a replacement bulb, told the crew what I was doing — as we always verbalized anything we did for the benefit of the other

"We were basically their guinea pigs, and the testing included just about every kind of test to measure your physical and mental stamina."

—Gary Gebo

crew members—and when I put the bulb in, the pinched wiring instantly caught on fire."

What followed next was pandemonium.

Shouting that there was a fire, Gebo tried to smother it with a towel, but since the towel was saturated with pure oxygen, it exploded into flames and spread to his pajamas. He dropped the towel, which caught the bottoms of his pajama legs on fire, instantly spreading to the bedding. The flight physician grabbed the phone and yelled, "Fire! Dump us!"

"Schlager (Val Gerstenschlager) reached over to put out the fire on my arm and he caught on fire," Gebo said. "Then (Steve) Marshall reached around to put out the flames on the bed and then he caught on fire. Finally Doc tried to help and he, too, caught on fire. We were all on fire at this point and frantically trying to get each other's clothes off."

The men were depressurized from 25,000 feet to sea level in 30 seconds. "When the worker opened the capsule door he was really surprised to see four naked men standing there!" he said with a laugh. "All the skin on my body was off except on my neck and face."

Gebo and his teammates spent several months in the Naval hospital recovering from the injuries. He credits their survival to the fact that the capsule was metal and did not have many items inside that would fuel the fire—other than the oxygen itself.

Because it was during the Cold War era with Russia having launched Sputnik, the accident was kept a secret from the press. "Our government didn't want Russia to get wind of anything that would have made us look like we were having any kind of problems with our part in the race for space and the moon," he said.

Gary Gebo has been a resident of Key Peninsula for a total of 19 years, from '69-'78 and then from '95 to the present, living in Gig Harbor in between. He retired after 30 years as a commercial airline pilot for Western Airlines and Delta Airlines. Today he is very content to enjoy the view from his home on Carr Inlet, where his intense training for outer space is one of his fondest memories of the past.

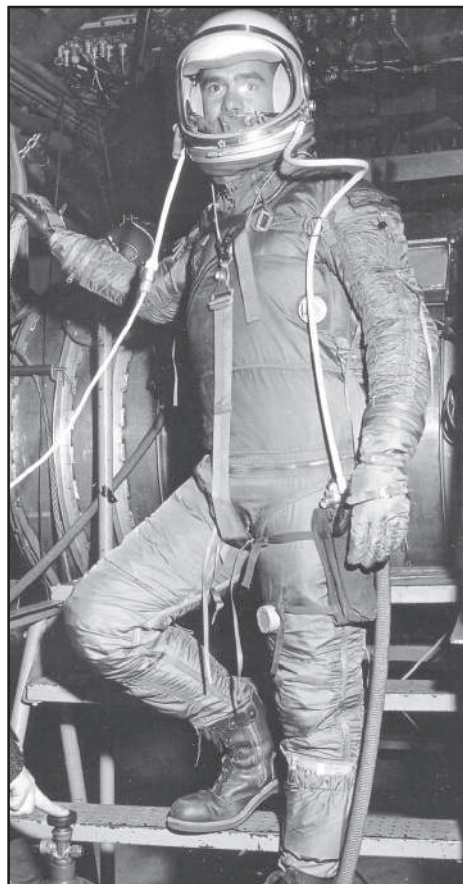


Photo courtesy of Gary Gebo



Photo by Karl Anderson

Left, Gary Gebo during his space training at the Naval Air Development Center in Johnsville, Pa., in 1962.

Above, Gary Gebo today lives a long way from the space station, on the quiet and scenic Key Peninsula.

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From pioneer stock Marguerite Bussard

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Marguerite Bussard, a quiet lady who has lived in Longbranch most of her life, was born in a chicken house, near the current Longbranch Fire Station, built on family property.

She and her brother walked across the road to school, hurried home to tend chickens, cows, rabbits, saw wood, collect eggs and kindling, and do other chores while their parents worked in the Highway Garage and store.

What did she do for fun? "Nothing, there was always work to do," she said.

When the school district decided to combine Longbranch and Lakebay schools and use only the northern site, the current Community House, Marguerite's parents



kept their children home, hoping others would do likewise, and their school wouldn't be moved. It didn't work. Eventually, Marguerite returned to school and rode with Helen Rickert, the teacher.

Since she was older than her classmates, it was her duty to put up and take down the flag as required. She was left in charge of about 30 other students when Mrs. Rickert drove across the bridge to retrieve a boy who was late returning to class. At the end of eighth grade, she stayed home to help her parents and grandparents.

The late Pete Bussard was substitute bus driver for Ward Rickert, and the school bus was usually parked at the Highway Garage. Marguerite and Pete were the first ones married in the new Longbranch Church. The previous church, without adequate support, slid down the hill enough to be unsafe.

Her grandmother was Sunday School superintendent and Marguerite rarely missed Sunday School class. Later she taught classes herself, started coffee, and did whatever needed doing at the church. Pete was "resident electrician" and they were given one of the first keys to the new church.

Marguerite and Pete were regular volunteers for the fire department. On Tuesday nights when the men practiced, Mar-

guerite started coffee and tea water, answered the phone and cleaned up.

They rode with her brother, First Aid Captain, when there was only one ambulance for the whole district. They changed the sheets, which her mother washed and ironed for many years. Her mother, Ida Curl, donated 2 1/2 acres for the new fire station, and the courtesy room is named for her.

Marguerite and Pete were the first ones married in the new Longbranch Church. The previous church, without adequate support, slid down the hill enough to be unsafe.

Marguerite, once honored as Citizen of the Year, has volunteered in many capacities for her community. In the 1970s, when the Red Cross served dinners, she was the one in the kitchen helping the cook. Older people had a nutritional dinner and were

given handouts to help teach them how to make nutritious and inexpensive meals.

Marguerite has always been involved with the fire department auxiliary, Ashes, and serves as president. She joined the VFW Auxiliary when her brother was in Korea. She is chaplain, and also chaplain for the recently organized Key Peninsula Veterans Institute. At Community House lunches, she is hostess, greeting and serving people. She has been on the board for 12 years, and used to work in the food bank.

She meets with the Peninsula Neighbors, a sewing group that earns money for the fire department coffee funds, the Children's Home Society, and a school scholarship.

What does she do for fun these days? She tends her neat garden, sews, crochets, makes coffee at church, and sings with Key Singers, in addition to her volunteer activities.

After Sept. 11, she created red, white and blue ribbon pins and gave them to all who wanted them. These days, she makes yellow ribbons to remember the POWs in Iraq.

Marguerite is well known in her hometown of Longbranch. Someone who does what needs doing, and makes good coffee, too.



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The who's who of primitive Peninsula residents

By Karl Anderson
KP News

He has called the Peninsula home for four years now, having retired from show business. At first glance, his fame is not visible, but the many photos of him with various celebrities certainly attest to his having been around the block a time or two.

His name is Dexter, and he's only 8 years old, yet in those eight years he's met Dustin Hoffman, Martin Short, Magic Johnson, and Robert Urich; appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno; done many shows for Discovery Channel's "Animal Planet"; and met thousands of children across the country during school assemblies.

I asked him for some comment on what are his fondest memories, but he remained coy and silent. I suspect his greatest claim to fame is that he is the only guy of his kind in history to have set off

the silent alarm on the fence that surrounds the White House, not once, but two years in a row. The first time was with permission from the Secret Service, and the second time....well....er...without.

He's quite content with his retirement, however, as he's seen more of this country than most people ever will. His constant companion, Simon, his younger brother, has also educated children in countless school assemblies.

I still wanted a comment. Something. Anything. But he was content to just look at me and utter an occasional grunt. He was actually more interested in bananas and avocados than giving me an interview, and I accepted that.

I am assured that he can let me know if he is scared, angry, happy, or wanting to play. He just doesn't say much.

(See **Dexter**, Page 17)



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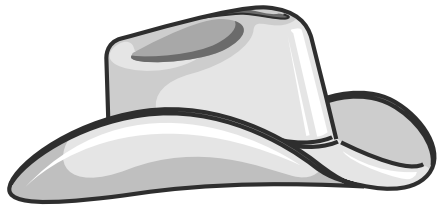
a mutual corporation

Peninsula Light Co. Workshops

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Septic Sense, Cents and Scent Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department - Jim Hoyle April 30th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Peninsula Light Co.</p> <p>Native Plants in the Home Landscape Anna Thurston, Independent Garden Designer May 14th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Peninsula Light Co.</p> <p>Identifying Native Plants Dennis Bottmiller, Horticulturist May 7th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Peninsula Light Co.</p> <p>Individual Well and Small Water System Maintenance Evan Reams & Kevin Odegard, Water Services, PLC June 4th 6:30 - 8:30 pm Peninsula Light Co.</p> <p>Shoreline Geology Harriet Beal, Geologist, Washington State June 18th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Peninsula Light Co.</p> | <p>Introduction to Shoreline Permitting & Bulkheads Anna Marie Sibon, Pierce County Planning & Land Service, 253-798-2706 July 12, 11 am - 2 pm Camp Seymour Colin Wagoner, PE, Project Engineer for Camp Seymour, 206-682-7294 Cafeteria</p> <p>Landscaping & Storm Water Control for Shorelines Harold Smelt, Project Engineer, Pierce County Programs August 12th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Gig Harbor Civic Center Council Chamber</p> <p>Septic Sense, Cents and Scent Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department - Jim Hoyle September 10th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Peninsula Light Co.</p> <p>Generator Safety Jonathan White, Marketing Coordinator, Peninsula Light September 24th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm Peninsula Light Co.</p> |
|--|---|

Palmer Lake invites you to Garage Sale & Street Fair

The third annual event is on May 24, Memorial Day weekend, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year's sale is being held to help raise money that will be used in the community for events such as Trunk Or Treat, Easter, Community B-B-Q, etc. Contact Krysl Wylie @ 884-4370.



Round 'Em Up at Miracle Ranch

Everyone is invited to saddle up and mosey on down to Miracle Ranch May 9-11 for the annual Cowboy Rendezvous. This family event drew over 1,500 people last year and more are expected for 2003.

The Cowboy Rendezvous, on Horseshoe Lake, will kick off Friday evening with a dinner concert. Saturday is a day full of family activities with a variety of meal options, including the famous BBQ supper around the Chuck Wagon. Saturday is the day for trail rides and lots of entertainment including the world-class Tahoma Range Rhymers, Dennis Agajanian "the world's fastest flat picker," the Yamhill County Mountain Shooters, The Alberta Cowboy Poets and Corny the Clown. On Sunday, Mothers Day, bring mom on down for Cowboy Church in the morning, and a wrap-up brunch to honor all Moms.

Friday's dinner concert is \$25 per person, Saturday family fun is a \$5 entry fee (meals extra) and Sunday brunch is \$12. For information contact Phil Peterson at 851-4410 or phil@crisacamps.com.

Ya 'all come down now, ya hear?

Angels just want to have fun

I **really** made a mistake in last month's article and did I get chastised for it so I need to correct it now. We do have Angels (**MUCH**) younger than 55. So sorry!!!

Now back to the fun part. At our monthly meeting we were able to honor several requests. We are purchasing two benches for the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District. We also gave three tuition scholarships to Purdy Preschool and assisted Minter Elementary with their reading program, and are working on a "bikes with helmets" program.

Now for the not so fun news! We have

had a shoplifting/theft problem at the shop. It has become necessary to change some rules and increase surveillance to improve security. The restroom/changing room will be locked and opened by the clerks. Only two items will be allowed in to try on. The more expensive items will remain at the counter until time of purchase. Our prices are so reasonable that you wouldn't think people would steal but some have no conscience so the rest have to suffer.

Don't forget to save your Peninsula Market grocery receipts and bring them to the shop.

Thank you for your support and your understanding.

—Submitted by Mary Ramsdell

Garden Club hosts annual garden tour

The Vaughn Bay Garden Club will take its annual garden tour in place of their regular May meeting. A bench will be dedicated at the club's garden at the Civic Center on June 18, in honor of 75 years of continued existence.

Free breakfast for military families

The Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank's Community House on the Key Peninsula Highway just south of the Home bridge will be serving free breakfast Saturday, May 3, at 8 a.m. for all military families on the Key Peninsula. One of the organizers, Cathlee James, says, "Come if you are a spouse, a child, a parent, a grandparent; it's to encourage and support you. Please let us know if you are coming by calling Community House, 884-4440." For information, call Cathlee at 884-2935.

Brenda Peterson presents "A Life With Animals"

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

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

—Submitted by Dory Myers

Welcome Home American Heroes

A Welcome Home celebration meeting and spaghetti feed sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vaughn Post #4990, will be held at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on May 10, from 6 p.m. to approximately 8 p.m. Yes, contrary to some rumors, the Post is still up and running!

Members of Post #4990 will prepare and serve a meal of all you can eat spaghetti, bread, and punch, or coffee. We are asking \$4 a plate to defray costs and to provide seed money for the larger celebration of troops returning.

Everyone is invited to come and plan and give input on how to celebrate the return of our troops and let us know who they all are. We want to have community-wide input to make this a comprehensive effort.

Our young men and women have performed in a remarkable, heroic manner and it is only fitting that we as a community acknowledge their wonderful achievements. Please join us for a wonderful dinner and get together to plan the welcoming home of our troops. Call 884-3456 for information.

—Submitted by Ray Burke



Mexican fiesta celebrated in Longbranch

A Cinco de Mayo Festival with music and delicious Mexican food will offer good fun for Peninsula people Saturday, May 3, at the Longbranch Improvement Club. With doors opening at 5:30 p.m., live Mexican folkloric music for listening and dancing will fill the air. Chef Wally Johnson's Mexican favorites and a bar featuring Mexican beer and Margaritas will warm the heart and fill the stomach. Individual tickets will be \$12, with an open cash bar.

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

—Submitted by Mary Mazur

Camp Seymour hosts Open House

YMCA Camp Seymour (located near Key Center) is sponsoring two upcoming Open Houses: Sunday, May 11, and Sunday, June 8, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We would like to welcome veteran and prospective campers, alumni, friends, and neighbors to join us at Camp Seymour! Visitors can take a tour, enjoy a snack, and meet the camp directors. No RSVP required. For more information about YMCA Camp Seymour (including maps and directions to camp), visit www.campseymour.org or call 884-3392.

Volksmarch travels Key Pen in July

The 15th annual Key Peninsula Lions' Volkssport Club-sponsored Volksmarch will take place Saturday and Sunday, July 12-13. The start/finish desk will be located in the parking lot at the Key Peninsula Middle School and the 10K (6.2-mile) walk will proceed through historic Home and back. Various historic sites will be identified for history buffs. Start time is 8 a.m. and all walkers must report back to the start/finish desk by 4 p.m. Restroom facilities and food and drink are available at the start/finish site and half-way point. Casual walkers are free; AVA and IVV credit walkers must pay the standard fees. All walkers must sign in; no exceptions. For further information, call 884-3319 or 884-3485.

LIC hosts Evergreen Elementary benefit

The Fourth Annual Benefit Dinner Dance to support the Evergreen Elementary School Reading Program will be held at the Longbranch Improvement Club starting at 6 p.m. on May 10. A full spaghetti dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and entertainment will be by Blues Passage, a local rocking blues band. The Evergreen Elementary Blues kids will be performing again this year. The dance is sponsored by Baillie & Associates, Inc. and Larson Anthropological Archaeological Services, Ltd. A portion of the proceeds will go to Key Peninsula Community Services, who will be catering the dinner. Prices including admission, entertainment, dinner, drink, and dessert, are \$9.50 for adults, \$7 for children, and \$30 for a family of four.

Support group helps those with RLS

"It feels like worms wriggling under my skin." "It feels like ants crawling on my legs." "I just can't keep my legs from moving." Those are some signs of the Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS), which affects more

Special events for May 2003

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

WHAT

FREE Breakfast for Military Families
 FOTL:A Life with Animals (Brenda Peterson)
 LIC:Cinco de Mayo Festival
 KPLC:Lutheran Church 25th Anniversary
 FREE Concert:Normanna Male Chorus
 KPOC:Canoe & Kayak (and planning meeting)
 Cowboy Rendezvous (\$5) Weekend
 KP Seniors Yard & Plant Sale
 Livable Community Fair
 TOPS Annual Yard Sale
 4th Annual Evergreen Benefit Dinner & Dance
 VFW Welcome Home Heroes
 YMCA: Camp Seymour Open House
 KPPRD:New Park Suggestions (public input)
 KPOC:Evening Mountain Bike Ride
 KPOC:Walkabout (Devils Head via Rickert Rd)
 Palmer Lake Garage Sale & Street Fair
 LIC:Memorial Day Dance (Junkyard Jane,\$15)

WHEN

Sat., May 3, 8:00 am
 Sat., May 3, 1:00 pm
 Sat., May 3, 5:30 pm
 Sun., May 4, 10:30 am
 Mon., May 5, 7:00 pm
 Thu., May 8, 7:00 pm
 May 9-11
 May 9-10
 Sat., May 10, 10:00 am
 Sat., May 10
 Sat., May 10, 6:00 pm
 Sat., May 10, 6:00 pm
 Sun., May 11, 2:00 pm
 Mon., May 12, 7:00 pm
 Wed., May 14, 6:00 pm
 Sat., May 17, 10:00 am
 Saturday, May 24, 10:00 am P
 Saturday, May 24, 8:00 pm

WHERE

Key Peninsula Community Services
 Key Center Library
 Longbranch Improvement Club
 Key Peninsula Lutheran Church
 Key Peninsula Lutheran Church
 Key Center Library
 Miracle Ranch
 Lake on the Woods
 Key Peninsula Civic Center
 Key Peninsula Lutheran Church
 Longbranch Improvement Club
 KP Civic Center
 Camp Seymour
 KP Sports Center Annex (Vol.Park)
 DNR Property by Highway #302
 Longbranch Fire Station 8
 Palmer Lake
 Longbranch Improvement Club

HOW

884-4440
 884-2242
 884-6022
 884-3312
 884-4907
 884-3347
 851-4410; www.christacamps.com
 884-5052
 884-7899
 884-1721
 884-6022
 884-3456
 884-3392
 884-9240; info@kpprd.org
 460-8889
 84-3347 (call before 16th)
 884-6022

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

people as they get older, but has been diagnosed in children also. Between 5 percent and 10 percent of people are affected. If the Key Peninsula is like the rest of the country, there could be from 750 to 1,500 residents out here who have it.

There are no medications specifically approved for RLS, but several medications approved for treating other problems have had some positive results in treating RLS. An RLS support group currently meets in Tacoma, but if enough people on this side of the Narrows Bridge are interested, the RLS Foundation will help get a support group started nearer to the Key Peninsula. The next Tacoma group meeting is on Saturday, May 24, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Clare Hospital, and rides may be available from the Key Peninsula by calling Marian at 582-1069.

—Submitted by Marty Marcus

Outdoor Club May events

KP Outdoor Club (KPOC) meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. The May 8 meeting will include a drive to Camp Seymour for canoe and kayaking techniques.

May events:

May 14, 6-8 pm: Mountain Biking - 300 acre DNR site. Meet on 144th and SR 302. Contact Jimmy Livengood at 460-8889.

May 17, 10 a.m.: Hiking - Devils Head. Meet at the Longbranch Fire Station.

For information, call Nancy at 884-3347, email info@kpprd.org or see www.kpprd.org.

Home Band rides again

The first practice of the Down Home Band will be held at the Key Medical Cen-

ter on Tuesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. This band is open to anyone who plays a band instrument — it doesn't matter how long ago that was. Our first performance will be at the Peninsula Cancer Run at the Peninsula High School Field on May 31. If you are interested or a regular performer, show up at the Medical Center at 15610 89th St. in beautiful downtown Key Center or call Dr. Roes at 884-9221.

T.O.P.S. #1325 elects officers, holds sale

Morning T.O.P.S. Chapter #1325, Lakebay is proud to introduce our newly elected officers: Dorothy Ohnstad, Leader; Gloria Bowman, Co-leader; Jan Skweres, Secretary; Dan Boone, Treasurer; Joanne Gilkison, Weight Recorder; Laurie Frayne, Asst. Weight Recorder. We were honored to have Gary Wellington, 1998 State King, with us to conduct the installation ceremony. Our chapter meets every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Home Fire Station. For information, call Dotty at 884-1721 or Gloria at 884-2554.

Don't miss our yard sale May 10 at the Lutheran Church on Lackey Road.

Fuchsia Society holds annual sale

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society is again presenting their giant plant sale at the KP Civic Center, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be plants for every gardener with a special emphasis on hardy fuchsias. We were able to contribute to many community organizations last year as a result of the tremendous community support we received and are hoping to do the same

this year. For information, contact Ginnie Aardal at 884-8744.

KP Seniors invite you to plant and yard sale

The Key Peninsula Seniors are gathering garden plants — shrubs, seedling, vegetable starters — and even some garage sale items for sale on Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10 in Lake of the Woods off Highway 302. Senior volunteer gardeners will be on hand to help you make selections from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. You can come to look or buy—you'll be welcomed with a smile. The sale will be at Rose Malmgren's house. At Lake of the Woods (off Elgin Clifton Road and 140th), follow the sale signs. For information or directions, call 884-5052.

KPPRD News

The KP Sports Center and Fairgrounds (Volunteer Park) is host to Little League. Adult Softball started playing, and the park will host two USSSA tournaments this year.

The Concession Stand called "Lisa's Dug-out Diner" did a bang up business on open-

ing day of Little League. Come and check it out. The KP park district board meets at the Sports Center on the second and fourth Mon. of each month at 7 p.m. Marilyn Tagert, chairman, has resigned from the board. The district needs a commissioner, a part-time groundskeeper, volunteers to work on the upcoming levy and to help move the old playground equipment.

Send information to KPPRD, P.O. Box 46, Vaughn, WA 98394, or contact the park office at 884-9240 for more information.

Earth Day at the **Rocky Creek Conservation Area** was April 19. We had a trail walk, made new trails, split logs, placed barriers and signs, ate and visited. This was one of three workdays per year. The Friends of Rocky Creek meet on the second Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. Contact Nancy Lind, 884-3347 for information. The Key Peninsula Comprehensive Park Plan Committee will have a master planning meeting for New Parks on Monday, May 12, 7 pm, at the Key Center Fire Station. Everyone is welcome.

—Submitted by Nancy Lind

Get involved *Local groups need volunteers*

Two Waters Arts Alliance is seeking volunteers for a variety of opportunities. You don't have to be an artist to support the arts. Contact Kathy Bauer at 884-9172 or attend one of the TWAA meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the KP Civic Center.

KP Parks and Recreation District needs volunteers to help with the upcoming levy and to help move some old playground

equipment at the Sports Center. There is also a new opening for a park commissioner. For information, contact Nancy at 884-3347.

The Civic Center seeks volunteers to help with the year's biggest gala—the Flavor of Fall in October. Lots of opportunities are available for this year's Cruise into Fall theme—including help with decorations, donations for the auction, and publicity. Call Claudia Loy at 884-3937.



Do you have a CLUE?

CLUE is the new buzzword in real estate transactions and it has become an important issue for every buyer and seller. CLUE (Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange) is a database which contains claim histories of both individuals and properties for a 5 year period. Insurers are now using this database (plus a buyer's credit score) to set the cost of insurance, which in some cases, may mean the new buyer can no longer qualify for the home mortgage they had been previously approved for.

There are several ramifications to this development which will directly affect the new buyer (and the seller) in a real estate transaction. Real estate professionals are now encouraging buyers to ask for a CLUE report from the seller within 5 days of mutual acceptance of a purchase offer and to contact their insurance carrier immediately to determine the cost of insurance on the new home. If there have been several water related or mold problems with the home and the insurance carrier has paid claims for these problems, the cost of insurance may be prohibitive for a new buyer.

As you can see, there is much more to buying a home these days than simply writing up a purchase and sale agreement. Obtaining a CLUE report is just one of these new complications – you can get help with all this new information from the real estate professionals at Windermere/ Key Realty.

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PERFECTION!!! - \$136,950

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BEACH & VIEWS OF MT.RAINIER - \$245,000

This home overlooks Carr Inlet w/ a view of Mt. Rainier and the rising morning sun. Sit by the cozy fireplace and look out over the water. Home has been remodeled in last 2 years- has fully finished bsmt. Rhodies, fruit trees on nearly an acre of gardeners' delight. Includes 150' of easy access waterfront. MLS#23020338.253-884-3304.



BEST OF BOTH WORLDS- \$399,000

+/-2410 sq.ft. daylight bsmt., home on apx.185 ft of west facing salt-water frontage on Minter Bay w/older dock in place. Fenced acreage, suitable for horses, electronic gate for added security and privacy,home remodeled circa 1975 w/many updates since then. MLS#23021875. 253-884-3304.



SANDY BEACH- \$69,900

Enjoy over 1000 ft. of community beach with a clubhouse, plus a 2 BR cozy manufactured home, lots of storage, deck on front and back and great for kids in the summer. Just a short walk to the beach. MLS#22248379. 253-884-3304.



7.88 ACRES OF HORSE PROPERTY-\$239,950

The possibilities are endless w/7.88 acres w/covered arena and attached barn, 6 matted stalls, tack rm, stud pasture w/ 12x12 stall bldg, 70x200 outdoor arena and much more. So bring your animals! MLS#23049157.253-884-3304.



UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY HERE!- \$130,000

The “Longbranch Mercantile” is waiting for the right owner to bring it back to life. Perfectly situated across the street from the Marina on beautiful Filucy Bay. MSL#22264749. 253-884-3304.



COZY, NO-BANK BEACH CABIN-\$199,000

Very private vacation getaway. Excellent east facing location on Filucy Bay. Tidelands included. Over 3 acres of backlands.Great spot for a new view home. MLS#23037035.0253-884-3304.

• We Need Listings! • Land Available • Waterfront Available • Buyers Available •

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Richard Raschle

AJ Million

Dallas Amidon

Susan Petersen

Bob and Breezi Peterson





(From **Dexter**, Page 13)

Dexter is actually a Pigtail Macaque monkey, which is native to Indonesia. He was born in captivity. And like all monkeys, Dexter is a wild animal, yet he is "humanized." Not tame. Just used to people. And trusting of certain people. Even a ham at times.

Many people have the notion that monkeys make great pets. Fact is, they will bite if they are angry or soil your clothing if scared. They haven't survived for thousands of years on our planet by being sweet, cuddly, and docile.

Dexter is one of the most well-traveled monkeys in history, and certainly the "who's who" of primitive residents on our Peninsula.



Photos courtesy of Karl Anderson and Ann Gregory
 Above: Dexter meets with actor Dustin Hoffman. Who's the celebrity here?
 Top left: Unlike many 8-year-olds, it doesn't take much to keep Dexter happy—try a banana and watch him smile.

Free sewing classes offered for kids and adults

The Pierce County Cooperative Extension and the KP Civic Center will sponsor free sewing classes for boys and girls from 8 to 14 years old during summer. Morning (9 a.m. to noon) and afternoon classes (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) will be held at the Civic Center.

Children will learn to sew simple clothes such as vests and shorts (for boys), and vests and skirts (for girls). For class dates and materials list, call 884-3703.

Adult sewing classes for beginners to advanced learners will meet every Friday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. The ongoing free classes are held at the Key Center Library; anyone willing to learn can come any Friday afternoon.

Advanced students will have the opportunity to help make clothes for the needy in the community. To participate, bring fabric and materials for a project you want to begin, or if you don't have any, one will be provided to you. You may also bring a portable sewing machine.

Classes are sponsored by the Pierce County Cooperative Extension. For information, call 884-2242.

Place your business card in this advertising directory!
 E-mail keypennews@yahoo.com or call ad rep
 Karl Anderson at 884-4699 for details.

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If there is any virtue and if there is anything
 praise-worthy—meditate on these things.
 Philippians 4:8

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(From **Fling**, Page 1)

Starting from an idea in January, the groups moved fast to put together a program, complete with guest umpire Rhubarb the Reindeer, guest speakers Peninsula School District Superintendent Jim Coolican and Harbor Bank founder Tom Leander, a dedication ceremony for the new lighting system, and entertainment by the Larry Giles Band.

"This is a truly remarkable facility," said Leander during his address. "Boys and



About \$2,300 was raised at the Fling, which will go toward paying for the lights and other projects.

girls who play here will remember it for the rest of their lives."

The Sports Center, formerly known as "Volunteer Park," celebrates its 30-year anniversary this year. It is the only sports facility on the Key Peninsula, and the three organizations are working on various improvements. About \$2,300 was raised at the Fling, which will go toward

paying for the lights and other projects. Although fundraising was the main focus of the event, DeMoss said bringing awareness was most important. Several "hefty" donations came in afterwards, to develop the field above and extend water service.

Awareness wasn't the only outcome of the weekend. It was a chance for families to hang out together, for neighbors to visit, and for community members to take some time off and enjoy themselves.

"We are all going 100 miles per hour and forget to stop and look around us and enjoy what we have," DeMoss said. "One person told me that this brought back the old feeling of the community we once had."



Photos by Rodika Tollefson
Above, Rhubarb the Reindeer signed autographs after the game. Left, Allison Kopp likes horses—so a horse face painting was an obvious choice for the 6-year-old Little League player.

Yoga Therapy

Health and healing begins with you, if you need help getting into shape, healing injuries or losing weight, come and develop a program that works for you and a new healthy lifestyle. Individual Yoga Therapy.



Evening Classes

Tues. 6:00 to 7:30 in MVP @ Key Center

Morning Classes

M-W-F 9:00 to 10:30 in VFW @ KPCC

Nature's Renewal



Yoga Therapy &
Holistic Massage

~ By Laura Huddleston, LMP ~ 884-6150

summer of art

Join the fun in arts classes and events for Key Peninsula. Call Margo at 884-2955.

Story Writing Camp for Kids 7-11

June 16-18

Creative Outdoor Photography

July 10-13

The Scarecrow Show

July 12

Felt-Making Workshop

July 19

Paint a Glass of White Wine

July 26

Tapestry Tuesdays

August 5-26

Young Actors Workshop

August 18-22

Sumi Painting

August 9 and 16

Key Fair

August 15-17

Driftwood Art/Clay Day

August 23

MONTHLY EVENTS

Drum Circle first Tuesdays

Drawing Studio third Wednesdays

Tuition from \$15, family discounts and scholarships available. Classes start soon, register now!

Two Waters
ARTS ALLIANCE

FREE WORKSHOP

Seven out of 10 Americans will require long-term care*

Don't let the expense deplete your retirement nest egg!

The costs of long-term nursing care can be staggering. Be prepared. Learn how you can preserve your wealth while receiving the care you may need.

Long-Term Care Coverage: Protecting Your Retirement Assets

One-hour workshop with dessert bar

Date: Monday, May 12, 2003

Time: 3 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Location: Key Pen. Civic Center

Presenter: Kevin Forman

Host: Bill Trandum

Topics to be discussed:

- Understanding the financial effects of a long-term illness or disability
- Protecting your retirement assets
- Covering unexpected health care expenses with tax-free supplemental income

Seating is limited.

Call (253) 272-7700 to reserve your spot.

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*Source: GE Center for Financial Learning, 2002.

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[27532-03] INSS-106-0104

Writers and opinion guest columnists wanted! **Call 884-4699.**

Obituary

Jessie Iona Westrom

Born August 21, 1906-Died April 2, 2003, she was 96 1/2 years old and proud of that 1/2.

Jessie Westrom was born at home in Lakebay and was the youngest of the four children of Mary Ellen (Nellie) and Peter McKay. Her family moved to Lakebay in 1905 from Birmingham, England, by way of Canada and Detroit. They purchased 80 acres off the Key Peninsula Highway and settled three generations. Jessie's family helped found the Lakebay Church. They were charter members of the Lakebay Woman Club, The Scottish Rite and many others.



She devoted her life to helping others. Not only did she care for her ailing mother for over 10 years, she also helped raise and care for some of her sister's children. Jessie's home was always open to all her family and friends.

She worked at Delano's Resort, the peninsula's summer homes, the cannery, and several other jobs in Tacoma that were in the caregiver field. Her transportation was by bus, by neighbors or by foot, as Jessie never learned to drive.

She married in 1942 to Andrew P. Westrom, a Lakebay painter and handyman. They both resided in Lakebay their entire lives. At age 83, she retired from working

to care for her ailing husband until his death in 1991. She was independent and lived by herself until her own death.

The family by today's standards was a self-sufficient one. They grew all their vegetables, canning leftovers for the winter. Their chickens provided the eggs and meat and their cows provided the milk, butter and meat, and any leftovers were sold for extra money.

One of Jessie's passions were her flowers, which spoke of the love and nourishing she put into them. Many of the peninsula's residents would see Jessie outside working in her flowers and would stop by to tell her how much they enjoyed them. Her other passion was growing tomato plants. Every year she would count her tomatoes and call several other growers to boast on how many she had. One year she tied store-bought tomatoes on her plants, as she knew one of her tomato rivals would be over and she wanted him to be shocked that she already had large tomatoes! All Jessie could do was laugh at the spoof she pulled off.

Jessie was a lucky woman and had many friends who loved her. In the later years, neighbors helped with her plant watering, errands in town, picking up food, and just visiting with her.

Jessie always had wonderful words about them and was grateful for the love they showed her.

Jessie is survived by 10 nieces and nephews, 55 great nieces and nephews, 70 great-great nieces and nephews, 8 great-great-great nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Lakebay Community Church on April 9, 2003. In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to Jessie's favorite charity, the VFW.

Religion Briefs

Church sells blueberry plants as fundraiser

A local community church, Key Peninsula 7th Day Adventist, the sponsor of last year's Sept. 11 Community Prayer Service, plans to purchase property to build a new church in the Key Peninsula area. Church members are selling blueberry plants to help fund their project.

"We are here to encourage and uplift our local community in these uncertain times by sharing Jesus Christ and his love through God's word," said members Corky and Chere Stebbins of Lakebay. "We welcome everyone to come visit us to get some great blueberry plants or come by for weekly services to get acquainted."

Members meet Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Civic Center and Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at 13108 125th St. Court, off Key Peninsula Hwy. The plant sale is also at 13108 125th St. Court, Monday through Thursday, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. For information, call 884-2368.

Jason Nightingale "Sows the Word"

"For the Word of God is Alive." That sets the stage for a dramatic recitation of passages from the Bible by Jason Nightingale. He will speak Saturday, May 17, at 7 p.m. at the Longbranch Community Church.

Jason and Sharon Nightingale founded the "Wordsower" ministry in 1974 for the edification of God's people through the recitation of the Bible. Windsower's field of service is all the churches of Jesus Christ in North America. He has memorized the Book of Revelation, the Gospel of John and many other books of the New Testament from contemporary translations.

Jason will preach and teach, as well as recite, but the emphasis is overwhelmingly on the spoken Word of God. A free-will offering will be taken to support the Windsower ministries, and refreshments and social time will follow.

The Longbranch Community Church is located on the Key Peninsula Highway near Longbranch.

KP Lutheran church invites residents to celebrate anniversary

On Sunday, May 4, 2003 the congregation and friends of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church will honor their 25th anniversary with a 10:30 a.m. church service with special music, followed by a dinner in the fellowship hall.

Many wonderful events have been planned for the day as church members "Celebrate our Past to Inspire our Future."

For more information, call the church at 884-3312.

If you have a religion brief, submit it to keypennews@yahoo.com or call 884-4699.

Key Peninsula Lutheran

Key Peninsula Hwy & Lackey Road

Sunday Schedule:

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

Pastor Alan Marshall

253 884-3312

Easter Eggstravaganza



Photo by Rodika Tollejson

Kids of all ages came to see the Easter Bunny and hunt some eggs at the Civic Center in the annual Easter Egg Hunt organized by Boy Scout Troop 220.

Come and worship with

Awana - 6:30 pm Wednesdays
K - 12th Grades

Key Peninsula Baptist Church

Sunday School - 9:30 am
Worship - 10:45 am

Meeting at the Civic Center
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www.keypeninsulabaptist.com

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253-884-2368

Key Singers add lively notes to Peninsula



Photo courtesy of Cricket Stephenson

The Key Singers delight audiences with their vibrant voices and uplifting music. Hear them sing in May at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

By Colleen Slater
KP News

"We don't have any musical talent out here," someone said in 1998 at a meeting of the Longbranch Players when a musical was suggested.

Jo Sturm didn't believe it. After the meeting was over, she said to Jim Carroo, "Let's find out, shall we?" He agreed. Ann Craven was willing to accompany the group, and Jo arranged rehearsals at the Longbranch Church.

The late Donna McCardle said she wanted to be a part of it. She worked at the store in Home at the time, and asked everyone who came into the store, "Do you sing?"

Flyers went up around the peninsula, and 15 people showed up to sing. The Angel Guild donated \$200 for music, and the Key Singers were born. Their first performance was on August 18, 1998, for Old-Timer's Day.

The first concert was Christmas of 1998 at the Longbranch Improvement Club, which was the beginning of the annual Community Christmas Celebration.

Two concerts a year, one for Christmas and another in the spring, are held at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Music includes show tunes, folk music, spirituals, and patriotic songs.

Performances have included Old-

"This has been one of my most memorable experiences, organizing and working with this group."
-Jo Sturm

Timers Celebrations at Longbranch, Pioneer Days, Holiday Fairs and Winter Visuals at Vaughn, VFW special events, Key Center Christmas Tree Lighting, the Key Fair last year at Volunteer Park as well as events beyond the peninsula.

The group presented its first annual scholarship to a Peninsula High School graduating musical senior from the Key Peninsula in 2002.

Money is raised for this scholarship, music, and expenses through concerts, \$10 per person dues, and donations from the public.

Organizer Sturm directed a high school and college summer group, many

The annual Key Singers spring musical is Sunday, May 18, at 3 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club. The event, which marks the group's season opening, is their major fundraiser of the year. Funds help pay for a Peninsula High scholarship, sheet music, and sound equipment.

Refreshments will be served and a raffle held. Tickets are \$8 at the door for adults, \$5 seniors and students; children under 12 free. The group practices 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday at LIC, and new members are always being recruited.

For information, call 884-5615 or 884-1350.

church choirs, and taught voice and piano for many years. Her hobby is arranging and writing music.

"This has been one of my most memorable experiences, organizing and working with this group," she said. "People have come and gone, but when any of them come back for a visit, they are welcomed with open arms."

Marianne McColley, who once said her favorite seat was a piano bench, missed singing in an ensemble when she returned to her native Home. In Wenatchee, she sang bass in a barber-shop quartet, "The Hesperides," and a trio called "Two Against One."

She organized the Key Singers Sextet, but since the number ranged from five to eight at various times, decided a "title" was in order to take care of the "fluctuating personnel disparity." "Conchord" members sing three-part harmony for Key Singers programs as well as a few stints on their own.

Nine of the original group are still members, with only a few major changes. Sturm was director with McColley as assistant as well as second accompanist. Last fall, McColley took over the reins as director, with Sturm adding her voice to the choir, but willing to jump in to direct when needed.

Three of the original Singers have been lost to death, but their spirits are remembered in this group of people who love to gather to sing and have fun together. They demonstrate that there is indeed musical talent on the Key Peninsula, and appreciative audiences agree.

Colleen Slater is a Key Singer and KP News writer.

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Peninsula Community Chorus May events

The Peninsula Community Chorus dazzles in May with its annual Spring Concert, and as the sponsor of a Gospel Celebration featuring three talented groups.


The Spring Concert, on May 10 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Harbor Covenant Church (5601 Gustafson Dr. NW, Gig Harbor), will include classical and contemporary choral music from Vivaldi, Mozart, Handel, Bach, and John Rutter. The civic chorus, created more than 50 years ago, includes singers from the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas. Tickets are \$8 adults and \$5 youth and seniors. For information, call 585-2650.

The Gospel Celebration concert on May 3, at 7 p.m. at the Harbor Covenant Church, is headlined by the Total Experience Gospel Choir of Seattle, a group that has toured 38 states and 13 countries, sang for the U.S. president and performed with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Other performers include the Peace Lutheran Gospel Choir of Tacoma and the Levitical Prayze Chorale, with Bremerton singer and entertainer Karen Shivers as emcee. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$6 seniors and students, \$25 families. Call 858-4090.



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

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Key Peninsula Middle School: Upgrade technology, communications, electrical, air quality and HVAC systems, sawdust collectors, and floor coverings; replacement of pre-1980 portables with modular buildings.

Peninsula High School: Upgrade technology, communications, and electrical, air quality and HVAC systems, library and classrooms in 100, 200, 300 areas, lockers in pool areas; improve ADA access, replace boilers in pool areas and pre-1980 portables with modular buildings.

Vote yes May 20th!

Building the Future for our community, our schools and our children!

Questions? Contact Jill Johnson
858-6933



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They call themselves "a five-headed love child," and they have a way of getting their audience in a dancin' mood.

Junkyard Jane returns to Northwest, Longbranch

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

The blues-funk-folk-rockabilly sounds of the local favorite Junkyard Jane will once again rumble the Longbranch Improvement Club, during a Memorial Day Dance performance that has become a tradition. Although the band traded its Tacoma digs for Louisville, Ky., so they could pursue new opportunities, they didn't forget their Northwest fans and are touring the state in May, with a stopover in Longbranch.

"Longbranch is one of the most fun gigs we do," said vocalist and guitar player Billy Stoops. "It's a beautiful venue and we've established a great fan base. It's a big party."

The love is apparently mutual. Mary Mazur of the LIC says people come from as far as Seattle and the San Juan Islands — on car or boat— and the marina is full for the weekend.

"These guys are a traveling college party of blues energy," remarked the WBS Bluesletter. But blues is not all they do—the band itself calls its original blend "Swampabilly."

Jane also performs at LIC on Labor Day, with just as much success.

"There is a great tradition of dances at the club since the 1920s or '30s, when people came by boat," Mazur said, adding that the event also serves as a fundraiser, helping make the building available for local groups at low or no cost.

When: Saturday, May 24, 8 p.m.
Where: Longbranch Improvement Club
Tickets: \$15, available at the door, Sunnycrest Nursery, Longbranch Marina, Home Country Store & Key Center Liquor Store

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Two Waters sparkles in May; heads into summer with new program

Celebrating the official one-year anniversary of its organization in May, the Two Waters Arts Alliance is unveiling its fourth program. "Summer of Arts" will have children's writing workshops, sumi painting, acting, tapestry, photography and much more. Following the success of last year's scarecrow show, another will be staged in July—a great family event, for artists and nonartists alike.

"You don't have to be an artist to make a scarecrow—and you can stop by the Angel Guild Thrift Shop to get clothes for your project," said Kathy Bauer, the Two Waters' newly elected president. The scarecrows will then be displayed throughout the Key Peninsula Community Fair in August.

Another favorite to return from last year is the driftwood beach walk and clay-making day. Among the summer's new offerings are a trip to the Tacoma Art Museum, children's writing camps, and a possible photography contest at the fair. The group plans to have interactive activities at its booth. "We will have hands-on arts for fairgoers to make and take home, from cartooning to print making," Bauer said.

Since its official launch last year, Two Waters has been steadily growing. "We're so busy, I am thrilled," Bauer said. But one thing they could use more of: volunteers. Helping with classes, publicity, registration, the board—these and other opportunities are available for anyone interested, and no artistic skills are required.

What's on at Two Waters

May offerings include Animal Sculpture Workshop using polymer clay (Fimo) Sat., May 3, for kids and families; Framing Workshop May 3; Drumming Circle (Tuesdays, May 6 and June 3 at the KPCC from 7 to 9); Life Drawing Studio with a model (at the Art Barn on Wed., May 21 and June 18, from 7 to 9).

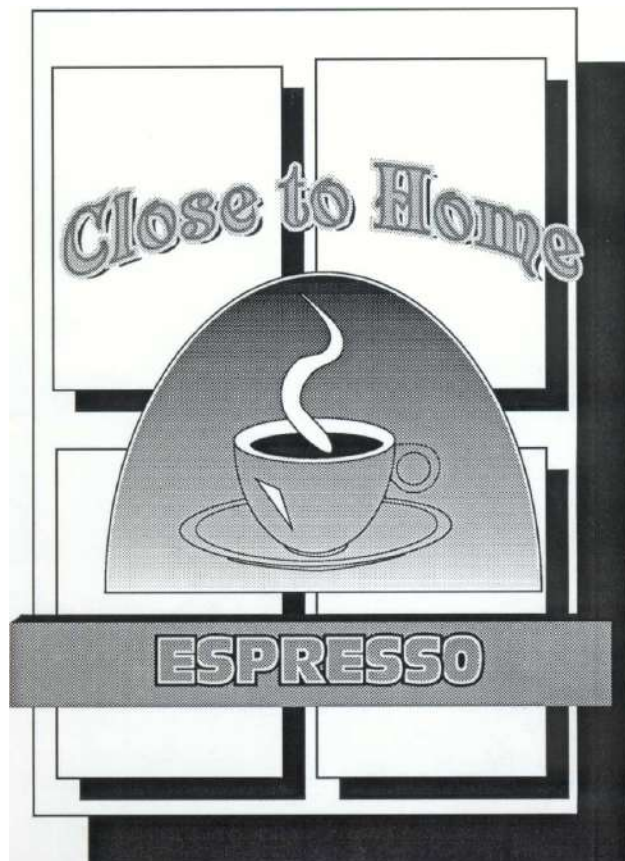
Class brochures for May and the new summer programs are available at local libraries, post offices, schools, Civic Center and some local businesses—or stop by the group's booth at the Livable Communities Fair on May 10 at the Civic Center.

For information on classes or volunteer opportunities, call Kathy Bauer at 884-9172.

Notice of Public Hearing before the Pierce County Council

The Pierce County Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 27, 2003, at 3 p.m. in the Pierce County Council Chambers, Room 1045, 10th Floor of the County-City Building, 930 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma, WA 98402 to consider the following two Proposals: PROPOSAL NO. 2003-37s, AN ORDINANCE OF THE PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 2.85 OF THE PIERCE COUNTY CODE ENTITLED "KEY PENINSULA ADVISORY COMMISSION"; AND ESTABLISHING AND CREATING A NINE-MEMBER LAND USE ADVISORY COMMISSION IN THE KEY PENINSULA COMMUNITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE KEY PENINSULA ADVISORY COMMISSION. PROPOSAL NO. R2003-42, A RESOLUTION OF THE PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL DECLARING AN INTENT TO INITIATE A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR THE KEY PENINSULA COMMUNITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE KEY PENINSULA COMMUNITY PLAN; AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR THIS COMMUNITY PLAN IN THE NEXT ANNUAL BUDGET.

Copies of the entire proposed Ordinance are available in the Office of the Pierce County Council, County-City Building, 930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 1046, Tacoma, WA 98402, and are available Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Copies of the Ordinance are available upon request for a charge as set by Ordinance. Public participation is encouraged. Public testimony will be taken. Written comments are welcome as well. If you have any questions about this proposal, please call Anna Graham, Research Analyst, at (253) 798-6253 or the Council Office at (253) 798-7777.



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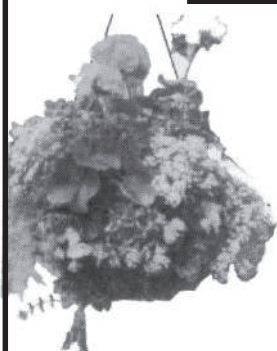
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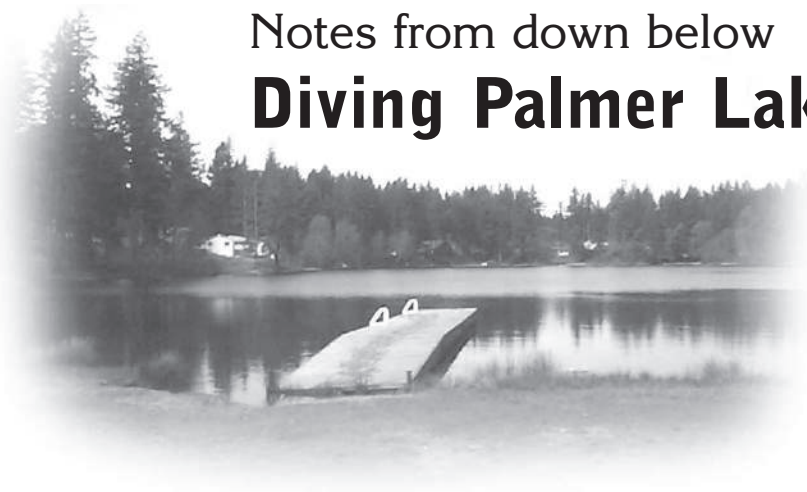
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Notes from down below Diving Palmer Lake



On Sunday, March 30, I made a dive in Palmer Lake as a guest of one of that community's residents. The lake is located north of Joemma State Park and is roughly 20 acres in size.

Using an underwater scooter, I covered the bottom of the lake from North to South and then East to West. I was first impressed with the fact that there was very little man-made debris on the bottom, which tells me that the residents of this community care about the condition of their lake. In all, I don't think I saw a total of any more debris throughout the entire lake as I saw on the bottom by the dock.

The maximum depth of the lake is only 10-12 feet, much shallower than I expected. I saw no fish, but later saw fish jumping from the surface when I was back on shore. That is not surprising, though,

as fish can sense people in their world long before a person sees them.

Suspended particles in the water gave a clue that the algae bloom of spring may not be far off, and the only plant life to be seen on the bottom was that terrible Milfoil that plagues too many of our lakes and waterways in the Pacific Northwest.

My purpose in writing this series is merely to report my findings, not to encourage people to dive in these areas, as half are privately owned and not accessible. For Palmer Lake, you must either be a resident in that community or be an official guest. Please respect the rules.

I'll be reporting again on what I find in another of the lakes on our Key Peninsula.

Aquatically Yours,
Karl Anderson

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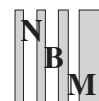


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County battles noxious weeds

By Irene Torres
KP News

The presence and spread of noxious weeds reduces edible forage for wildlife and livestock. This summer, Pierce County is "focusing efforts to gain control" of several noxious weeds, including some on the Key Peninsula, according to Tom Bertram, program coordinator of the Noxious Weed Control Board.

Voluntary eradication of such weeds is ideal, especially since landowners are mandated to manage their lands responsibly (17.10 RCW). Consultation with the weed control agency is essential before any introduction of herbicides into wetlands areas. Some noxious weeds spread by seed dissemination, and can produce as many as 150,000 viable seeds, making control difficult. Others spread by rhizomes (underground stems), often rendering a single application of herbicide ineffective.

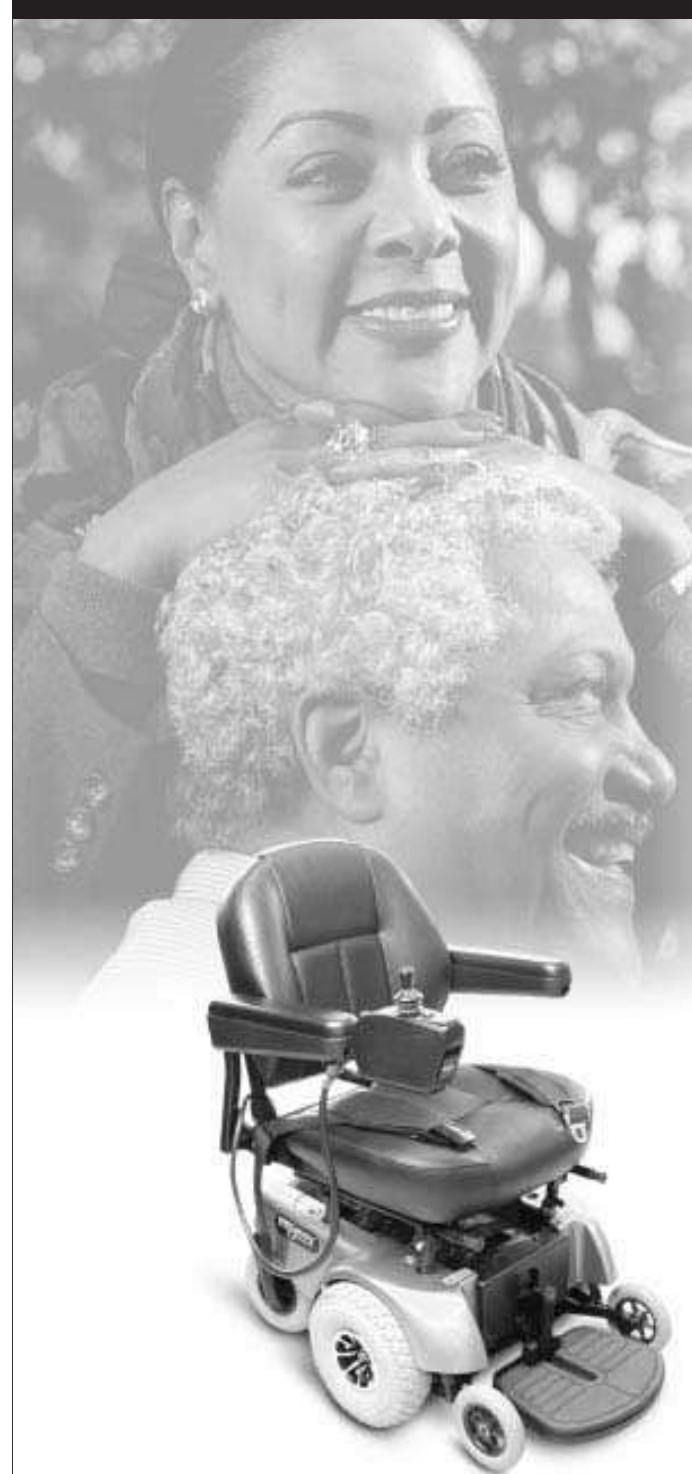
Bertram cautions: "I do not recommend burning noxious weeds, due to the risk of toxic smoke."

Among the 133 listed as noxious weeds in Pierce County is the Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), a very toxic plant that is common on the Key Peninsula.

This is one of the first weeds to invade cutover forestlands. It is a common cause of poisoning in cattle and horses from pasture, hay or silage, as stock will not reject it during feedings. Its poisonous alkaloids remain after drying, and accumulate in the liver. Even milk produced by cows and goats, and honey from beehives can contain toxins from this plant.

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Key Peninsula Health Center; 8903 K.Pen. Highway N, Lakebay

Prohibition Jazz Band returns for fifth annual 'Jazz in June'

By Ann Waldo
Special to KP News

Plan on another wonderful evening of music as the Prohibition Jazz Band returns to the Key Peninsula for the fifth year. This vivacious, versatile group plays a wide variety of music ranging from the early roots of jazz through the blues, big band swing and into the classic rock of the '50s. The music features great ensemble work and hot improvisational solos and duets. The band is heavily influenced by the styles of early dance combos and the New Orleans tradition but has its own distinct sound and amazing energy, inviting you to share their fun.

The Prohibition Jazz Band was formed in March 1994 and now consists of six musicians who have gained their experience performing with a variety of bands. Leader, Ron Harper, plays the plectrum banjo and guitar. Willy Peterson anchors the front line with a fiery cornet or trumpet and vocals. Terry Strong plays a sweet, strong trombone and sings a song or two.

Greg Massett, on the bass, is a big man with a big, solid sound. Mike Ernesti, the latest addition and a KP local, adds rhythmic undercurrent on the drums as well as vocals and humor. Jeff Winslow plays reeds like no other and adds extra excitement to the music.

The band currently has two CDs. Performances include The North West Jazz-n-Away Festivals in Seattle, Jazz in the Olympics Festival, Aberdeen Rain or Shine Festival, Burien Strawberry Festival, Shelton Oyster Festival, Issaquah Salmon Days, Kitsap County Fair, Seattle Bumbershoot, 7 Cedars Casino, Elks, Masons, and many other gigs for Jazz societies, towns and cities. And they are good!

The band will perform from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, June 14, at the Civic Center. Admission is \$12.50 in advance and \$15.00 at the door. An open bar and snacks will be available. No minors. Doug Henry of InStep Dance will be offering free dance lessons from 7 to 8 p.m. to help the audience warm up.

Tickets are available at the Civic Center, Sunnycrest Nursery, and the Home Country Store. Call 884-3456 for information.

Local entertainers needed for 2003 Key Peninsula fairs

The Sixth Annual Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire is looking for volunteer actors. Volunteering to act requires no previous acting experience and extensive preparatory classes on topics ranging from acting to history are offered to all volunteers free of charge. The Faire is the first three weekends in August (2-3, 9-10, 16-17) at the Minter Creek Ranch.

Last year, over 150 volunteer actors from Western Washington and beyond participated in the event, entertaining over 38,000 Faire visitors over two weekends. This year, the Faire anticipates more than 50,000 attendees. Actors will be divided into the following categories or "Guilds": Nobility, Peasants, Middle Class, Mercenaries, Pirates/Privateers, Faeries and Fantasy, The Rom/Gypsies, Queen's Guard, or Clergy. On-site camping is available to all volunteers. Complete information on the Faire, the Guilds and the experience of volunteering is available online at www.renaissanceactor.com or call 851-4114.

The Key Peninsula Community Fair is looking to line up local talent for this year's entertainment. The fair is searching for talented individuals and groups to perform family quality entertainment on stage Aug. 15, 16 and 17. Any talent is welcome—gymnastics, dance, karate, musical, acting, singing and more. The performers will have their names featured in the Fair Guide, with a readership potential of over 75,000. Performance times will be 25- or 45-minute slots. The fair's focus is on history, and history entertainment through storytelling or live re-enactment is welcome.

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

Livable Community Fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 10 Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn

Children's Home Society
Citizens Against Crime
Communities In Schools
Friends of Pierce County
Great Peninsula Conservancy
I.M.Pact
KP Business Association
Community Council Org. Comm.
KP Community Services
KP Fair
KP Fire Department
KP Historical Society
KP Lions Club
KP Outdoor Club
KP Parks & Recreation
KP Trail Systems
KGI Watershed Council
Longbranch Community Church
Longbranch Improvement Club

**More than 40 booths
Entertainment from the
Peninsula Youth
Orchestra, the Key
Peninsula Jazz Band and a
Cloggers' troupe**

**Come support
the
Key Peninsula**

Low Impact Development
Lutheran Community Services
Peninsula Emergency Preparedness
Peninsula Light Co.
Peninsula Neighborhood Assoc.
Peninsula School District
PSD After School Programs
Pierce County Cadet Program
PC Community Services
PC Neighborhood Emergency
PC Planning and Land Service
PC Sheriff's Department
PC Solid Waste
Safe Streets Campaign
Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept.
Two Waters Arts Alliance
WSU Cooperative Extension
YMCA Camp Coleman
YMCA Camp Seymour

Alot Of Love Dog Grooming



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Key Center
(Across the street
from the Library)

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Tribute to Key Peninsula Veterans



Photo courtesy of Darlene Kuhn

District 4 Color Honor Guard performs full honors at the Tehoma National Cemetary last November for veterans who didn't received full honors due to federal budget cutbacks.

VFW Color / Honor Guard educates on benefits, more

By Karl Anderson
KP News

The District No. 4 Color/Honor Guard performs full military honors for funerals of veterans as a service to their fallen comrades, but according to Honor Guard Chaplain Jerry Davis, they also provide a service that few veterans of their families are even aware of.

"Because the Clinton administration reduced military benefits, the vast majority of veterans and their families aren't even aware of the service we provide or of the benefits they have a right to if they served in the military," Davis said. "Every veteran that has received anything higher than a dishonorable discharge has the right to be buried in any of our national cemeteries, of which there is one in nearly all states.

"What is not realized is that there is no cost for this service other than the coffin itself. Everything else is free."

Davis spoke of one family that had purchased two cemetery plots several years prior, using up all their savings. When they learned that not only the veteran but the

veteran's spouse as well were entitled to this benefit, they sold their plots and had some money to live on. They, like so many others, had no idea this benefit existed.

The newest national cemetery is Tehoma, established in 1999 in Washington between Kent and Covington. The Color / Honor Guard performed their first full honors ceremony there on Dec. 14, 2002.

"A very important part of our mission is to support the returning veterans from Iraq," Davis said. "We really want to encourage all veterans out there to join us in this mission. We need lots of help from our fellow veterans right now."

Color/Honor Guard Commander Gary Helmick said: "We're losing our veterans at the present rate of 200 a day. That includes WW II, Korean, and Vietnam vets."

Helmick explained that there are not only funeral benefits but also medical and home loan benefits available to veterans.

"All veterans, both living and lost, are our brothers," Davis said. "As we say, all gave some and some gave all. We need your help, brothers."

VFW men and women serve veterans, community

By KP News staff

For 57 years, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vaughn Post #4990 has been serving local veterans and organizing community events. Despite losing several members to another newly created veterans group recently, the post is moving ahead and planning fundraisers and events.

"We are trying to regroup and get back on track with what we are about—which is to serve the community," said Post Commander Ray Burke, adding that elections and nominations of officers took place in April. "Now we need to get out in the community and get the word out and get veterans involved. We have a great tradition of serving."

On May 10, the group plans a Welcome Home celebration with a spaghetti feed at the Civic Center. The goal of the event is to celebrate the success of the troops in Iraq and get the community's input for a welcome party for troops. "We need to get ideas from the community, and find out who the returning soldiers are," Burke said.

To support returning war soldiers, the post plans to have support services available, including peer counseling and references to community resources. "We want to make sure they (the soldiers) are integrated back into the community," he said.

The post is actively recruiting combat veterans. For information, call the Civic Center at 884-3456.

Women's Auxiliary

Over 50 years ago, women in the area chartered the local VFW Women's Auxiliary to support the VFW and other veterans in the community.

Women who are closely related to a veteran of a foreign war are eligible to join — wife, daughter, granddaughter, sister,

mother, grandmother — all may be a part of this volunteer organization.

The group holds various fundraisers, including dinners and the annual poppy drive each May, to provide the services they perform. Holiday food baskets, gifts for

"We need to get ideas from the community, and find out who the returning soldiers are."

-Ray Burke

residents of Retsil and American Lake Veterans Homes, the Rocky Bay Nursing Home, the Sharing Gift Trees seen at local stores at Christmas time are all part of their dedication. A Bike-a-thon for kids was held last year in Key Center.

The Auxiliary used to meet in the Whitmore Room at the Civic Center at the same time the veterans met in their room across the patio. After the meetings, the women had coffee, tea and desserts to share with the men. Recently the Auxiliary moved to Community House for their meetings and dinners.

Roxie Wooldridge, president for the past five years, is ready to pass on her gavel to another enthusiastic leader of these special ladies to continue their service to the community for future years.

The Welcome Home celebration will be held on May 10 at the Civic Center at 6 p.m. Cost is \$4 and will help pay for the spaghetti dinner and raise money for a future welcome party for troops. Find out more information in the Community Works section on pages 14-15.



Tribute to Key Peninsula Veterans

John Crawford, World War II

By William C. Dietz
KP News

John C. Crawford is retired from Champion Paper, has owned a summer place on Key Peninsula since 1960, and splits his time between there and a home in Tacoma.

In 1942, having graduated from Tacoma's Lincoln High School the year before, Crawford and a group of his friends went to Seattle to enlist in the armed forces. "We wanted to be heroes," the World War II vet says with a grin. "Everybody wanted to do their part."

The U.S. military turned the then-Canadian away—but the Canadian army was happy to take him. After passing a battery of tests, the youngster was accepted into the RCAF and trained as a top gunner in bombers.

Once in England, Crawford was attached to RAF Squadron 106 and assigned to a four-engine Lancaster. He flew his first combat mission as top gunner June 2, 1944. By July 8, the day on which his bomber was shot down over France, the young man had flown eight combat missions.

"It was about 3:00 a.m.," Crawford recalls. "Our objective was the limestone caves from which the Germans launched V-1 rockets at England. That's when a JU-88 night fighter attacked from below. Cannon shells went through the tail turret, missed me by inches, and hit the starboard wing. Both engines caught on fire. Bill Waldram, the tail gunner, came forward, and we buckled our chutes. Neither of us had ever jumped out of an airplane before. We exited through the aft door on the starboard side. I counted to 10, pulled the ripcord, and felt the parachute open.

"The French countryside was blacked out, but it was a bright moonlit night, and I could see the fields below. The chute caught on a tree but I made it to the ground uninjured. After a night spent in the woods I met up with Bill. He'd been wounded, and couldn't walk too well, so we stayed where we were. French

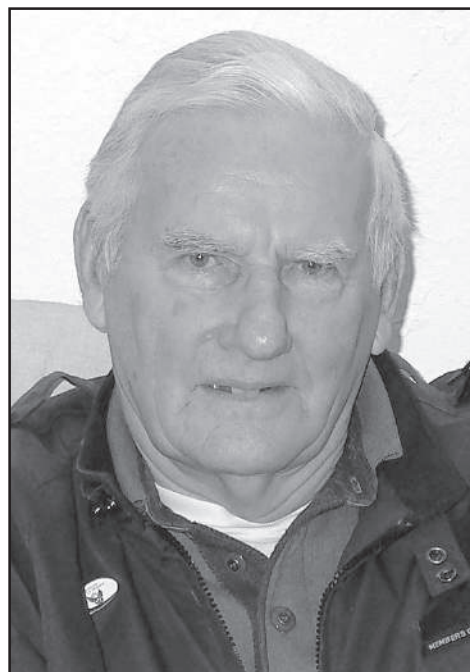


Photo by Rodika Tollefson

John Crawford's war experience, along with other soldiers' stories, was captured in two books, including "168 Jump into Hell" by Arthur G. Kinnis & Stanley Booker.

"The Germans took everything that identified us as fliers, and listed us as 'Saboteurs,' which raised the distinct possibility that we would be shot."

people passed occasionally, and we waved at them, but none offered to help.

"Finally we hobbled into a nearby village where a man and his wife took us in. The French Resistance moved us to Paris and put us up in an apartment. One morning a red-haired woman came for us, pointed toward a car, and told us we were going to Spain (a neutral country.)

"Well, the car belonged to the Gestapo (the German secret police), and we were taken to Fresnes Prison on the

outskirts of Paris. The Germans took everything that identified us as fliers, and listed us as 'Saboteurs,' which raised the distinct possibility that we would be shot."

On Aug. 15, just 10 days before the Americans liberated Paris, Crawford and 167 other allied prisoners were loaded onto a train, with 70-90 men to a boxcar. It was so crowded that they couldn't lie down to sleep and the toilet consisted of a single pail placed at the center of the floor.

"Finally, after five days and five nights of misery we arrived at Buchenwald Concentration Camp," Crawford says. "The Germans weren't supposed to keep prisoners of war there but they did. The date was Aug. 20, 1944. We were shaved all over, our clothes were confiscated, and they took our I.D. tags. That scared the hell out of us.

"They tell me that there were about 85,000 people in Buchenwald at that point. Most were Jews, communists, gypsies, homosexuals, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

"Eventually Hermann Goering, a World War I pilot, and high ranking official in the Nazi party, learned that allied fliers were being held in Buchenwald, and ordered us removed. I weighed 165 pounds when I arrived—and was down to 120 when I left.

"We were in a military prison camp when the Russians (American allies) came. The only problem was that they wouldn't release us either! Finally we managed to escape and found some Americans. They took us across the Elbe river and we were finally free."

Crawford became a United States citizen in June of 1949.

Later, as if his service in World War II weren't enough, Crawford was called to active duty in July of 1950 and completed a tour with a Navy patrol squadron during the Korean War as well. Like so many members of his generation, John Crawford was proud to serve.

Kristi Watson: Doing something different

By Colleen Slater
KP News

"I want to do something different," the 17-year-old girl told the Army recruiter.

A mechanic of small planes was something different for Kristi Watson from Sand Hollow, Idaho. She spent three and a half years in the Army, mainly in Heidelberg, Germany, a third-generation military member. Her grandmother served in the Army, her father in the Navy.



Watson, executive director of Community House, worked on U-8s, U-21s and OBIs. One experience she wrote home about was being crew on a flight with Gen. Patton's son on board. She had the utmost respect for Patton, so this was a highlight for her.

The nearest she came to action was being on 24-hour alert for four months during the Iran hostage situation. Knowing that apprehension makes her sensitive to the POWs in Iraq.

Watson arrived in Fort Lewis for a job shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks and found a hiring freeze for civilian positions. She spotted an ad for the Community House director and applied. When a call came from Fort Lewis about the job, she declined.

She's fallen in love with the Key Peninsula location and people. A small town girl at heart, she appreciates the feeling of community on the peninsula. Trained as a budget analyst for the military, Watson continues to do "something different" as director of Community House.