



Mediac marijuana law is murky.  
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# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

*The voice of the Key Peninsula*



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move last day of  
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## Making the call on a national stage

Local umpire Mike Rodenbucher is headed to Little League World Series.

By John Gizzi, Special to the KP News

Many baseball pundits believe the best umpires are those you don't notice -- which means there are plenty of Little League umpers across the country trying to prove they're the best by attracting the very attention they should be avoiding.

Confused? Don't be. Many of those hidden-in-plain-sight umpires are hoping to work the Little League World Series, held annually in July and August at various places, including the most widely-known locale, Williamsport, Penn..

And while thousands of umpires officiate Little League games each year, only a few are chosen to serve on the biggest stage. Imagine, then, how Wauna resident Mike Rodenbucher felt upon learning he had been selected to work the 2011 Big League World Series (ages 16-18) in Easley, S.C. from July 27 to Aug. 3.

"It feels good," said the 51-year-old Rodenbucher, a father of two and an employee at Coca Cola. "I've been working at it quite a while."

For Rodenbucher it's been 13 years,

(See Umpire, Page 5)



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Mike Rodenbucher looks on during the introduction of the players at the beginning of a District Tournament game in 2009 at Gig Harbor.

By Marsha Hart, KP News

## Summer lunch program for KP students

Some children rely on school lunches and the Food Backpacks 4 Kids program for meals. When summer arrives and the school year ends, excitement is tempered by the realization that those meals come to an end.

Key Peninsula Communities of Faith has great news for families on the Key Peninsula. Meals will be served twice a week this summer to qualifying children age 18 or younger. Lunch will be served at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213

Lackey Road, on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning June 27. Families must apply before the end of the school year to participate in the summer food program.

"I'm on the computer a lot looking for resources for the backpack program and last year I found the Feeding America site," said Karen Jorgenson, coordinator of the program. "There was no site this side of the bridge."

She contacted the Children's Home Society

(See Lunch, Page 4)

# Empty Homes

## Displaced homeowners have options through KP organizations

*Editors Note: This is the fourth and final part of a series on foreclosures and their effects on Key Peninsula residents. A related op/ed can be found in this issue in Rick Sorrels' column, "The Pragmatic Sophist" on page 15 of this issue of Key Peninsula News.*

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

A "strategic" foreclosure or a "strategic" bankruptcy filing is sometimes done to maximize retention of assets or to extend occupancy of the home when a homeowner is forced out.

Much more common, however, the homeowner gradually burns up all of his available funds, borrows to the extent of his credit, and sells off everything he can in an attempt to meet his obligations.

When the home is finally lost, with little or no assets or credit left, desperation peaks.

Finding a place to live becomes a creative endeavor. Fortunately there are community organizations to assist with this challenge.

Jud Morris is the Program Manager for the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center located in the basement of the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

"We receive grant money from FEMA, Pen Light, and United Way. We also receive donations from the community," said Morris. "In 2005, we served 800 individuals. In 2010, the number swelled to

3,300."

"We have tried to help with mortgage payments, but have only found a couple mortgage companies that would agree to allow the homeowner to remain in the home one additional month for each month we pay."

The average homeless person is a single woman with two children, said Morris.

"The definition of homeless includes those living with relatives, in RVs, and couch surfers," Morris said. "There are few resources available in this area for people who are truly homeless; they usually end up across the bridge (Tacoma Narrows Bridge)."

Churches have outreach programs, including KP Lutheran Church. Wally Haugaard runs the church's food bank. Karen Jorgenson runs all of the church's other social service programs.

"We receive a generous grant from the Gates foundation," said Haugaard. "We provide food for 881 families each month, no questions asked. We also provide backpack lunches for 180 school kids every weekend."

Jorgenson provides counseling, directs to resources, helps job search, and distributes grant money for utility bills, rent and mortgage payments, car repairs, gas cards, etc.

"We focus on the homeless and the soon-to-be homeless," said Jorgenson. "During 2010, I helped one dozen fami-

*"We focus on the homeless and the soon-to-be homeless. During 2010, I helped one dozen families be placed in a stable living situation, and helped five individuals obtain gainful employment."*

Karen Jorgenson  
KP Lutheran Church

lies be placed in a stable living situation, and helped five individuals obtain gainful employment."

The needs are great, and Jorgenson said the grant money has already run out for the year. "Associated Ministries will start doing intake assessments, and they have a large grant and a network of service agencies which will expand what we already have," she said.

"Of the 40 churches located on this side of the Narrows Bridge, we coordinate with 20 of them. They all have something to offer."

Penny Gazabat is the Director of KP Community Services, commonly known as the "food bank", located just south of Home.

"We have two food programs," Gazabat said. "One provides 2,500 individuals each month with a basket containing a 3-day supply of food. The second provides 85,000 meals per year. We also have a free hot lunch program for seniors."

KP Community Services also helps with mortgage payments and job searches, she said.

"Our computer lab can be used for job search, resumes, and accessing e-mails. A community member recently donated a large number of tents and blankets which are also available," Gazabat said.

Habitat for Humanity will help you build your own home, with a zero percent mortgage and monthly payments based upon income, but you need an income and must contribute "sweat equity."

The Mustard Seed Project has a free ride program for seniors (884-2216), and can refer to other available programs (884-9814).

Among the many other service providers for KP residents are Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor (851-7779), St Vincent De Paul, Gig Harbor office (851-0554), FISH Food Bank in Gig Harbor (858-6179), Salvation Army (572-8452), and South Sound Outreach (593-2111).

KP Lutheran Church (884-3312).  
KP Comm. Services food bank (884-4440).

Habitat for Humanity (627-5626).

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NEWS

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# School Improvement Planning helps buildings map out learning-centered goals

Teams from each of the Peninsula School District's schools are beginning to look at goals for the next year with the help of the ongoing School Improvement Planning (SIP) process. The SIP was implemented by the district several years ago with the purpose of helping leadership teams within each building focus on academic and other objectives.



*School Improvement Planning teams from all the PSD schools are meeting at Chapel Hill in Gig Harbor during one of the districtwide sessions, which are scheduled four times a year. The teams will meet again for a districtwide session in August, to focus on the 2011-12 school year.*

The teams include building administrators, teachers from different levels or subjects as well as classified staff. They meet regularly at individual schools, and four times a year they have the opportunity to collaborate with each other at districtwide SIP meetings.

The SIP plans are individualized and include measurable objectives in subjects such as math and reading, as well as other areas such as culture and climate.

"Evergreen's School Improvement Plan has provided our school with a map for our school year and beyond," says Principal Jacque Crisman. "As a school we look to our SIP

goals and school data when we are making decisions about staff development, use of resources and next steps for our students."

PSD K-12 Academic Officer Dan Gregory said the plans utilize SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-oriented and Time-bound.

"We took it a step further and aiming for SMART'R goals—by adding 'Recordable' data. The emphasis for the teams this year was to gather and record the data so that the desired student outcomes could be measured," he said.

The School Improvement Planning is a practical tool teachers can use to guide their instruction.

"As part of our SIP process, we conducted a four-week action research project on a math review procedure. It impacted student learning so favorably that the procedure has been incorporated into every teacher's routine," said Purdy Elementary teacher Katja Rimmel.

In addition, SIP helps buildings track achievements.

"When the school year ends, we are filled with pride for the work we have accomplished and a sense of hope for upcoming years," Crisman said. "Our staff can see that what we have worked together on has paid off, yet at the same time look into next year with areas for improvement."

## Highly Capable Update

This spring a group of teachers, parents, principals, District administrators and a psychologist met to review our current elementary program for the highly capable. Due to enrollment issues, the group made the decision to move from three sites to two. Minter Creek Elementary will also serve Purdy, Vaughn and Evergreen elementary schools. Voyager Elementary will also serve Artondale, Harbor Heights and Discovery elementary schools. Testing to determine placement has already occurred for the 2011-2012 school year.

## Register for Kindergarten Now

We are pleased to be able to continue our 4-day all-day tuition free program for 2011-2012. Kindergarten Registration is ongoing at your neighborhood elementary school Monday-Friday during regular office hours, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Registering early helps the District prepare for staffing.

## June Events

- 6 2011-2012 Budget Public Forum  
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at  
Key Peninsula Middle School
- 7 District Parent Council Meeting  
9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon at District  
Office Rooms 4 & 5
- 8 Regular Start—no teacher  
collaboration
- 9 School Board Regular Meeting  
6:00 p.m. at District Office  
Rooms 4 & 5
- 10 Henderson Bay High School  
Graduation 7:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill
- 12 Peninsula High School Graduation  
1:00 p.m. at Tacoma Dome  
Gig Harbor High School Graduation  
4:30 p.m. at Tacoma Dome
- 13 2011-2012 Budget Public Forum  
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Harbor Ridge  
Middle School
- 21 Last Day of School—Early Release
- 23 School Board Regular Meeting  
6:00 p.m. at District Office  
Rooms 4 & 5

## 2010-11 Appreciation

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve your students. We appreciate your involvement and the confidence you have placed in us as your school district.

Terry Nelsen Bouck, Superintendent

## Budget Public Forums

We would like to encourage you to ask questions or voice any concerns you might have regarding the Peninsula School District's 2011-2012 Budget. Please consider attending one of the Public Forums listed below:

- June 6, 2011: Key Peninsula Middle School  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
June 13, 2011: Harbor Ridge Middle School,  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank & Senior Center

17015 9<sup>th</sup> St Ct KPN

P. O. Box 392

Lakebay, WA 98349

**253-884-4440**

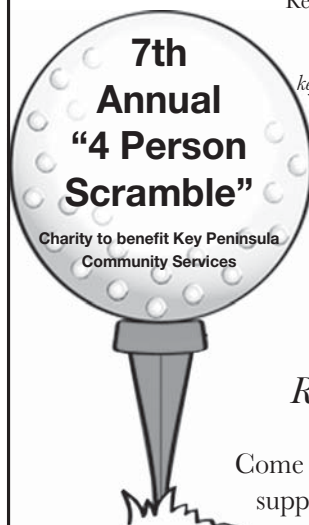
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(From **Lunch**, Page 1)

and partnered with them to bring the summer food program to the Key Peninsula.

Any student who is already on the Food Backpacks 4 Kids program automatically qualifies, but Jorgenson said they should call ahead to make reservations.

Marti Southworth of Longbranch has volunteered to prepare the lunches that will include spaghetti and meatballs, grilled cheese sandwiches, min subs, fruit, Jell-O and other tasty treats.

"My cook has a wonderful menu, all kid-friendly," she said. "We have all volunteers so all we have to do is contribute toward the utilities at the church and buy the food. The school district is really behind this whole project."

Transportation will be available for children who need a ride.

The Food Backpacks 4 Kids will continue

for the 2011-2012 school year. There are 2,000 students eligible for the program, currently, Jorgenson said. Only 180 are being served due to the modest amount of donations, but those 180 include students in Gig Harbor.

"Harbor Heights had more students eligible than Minter Creek," she said. "We're all over the place and have a packing site in Gig Harbor now."

Donations are always needed.

"Corporate sponsors would be great," she said. "We're running out of backpacks."

The backpacks can be gently used.

Pasta, soups, box juices, tuna, canned chicken, canned ham, canned vegetables and other items that are easy for children to prepare on their own are needed. Items can be dropped off at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, or the Key Center Fire Station.

For more information call Karen Jorgenson at 253-884-3312.

## BRIEFS

### News

### Kiwanis Club collecting used bikes for needy kids

Since 2004 more than 3,000 bicycles have been refurbished and distributed to children in the community by the Kiwanis Club. In cooperation with the Washington Correction Center for Women in Purdy, the Kiwanis Club delivers the used bicycles to the prison for repairs. Needy children in the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor communities receive the bicycles free of charge.

Kiwanis is once again collecting used bikes in repairable condition.

To donate a bicycle to Kiwanis, contact John Bare at 256-2176 or Jim Hansen at 265-3150.

### Arts Commission seeks volunteers

Pierce County is seeking individuals who have a demonstrated interest and familiarity with arts and culture through professional practice, training or volunteer work to serve on the Pierce County Arts Commission. The commission is an advisory body composed of up to 13 volunteers who advise the County Council and Executive on arts-related issues,

funding programs and public art projects. Commission meetings are held quarterly, and members serve three-year terms. Applicants must be residents of Pierce County, and certain positions are restricted by County Council district. For more information and to download the application, visit [www.piercecountywa.org/arts](http://www.piercecountywa.org/arts).

*Source: Pierce County*

### GigFest art exhibit opens

The GigFest Maritime Art Exhibition will be held at the Harbor History Museum June 4 through July 3.

All art on exhibit will have a maritime theme, which focuses on the sea, the coast, seaside, ships, sailing craft, beaches, wildlife, portraits, people, and other things that would be seen at the sea. There will also be a children's maritime art exhibit.

Ted Pankowski, vice president of Seattle's Puget Sound Group of Northwest Painters, will serve as juror for the exhibit. Awards will be given for first, second and third place, as well as a People's Choice Award.

For more information visit [harborhistorymuseum.org](http://harborhistorymuseum.org), or call 858-6722.



(From Umpire, Page 1)

ever since he was pulled out of the stands to umpire his then 8-year-old son's Little League game. In recent years, however, Rodenbucher has been doing it more seriously. He umpires between 100-110 games a year on average, from Olympic College games to Little League.

"I've hoped [reaching the Little League World Series] would happen, but it was never really a goal until about eight years ago," he said. "That's when I decided to do something about it."

Any umpire can be chosen for the Little League World Series, but there are procedures prospective umpers must follow, such as attending Little League umpire schools, a requirement for doing higher-level tournaments in Little League.

Once Rodenbucher reached that point, all he could do was apply and wait to be selected.

"It could happen in a year, it could happen in 10," he said. "With me it was eight."

It's not that simple, though.

After applying, an ump must be nominated by a District Administrator to the regional office, which, along with the region's Umpire-In-Chief, considers all umpires nominated before selecting those who most closely meet the selection criteria.

To those selected, it's a big deal. As the official website of Little League baseball noted, "Appointment as a member of the umpiring crew for a World Series is the highest honor Little League Baseball and Softball can bestow on an umpire" and "Selection as an umpire at any of Little League's eight World Series means that person has reached the highest level of proficiency ... and is considered among the best in the world."

Rodenbucher believes patience, knowledge of the rules, sound mechanics, and a willingness to learn form the foundation of a good umpire. He has no plans to alter his style once he arrives in South Carolina.

"I won't approach the games there any differently than I would any others," he said, while conceding that the atmosphere will be more intense, due to the presence of so many talented players from across the country and, indeed, the world. There will be teams from not only every region of the U.S., but also from Latin America and Canada.

Don't expect Rodenbucher to profit from this experience, either. Like every other Little League umpire, he won't be paid. It's strictly volunteer work at any level, World Series or otherwise.

Getting there is at least taken care of,



*Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News*  
Mike Rodenbucher calls the runner out. Sometimes he's nonchalant, such as he was during this call in Olalla.

courtesy of his local district, Washington District 2. Once arrived, he'll stay in a dormitory-style residence with two meals a day. Some people might balk at such austerity, but not Rodenbucher.

"It's the culmination of a dream, so the accommodations don't matter much to me," he said.

Though he admits he adjusts his strike zone for different levels -- "Any ump would," he said -- one thing we can anticipate from Rodenbucher is impartiality, perhaps the key to successful officiating in any sport. In fact, even his own son couldn't escape his father's objectivity.

"If you were to ask him, he'd tell you that I rung him up on strikes more than anyone else," Rodenbucher said with a chuckle.

Perhaps it's that kind of fairness, among other qualities, that got Rodenbucher noticed.

Not that he was trying to get noticed, of course.

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# Peninsula Views

## EDITORIAL

### Summer safety is easy ... and necessary

Skin cancer is a real threat. Washington is one of 13 states with the highest rate of skin cancer. Surprising, since there are so many grey days and what seems more than our fair share of rainfall.

Spring is here and summer will officially arrive this month. It can be tempting to soak up as much of that sunshine as possible before the next round of cloudy, cool days.

Physicians advise against it. Skin cancer is a very real threat to everyone, but especially those with fair skin, a personal or family history of skin cancer, frequent exposure to the sun, history of sunburns, and those with blue or green eyes and blond or red hair.

The best ways to protect the skin from the sun's harmful rays are simple.

Clothing is a good way, and there are now clothes with SPF ratings.

Sunscreen of at least SPF 30 is recommended for everyone, and one that blocks both UVA and UVB rays. Ears, face and neck are always exposed, so those areas need to be protected. Application of sunscreen is recommended every two hours even on cloudy days.

Eyes are also at risk and a pair of sunglasses that will protect eyes, eyelids and the skin around them that also block UVA and UVB rays are best.

Going for a boat ride, swim, or other water recreation is a favorite summer activity with all of the beaches and lakes available. Remember though, water reflects the sun's rays and causes the skin to burn even quicker.

Infants are especially at risk for sunburns, so protect their delicate skin with lightweight clothing that covers them. A wide brimmed hat that will shade their faces and necks are also a good idea.

Shade is easy and free, and a great way to protect yourself from the sun.

#### Letters Policy

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### KP Parks appreciative

Thank you Key Peninsula for supporting your parks!

The KP Parks staff would like to thank the Key Peninsula community for their support for the 10th Annual Parks Appreciation Day. A total of 100 volunteers at 5 sites and 275.5 hours in volunteer time were logged. Our gratitude to our Site Leaders and other local community groups who helped make this event a success.

Site Leaders: Jerry and Marilyn Hartley, James Allyn, Kim Sutherin and Dennis Taylor. Groups: A special THANK YOU to our LDS members, Key Center and Minter Creek Wards, Albertsons, Lakebay Fuchsia Society, Key Peninsula Baptist Church, Waypoint Church, KP Historical Society, Boy Scout Troop #220, Key Peninsula Tennis Club, Key Peninsula Youth Council, YMCA Friends & Servants of the Key Peninsula, and the Peninsula Lutheran Church for your support!

#### Touch-A-Truck 2011

Key Pen Parks would like to send a

special thank you to our drivers and their organization for supporting the 3rd Annual Touch-A-Truck: Key Peninsula Fire Department, Bethel Towing, Fred Leenstra, Army (602nd FSC, 201st BSTB, 201st BFSB), Peninsula Light Company, Servpro, and Pierce County Public Works & Utilities. Thank you!

*Chad Harvell  
KP Parks*

### White Cane Day success

The Key Peninsula Lions wish to thank the community for the great response to our White Cane Day drive at the Peninsula Market and the Livable Fair. The funds will be used to provide eye exams and glasses for persons unable to afford the cost and not having coverage through insurance or otherwise. Interested persons should contact Lion Bill Onstad at 857-4363. Keep in mind that not every applicant qualifies, for a variety of reasons, and approval must be obtained in advance.

*George Robinson  
KP Lions Club President*

## A bear of a neighbor

A bear was sighted in the neighborhood of 60th and Yeazell Road in Longbranch in May. Kate Hamilton reported the bears have been in the neighborhood for years, and seem to be less afraid of humans this year. They are foraging for food closer to the house, she said.

According to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, if you come in close contact with a bear, stay calm. Avoid direct eye contact and identify yourself as a human by talking and staying upwind and wave your hands above your head. Do not approach the bear, particularly if there are cubs present. Give the bear plenty of room. If you cannot safely move away

from the bear, and the animal does not flee, try to scare it away by clapping your hands or yelling.

If the bear attacks, fight back aggressively. As a last resort, should the attack continue, protect yourself by curling into a ball or lying on the ground on your stomach and playing dead.

To report a non-emergency bear or cougar problem, call 360-249-4628 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. If the problem is after hours, contact the Washington State Patrol at 253-536-6210 or Pierce County Sheriff's Department non-emergency number 253-798-4721.

If it is an emergency, dial 911.



*Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News*

**Bill Cooper, former Bainbridge Island Police Chief and currently an expert on counter-terrorism, addresses an audience at Peninsula High School May 17.**

## Coping with terrorism

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Counter terrorism expert Bill Cooper, a former Bainbridge Island Chief of Police, made clear to his audience that the demise of Osama bin Laden in no way reduces the threat of terrorism.

In a program endorsed by the Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee (PEP-C) at the Milton Boyd auditorium in Peninsula High School on May 17, Cooper cited 50 different frustrated attempts of terrorist attacks on Americans in particular, and America's friends worldwide since 9-11. To make his point, he displayed a slideshow that included the dissected shoe of the person planning to blow up an aircraft as it descended into Detroit. The planned nervous perpetrator was perspiring and wet the fuse. It wouldn't light.

The man planning to blow up a substantial portion of Los Angeles Airport was apprehended at the US-Canada border in Blaine, Wash. because a U.S. border

official suspected his nervous behavior indicated he was transporting narcotics. A search of his vehicle exposed a large supply of explosive materials instead.

Cooper made a point that many of the successful terminations of attempted terrorist attacks are based on raw luck. He added that our first line of defense against terrorists is us, and cited cases in which terrorist attacks were thwarted because, "citizens felt something just didn't look right. 'Why are these guys photographing everything on our ferries, gangways, ladders, the bridge, etc.?' " Turned out "these guys" were casing the ferries to plan to explode a device that would sink one — thereby disrupting all traffic near the ferry's route.

Cooper emphasized that, "five factors contributed to the interdiction of terror cases since 9-11: traditional law enforcement methods, direct and indirect action by citizens, international law enforcement cooperation, post 9-11 legislation, and luck."

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*The power to be...*

# Marijuana brings relief to patients, raids to dispensaries

State law for medical marijuana is murky, but the owner of the Key Center dispensary is dedicated to providing the drug to legitimate patients.

By Patricia Johnson, KP News

Thirteen years ago voters in Washington State decriminalized the use, distribution, manufacture and possession of medical marijuana with a 59 percent vote. Following in the footsteps of California, voters in Oregon and Washington approved the initiative allowing patients with certain terminal conditions legal access to medical marijuana.

However, language in that initiative neither specifically sanctions nor prohibits medical marijuana dispensaries. To date, and despite the active operations of more than 100 of these establishments statewide, no specific provisions in state law address their existence.

As a result, in the Evergreen State as well as 15 others and the District of Columbia, the legal murkiness surrounding medical

marijuana dispensaries continues to thicken. Federal criminal sanctions are warranted for even qualified patients and those who distribute to them.

Brian Pfister, owner and manager of Green Health, a medical marijuana dispensary with locations in Key Center, Tacoma, and Chehalis, witnessed Governor Christine Gregoire authorize a partial veto of crucial provisions in Senate Bill 5073 on April 29. The primary reason for this veto was to protect state employees from federal prosecution.

Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, D-Seattle, sponsored the bill and both legislative bodies passed it prior to the gubernatorial veto. The vetoed bill is an attempt to address public safety issues, to give direction for law enforcement officials and to honor the needs of qualified medical marijuana patients.

In line with advice from U.S. attorneys, Jenny Durkan and Mike Ormsby, Gregoire concluded that any and all government employees tasked with carrying out certain provisions of the bill, such as licensing medical marijuana dispensaries, would be subject to stiff criminal penalties for violating the Controlled Substances Act. Pursuant

to this federal law, the use, possession, manufacture, and distribution of marijuana continues to be illegal regardless of state statutes to the contrary.

Marijuana has been classified as a Schedule I drug based on Drug Enforcement Agency provisions. Sharing the same category as heroin and LSD, marijuana occupies a place in the most tightly restricted classification. Thus, federal law acknowledges "no currently accepted medical use" and marijuana is considered "highly addictive."

It therefore follows that Pfister's medical marijuana dispensaries have been, and will continue to be, targets for federal law enforcement raids. On any given day, these raids usually result in arrests, seizures and/or closures of the establishments, done in the spirit of enforcing federal law.

Pfister has been "taking in stride" the disruptive nature of the numerous raids he has withstood during the past couple of years. He calmly concludes, "They're just doing their job and in a few days, they drop all the charges and patients are back in getting the medical marijuana they need."

One such patient visits the Key Center location of Green Health, presents a card

from his licensed care provider, a registered nurse, and pays for a three week supply; two ounces of medical marijuana buds. He asked to remain anonymous.

"I have done heavy work for most of my life," he said. "I was diagnosed with neuropathy in 1992 and I have suffered with pain for several years. I got depression, anxiety, hypertension and insomnia when I was on prescription medication. Then I decided to try medical marijuana, which made the pain tolerable and I no longer have any physical and emotional side effects.

"I don't abuse it and I don't pass it around. For me, my pain is now manageable and bearable. I am grateful to the folks at Green Health."

During this current ongoing special session, state lawmakers still have the opportunity to set forth explicitly, whether medical marijuana dispensaries are legal. For now, proponents should be pleased that despite the partial veto, Gregoire sees merit in pursuing a downgraded classification for marijuana. Reclassifying would mean physicians are able to prescribe medical marijuana to patients who could then purchase it from pharmacies.



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**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!**



## Agencies plan for possible disasters

By Peter Ruble, KP News

Earthquakes, volcanoes, storms and floods are some of the possible disasters that Key Peninsula residents could face at any time. To ensure that a disaster preparedness plan is in place, a panel of five experts will be selected to have a community wide preparedness drill at the Key Peninsula Fire Department on July 18 and July 25.

Key Peninsula Fire Department Chief of Technical Services, Chuck West, said the Key Peninsula has unique concerns regarding earthquakes due to its geographical isolation. Not only is the peninsula's north end the only connection to others, it carries the Tacoma Fault Line which crosses through Purdy and Mason County.

"Earthquakes have caused roads to slide and you can see where there is some sinking of the SR 320 near the Wauna corner and near Victor," said West. "The road near Victor sank about three feet in the 2001 earthquake."

According to West most of the disasters have been weather related. He recalls being without power for weeks at a time after winter snow storms. "In about 1950 the area was hit by a bad snow storm. Old timers tell me it was the worst they have seen," said West.

Besides weather related issues, the Key Peninsula has experienced three plane crashes, two in 1956, and three that were witnessed by West.

There are ways to prepare, and the Pierce

County Department of Emergency Management provides examples. When it comes to earthquake preparedness, it's a good idea to bolt tall furniture to your walls. Also, having a first aid kit, plenty of canned food, and at least three gallons of water per person is recommended, along with protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags. During the earthquake, they recommend staying underneath a desk or table, or at least stay away from large furniture. If you are outdoors, drop to the ground in a clear spot as far away from trees and power lines as possible. If you're in a car, drive to a clear location if you can and stay in the car until the shaking stops.

For severe snowstorms, the PCDEM recommends wearing many layers of thin clothing. A disaster preparedness kit should have a battery-powered radio for updated information. Also, avoid travel, as 70 percent of winter deaths related to ice and snow take place in automobiles.

The Key Peninsula is also at great risk when it comes to flooding. The PCDEM suggests having a disaster preparedness kit similar to what you would use for earthquake preparedness. If a flash flood warning is issued, evacuate as soon as possible, or at least get as high above rivers and streams as possible. If you're in a car and it stalls, evacuate it immediately.

To sign up for emergency and community alerts, you can visit the website <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us> and go to the section for PCDEM.

## GH Kiwanis hold 3rd annual Star Search

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Third Annual Gig Harbor Kiwanis Club's "Star Search" dinner and auction fund and fun raiser at the Gig Harbor Yacht Club was packed. It was jolly. It featured 11 live performances of everything from operatic vocalists to guitar soloists, to an instrumental rock quartet and the recently formed Harbor Bells hand bell choir.

First place winner was The Mural Project Band, second place went to Zack Wheeler and Cherise Martinelli took third place.

Proceeds from the entertaining evening fund the many projects of the Kiwanis Club in the area, including the bicycle program on the Key Peninsula.

Together with the Elks Club, Kiwanis delivers used bicycles to the Washington Correction Center for Women in Purdy, where inmates rehabilitate the bicycles. Key Peninsula Fire District 16 then fits each recipient with a new helmet with financial assistance from the Angel Guild.

These bikes and helmets are one of the highlights during the shopping spree provided to Key Peninsula students in August. The "store" is set up in the Key Peninsula Middle School of what is essentially a department store filled with new clothing, no hand-me-downs. Included are new shoes, socks, underwear, jeans, shirts, blouses, warm jackets and coats, even new backpacks filled with school supplies. All provided free of charge to families in need.

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## Orchids 101 – Free Class

Robert and Ron Bollick from the Tacoma Orchid Society will share their knowledge and demystify the art of growing this exotic flower.

**Join us on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12-2 pm**

Have him repot your orchid - \$5.00

**Bring your own Pot and Plant!**



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# KeyFest is almost here!

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**Peninsula Light Co.**

## Vacation Bible School on, around Key Peninsula

Compiled by Sharon Hicks KP News

**Waypoint Church**, 12719 134th off of KPN; June 27 through July 1; ages 9-12 free. Register online at [Waypointchurch.org](http://Waypointchurch.org). Theme: Crazy Capers of the Lord

**Key Peninsula Baptist**, 4902 Gublin Drive NW, Gig Harbor; July 11 through 15 from 9 a.m. -noon. Registration on site no fee. Ages 4 through sixth grade. Theme: Race cars

**Chapel Hill Presbyterian**; June 27-July 1 from 9a.m.-noon. Cost \$35 pre-registration required. Call Pam at 853-0272. Theme: Panda Mania fun with Bamboo Blast games, Wild Bible Adventures, Treetop Treats and more

**Gig Harbor United Methodist Church**; July 18-22. Cost - donation. Call 851-2625. Ages 3 through fifth grade. Theme: Mixin' It Up (cooking)



*Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News*

## Grilled to perfection

Key Peninsula Metro Parks staff members Dylan Roberts and Jeff Winden enjoy some of Murphy's BBQ. Greg Murphy is the owner and operator of the food concession at KP's Volunteer Park. The KP Murphy's BBQ is one of several in the Puget sound area.

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# KP Summer Activities and Events

Compiled by Karen Lovett, KP News

## Key Peninsula Firefighters Association: Pancake Breakfast and Rummage Sale

June 4: Breakfast 7:30 – 11 a.m., Sale 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## Key Peninsula Community Services: Benefit Golf Tournament

June 25: Horseshoe Lake Golf Course. Check-in 8 a.m. Tee Time 8:30 a.m. \$75 per person includes lunch, golf cart and green fees. Four-person scramble. Will match up individuals. Application on website [Keypencommunityservices.org](http://Keypencommunityservices.org) or at KPCCS or at the golf course.

## KeyFest - 10th Anniversary – Sponsored by Peninsula Light

July 9 & 10: Volunteer Park, Key Center Saturday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Sunday Noon – 6 p.m. Vender Booths KEY's GOT TALENT Finalists on stage. KeyFest Garage Sale (Swap Meet) Benefit for Red Barn Youth Center. July 9 Noon – 6 p.m. Set-up 11 a.m. \$20 plus 50 clean-up for 8 x 10 parking spot. Mostly used items. Krazy Key Parade opens KeyFest Fair from Key Center to Volunteer Park July 9. Everyone

welcome to participate.

## Skate Night – Civic Center

July 1: 7-10 p.m. Aug. 5, 7:00 p.m. – 10 p.m.

## Blue Willow Lavender Farm

### First Lavender Festival

July 8-9: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tour the farm - Over one acre of lavender. Make a lavender craft. Workshops, food, live music, vender booths, store. Free admission. 10615 Wright-Bliss Rd. KPN 253-225-9030 [bluewillowlavenderfarm.com](http://bluewillowlavenderfarm.com)

## Key Center Pierce County Library One World many Stories Summer Stories for Babies and Toddlers

Tuesdays: June 21 – Aug. 9, 11 a.m. Wild Tales: Friday, July 1 11 a.m. Puppet Theater: "Ferdinand the Bull" and "Jack and the Beanstalk" July 7, 2:30 p.m. World Storytelling Safari: July 14, 11 a.m. Art Around the World: July 29, 11 a.m. Going Global: Thurs. Aug. 4, 11 a.m. Teens Bookmaking Bonanza: Make simple blank books using a variety of bindings, June 9, 3:30 – 5 p.m. Mehndi Henna Tattoos: All natural temporary paste tattoos, July 14, 3:30 – 5 p.m. Make a musical instrument.

Create and decorate a rain stick or thumb piano and learn about other instruments you can make. Aug. 11, 3:30 p.m. Read and Win: Come to the library after every hour of reading. After 10 hours claim your prize. 8905 KPN (253) 884 – 2242.

## Children's Home Society of Washington Key Peninsula Family Resource Center

Daycamp: Week 1 July 11 - 14, 9 a.m. – Noon Key Peninsula Civic Center. Week 2 July 18 – 21, 9 a.m. – Noon, Evergreen Elementary School. Kindercamp 3 – 5 years old with their parents. Fun projects for early learners. Summer Fun 6 – 11 years old (Fall 1st – 5th grade). For school-age campers who really want to have fun. Summer Amigos 12 – 14 years old (Fall middle school). Youth will be active in the community and will participate in activities that stretch their leadership skills and creativity. Teen Mentors/ Volunteers (Going into 9th grade and up) All volunteers are supervised by staff and must pass a background check, and attend mandatory training. Daycamp Fees: \$16.00 each week, per child. Scholarships are available. Registration packets will be available the first week of June. Call or stop by the Key Peninsula Family Resource Cen-

ter (253) 884 – 5433. 17010 So. Vaughn Rd., Vaughn, WA 98394.

## Old Timers Day Festival Longbranch Improvement Club

Aug. 20, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Raffle, Food, Logging show, Kid's games, Rummage sale, Vender's booths. Booth request forms at Key Peninsula Community Services in Home.

## Free/Low Cost Pet Spay & Neuter

Now twice a month. Pick up at Key Peninsula Community Services parking lot in Home. Limit 25 animals per day. One dog and two cats per family. May 31, June 16, 17, July 26, 27 Call KPCCS 884-4440.

## Free Horse Training Classes

Dates to be announced. Drive Thru Feed Hot Dog Cook-out Animal events July 30. 884-3386.

## American Shepherd Club of Washington Arena Trial

Aug. 6-8: Volunteer Park. 253- 843-1605, [mberrye544@aol.com](mailto:mberrye544@aol.com).


## Harvest Fest Farm Tour

Oct. 1.

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**The  
Greenbriar  
Project**

Saturdays in June

# COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) • Deadline is the 15th of the month

## Now Earn a GED

Key Peninsula residents are able to complete a basic skills education for college entrance, employment skills or a GED. Class meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Home Fire Station. Evening classes (6:30-8:30 p.m.) are now available at the TCC Gig Harbor Campus. For detailed class information, registration and orientation call Tracy Clark, 253-460-2356.

## June & July String camp

Peninsula Youth Orchestra's String Camp applications, for experienced string students 9-19 years old, are being accepted through July 31. String Camp 2011 will be Aug. 15-19 and includes a free public Friday concert. Call 253-534-5384, [info@harborpyo.org](mailto:info@harborpyo.org) or [www.harborpyo.org](http://www.harborpyo.org) to download an application.

## June 1, 8, 15 Friends' night

Lakebay Community Church hosts children from grades K-6 to Friends' Night from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Kids experience games, projects, snacks, music, and activities based on a weekly Bible story. 884-3899.

## June 2 Fuchsia club

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will meet at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Ginnie, 884-9744.

## June 3 Boating class

A boating safety meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the recreation hall at Camp Stand by Me, Vaughn. Representatives from the Pierce County Sheriff Marine Unit and the Power Squadron will be there to provide information about safe boating practices, laws, rules and regulations for safely enjoy-

ing local waters. This event is sponsored by the South Vaughn PC Neighborhood Emergency Team. Judy Mills, 884-2511 or [djmills@centurytel.net](mailto:djmills@centurytel.net).

## June 3, 10 Friday skate nights

Skate night is held from 6-9 p.m. for elementary and middle school-aged students at the KP Civic Center. Admission is \$5, which includes skates and all the games in the Whitmore Room. Refreshments are available for purchase. [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org) or 884-3456.

## June 4 ASHES rummage sale

ASHES host their annual rummage sale from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. Donations for the sale may be dropped off at the station from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The annual **KP Firefighters' Breakfast** is served from 7:30-11 a.m. Tickets are \$5; kids five and under are free. Information about sale at 884-5430 or 884-3771.

## June 4 FD 16 Open House

Tour the fire station and watch KP firefighters in action as they demonstrate various emergency response techniques.

## June 4 Scrapbooking

Scrapbooking is from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the Whitmore Room. Class fee is \$15. Register online at [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org).

## June 4 Teen nuvo dance

DJ Kip and his crew host a teen-focused dance complete with live DJs, special performers, dance contests and cash prizes, and snack bar from 7-10 p.m. at the Civic Center; \$7 at the door. 253-225-9126.

## June 5

## To submit an event

To submit an event for the Community Works calendar, please e-mail [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com), or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394. Briefs must be submitted by the 15th of the month.

## Spring concert

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra presents a free Spring Concert at 3 p.m. at the Peninsula High School auditorium. 253-534-5384 or [info@harborpyo.org](mailto:info@harborpyo.org) or visit [www.harborpyo.org](http://www.harborpyo.org).

## June 6, 13, 20, 27 Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

## June 9 Teen time

The Friends of the Key Center Library sponsor a book making bonanza for ages 12-18 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Participants will make simple blank books using a variety of binding styles at this free event. Snacks and games are also available. 884-2242.

## June 11 Saturday at the library

Second Saturday at the library at 2 p.m. features trade secrets to create mouth-watering BBQs from local Chef Oliver Colden. This free family program is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library. Donations to the food bank are appreciated. 884-2242.

## June 14 & 23 Knit or crochet

Loving Hearts voluntarily knit and crochet chemo hats, baby items and blankets for non-profits in the community. They meet from 1-3 p.m. at the WayPoint Church, 12719 - 134th Ave KPN. They

also meet on Thursday, June 23, from 7-9 p.m. Yarn donations are always welcome. [lovingheartsonkp@aol.com](mailto:lovingheartsonkp@aol.com) or Virginia, 884-9619.

## June 18 Book sale

The Friends of the Key Center Library host a used hardback book sale from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Most books are \$1; cash only. Donations for the local food bank are appreciated. 884-2242.

## June 18 Lyme group

The Lyme Support group meets from 1-3 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station.

## June 18 Tournament held

The Peninsula Community Council hosts a Texas Hold-'em Tournament fundraiser party beginning at 5 p.m. at the Longbranch Community Club. 884-9363.

## June 21 Story time

Summer stories for babies and toddlers (birth-3) accompanied by an adult, will be held at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Help your baby's brain develop with books, action rhymes, knee bounces, songs and more. 884-2242.

## June 23 Adult horseshoe deadline

The KP Parks Adult Horseshoe League will hold games at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, July 6-Aug. 24, at the Volunteer Park Horseshoe Pits. The league is an 8 match season for 4-6 teams with a fee of \$55/team. A pre-season meeting/registration deadline is Thursday, June 23, at 6 p.m. at the Volunteer Park Horseshoe Pits. Chad: 884-9240.

(See Community, Page 13)



(From Community, Page 12)

## June 28 Story time

Summer stories for babies and toddlers (birth-3), accompanied by an adult, will be held at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Help your baby's brain develop with books, action rhymes, knee bounces, songs and more. 884-2242.

## June 28 Emergency prep workshop

KP Community Council hosts an emergency prep workshop 1-4 p.m. at the KP Civic Center

## June 28 – July 4 Fireworks stand open

The Civic Center fireworks stand is open 10 a.m.-9 p.m. in Key Center. This stand directly benefits the Key Peninsula community. [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org) or 884-3456.

## July 1 Summer skate night

Skate Night is from 7-10 p.m. (summer hours) at the KP Civic Center. \$5 fee includes skate rental and all the arcade games in the Whitmore room; concessions are available. [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org) or 884-3456.

## Now Register for youth sport camps

Challenger Sports Camps is holding British Soccer Camp, Multi-sport Camp and Flag Football Camp in July and August. Challenger Sports has been holding camps for 20 years and features well-trained instructors who inspire and motivate young players to improve. All camps are for ages 6-12 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Volunteer Park and costs \$129 for the 5 days of camp. Each camper receives a free camp T-shirt and camp certification. Campers need a water bottle, sunscreen, and a baseball glove or shin guards. British Soccer Camp is July 18-25 and also Aug. 1-5, Multi-sport Camp is July 25-29 and Flag Football Camp is Aug. 8-12. Register online now at [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com). Call Chad at KP Parks, 884-9240 for more details.

## Adult coed softball deadline

Adult Coed Summer Softball starts the week of July 11 and KP Parks is now accepting team registrations. Teams will play a 10 game season plus a double elimination tournament. Games will be held Monday-Thursday nights, depending on number of teams. The fee of \$640/team includes USSSA registration, umpires, softballs, and shirts. Teams will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Min/Max: 8/18 teams. All adult sports leagues can be found on Team Sideline. Look for the scoreboard on our website on the Adult Programs page at [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com).

# OFF THE KEY

## June 4 Geoduck festival

The First Annual Geoduck Festival is held at Allyn Waterfront Park and Gazebo. Sponsored by the Allyn Community Association, with assistance from local shellfish grower Taylor United and other local shellfish growers and non-profit organizations, the festival offers a variety of delicious food and drink in honor of the geoduck, chainsaw carving contests at the George Kenny School of Chainsaw Carving in Allyn, vendor booths and exhibits in the park, oyster shucking contests and digging for the mighty 'duck. Offsite parking and shuttle service will be available throughout the town of Allyn. [www.AllynACA.com](http://www.AllynACA.com).

## June 10 Tour de Pierce registration

The 21st annual Tour de Pierce Bike Ride held on June 26 includes a 12-mile (designed for families or new bikers) and 30-mile and 50-mile marked routes and includes a rest stop with refreshments. The ride starts and finishes at the Western Washington Fair Grounds in Puyallup. Pre-registration must be by June 10; fee is \$12/person or \$36/family of 4. A commemorative bike jersey is available online only. For more information or to register, contact Pierce County Parks and Recreation at 253-798-4177 or [www.piercecountywa.org/parks](http://www.piercecountywa.org/parks).

[piercecountywa.org/parks](http://piercecountywa.org/parks).

## June 11 Dock sale

A sale of nautical, household items, etc. will be held at the Murphy's Landing Marina Dock, located at 3901 Harborview Drive on the waterfront, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

## June 18 Victor flea market

The Victor Flea Mart will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. with items including antiques, collectables, furniture, tools, toys, clothing, electronics, linens, kitchen stuff, books, plant sale, bakery items, hamburgers and hotdogs. The sale is on Hwy. 302 behind the Victor Fire Station. Debby Englund, 360-275-1364.

## June 28 County council meets

The Pierce County Council holds a meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor City Hall, 3510 Grandview Street. This is Council District #7.

## June 28 Summer concert

The first summer concert held at 6:30 p.m. at Skansie Brothers Park will feature the Perry Acker Band, which is a rock, pop, fusion band. Bring a blanket or a chair for this free event.

## JUNE PUBLIC MEETINGS

### KP Community Fair Association

June 7, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; [www.keyfair.org](http://www.keyfair.org).

### Key Peninsula Community Council

June 8, 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station.

### Peninsula School District Board

June 9 & 28, 6 p.m. regular meeting at district office.

### KP Civic Center Board

June 9, 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room, KPCC.

### KP Metro Parks

June 13, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex.

### Fire District 16

June 14 & 28, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station.

### LIC

Regular potluck meeting, June 15, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Tuesdays TOPS #1325

Take-Off Pounds Sensibly meets at 9 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Free child care, fun and support are provided. 884-2554.

### Wednesdays Lakebay writers

The Lakebay Writers meet from 1:30-4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-3931.

### Thursdays

### Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet from 8-9 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability.

### Thursdays Senior Society

The Key Peninsula Senior Society, aka Yesterday's Teenagers, meet at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck, fellowship and games at the Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981.

### Saturdays Writers' guild

The Writers' Guild meets from 9-11 a.m. at the Key Center Library; 884-6455.

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**PALMER LAKE** **\$169,950**  
Super clean starter home, just like new. This 3 bedroom, 3 bath home in just over 1600 square feet with 2 car attached garage. Nice view of the valley sitting high on the hill. Schools & Little League fields are nearby. Salt water parks, golf, hiking & horseback riding are all very close.  
Bill Poch  
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**LAKE OF THE WOODS** **\$194,000**  
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**MINTERBROOK** **\$350,000**  
High bank waterfront with expansive breathtaking views of Mt Rainier, Henderson Bay & Carr Inlet. Great open floor plan- 2 bedroom, 2 bath with a den is waiting for you to make cosmetic updates. Best of all you own your tidelands with this wonderful property.  
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**KEY PENINSULA** **\$164,000**  
Great house at a great price!! 520 sq ft detached garage/shop, 3 bedrooms & 2 bath on level 1.25 acres w/a great location & easy access to Rt 16. Peek-a-boo view of the Olympic Mountains  
Larry Bentley  
253-857-3304 #118016



**PURDY** **\$190,000**  
Picture framed by tall firs, this log home sits on 1.24 level acres at the end of a cul-de-sac. Country living yet only minutes from schools, shopping, new hospital & Hwy 16 for an easy commute. 3 bedroom, 3 baths & almost 1700 square feet.  
Dottie Mazza  
253-857-3304 #208334



**ROCKY BAY** **\$299,900**  
Secluded, private & has a view! Close to State Route 302 for easy commuting. This ramblar is very open & spacious with vaulted ceilings, skylights & an oversized kitchen. This 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,112 sq ft home sits on 2.43 acres.  
Mike Edmonson  
253-857-3304 #187328



**GIG HARBOR** **\$396,550**  
Excellent location near new hospital, schools & all types of recreation (fresh & salt water). This 3 bedroom, 3 bath home is freshly painted inside & out, large parking area Kitchen features Corian counters, breakfast nook & more.  
Bill Poch  
253-857-3304 #179407

# Protect Yourself from Burglaries

In April, Key Peninsula Citizens Against Crime (CAC) hosted an information event at the KP Lutheran Church concerning the rise of burglaries in the area this year. Pierce County Sheriff's Lt. Jerry Lawrence and CAC President Mike Baum fielded questions and concerns. They also provided information on how citizens can help minimize burglaries.

So what can you do? The following is a synopsis of their advice.

Prepare your property. The main idea is to make it difficult for burglars. They just want to sneak in and sneak out; they don't want to see any people. Look at your house through the eyes of a thief. How would you approach? Where are the dark spots around your house at night? Where can a burglar work out of sight of the road? Start with the basics like good outdoor lighting. Get some motion sensor lights for any dark areas. Consider getting a dog, or just be happy with the one you have. Dogs have great hearing and plenty of free time. They are often loud when anything unusual approaches their territory, and some can bite, too – that's perfect! Just what you want, and burglars, understandably, don't like dogs, as they just complicate the equation.

Burglaries are often thefts of opportunity that take place in broad daylight. You leave something out that looks good, and someone just spirals in and takes it. All a burglar has to do is walk up onto someone's property and, if caught, ask for directions or come up with some other lame excuse to be there. If they don't get caught, they can just walk off with your stuff, especially if it's sitting outside the house.

Keep anything of interest out of sight. Lock your car, and don't leave valuables in the car, even if you think your driveway is long and nobody will steal anything. A person can easily take a stroll down a long driveway or walk through the woods. If you have a long driveway (or even a short one), consider a motion sensor that acti-

## Kevin Reed Here's Something



vates a buzzer in your house when a car or person enters your property. If you're real serious you can get a wildlife motion-activated trail camera or two and hide them on your property where a thief is likely to walk.

Some folks keep their keys near their bed, so if they hear something outside they can hit the panic button to set off their car's horn and lights to scare an intruder off. Inventory any valuable items you have and document serial numbers. The police ask for serial numbers so they have something to work with besides "I had an Apple computer sittin' right here! Now it's gone!" This includes your vehicle license plate numbers, which you might forget when you go to report a stolen car and are fuming with anger.

Next, keep an eye on your neighborhood. Should there be a moving truck next door? Should there be someone walking back and forth up the street? There have been several sightings of a small, boxy cargo truck, for example, parked on the side of the road, sometimes with the hood up as if it's broken down while a man walks nearby. Most likely, this is a suspicious activity.

To report suspicious activity call 798-4940 or 798-4721 and report it. If you've been burglarized, you should report it to the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. If you don't report it, they don't know it happened. If you're worried about suspicious activity in your area, you can contact the CAC and they can determine if more patrols and surveillance are needed. Get involved. Join the CAC. Consider going on occasional citizen patrols. Attend CAC meetings and stay up to date via the CAC website [kpcitizensagaincrime.org](http://kpcitizensagaincrime.org), as well as their Facebook group, "KP Citizens Against Crime." Be safe and stay alert.



Windermere Real Estate-Key Realty 11615 SR 302 NW  
Gig Harbor 253-857-3304 [windermerekeypen.com](http://windermerekeypen.com)

# Pierce County and the displaced homeowner

One of our more senior county council members recently informed me that Pierce County has NO role to play in homes lost to foreclosure, or in assisting the displaced homeowners, and that the diminished funds the county has must go toward law enforcement, courts, roads, and health services.

A closer look reveals that Pierce County did pass ordinances two years ago that compel owners of mobile home parks to provide assistance to displaced persons when they are evicted following park closures. Pierce County also opened up vacant county-owned land for temporary storage of mobile homes and RVs belonging to displaced residents of mobile home parks.

Other Pierce County Ordinances are oppressive to displaced homeowners. Some background and poignant examples:

About 12 years ago, PALS (Planning and Land Services) wanted to save some money, so they adopted a policy to dispose of all records over seven years old. All old building permits and approvals were destroyed.

In order to eliminate the "homeless blight", in 1999, Pierce County adopted an ordinance

making it illegal to live (sleep) in tents, trailers, RVs, etc. This also (unintentionally) created a potential criminal charge against the landowner if his 8-year old son slept in a tent in the backyard overnight, or if a relative driving from California slept in an RV in the driveway.

For the last several years, PALS has been using aerial photography to identify and harass alleged scofflaws who develop or use land without paying for development permits. Again limited budgets were a driving factor.

A couple real examples of many available from county records and KP publications:

1) A landowner discovers an unknown trespasser sleeping in a tent on landowner's vacant land. The landowner gets a deputy to chase the deadbeat off. Three weeks later the landowner (the real victim) received a notice that the landowner will be prosecuted. The charges are later dropped. There was no indication that any action at all was taken against the trespasser.

## Rick Sorrels Pragmatic Sophist



2) A fourth-generation resident obtained permits and built a mini-trailer park for eight travel trailers in 1960, in full compliance with all ordinances. It continued to provide a supplement to his meager retirement income until last year when the County ordered it removed. (Remember, all County records had been destroyed, and the 82-year old property owner can't find the 50-year old permit approvals.) Affidavits from neighbors attesting to its long time existence were ignored. The eight families who were displaced were all on social security, and all added to the growing number of "homeless".

The typical scenario has been an over zealous (and ill advised) "Code Enforcement" employee who issues an "Order" to a struggling, but well-intended landowner. When the 900-pound gorilla (Pierce County with

unlimited manpower and funds) squats on a citizen with no legal training, and minimal funds, the surrender flag is immediately hoisted.

This is capricious and oppressive, and NOT how government is supposed to work.

In our recent discussion, the council member was surprised that such "enforcement" was occurring, and acknowledged that changes may be needed. That council member passed the buck, however, to the County Executive, as the person who decides which ordinances should be enforced. This is WRONG. ALL ordinances should be enforced.

A lot of the recent "homeless" seeking alternative living arrangements are NOT the typical bums of years past. A lot of them are educated professionals temporarily down on their luck. When they start realizing that a Civil Rights counterclaim under 42 USC 1983 would recover all of their legal expenses and attorney fees, Pierce County will soon discover how unprofitable their situation is. But, of course, the citizens will ultimately pick up this bill as well.

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# SHERIFF'S BLOTTER

A summary of calls for Pierce County Sheriff's Department for April 15 to May 11

## April 16

9700 block 151st Ave. KPN: Theft of a rear license plate, attempted theft of a catalytic converter

## April 17

200 block E. Madrona Blvd. KPN: Vandalism of property: Placement of yellow stickers throughout private and community-owned property in approximately 40 instances.

## April 25

00 block Cornwall Road KPS: Recovery of stolen vehicle.

## April 26

4900 block 186th Ave KPS: Unforced entry of a shed on residential property; Chainsaw and socket set missing

## April 28

14000 block 139th SC KPN: Telephone harassment; Eight phone calls received requesting personal financial information after caller informed of winning a car and cash.

8400 block Lackey Rd KPN: Arrest of

driver operating vehicle with suspended license.

100 block 9th Ave NW: Arrest of driver operating vehicle with suspended license.

8600 block 137th St NW: Drive-by shooting into a vehicle of one round from a rifle causing damage to interior of vehicle.

## April 29

18000 block 104th St.: Theft of outboard motor from a parked boat at a residence.

16000 block 59th SC: Attempted theft of items in an unsecured wood shed.

## May 2

13700 block of Sandy Point East; Attempted theft of truck parked in residential driveway.

## May 3

700 block Key Peninsula Hwy N: Forced entry and residential burglary of lawn mower and rear license plate.

## May 4

13000 block 2nd Ave NW: Unforced entry and residential burglary of coin collection and jewelry.

## May 5

13300 block 105th Ave NW: Theft of money from motor vehicle parked at a residence.

10400 block 133rd St NW: Theft of money from a mini van and theft of money from a car parked at a residence.

300 block Creviston Rd: Forced entry of a vehicle parked. No items taken.

## May 6

14100 block 141st Ave KPN: Motor vehicle theft of a 1995 Toyota Tacoma.

14500 block 180th Ave: Forced entry of a residential trailer by prying open a window and burglary of a laptop computer.

## May 7

3800 block Key Peninsula Hwy: Charges and arrest of driver operating a vehicle while license suspended and obstructing justice by fleeing the scene.

3400 Jackson Lake Rd: Report of fraud related to two online banking transactions.

## May 9

16600 block 57th St: Three instances

of vehicle prowling from three automobiles parked at a residence. Missing items are three stereo faceplates, three i-pods, one bible and fifteen compact music discs.

6700 block Key Peninsula Hwy S: Forced entry by prying open a door of a residential trailer and burglary of a television, chainsaw, chainsaw sharpener, survey levels, pressure washer, four sets of tires and rims and aluminum scrap.

## May 10

11600 block 134th Ave: Theft from residential property of three sets of tires and rims and eight car batteries.

300 block 210th Ave KPS: Unforced entry of residential garage and burglary of three chainsaws.

20600 block Herron Rd: Arrest from driving while license suspended and driving a vehicle with expired registration.

## May 11

101st St KPN: Report of traffic collision. One vehicle struck another on the back end.

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# FD 16 CALL LOG

**A summary of calls for FD 16 for April 17 to May 16**

Total Calls: 141

EMS: 97

Fire/service: 20

Other: 24

## April 17

An 89-year-old Wauna man fascinated a KPF D EMT with his tales of WWII. The man had choked on his medication and the firefighter used the opportunity to assess the man's airway. The man remained at home requiring no further medical need.

## April 18

Firefighter responded to the area of Camp Coleman for a report of a pickup versus tree. They found an abandoned Chevy truck over an embankment with heavy front-end damage. While searching the area firefighters were approached by a neighbor who reported that an apparently

intoxicated man had walked away from the scene and was picked up by someone in another vehicle. Pierce County Sheriff's office was investigating.

## May 14

KP water rescue team members were called to the aid of two young men who were kayaking in Henderson Bay. Apparently the two in-experienced boaters were unprepared for an excursion trying to make the crossing with just one paddle when one young man fell into the water. KP staff was already committed to a medical aid incident so the Gig Harbor medics took the call, which fortunately was located between the two districts. Gig Harbor medics transported both to an area hospital.

## May 14

A motorcycle rider and passenger escaped serious injury when their bike rear-

ended a pickup truck on Key Peninsula Highway near Volunteer Park. The pickup truck was moving slowly after yielding to cars in front of it. Apparently the motorcyclist failed to recognize the truck's slow speed until it was too late. The motorcyclist laid the bike down, causing it to slide into and under the rear bumper of the truck. Both riders were transported to a local hospital for evaluation and treatment of minor injuries. The pickup truck driver was not injured. Drugs or alcohol were not contributing factors.

## May 16

A 22-year-old woman was assisting her boyfriend with a home remodel project when a stack of plywood fell over onto her. The woman was carried into the home where she was found by KP Medics who treated her for numbness in her legs. She was transported to a local hospital.

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## Logging in the miles

Students at Vaughn Elementary School participated in the National Run A Mile Day event on May 4. The Peninsula School District was the first in the state to participate in the national event held May 4-6. Healthy Communities of Pierce County worked with the district to host the event. It was sponsored by the American Running Association and Youth Runner Magazine.

*Photo by Eleanor Walters, KP News*

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# Nimrick's Old and New owner retires, closes store

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

After eight years as more of a gathering place than a retail business, "Nimrick's Old and New" store in Key Center closed its doors on April 30. It was a sad day for many.

"Nimrick's Old and New" was opened in 2003 by Harry and Barbara Nimrick, longtime residents of the Minter Creek area. They came to the Key Peninsula in 1974 from Tacoma. Initially they operated a summer horse camp for children. The horse camp ended as the family went into other pursuits.

The Nimricks were involved in community volunteer activities. Barbara was one of the founding members of the board of directors for the KP Community Services/Senior Center/Food Bank with which she served as secretary and president ultimately becoming its director. When Harry had a heart

attack, Barbara resigned her KPCCS position to be with him until his recovery.

"Later, when able, I moved back to my former employer, the Tacoma Bon Marche in diamond and jewelry sales, said Barbara. "Then the entrepreneurial bug bit me and we opened Nimrick's Old and New with our son Randy and his wife Geri and a new and wonderful part of our life began."

Nimrick appreciatively said, "I wish to thank all of our faithful customers, friends, and family for eight of the most wonderful years of our lives. The store was more than a retail outlet. It served as a meeting place for seniors and friends to spend time during the day picking up on the latest happenings. It was a place to exchange ideas, have coffee, and meet a new friend. This will all be greatly missed as I say goodbye to my dear friend, Nimrick's Old and New."



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KPNews

Just before the final day of business at her Key Center store, "Nimrick's Old and New," Barbara Nimrick poses with her mascot, "Honey Bear." It is a gift from a good friend and client, Chuck Woodworth. Nimrick said of the bear, "He's my constant companion."

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## Summer Camps on the Key!

Key Pen Parks is excited to get the summer started! Come find "The key to your next adventure" with our summer camp line-ups. Sign up now for Eco Adventure Camp, Skate Camp, Cheer Camp and Challenger Sport Camps. More information can be found by visiting [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com)

## Cinema Under The Stars

Grab a blanket and come out to enjoy 4 unforgettable Friday evenings in August! Movie begins at dusk. Pre-movie entertainment from 7:30-8:30 pm. Sponsored by CenturyLink  
Location: Volunteer Park

## Movie Line-up

5th- Yogi Bear  
12th -How to Train Your Dragon  
19th-The Wizard of Oz  
26th-Cats & Dogs

## Twilight Movie Mania (Double Feature)

Join Key Pen Parks as we host a double feature showing of Twilight: New Moon and Eclipse. Sponsored by The Peninsula Light Company.

Location: Volunteer Park  
Day/Date: Saturday, July 30  
Time: Movie begins at dusk

Fee: \$2 per person  
Note: Twilight Trivia Game 8:15 pm

**Key Pen Parks**

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# Accident leads to organic plant food

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Steve Wortinger, former Master Gardener, landscape designer and general contractor, was hired to do Bio-remediation for a time. He cleaned up oil spills with bacteria and microbes.

He expected the ground would be unusable for plants after the spill was cleaned up. The opposite was true.

"Plants and grass grew like crazy," he says.

A realization "came out of the blue" that the bacteria and microbes didn't eat the oil, but broke it down into amino acids with their enzymes.

He and his associates set up an experiment. In a 1,100-gallon barrel, they put sand, water and crude oil, then added microbes and let it sit. When Wortinger eventually turned on the spigot near the bottom, out came a fluid that looked like apple juice. He took some home and put it on a few plants.

"The plants died but not the roots, and a new plant came up and grew well," he

says.

He had the world record sunflower, with over 120 seeds on one plant, but he didn't know it. Ten years later a grower gained the Guinness Record with more seeds.

Wortinger figured he was onto something, but this was the mid '90s, and the state of Washington wouldn't register it. No permission would be granted for pouring oil on the ground.

He says there was no oil left in the product, no hydro-carbons.

It was fulvic acid that looked like apple juice, but he only learned that later.

"Fulvic acid is the most complex compound in a plant," Wortinger says, "like liquid sunshine."

He developed a specific formula, which is intellectual domain, and was in business in Anacortes at first.

He and partners Tim Heitzman and Sean Bonsell now market it on the Key Peninsula, where he currently works and lives.

The product, carried by Sunnycrest Nursery and the Indoor Garden Store in



Photo by Colleen Slater, KP News

**Full Circle plant food was created by accident when Steve Wortinger was hired to clean up oil spills.**

Key Center, is called Full Circle Plant and Soil Food. The name is based on the circle of life that occurs naturally on our earth, including plants, organisms, and animals.

"We shop for ingredients," Wortinger says, with the best quality rather than cheapest cost.

Kelp, fish hydroxylate (that still contains the oils and omegas), chitosan from

shrimp and crabs, "liquid feathers" and Chilian nitrates are all included in his formula.

His green lawn, healthy trees and gardens demonstrate the use of his product. His recommended usage is with worm-casting compost tea.

"There are millions more species (of organisms) in worm compost than in manure," he says.

Native trees and plants in our current environment become stressed, says Wortinger. Trees de-stressed with his plant food pop out new branches between the old, uncommon in the plant world.

Wortinger, a certified arborist, can carry a 200-gallon sprayer in his truck to use his worm compost and Full Circle plant and soil food. He recently cut a 155-year old tree not far from the Herron ferry dock. It was beyond help from his plant and soil food, but there are many more trees and garden plants on the Key he believes can benefit from his creation.

For more information: [www.fullcircleplantfood.com](http://www.fullcircleplantfood.com) or call 884-0577.

## The Mustard Seed Project

Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

June Third Thursday Community Forum:

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# Defining Church

Last week I walked into a restaurant with a group of friends. As we were seated, we could hear snatches of the conversation at an adjoining table, the group there engaged in a session of religion-bashing.

The truth is, they had a lot of ammunition. Our airwaves and bookstores are full of people seeking to make a quick buck off of the easily deceived. Even as I write this, thousands are waiting expectantly for the rapture and the end of the world. Sometimes good pastors make big mistakes; sometimes, unfortunately, shucksters and shysters are out there peddling their wares and getting rich, using religion as a platform to grow their own bank accounts.

Which is why my breakfast meeting that morning was so refreshing. We were a group of pastors along with the leaders of a national faith-based, non-profit organization. Around the table we shared the work that goes on through

our churches, work that makes the world a better place.

The woman across from me told of the weekly lunches her church offers to the homeless in Tacoma. The man next to her talked of their advocacy work in local and national government, pushing for aid and basic food supplies for the poorest of the poor. I was able to share stories of the hundreds of Key Peninsula residents who receive food, clothing, and basic assistance through our church and the other great churches out here. And the men from the non-profit? They told stories of millions of people in Africa receiving life-saving medication, education, food and supplies all because Christians have shown compassion for people in extreme poverty.

It's true that churches aren't the only organizations offering mercy for the

**Dan Whitmarsh**  
Writing by Faith



poor, feeding the hungry and caring for people who are sick and lonely. But too often the many good deeds performed by religious groups are ignored, while the excesses that crop up on the fringes get all the attention. I find myself wishing so many others could see the many beautiful acts of kindness performed in our community and around the world by common people in local churches.

A central Christian teaching is "take care not to do your good works before men, to be seen by them." Many Christians do just that: they gladly share their time, their talent, their touch and their treasures with people in less fortunate

circumstances. I know of scores of ways the churches on the KP serve this peninsula and the people who live here, in acts of love and service that rightfully receive no publicity. It's just normal people faithfully living lives of love toward their community.

In the end, that's what churches are about; that's what Christianity is about. Not the excesses and slick men in expensive suits. It's my friend in a flannel shirt who delivers food to hungry families.

It's the people putting together gift boxes for lonely seniors. It's the people collecting school supplies for low-income children. It's the groups advocating on behalf of the poorest of the poor half a world away. That is what defines Christianity, and it happens a whole lot more than you might think.

*Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church.*

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**The Mystery Church Member**

**1 Cor 9:18** Make the gospel of Christ without change.  
The last question was (What is filthy Lucre, and what makes it filthy?)  
Lucre is gain, money, and loving it makes it filthy.  
**1 Tim 6:10** For the love of money is the root of all evil.  
**1 Tim 6:5** tells us, Men of corrupt minds, and destitute of truth supposing that gain is godliness. From such, withdraw thyself.  
**1 Pet 5:2** (Pastors) Are to feed the flock of God which is among you, taking oversight of it, not for filthy Lucre. V.3 Being examples of the flock.  
God tells us in **1st Thessalonians 2:9** Laboring night and day so as not to be chargeable unto any of you.  
See **Acts 18:3** Their occupation were tent makers.  
**1 Cor. 4:12** Labor working with our own hands....  
**Eph 4:28** Let him labor working with his hands. Pastors see V.29  
**1st Thessalonians 4:11**—work with your own hands as we commanded you.  
Last, **1 Cor 9:18**—Make the Gospel of Christ without change. Puzzle Solved!  
**NEXT PUZZLE:** Can you be saved by faith alone??

## James "Buzz" Bufford

James E. "Buzz" Bufford, 64, of Carlyle, Ill. died April 22, 2011 at his residence surrounded by his family.

He was preceded in death by his mother Marilyn (nee Watkins) and stepfather Robert McCabe, and his father Harold Addis Bufford.

He is survived by his children, Maranda (Jeff) Tebbe of Carlyle and Robert (Theresa) Bufford of Nordland, Wash; grandchildren, Shelby and Robert Colston, Samantha and Christin Hupp, Charles, Siera



and Janette Tebbe and Emily, Marcus, Elijah, Jack, Riley and Ella Bufford; sisters Suzanne (Doug) Joyner of Lakebay, Wash. and Doris (Ken) Price of Wyo. and many nieces and nephews and countless friends.

There will be no services per Buzz's request and condolences can be offered to the family at any time.

Memorials can be made to VNA-TIP Hospice and will be received through Moss Funeral Home, in charge of the arrangements at 535 N. Fifth St., Breese, Ill. 62230.

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to [mossfuneralhome.com](http://mossfuneralhome.com).

## Hal Wolbert

Hal Wolbert was a long time Key Peninsula resident and passed away on March 25, 2011. He is loved and survived by his wife, Hazel-Jean; three daughters, Vicky Arnold, Lori Wolbert and Tami Lowery; and two sons, Joseph Wolbert and Lenord Lowery. He is loved and will be missed by his many grandchildren and those who know and remember his wonderful smile and gentle personality.

### I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me,  
I took His hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work or play

Tasks left undone must stay that way.  
I found that place at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.  
Ah, yes these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've savored much;  
Good Friends, good times, A loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed too brief;  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me.  
God wanted me now. He set me free.

I love you and miss you daddy.

**Do you have a story suggestion or photo to share with your Key Peninsula friends and neighbors? Send it to:**

**[editor@keypennews.com](mailto:editor@keypennews.com)**

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# Out & About

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*Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News*

Six Harbor Seals hide their heads in shame appalled at the antics of 14 family members showing off apparent aqua-levitation with support only of the waters of Von Geldern Cove.

Landon Forsell, pitching for the Aqua Rec Minor Division team at KP Little League uses an old-fashioned high leg kick, something not normally developed until later in a career, but effective in Landon's case.



*Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News*

## Where in the World...



Asia Wright of Lakebay went with her family on a South America/Antarctica cruise just before spring. She is pictured here aboard Holland America Line's MS Prinsendam while it sailed Hope Bay at the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula and opening of the Antarctic Sound. The Argentine base Esperanza is located at Hope Bay.

*Photo courtesy of Asia Wright*

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*Photo courtesy of Claudia Gehard, Special to the KP News*

Jan Prichard and Carolyn Wiley enjoyed the social event to kick off boating season at the Longbranch Marina Breakfast on May 7.