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# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

*The voice of the Key Peninsula*



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Vol. 37 Issue 3 • Circulation 9,000

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## Toxic site cleanup stalled for years

Significant amounts of benzene and cadmium were discovered at the Horseshoe Lake Wrecking site near Lake Kathryn — and seven years later cleanup is still on hold.

By William C. Dietz, KP News

Almost seven years after a site assessment by the county determined property at Horseshoe Lake Auto Wrecking contained hazardous chemicals, there has been no cleanup.

Significant amounts of benzene and cadmium were found on the property. Both substances are classified as carcinogens, which is why the county and state have targeted the site.

A letter sent from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to the couple who own the land states, "...The site's hazard ranking...has been determined to be a 1. The ranking scale ranges from 1 to 5, with 1 representing the highest relative risk and 5 the lowest



Photo courtesy of Bjorn Debord

Wrecked cars and trucks sit in piles and heaps of old tires are kept at Horseshoe Lake Auto Wrecking in Wauna. Benzene and cadmium were found on the property where Horseshoe Lake Auto Wrecking operates. The two substances are classified as carcinogens.

relative risk."

Harvey Ennis and his wife still own the property and Horseshoe Lake Auto Wrecking is still in operation. The site still has a hazard ranking of 1.

(See **TOXIC**, Page 21)

## Joemma Beach Park could be sold to highest bidder

By PJ Kezele, KP News

The fate of Joemma Beach State Park is still uncertain, as the legislature marches forward to pass a biennium budget by April or May for signature by the governor by June. The budget must be adopted 30 days before the fiscal period begins July 1.

Governor Gregoire's budget proposes \$10 million in cuts to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's \$100 million budget. Along with deferring replacement of obsolete equipment and reducing support for partner-generated activities, 15 state parks are also on the chopping block. For 13 of the 15 parks, including Joemma Beach, the

(See **PARK**, Page 7)

## Peninsula Market Steps Up Security

Staff Report

Three burglaries at the Key Center Peninsula market occurred over the past few months; however, the Pierce County Sheriff's Department had record of only one of the break-ins.

Replacing a broken window with laminated glass failed to deter burglars, so the store plans to enhance its security.

At press time, bids were being accepted for the installation of barred doors, which

will be closed at night.

According to Jim Raymond, the store's manager, these doors must be childproof. "I'm assuming the thieves are smaller and younger," he said, "because they've taken cigarettes predominantly...\$250 worth this past time."

Andrea Jerabek with Safe Streets said she was unaware of the break-ins, but that she would look into it.

Raymond said the store's owner, Don Stoltz, authorized the expense of installing

new doors to protect the store's inventory against future break-ins. "I don't see it getting any better," he said, referring to current economic conditions.

When asked if he had a message for the thieves, Raymond said, "I hope they're considering the outcome of their actions. Stealing cigarettes, or any theft, puts a black mark on their record. It's tough enough to get a job these days. Any employer will see that black mark and move on to other people (to hire)."

# SR 302 Routings down to three

By Rick Sorrels  
Special to the KP News

Washington State Department of Transportation has narrowed the locations where the new SR302 will join SR 16 down to three possibilities: 144th Street with a bridge across the lagoon, 154th Street with a bridge across the lagoon, and the land-based Pine/Spruce option connecting south of Burley.

A coalition of residents strenuously objects to SR302 crossing the Burley Lagoon, and a 2005 study done by the Key Peninsula Business Association has surfaced lately as another possibility.

## BURLEY LAGOON COALITION

About 70 members of the recently formed Burley Lagoon Coalition met with John Donahue, the WSDOT project manager, on Jan. 24 to voice their objection to constructing a bridge for SR302 across the Burley Lagoon. Very few remained quiet when words of disfavor were voiced.

John Doucett, a Wauna resident, was particularly vocal.

"If you choose one of the options to cross the Lagoon, then I will do whatever I have to do to stop the process," Doucett said. "Crossing the Lagoon would destroy protected habitat for Chinook Salmon. It would affect Grey whales, seals, clams, and oysters. It would disrupt habitat for blue heron."

Doucett further described how the elevation change from 300 ft on the Wauna side to sea level on the Purdy side, in conjunction with cold winter winds under the exposed bridge would create an extremely dangerous situation with

vehicles unable to climb the steep icy roadway headed west, and would slide down the slippery grade to massive pileups at a stop light at Purdy Drive.

"Traffic noise would be transmitted quite far from this open bridge, changing this very tranquil neighborhood into an extremely loud and undesirable one with plummeting property values," Doucett said. "Under such conditions, it would be less desirable to continue living in this environment than to be forced to sell and move away due to a condemnation action."

Ursula Corey, another Wauna resident, stated, "I have been so disturbed by how this will affect us, that I have been unable to sleep for the past week."

Coalition members praised Donahue for a difficult job. Coalition leader Murray Payne said, "You (Donahue) did a great job gathering all the information available to include in your final report."

Donahue said the public input phase is important to the project, however what lies ahead for the project is yet to be seen.

"We are in the 'scoping' phase of the project where all possible input is gathered, especially public comment," said Donahue. "We cannot design a new road that affects nobody. Whenever a new option is added or taken away, a new group three times the size then comes screaming at me.

"The environmental and engineering studies will not happen until after we obtain more funding later this year. Problems yet to be identified could very likely significantly alter the options that appear best today."

The \$100 million cost for a lagoon-crossing bridge option compared to the

\$50 million cost for a northern route without a bridge are among the many factors that may influence the final decision.

Shortly after meeting with the Burley Lagoon Coalition, Donahue met with the South Kitsap Improvement Club, which is just as concerned with disruption in the historic community of Burley if the Pine/Spruce option is chosen.

## NEW OPTION

Shortly before the deadline for public comment expired on Feb. 13, Ed Taylor submitted to WSDOT another routing option that was developed by a committee that he chaired for the KP Business Association in 2005. The committee recognized that the elevation change was a critical concern and they carefully studied contour maps to develop a routing with the slightest possible grade change between Burley and where 94th Avenue meets the existing SR 302.

Ed Taylor owns and manages the

Westwynd Motel on 144th Street in Purdy, directly in the path of the 144th Street routing option.

Donahue commented, "Taylor's submittal was one of several just received that we will study carefully. No suggestion will be ignored. We expect to continue with the process in July after the State Legislature approves additional funds."

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Key Peninsula News is published monthly by the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn, Washington. Copyright 2009 with all rights reserved. Reproduction of editorial or graphic contents in any manner without permission is prohibited. Annual subscriptions (12 issues) are available for \$25.00 and are mailed first class. Copies are mailed presort standard to residents and post office box holders of the Key Peninsula. Single copies are available at the newspaper office in the basement of the Civic Center annex and at various distribution points located on the Key Peninsula. Approximately 18,000 people live in the distribution area.

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# School levy wins public support

By Danna Webster, KP News

Voters supported the Peninsula School District's request for a replacement levy. The special election votes were nearly two to one in favor with 66 percent "Yes" votes. "Sixty-six percent. We feel very good about (it). We think it validates the community support for the schools and we love it," said PSD superintendent Terry Bouck in response to the vote results. "I think this community has a lot to be proud of for their support for the schools," Bouck said.

The replacement levy is 20 percent of the District's revenue and will be used to continue to support the costs of such expenditures as class size reduction, hiring teachers and support staff, increasing safety security, and upgrading the bus fleet. According to the district, the levy will not increase tax rates. It will renew an expiring four-year levy approved in 2005 with an estimated tax rate of \$1.32 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. When asked about the risky

nature of seeking the levy replacement during times of financial distress, Bouck said, "We had no choice. The levy is 20 percent of our funding. What feels very good is that, during these tough economic times, the parents, the community and the staff chose to support kids," he said.

"Eighty percent of the levy monies will go to people," said PSD deputy superintendent, Chuck Cuzzetto. The money will be spread across the district equitably for all staff: teachers, clerical, support and maintenance. The PSD provides education to over 9,000 students with 600 certificated and 300 classified staff members. Cuzzetto is pleased with the community support for the district on that portion of the budget. That support is critical because the district is preparing for budget cuts from the state. "Probably more than \$1 million in reduction," he said. The district will still struggle with the 2009-2010 budgets because of the state budget cuts and, in addition, the number of students in the district is

declining which causes further reduction in revenues.

Members from the school board, business community, parents, administrators, employees and union leaders developed the spending plan proposal for the replacement levy cooperatively. "All the stakeholders had a part in it," said school board member, Jill Johnson. She was the co-chair, with Dalen Harrison, for the Citizens for Peninsula Schools committee. This committee was organized 25 years ago to get out the vote for school bonds and levies. Work on the replacement levy started a year in advance. The vote results were "absolutely phenomenal numbers," Johnson said. "We are so proud of our community," she said. The committee now owns the trademark for the slogan used in their campaign, Great communities support great schools.

Some of the 30 plus levy presentations by Superintendent Bouck and Deputy Superintendent Cuzzetto were on the Key Peninsula. At the Jan. 16 Key

“

**I think this community has a lot to be proud of for their support for the schools.**

— Terry Bouck, superintendent

”

Peninsula Business Association lunch meeting, they presented a list of programs and expenditures that are funded by levy money: health technicians at all schools, instructional coaches at each elementary, extended day activities support, technology service, school building maintenance and new instructional materials.

Bouck, who lives in Purdy, made it known that he keeps an eye out for the Key Pen schools. "The Key Peninsula is unique," Bouck said. "It's about community. It's about kids. The kids are well-behaved. They work hard. I'm so proud of being here three years and I plan to be here for a while," he said.

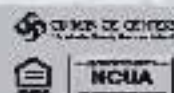
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Loss of Jeanne Brodsack loss for community

The recent passing of the Key Peninsula's Jeanne Brodsack was a true loss to our community.

Many of our newer residents may not be aware of the role that she and two other women played in the early establishment of health services here.

Jeanne was among the first of Washington States' accredited Physician's Assistants, and in 1976 she, together with the late Nat Knox (Commander USN-Ret.) and resident Judy Wilson (RN) were able to establish a health clinic in a small building on the grounds of the Longbranch Church.

Operating funds were always short, but with the determination of the three founders, other volunteers, and the support of a guiding Health Clinic Board the original vision grew and served the community well.

When Federal Housing and Urban Development grant funds became available in 1979 to build a new public building the Health Center was chosen to occupy one-half of the structure and the Pierce County Library the other half.

The new structure in Key Center allowed the Health Center to occupy enlarged and improved facilities and to introduce Dr. William Roes to the Key Peninsula, and the move from Longbranch was made on Aug. 1, 1982. Some years later Dr. Roes and the Health Center Board negotiated the transfer of ownership to him, and later he and his staff moved to a new facility up the hill behind the present library. Thus the original dream of quality health services for the Key Peninsula originating with Jeanne Brodsack and others has become a reality for us all over the last 33 years.

*Keith Stiles, Wauna*

#### To submit a letter

To submit letters to the editor, please email letters to news@keypennews.com, or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394. Letters to the editor should be no more than 250 words and include full name and contact information for verification.

# It's Your Money

**T**his year many people look forward to tax season. They're getting refunds and desperately need that check from the IRS.

If you need your tax refund badly enough you might simply sign a form with a tax preparer, pay a fee and walk out with a few thousand dollars against your soon coming refund. What you may not notice is the extremely high interest rate on that loan. These short-term loans are a fairly low risk to the lender because the IRS mitigates risk with alerts to the lender for claims like child support and unpaid federal student loans.

To be certain we are clear, these short-term, high-interest loans prey on the very people who can least afford them, the "working poor" who may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). It may seem like a small amount of money and it would be if it was a one or two-year loan but it's not, it is a 10-day loan. These loans only survive because of need and impatience.

The IRS has expanded electronic filing to 80 percent of filed returns. Today, returns that are e-filed can be received in as short as 10 business days

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eliminating the "need" for tax refund loans. Spread the word about the EITC. The EITC is a tax credit for low income working individuals and families. Even if you or someone you know didn't earn enough money to file a tax return, you or they may still qualify for a refund up to \$4,824.

For 2008 the amount of income you can earn to claim the credit has increased as follows;

- \$38,646 (or \$41,646 if married filing jointly) with 2 or more qualifying children,
- \$33,995 (or \$36,995 if married filing jointly) with 1 qualifying child,
- \$12,880 (or \$15,880 if married filing jointly) with no qualifying children.

To be eligible for the EITC you must file a tax return and meet certain requirements, for example:

- Have a social security number for each individual listed on tax return,

- Have earned income,
- Be U.S. citizen or resident alien all year, or a nonresident alien married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien filing a joint tax return
- Tax status is not "married filing separately",
- Meet Income Eligibility Guidelines.

The EITC has no effect on certain welfare benefits like Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, low-income housing or most Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) offers free tax help to low-to-moderate income people. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns. Most locations offer free electronic filing. AARP is participating in the Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program which provides free tax help to people 60 and older that are of low-to-middle income. The program provides free tax counseling and basic income tax return preparation.

To locate the nearest VITA or AARP site, call 211 or 800-829-1040.

## KP COMMUNITY FAIR: THE LITTLE FAIR THAT COULD

**B**y now most of you probably know that there will not be a 2009 Key Peninsula Community Fair. So there is bad news and good news with this situation. First the bad news. There will be no Key Peninsula Community Fair in 2009. Now the good news. This provides a great opportunity for the Fair Board to have a year of planning to have a different and most hopefully better Key Peninsula Community Fair in 2010.

The Key Peninsula Community Fair has been a yearly event on the Key Peninsula since 2001. In the beginning there were four partner organizations: Key Peninsula Park and Recreation District, Longbranch Improvement Club, Key Peninsula Civic Center, and the Key Peninsula Business Association.

**JUD  
MORRIS**

FROM THE WATER'S EDGE



Now there are three "managing partner" organizations. The goals of the Fair are many: be well attended by people in the community, show a profit, be a fair the community is proud of, be relevant to the Key Peninsula community. Each year some, part, or all of these goals have been met (somewhat). But the partner organizations want the fair to be better in all the above categories, especially regarding attendance. So being involved is really very important, not just voting

with your feet by attending, but also volunteering to help somehow with the fair.

The only suggestion I have is that the 2010 fair must be fun, fun, and more fun for everyone — children and adults. Maybe reindeer rides for children and those who are young-at-heart (please see my December column for details). The same people and same organizations need more energy, new participating organizations, new ideas, and more people to help have a fair that everyone on the Key Peninsula really can say, "The Key Peninsula Community Fair, that's my Fair." The bottom line is that the Key Peninsula Community Fair will only be as good as we the community in the Key Peninsula Community Fair make it.





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Saturday, May 9, 2009, at Key Peninsula Civic Center

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# Drug and alcohol forum to focus on teens

By Marsha Hart, KP News

As the first in a series of steps designed to eliminate the problem of underage drinking and illegal drug use by teenagers, the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Gig Harbor Police Department and the Washington State Patrol are hosting a drug and alcohol forum. The forum will be held March 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Peninsula High School.

Gig Harbor Community Service Officer Lynn Mock said the forum will host several experts.

"We will have an emergency room doctor, a State Farm insurance agent, and a father who has lost his child to underage drinking," Mock said. "What parents don't know is if you're gone and you've left your teenager at home and they have a party at your house and someone dies there, you're still responsible for it."

During the forum there will also be a drug recognition expert on hand to discuss the signs of drug use, a youth counselor, a recovering addict and high school students who will talk about alcohol and drug use.

The second step in the attempt to curb the problem of underage drinking, she said, is something she calls a party patrol.

The agencies are teaming up again on an undisclosed date in March, she said, to respond to noise calls and intelligence they have gathered about party spots in the area.


"There is a big problem in this area with parents providing the alcohol at these parties," Mock said. "We're going to round the teens up and we will have drug and alcohol counseling there and then we're going to call their parents to come pick them up. If the parents can't pick them up they (kids) will be booked into jail."



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# FD-16 STATS

## Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

### Feb 7

The KP Fire Dept. responded to seven medical aid calls resulting in six transports to area hospitals.

### Feb 8

Medics and firefighters responded to the home of a 91-year-old man who was complaining of abdominal pain for the last three days. The man was treated while being transported to a Tacoma area hospital.

### Feb 9

An elderly couple driving a Nissan sedan crossed the centerline and struck a four-wheel drive truck head-on near Minter Creek on SR302. The couple suffered leg fractures and the driver of the truck had suspected internal injuries. All three were transported to Tacoma area hospitals with the help of Gig Harbor and Kitsap County

ambulances. The highway was closed while State Patrol investigated the accident in the mid afternoon.

### Feb 10

Fire crews responded to the Jackson Lake area for the report of a vehicle over an embankment. Upon arrival at the scene responders found the vehicle to be unoccupied, they searched the area with a thermal imagining camera to ensure there were no injured people who had been ejected from the vehicle. None were found.

### Feb 11

A rollover accident near Lake Holiday on SR 302 involved a 27-year-old Tacoma woman who was transported by Medics to a Tacoma area hospital.

### Feb 12

A 51-year-old Wauna man was treated and transported to a Tacoma hospital for severe head pain a day after he received eye surgery.

## BRIEFS

news

### Public transportation in jeopardy on KP

Revenues have fallen for Pierce Transit. On Feb. 9 its Board of Commissioners were presented with three proposed routing changes to help reduce their losses. Provisions in one proposal would eliminate the first and last trips for each day from all routes. Another includes eliminating BusPlus on the KP. The last would eliminate some Pierce County routes entirely (not the KP routes) and also eliminate some trips from some routes.

Public hearings will be held before a final vote is taken at a date not yet determined. Changes would become effective on July 5.

On Feb. 19 a proposal was announced and will be presented to the commissioners on March 9 that would eliminate bus service south of Key Center on Route 113. Another proposal would eliminate route 113 entirely, leaving no bus service on the KP.

Public comment is welcome on March

9. Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners will meet March 9 at 4 p.m. at the Pierce Transit training facility located at 3720 96th St SW in Lakewood, just off of South Tacoma Way.

### PenLight Offers Free Showerheads to Save Water

PenLight, in partnership with the Bonneville Power Administration will offer free showerheads to members whose water is heated with electricity. To receive your free showerhead, visit [www.penlight.org](http://www.penlight.org) and click the link on the PenLight homepage. The showerheads will be mailed directly from the vendor to your home within 4 to 6 weeks. (Limit two per household.) The company serves 2,200 water customers.

### Citizen comments wanted

FD16 Fire Commissioners appointed nine citizens to a Citizens' Advisory Committee, which meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Key Center Station. Citizens are encouraged to attend and voice their concerns about FD16 and whether a levy should be placed on the ballot.

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## Longbranch Improvement Club

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the Corner  
in Beautiful  
Longbranch

### Spuds 'n' Suds

LIC members and guests enjoy the Third Annual St. Paddy's Day Pre-Lunch. Join your Irish friends and neighbors in a baked-potato feast. Fry your own potatoes and your mind at limricks. Another great reason to bring your friends and neighbors to the LIC. It's the only proper way to get ready for the wearing of the green. 6pm, Saturday, March 14. LIC members and guests, Irish and non.

### Meet your Neighbors

LIC general meeting, dessert, potluck. All are welcome — even if you're just hungry for homemade treats. Annual membership starts at \$20 and stops at \$30 for everyone in the neighborhood can be a part of the only Improvement Club within 100 miles. Wednesday, March 18 at 7 pm, see you here.

253 484-6022 for LIC information  
253 484-9157 for event info or tickets  
LIC Clubhouses at 4312 Key Pen Hwy S.  
5 miles south of the Home Bridge  
[www.longbranchimprovementclub.org](http://www.longbranchimprovementclub.org)

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(From PARK, Page 1)

state is looking to local agencies to take over the parks through a land transfer at no cost to the receiving agencies as long as the parks continue to be used for outdoor recreation. If there are no takers, the parks could conceivably be sold to a private party at a public auction to the highest bidder, according to the commission.

While Scott Gallacher, executive director of Key Pen Parks, is optimistic, he is also realistic about the district's ability to take over.

“We first would like it [Joemma] to remain a state park,” Gallacher said. “Beyond that, the numbers are a challenge. Revenues are at \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year, and expenses are around \$90,000 for staff wages, maintenance and operations, with no capital improvements.”

A low ratio of about 24 percent earned revenue to management cost may very well be a primary reason Joemma Beach is on the chopping block. Parks with revenues of 60 percent or more of operating costs are considered “consistent” with the Centennial 2013 vision. Parks that fall in the 30-60 percent range are considered “potentially consistent,” and parks that fall below 30 percent are considered “inconsistent.” With an overall rating of “potentially consistent,” Joemma Beach would require further study to determine if a substantial investment would allow it to be reclassified as “consistent.”

Another sticking point for Key Pen Parks centers on the floating docks, which are taken in and out each year by state parks marine crews. A grant for \$560,000 from the Washington State Recreation Conservation Office to build the docks stipulated that once completed, public access be allowed for

25 years.

The docks were completed in April, however, engineering reports indicate that the docks were not designed for open water and will not likely last the 24 years for public access.

“This is a marine facility with unique characteristics,” Gallacher said. “Because the docks were not built for open water, the stipulation of the grant creates encumbrances that would need to be thoroughly investigated before taking this on. We, more than anyone, don't want to see parks close, but we have to be aware of what our constituents want. If they want parks to stay open, taxes and user fees may have to increase. We're being very cautious with regard to the potential impact this property would have on the district budget and the residents of the Key Peninsula.”

Local legislators are also working to help ensure the 122-acre marine camping park stays open to the public. In a Feb. 3 email sent to Rex Derr, state parks and recreation commissioner, Representative Larry Seaquist wrote, “As you know, there is huge community support for the parks (Kopachuck and Joemma) and a wonderfully forward-thinking willingness to try to find a practical way to keep both parks open. Picking up on your offer, may I invite your staff to join us in a community-hosted work session or two to examine the options ranging from finding alternative savings that would allow the parks to remain under state operation to various ways to transition to local control and operation.” Seaquist also wrote that he “had not had an opportunity to confer with Senator Kilmer on this, but I expect that he will also welcome your help with this community effort to keep these vital parks open and staffed.”

If a solution for the Joemma Beach State Park cannot be found, it will likely close Sept. 15.

Gallacher is encouraging citizens to mobilize and make their voices heard.

“If people don't stand up, this will happen,” he said.

Citizens may comment to the commission by email to: pao@parks.wa.gov, or by letter to Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 2650, Olympia, WA, 98504-2650.

You can also post comments through the Fox Island Community Recreation Association to state officials via www.foxisland.net.

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# Community supports Civic Center Crab Feed fundraiser

By Danna Webster, KP News

The annual Crab Feed at the Civic Center on Feb. 21 sold out before six o'clock. Families and friends streamed in the doors starting at 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon. As the crowd grew, volunteers went into the store room and brought out extra folding chairs and tables. Some guests created an impromptu food bar at the stage and stood to eat their meals. The good humored crowd shared table space and crab crackers as they ate their way through 500 pounds of crab garnished with a spaghetti side dish, green salad and French bread. The volunteer bartenders at the cash bar sold wines and beer including Key Pen's own local Trillium Creek chardonnay. The scouts and brownies from Troop 222 hustled to bus the tables and then turned to clean and clear tables and chairs as the last guests parted. The volunteer kitchen crew looked only slightly wilted after feeding over 200 guests as the volunteer clean up crew stepped in to finish the mop up and ready the hall for church on Sunday morning.

"I want to thank the community for the high participation," said the Crab Feed coordinator Loyd Miller as he explained the importance of this fund raising event. The civic center receives no state funding monies and this type of event is essential



Dining guests made an impromptu food bar at the Civic Center stage when tables and chairs ran out at the Crab Feed.

Photos by Danna Webster



Left, Janice and Jackson Bryant enjoy the Crab Feed after a busy day of tending 28 new spring lambs at their Kaukiki Farm. Below, Kimberly and Timothy Oaks returned from their new home in Tacoma to enjoy the Crab Feed and visit with Key Pen friends.

**"I want to thank the community for the high participation."**

— Loyd Miller, coordinator

to their budget. "We got a lot more people than we expected. We also apologize because we ran out early and we had some pre-sale tickets we had to refund. Most of the people were pretty pleased, especially the early arrivals. Next year we will try to do better," he said.



# Dan Mazur, mountaineer, shared stories of adventure

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Dan Mazur presented a slide and video program to 120 people last month, co-sponsored by the Key Peninsula Friends of the Library and the Longbranch Improvement Club.

Mazur met a Russian man in the Katmandu local climbing equipment store in 1991 and found himself on the peak of Mt. Everest three weeks later.

He told of being paired with this man as his climbing partner because the Russian was attempting to be the oldest climber of Everest on record, and Mazur was



MAZUR

considered the weak, foolish young American. They made it, but not without facing many challenges, including Mazur's choice to leave his partner to possibly die in order to get help.

Mazur, who began climbing in Glacier National Park at age 17, now spends spring through fall leading overland, trekking, and climbing expeditions in many countries, including on Mt. Rainier. His winter months are filled with speaking engagements about his climbing experiences, as well as collecting funds for the Mount Everest Foundation for sustainable Development.

The crowd donated nearly \$400 to that charity at the program. The Foundation helps improve living conditions in some

of the villages of Nepal near Everest.

Mazur presented a slide show of the Everest climb, and a video about the rescue of Australian climber Lincoln Hall in 2006.

Hall had been abandoned for dead by his climbing partner, but Mazur and his party gave up their quest for the summit to save a fellow climber.

Another video showed the development of the foundation. Mazur reported two young women of the village have completed training to help with medical care. Another is training to be a nurse so she can deliver babies. Currently, expectant mothers are carried many miles to the nearest medical facility, and many die or lose their babies in the process.

Mazur said 20 percent of children die

before their fifth birthday from dehydration due to diarrhea. A pill that costs a nickel can save them.

In 1993, Greg Mortenson joined a Mazur expedition in an attempt on Pakistan's K2. In a state of exhaustion and disorientation, Mortenson wandered away and eventually arrived in a small village, where the course of his life was dramatically altered.

Mortenson's story is retold in the 2009 Pierce County READS selection, "Three Cups of Tea" by David Oliver Relin. Copies are available at the Key Center Library.

For more information on Mazur, his experiences, future expeditions, and the foundation, go to [summitclimb.com](http://summitclimb.com) or [everestparivar.com/mount/](http://everestparivar.com/mount/)

# Pierce County Library gathers input for future

By Marsha Hart, KP News

What the Pierce County Library System is learning is the libraries don't have enough materials and there aren't enough seats, but the system is still gathering input from the public. It's part of a project to come up with information for Pierce County Library System's facilities master plan: Pierce County Library 2030.

Several open house meetings were held in January and February to gather input from community leaders, and public meetings were hosted as well.

"We're assessing our current service levels," said Mary Getchell communications director for the library system. "We want to hear what the needs are in the communities, and how the library is meeting those needs."

Whether the library building is in the right place, if customers would prefer a vending machine to get materials, a smaller kiosk, larger library space are

the type of input they are looking for, Getchell said.

"One thing we know is that customers want a wide array of materials and they want them to be new," she said. "We are constantly purchasing new materials, but each time we purchase we have to remove something from the shelf."

By looking at other libraries in the country that are comparable in size, Getchell said the Pierce County Library System can learn more.

"In May we will make recommendations back to the community leaders and the public," she said, "but that is a draft and in the fall we will have a final plan. If the final plan looks like we need to expand the library system, that would result in talking to voters."

For more information on the master plan, visit [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org). Customers can post comments on the blog, or in writing at the Key Center Library or any of the 17 Pierce County Libraries.

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# Trillium Creek Winery honored with award

Staff Reports

The Pierce Conservation District presented Trillium Creek Winery with their Wildlife Steward Farm of the Year award. This award was originated by Pierce Conservation 10 years ago and has become a statewide program for counties

and districts.

Later this year, one recipient of the county awards will receive the Washington State Conservation Commission stewardship award. In the presentation, Trillium Creek Winery owners, Claude and Claudia Gahard, were recognized not only for winery grounds pretty enough for picnic lunches, but also for a 15-acre respite for local wildlife.

According to the conservation district, this past year the Gahards received the Salmon Safe label for the extraordinary measures taken to ensure their farm practices do not negatively affect surface water quality. "From inviting insect eating birds, to shunning chemicals and relying on manual weed removal for their five acres of grapes and seven acres of park-like grounds, Claude and Claudia welcome everyone whether they be two-footed, four-footed, or finned," wrote Erin Ewald for the presentation. Ewald is the farm resource planner for Pierce Conservation.

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# Family Resource Center open house well attended

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Family Resource Center in Vaughn hosted an open house in February with more than 40 in attendance.

The FRC is an agency of the Children's Home Society, which serves clients in Pierce County on this side of the bridge. The FRC client base has grown with the change in economy, and Morris says they've had to change their focus to some extent. The 2005 client base was 800. Last year they served nearly 1600 people. There are more people who have lost jobs and run out of resources. Many of these consider the FRC help a kind of loan, and when they are back on their feet, want to repay.

"The word crisis," says program Manager Jud Morris, "comes from the Greek word krisis, and it means opportunity."

When there is a crisis, there is the opportunity to look at things differently and to make different choices. Community networking among organizations and agencies allows them to see opportunities and make things happen to care for those in need.

"When I help people pay bills, it's helping local businesses," Morris says, and that in turn helps the local community. These FRC clients are consumers, and most are customers of businesses near where they live.

"We need to see how we can help each other," he says.

The FRC in Vaughn has an advantage to be a tenant in the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

"It's an old building," says Morris, "but we have minimal facility costs, so we can maximize our services."

The FRC opened in Vaughn in 1995, with about 1,000 square feet of space. Various remodels, some recently completed, expanded their space to 1,500 square feet.

The facility occupies the basement rooms of the Key Peninsula Civic Center that was previously the Vaughn Union High School.

Former female students at the school might recognize the main storage space as the girls' locker, shower, and bathrooms, but the boys' area is totally transformed.

Windows and light colored walls of

the staff room belie the former locker space. Morris' office is a step up because the former shower floor drain still exists below the floor. The modern bathroom is a real change from the former facility.

The "interview room" next to the reception area now has an art display on a periwinkle wall, courtesy of local artist, Kathy Bauer.

"We're now the Art Gallery of the Key Peninsula," says Morris, adding that selected art has calming effects on the people who come in.

A former hallway, first used as a client interview space, is now a mini-lounge for a staff member or two.

The Group Room, a comfortable area for staff or client meetings, was constructed last year next to the current shop area of the building.

Major funding for the remodeling came from the Pierce County Council, with Terry Lee and KPCC board president Phil Bauer working together on the project.

CenturyTel donated the cost of materials and equipment for an updated telephone and messaging system with a grant to KPCC, with the understanding it would be used for the FRC remodel.

The FRC provides many programs to assist children and families in the area.

Parenting classes, home visits, preschool Indoor Park, Little Buddies and Amigos mentoring, and summer fun for several weeks at different locations on the Key, are only a sampling.

"It might be our open house, but it's really honoring our staff and the families that we provide services for," said Morris. "It's all about the community," said Morris after the open house.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Pam Meeker and Diana Comfort, of the Gig Harbor YMCA, Doey Humphry, a teenager visiting her grandmother Vicki Biggs, who is with Children's Home Society, one of the event's sponsors, Tami Miller of the Family Resource Center, Marlies Van Cise, Bruce Macdonald, Betty Power and Drake Porter were part of the well attended Open House showing off the newly renovated quarters of the organization Feb. 18.

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**Save the date for Parks Appreciation Day April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-12 pm**

If you love your parks come out and support Parks Appreciation Day. No need to pre-register; just drop by your favorite park to help cleanup.

**2009 Co-ed Spring Softball Registrations**

Key Pen Parks is now accepting team registrations. Teams will play an 8 game season plus playoffs at the end. Games will be held Thursday nights from April 16<sup>th</sup>-June 25<sup>th</sup>. Cost of the league and end of season tournament is \$ 525.00.

**Tennis Block Party at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Tennis Courts March 21<sup>st</sup> from 10-2pm Free!!!**

Key Pen Parks, Fox Island Community Tennis Association, & USIA are kicking off tennis this Spring with a Block Party on March 21<sup>st</sup> from 10-2pm. You will have the opportunity to get hands on tennis instruction, interactive games for all players of any age and abilities, along with food and drinks to complete the day.

**Pet Easter Treat Hunt**

Key Pen Parks & PETCO presents Pet Easter Treat Hunt. Check in will begin at 10:00 am and the hunt will start promptly at 10:30am. The hunt will last until supplies run out or at 12 pm. 1st place prize for best dressed pet. Put your pet's nose to work uncovering eggs containing treats or something special plus one mystery prize to find and claim at the registration table. Come and sniff around at the agility course brought to you by the Gig Harbor Kennel Club. Please bring a collection bag for your treats (DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH).

**AREA YOUTH TO COMPETE IN AQUALINA MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PITCH HIT & RUN COMPETITION, SATURDAY APRIL 11<sup>th</sup>**


Key Pen Parks will host a free Aqualina Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit, & Run Competition for area youth. We would like to encourage other Little Leagues and youth organizations to participate.

Date: April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from time TBA at Volunteer Park located at 5514 Key Peninsula Hwy N. in Lakeway.

**Pee Wee T-Ball** This program gives youth ages 3 1/2 to 5 the opportunity to learn the basic fundamentals of baseball and improve their skills and fundamentals of baseball. Scalloped down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all kids. (Participants must be born after May 2004 to September 2005). T-Ball will run six weeks on Wednesday nights starting May 13<sup>th</sup> and ending June 17<sup>th</sup> at Volunteer Park. Cost is \$ 39 per youth.

**Tennis in the Parks for Youth & Adults**

Key Pen Parks, Fox Island Community Tennis Association, & USIA presents Spring Tennis in the Parks. Quick Start Tennis for youth ages 4-10 on Saturdays at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Tennis Courts. Learn to play tennis fast by having fun with special zed equipment, short courts, and modified scoring. Four week sessions are planned for April 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, & May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Time: 1<sup>st</sup> - 12 pm Cost is \$40. Min 4 Max 12



**Key Pen Parks**  
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# Plant now, prepare for KP Farmers Market

By Marsha Hart, KP News

It's growing season again, and whether you're a bona fide farmer, or a smalltime gardener, the Key Peninsula Farmers Market could be an avenue to share the bounty.

Holly Hendrick, market manager, said local gardeners definitely have a place at the market, under the right circumstances.

"In order to make the market worth their while, gardeners need to have a fairly large crop and decent selection of produce. Also, all produce vendors should have liability insurance in case someone gets sick from one of their items."

Each vendor needs a pop up canopy or cover as well as bags and other supplies.

"Participating in the market can be a bit daunting and expensive for small time growers," she said.

Anyone who plans to participate in the Farmers Market should be starting seeds now, in a green house or warm spot in their house, she said. And growers should keep in mind that shoppers expect pesticide-free produce, and organic seeds are a great idea.

Though other markets in the area feature prepared food vendors and musicians, the Key Peninsula Farmers Market Board has an agreement with Greg Calahan that they not have vendors or entertainment that competes with O'Callahan's business, Hendrick said.

Calahan allows free parking in his parking lot, and hosts local musicians in the beer garden, which Hendrick said is

**"Participating in the market can be a bit daunting and expensive for small time growers."**

-Holly Hendrick, market manager

kid-friendly on Sundays during market hours.

"That adds to the general farmers market ambiance," she said.

The artist and crafter section of the market will be a bit different this season, with partial season crafters.

Because the ratio of farmers to crafters must be 3:1, and there were so many crafters interested in participating in the market, Hendrick said the board decided to implement the partial season and rotate crafters.

"This is great for the market and the consumers, because there will be a greater variety of products in the market throughout the season. This new crafter policy also keeps the market fresh and new from week to week and is good incentive to make the farmers market a weekly habit."

Anyone interested in a booth at the farmers market should look at the rules and policies on the website at [www.kpfarmersmarket.org](http://www.kpfarmersmarket.org), and download the application for participation, she said. Applications are due by May 1.

A meeting is planned for April 5 at 4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Applications can be turned in at that time, and there will be a chance to ask questions, Hendrick said.

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# COMMUNITY WORKS

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

## **Mondays, Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30**

The bloodmobile will be at the Gig Harbor Albertson's from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will also be at the Peninsula Light Company, 13315 Goodnough Drive NW, in the 2nd floor meeting room on Tuesday, Mar. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **March 7-Friends of library meet**

Friends of the Key Center Library meet at 10 a.m. at the library. The meeting is open to anyone interested in seeing how the Friends' organization works to get things done for the library. Bring your ideas with you. 884-2242

## **March 9 - Prisoner of War Presentation**

Jack Butcher, former prisoner of war will speak at the monthly men's 9 a.m. free breakfast at Longbranch Community church, 16518 - 46th Str. KPS.

Butcher will share some of his experiences while being held in the Hanoi Hilton during the Vietnam Conflict. Chef Oliver Coldeen will prepare the meal. All men are welcome. For more information call Dave Jackman at 884-3873.

## **March 11-Terry Lee visits**

The KP Community Council invites the public to a sit-down discussion with Councilman Terry Lee at 7 p.m. in the Brones meeting room of the Key Center Library. For information, call Danna, [danna004@centurytel.net](mailto:danna004@centurytel.net) 884-6455.

## **March 19-Community forum**

The Mustard Seed Project is holding a Community Forum from 10 a.m. to noon at the Key Center Library. This month's focus is Elder Health & Wellness. The featured speaker will be Lora Lehner, Care Consultant with the Western Washington Alzheimer's Association. Light refreshments will be served. 884-

9814 or [ediemorgan@themustardseed-project.org](mailto:ediemorgan@themustardseed-project.org)

## **March 21- Tennis block party**

Key Pen Parks and USTA Pacific Northwest Region are kicking off tennis this spring with a Block Party from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center tennis courts. Hands-on tennis instruction, interactive games for all and food and drinks will be available. Chad, 884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com)

## **March 26- Jane Austen's world**

The Friends of the Key Center Library present a free talk by Dr. Loveday Conquest, Jane Austen aficionado and expert, at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Take a tour of Regency England and the land and people of "Pride and Prejudice". Donations for the Key Peninsula Food Bank are encouraged. 884-2242.

## **March 28-Hunting Heritage Banquet**

The Narrows Strut Busters Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation has tickets available for the 9th Annual Hunting Heritage Banquet to be held at 4 p.m. at Tucker's Restaurant, Gold Mountain Golf Course, Bremerton. This event features salmon and prime rib dinner, live and silent auctions, general raffles, door prizes and games for guns/bow. For tickets or info, contact Rico Martinez, 360-874-0011 or [martinez@wavecable.com](mailto:martinez@wavecable.com)

## **March 29- Mustard Seed shows film**

The Mustard Seed Project and the Friends of the Key Center Library present a documentary film which provokes, entertains, and challenges the conventional ideas of aging at 2 p.m. at the Key Center Library. The third in the

series is "Sunset Story", the account of two elderly friends and their shared life in a Los Angeles rest home for political activists, where the activities honor their lifelong passions. Admission is free; discussion and refreshments will follow the 75 minute film. Information, Key Senior

Information Center, 884-9814

## **April 4- Easter hunt**

Key Pen Parks and PetCo will host a hunt for pets on a leash and their owners. Check in is at 10 a.m. and the hunt will last until supplies run out or noon. There will be a prize for best-dressed pet. The agility course is provided by the Gig Harbor Kennel Club. Chad, 884-9240

## **April 5- KPFM vendors meet**

The KP Farmers Market is accepting applications at 4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Vendors may also use this time to get help filling in any of their apps or ask questions about the 2009 season. Applications and rules are available at [www.kpfarmersmarket.org](http://www.kpfarmersmarket.org).

## **April 18-Special day for parks**

Parks Appreciation Day is on Saturday from 9-12 a.m. No pre-registration necessary; just drop by your favorite park to help clean up. [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com) (Volunteer Opportunities) or 884-9240

## **April 18- Vaughn Elementary garage sale**

Vaughn Elementary will hold a garage sale to benefit the programs supported by the PTA from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 17521 Hall Road KPN in the Commons. All unsold items will be donated to Angel Guild and other locally based organizations. Contributions should be gently used. Contact Cheryl for donations information, 884-3855/225-0848

## **Tuesdays-Baby story times**

Baby Explorer Story Time held at 11 a.m. for babies, ages 0-24 months, accompanied by an adult, at the Key Center Library on March 17, 24, and 31. Join in with your child and enjoy fun books, action rhymes, knee bouncers, songs and more. 884-2242

## **Wednesdays-Family story times**

Family Story Time held on Mar. 18, and 20 at Key Center Library at 11 a.m. for preschool-aged children accompanied by an adult. Enjoy fun with picture books, songs, finger-plays and movement games at Key Center Library. 884-2242

## **Thursdays-Toastmasters**

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

## **Thursdays- Senior Society meets**

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 meet**

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

## **Now-KPCC invites input**

Public attendance is encouraged at the Key Peninsula Community Council monthly meetings on the second Wednesday. Each meeting features presenters of interest. The January meeting hosted the board presidents of many Key Pen non-profit organizations and the February meeting hosted the KP Fair board, which worked with the KPCC on plans for the 2010 Fair. 2009 will feature commissioners of local agencies, prominent citizens, and elected officials. Contact Danna Webster, 884-6455 or



# MARCH PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Peninsula School District Board, Mar. 12, 6:30 p.m. regular meeting at Discovery Elementary;
- PSD Mar. 26, study session, 6:30 p.m. at district office, 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor
- KP Metro Parks meetings, Mar. 10, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, Mar. 10 & 24, 3 p.m. at Lakebay Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, Mar. 11, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library

danna004@centurytel.net.

## Now-Vaughn seeks volunteers

The Vaughn Elementary School PTA hosts "Come Sail Away with Us" at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on May 16 at 6 p.m. The event will feature a fundraising dinner, dance and a live auction and silent auction to help raise funds to complete the school's outdoor playground equipment, upgrade technology and support the co-op preschool program.

Volunteers are needed in all areas and stages of the action. Alumni are

asked to contribute by donating goods or services to the auction. Cash donations of any amount are also needed to help underwrite the costs of the event. All donations are tax deductible.

To volunteer, or for more information how to donate to the auction, contact Cheryl Ozbirn, 884-3855 or [mailto:rozbirn@nwrain.com](mailto:mailto:rozbirn@nwrain.com)

## To submit an event

Community Works events calendar submissions should be sent each month by the 15th to: [news@keypen-news.com](mailto:news@keypen-news.com) or call 884-4699.

# OFF THE KEY

## March 3-Best-selling author visits

Diane Hammond, author of "Hannah's Dream" will present at 7 p.m. at the Peninsula Library. Diane will also be autographing copies of her book for guests.

## March 4- Welcome Club meets

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club presents a program of Lighthouses of Washington and Oregon at 11:30 a.m. at Canterwood Country Club, 12606 54th Ave, Gig Harbor. Guest speaker will be Elinor DeWire, President of the Washington Lightkeeper's Association. A buffet lunch will be served. Reserve with Marcia Nolan at 857-5324

## March 13- Whiskers Wine and Dine

HUMANE will hold the fifth annual

Whiskers Wine and Dine on Friday from 6:30-10 p.m. at the Sharon McGavick Center in Lakewood. A vegetarian "spay-ghetti" dinner (in recognition of Spay Day USA), wine tasting, auctions and dessert will be available. Reservations are \$50/person, available in advance only, at [www.coalitionhumane.org](http://www.coalitionhumane.org) or 253-265-2290.

## Now-March 15- "Seussical"

The full-length production of the Broadway musical "Seussical" will run at Encore! on weekends. Times are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$11 for teens, military and seniors; \$8 for 7-12 years and \$6 for children through 6 years. The Encore! Theater's indoor site is located at 6615 38th Avenue NW, Gig Harbor. Reservations, 858-2282

**Now Is The Time For People To Apply With Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful**

If you own your own home and are low income, You may qualify to have the exterior of your home painted. Applications Available at KPCS Apply by April 15, 2009 For more information call KPCS at **253-884-4440**

## Diabetes Self-Care Skills



Attend a FREE workshop at KEY PENINSULA COMMUNITY SERVICES Join the 4-part series, Tuesdays 10 am to 11:30 am Starting March 24, 2009 For more information call **253-884-4440**

We are looking for Bread Run Drivers! Give us a call at 884-4440

*A Special Thank You to:*

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for being our Volunteer of the Month



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Liz Gefre 253-857-3304 #28 165426



**PALMER LAKE** \$185,000  
Enjoy this open concept 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath home! Spacious kitchen so you can create gourmet meals & still visit with your guests. This is your opportunity to live in a beautiful home with a private lake & be only minutes from 2 of the state's most gorgeous parks.  
Cinda Baldwin 253-857-3304 #28 181140



**PALMER LAKE** \$199,950  
This is a pristine home that features large rooms, attached garage & a security system. The 4 bedrooms are roomy. This corner lot has a large front & back yard with endless possibilities, even a garden space! All this & private beach access too.  
Liz Gefre 253-857-3304 #28 177025



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**HOME** \$315,000  
Bring the horses! Spacious, new contemporary farmhouse on 3.78 acres. Excellent horse potential with fenced pasture, sand round-pen, 12x16 double stall & more. Beautifully decorated & lovingly maintained home offers fantastic, flexible floor plan to fit your lifestyle.  
AJ Million 253-857-3304 #29 018715



**HERRON ISLAND** \$374,950  
Excellent location, close to boat ramp & docks. 70' of low bank bulk headed waterfront. This home is priced to sell & offers an upstairs loft space, 3 bedrooms on main floor. Enjoy cooking with 180 degree views of Case Inlet in the roomy kitchen & dining rooms.  
Dallas Amick 253-857-3304 #29 016009



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Older farmhouse on 30+ acres. Pastures & ponds. Upper portion of acreage has views of Mt Rainier. Development potential here.  
AJ Million 253-857-3304 #29 013631



**LAKE OF THE WOODS** \$39,995  
Excellent opportunity! This large .37 ac lot is level & cleared. Only 10 minutes to Hwy 16 is a commuters dream with easy access to Bremerton or Tacoma. Water & Power at the street, build your dream home today!  
Janette Weister 253-857-3304 #29 018843



**HERRON ISLAND** \$65,000  
Come watch the eagles gracefully fly low enough for you to be awed by them. Deer will come & eat out of your hand. A cozy cabin is nestled on this parcel. 2 bedroom septic design comes with property.  
Cinda Baldwin 253-857-3304 #29 017640



**KEY CENTER** \$145,000  
60' of low bank waterfront on serene Lake Blinlerwood, only 10 minutes to Hwy 16 & Gig Harbor North. Build your dream home & trout fish from your own place. Footings already dug for 2000 sq ft home & some work already done on 3 bdrm septic.  
Laura Moseley 253-857-3304 #28 068139



**RAFT ISLAND** \$204,000  
Picture perfect views! Escape to Raft Island & make your dreams a reality. Just shy of a half acre & is nestled among million dollar homes. All the work has been done, just bring your builder!  
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# KEY PENINSULA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## Fiscal Responsibility

At Key Peninsula Fire Department we take great pride in the accomplishments we are able to provide within the constraints of the tight budget we have to work with. A part of our mission statement says that "We pledge to be strong financial managers and responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us by the community." We take that responsibility seriously.

One method of meeting that goal is through the application for federal, state, local and private grants. We are currently in the running for a FEMA grant that will replace our aged breathing apparatus. The self-contained breathing apparatus or SCBA in current use no longer meets the national standard and is not as reliable as we would like them to be.

Concurrently, we applied for and received a partial grant for radio communications improvements. That is being installed at our Vaught Fire Station right now. This is part of a larger grant that will result in a tower being built somewhere along the Westside of the peninsula. Our Westside has very poor radio communications and we resort to cell phones much of the time.

In previous years we've received grants for bunker gear and medical training. As of late, we

have gotten more aggressive and our looking into private grants for operational enhancements and energy conservation. We are hoping to qualify for application to the "Safer" grant through the federal government to increase our staffing levels.

As we all move through these tougher financial times we want you, our customer, to know that we will do everything we can to deliver the quality service you expect and deserve from us.

PS: we're always looking for help if you have experience writing grants.



Head-on accident near Winter Creek on SR302 February 9, 2009

## HELP US HELP YOU

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## Calendar of Events

▶ CPR/1st aid March 7th

*Call 253-884-2222 to register*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Guy Allen

Guy was promoted to the operations Chief in 2005 and has done a great job managing the personnel delivering the day to day service. He came to Key Peninsula Fire Department in 1997 as a seasoned fire officer from the Blaine fire department. As a kid he lived at Twinkl State park where his father was the park ranger. He and his wife have a son and daughter in high school and college, respectively.



## Safe Sitter Class

*The Key Peninsula Fire Department is hosting a Safe sitter class for youth between 11 and 14 years old. Safe sitter provides training in the business aspect and skills of babysitting as well as first aid and CPR.*

Contact Vanessa at 253-884-2222

Class dates are March 14th & 15th

Class will be held at the Key Center Fire Station

Fee is \$25 for material cost

SPARKY SAYS:

**Have a home fire drill with your family, teach safety.**



# FROM PIONEER STOCK OHLSON FAMILY ENJOY UNIQUE SUMMER HOMES

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Janice Smith lives in a fairly new home on land that a fifth generation now enjoys.

Her grandfather, Anton Olsson, arrived in the United States in 1895 at the age of 19. With many other Olssons also emigrating from Sweden, Anton changed his name to Ohlson. He chose to live at the YMCA in Chicago in order to be forced to learn English.

He met and married a second generation Swedish girl, and with a family of three children, the telephone company he worked for sent him to Tacoma about 1905.

In 1944, he was "constituted a Life Member of the Telephone Pioneers of America."

Ohlson, a previous state legislator, headed the committee to recall Governor Hartley for getting University of Washington president Henry Suzzallo fired in 1926.

Ohlson owned Belknap Glass in Seattle that provided windshields for planes built in World War II.

His surviving daughter, Alice Capp, nearly 90, who lives in Tacoma, says her father put in a lot of telephone lines around Gig Harbor. He also worked on the Key Peninsula, and found a piece of property north of Vaughn Bay he wanted.

Owner William "Bill" Patrick gave him a 99-year lease on a piece where he built "The White Cabin" in 1936.

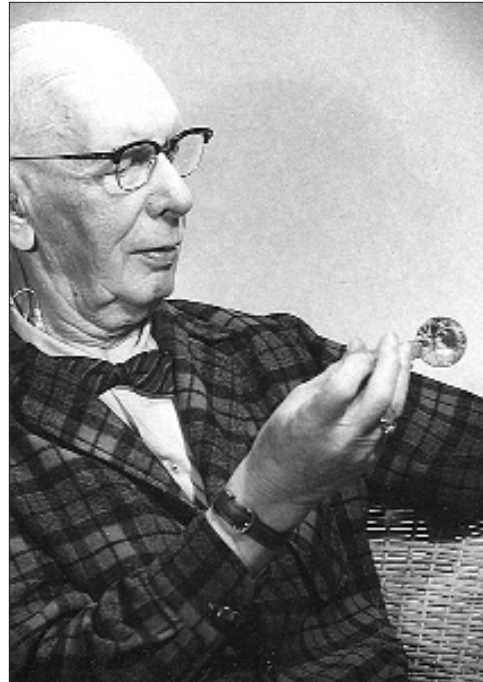


Photo courtesy of Janice Smith

Anton Ohlson admires a piece of Steuben Swedish glass, ca 1955

After Anton died, his only son struck a legal bargain with Patrick. Wesley Ohlson would build Patrick a decent house to replace his run-down dwelling, and would receive first option to purchase the Patrick property at fair market value when the last Patrick was gone.

Patrick also had a long chicken house and a shed set out over the lagoon where boats could come in at high tide

and unload chicken feed and other supplies.

Ohlson brought his family to the cabin on weekends and summers. Smith and her sister, Barbara Bordeaux, recall waiting in line to catch the ferry home on Sunday evenings.

In 1941, local handyman Warde Whitfield built Ohlson another summer cabin, with double brick walls and no insulation. Bordeaux believes the bricks were from a building torn down in Tacoma. This is "The Brick House."

The four Ohlson children, Richard, Barbara, Janice, and Christine, grew up, married, and had children. Ohlson, to have some privacy from the noise and laundered diapers in the two cabins, changed the shed over the lagoon into another residence. Called "The Lagoon House" because it nearly overhangs the lagoon, it is full of Ohlson's signature cabinetry talent.

He owned Coast Sash & Doors in Tacoma, the largest supplier of millwork, paneling, and doors in the region. During World War II, it was an essential

business for the war effort, as it provided sash and doors for barracks built by the government.

Some family members made temporary homes in the various houses over the years. Smith and her family lived there while their Fox Island home was being built. She insisted on having a telephone line in the early 1970s.

"Then we wondered how we got along without a phone all those years," says Bordeaux.

At Wesley Ohlson's death, the property was left equally to all four children.

Smith and her husband built their new home where the former Patrick house stood. They bought the lot for their home, and each house now stands on its own lot, but the joint ownership remains.

The family is in process of restoring the white cabin, and considering a new heating system for the brick house.

Three generations gather regularly to enjoy the lagoon, their own sandspit, and a perfect view of the Olympics across Rocky Bay.

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# Living the simple life

By Donna Smeall, KP News

With private access to a small island, 1.5 miles across and .5 mile long called the "Jewel of the Puget Sound," only 10 minutes away from the Key Peninsula mainland, Dallas Amidon calls Herron Island home. More importantly, he helps to make Herron Island what it is today.



AMIDON

Dallas is a real estate broker who works for Windermere Key Real Estate of Gig Harbor. He has devoted his energies to making life a pleasant experience for the 55 permanent residents of Herron Island and approximately 100 summertime families that make Herron Island their home.

Dallas was blessed with his move to Herron Island from Federal Way in 1996.

He said he found his soul mate through the "Windermere Matchmakers" in his office, a lovely home on the island, a simpler life and a couple of near and dear community projects that he said help keep his life centered.

As a member of the Herron Island Homeowners Association (not a formalized name for the group), he is more relaxed about praising the efforts of the whole group rather than center his attention on his own significant contribution to the well being of his island home.

Recently remarried, Amidon and his wife Rondi were once active baseball players in the adult league that plays on the island year in and year out. The league introduced the idea of "American pie, baseball, and community involvement" all in one. Dallas helps to coordinate the efforts of maintaining what were once a shabby baseball diamond and the concessions plus the environment

surrounding the baseball playtime. He also coaches the youngsters' league on the west side of Herron Island while another resident coaches the east side.

"There are two groups that play here on Herron Island; one is the adults who want to play like 21 year olds, and the other is the youngsters who want to play like their favorite professional ballplayer complete with the spitting traditions and rowdy routines that make up professional baseball games," he said. "It is great to watch them play."

Dallas recently gave up the game of baseball to become a spectator while monitoring the other players' needs on the field and the many residents who attend to cheer their favorite baseball players on. Health matters prohibited him from continuing active play.

Perhaps the most significant contribution that makes Dallas proud is the introduction and implementation of an annual Easter Sunrise service to the Herron Island family.

Herron Island is so private and relatively limited in its accessibility that there are no church services on-island year round, except for the one annual Easter

Sunrise service put on by the dedicated community-centered residents of Herron Island.

This small core of volunteers includes: Dallas and Rondi Amidon, Harvey Roberts (service speaker), Briggett Vogel, island resident who makes the clam chowder for the event and DJ "Tommy Boy" who provides the music for the Islander's dance held later in the evening under moonlight. These volunteers plan and set up the warm and welcoming day of Easter service that takes place from 7 a.m. until shortly after 10 a.m. Vogel's hot clam chowder along with hot coffee, hot chocolate and other goodies like donuts and dancing time entice the service-goers to stick around for a meal and socializing before heading home.

If that is not enough, when Windermere sets out to contribute to the wellbeing of the Key Peninsula, Dallas is on hand to help. Windermere Key Real Estate has made many invaluable contributions to the aesthetic and physical presence of the Key Peninsula over the years and they encourage their employees to volunteer in the community.

# Longbranch woman turns 101

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

In 1908 while Taft took over the White House from Roosevelt, Arvilla Merchant of Longbranch was born in Kapowsin. She grew up in Orting and moved to the Key Peninsula in 1973. She recently moved to a retirement home.

Her birthday was celebrated Feb. 4 in the activity room of her retirement home with other residents and eight friends from her church. A birthday cake was made for all of the residents who were celebrating a birthday, with a special one on top for Merchant, who became a little teary as "Happy Birthday" was sung. Merchant received a duffle bag of gifts from the Seattle Mariners, who happen to be her favorite team. Her eyes sparkled as she was presented with each item including two bobble heads, an autographed baseball by Dan Wilson and a card signed by all the players. This is something that is given to every person in the area who turns 100, but Merchant missed out last year.

Some of her friends from Tacoma took Merchant to visit with her former sewing group, which gathers once a month in



Photo by Sharon Hicks

Arvilla Merchant holds the signed baseball that was part of a Seattle Mariners duffle bag filled with birthday gifts. Merchant turned 101 and celebrated with a party at her retirement home Feb. 4.

Longbranch.

Merchant is mostly blind but can see faces and objects. She has one son and one grandson with four step great-grandchildren. Her grandfather was in the Civil War. She had two brothers and two sisters who

are all deceased.

As a child Merchant said she took the train from Orting to school in Tacoma, then rode a streetcar to attend Lincoln High School. Riding a train was a special treat and Arvilla says "one of my biggest thrills at the time was to ride the Great Northern train to Tacoma then take a bus to school."

In 1927 she and her friends would often go to Lake Patterson to listen and dance to the music of the big bands. It was there she met her husband and three years later they were married. He died in 1955. During their marriage, she said they would often take the ferry from Steilacoom to Longbranch to watch a cousin play baseball. It was also then that Merchant went to work as a bookkeeper in Tacoma for American Plywood Association, where she retired in 1973 and moved to the Peninsula. Her son built a one-room cabin and through the years it has grown to a full size house-one room at a time.

Merchant said "heaven only knows" what she owes her longevity to, then paused and said "it could be that during my last 10 years of working I walked one mile each way to work every day." She

added, "I've slowed down a bit from 100."

Arvilla has had many hobbies and used to knit, tat, and crochet. She said she also square danced for 15 years. The biggest highlight of her life, she said, was when her son, Richard, was stationed in New London, Connecticut, and took her aboard the first nuclear attack submarine for a one day ride that few people have ever had the privilege of doing.

Merchant has been through the Panama Canal, to Hawaii, Canada, Alaska and most of the United States. While living in Longbranch she did her own cooking and laundry while listening to audio books. Her son, David, and neighbors now attend the house that he and his mother built so many years ago.

Merchant was one of the first eight ladies who started the Angel Guild 30 years ago in a run down shack in Home which has since grown, expanded and moved to the current location in the K.C. Corral in Key Center. She was involved in many community clubs and retired from the Angel Guild with an honorary membership in 1985. Merchant continues to enjoy life, doing what she can for herself and takes it "one day at a time."



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## Students Learn Cursive Writing Through PSD's Handwriting Curriculum

Peninsula School District offers a consistent handwriting curriculum to elementary students districtwide, including a systematic and manual approach to cursive. At the preschool level, the program introduces basic prewriting concepts and skills. Students begin to learn developmentally appropriate handwriting skills in kindergarten, and cursive-writing techniques are introduced in third grade.



Third-grader Lauryn Fuller shows her handwriting work.

"Handwriting is a basic skill of our communication process, and we've really tried to create consistency for our students and teachers through the materials," says Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching

Claudia Thompson.

Since 2005, the district has been using "Handwriting Without Tears," a program that has been used successfully for many years by occupational therapists. "It's simple and straightforward, which is why the teachers like it," says Susie Wiley, occupational therapist at Puddy Elementary. "It is a step-by-step program and it's kid-friendly."

The curriculum includes age-appropriate activities such as songs and games, and uses a progressive level of difficulty when introducing letters. Cursive techniques are also simple, using a vertical approach instead of a slanted style and allowing students to build upon their skills with time. "It's developmental—the kids start by learning to connect the letters, and they can make the writing their own as they get older," Wiley says.

Rachel Brown, a third-grade teacher at Puddy Elementary, learned cursive as a third grader in the Peninsula School District as well. "Cursive is a lost art," she says.

Third-graders work on their cur-



Fourth-graders practice cursive writing for the letter "x."

sive writing approximately 20 minutes each day, focusing on one letter at a time. "We talk about the similarities in print and script letters," Brown says. "A lot of the students are very motivated to write in cursive because they enjoy it so much." Once students learn the basics of writing, Brown starts writing classroom assignments on the board in cursive, so students can practice reading cursive as well.

Wiley says, "By the time students go to middle school, the goal is for them to have legible handwriting for classroom work. The program has been pretty successful."

## Student Transfers

PSD policies 3130 and 3140 speak to the process of requesting student transfers.

### Policy 3130

Intradistrict Student Transfers, identifies the guidelines for students who wish to transfer between schools within the PSD. Intradistrict student transfer requests are granted on a space available basis. A Request to Transfer within PSD form must be completed on an annual basis by any student requesting transfer. Requests should be submitted to PSD, Attention: Shannon Wiggins, 14015 62nd Ave NW Gig Harbor, WA 98332 between April 1 and April 30.

### Policy 3140

Interdistrict Student Transfers, speaks to requests for transfer into or out of the PSD. In May of 1999, the school board determined that no further interdistrict transfer requests into PSD would be accepted. The district remains committed to generally honoring all requests by resident students to transfer to another school district. To obtain a release from PSD, a Release of Student from PSD form must be completed and returned to PSD, Attention: Shannon Wiggins, 14015 62nd Ave NW Gig Harbor, WA 98332.



## March Events

- 4 Key Peninsula Middle School Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night @ KPMS Commons 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 12 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. @ Key Peninsula Middle School
- 13 No School
- 26 School Board Study Session 6 p.m. @ District Office
- 27 Peninsula High School and Communities in Schools Peninsula Pay it Forward Auction 4:30-8:00 p.m. at PHS throughout the building.
- 30-31 No School—Spring Break!

## Welcome, Class of 2022!

*Kindergarten Registration Ongoing!*

- When: Beginning March 2
- Where: All PSD Elementary Schools

Please contact the elementary school in your area to determine the best time to register your child. All elementary schools are open for registration during regular school hours (9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.) beginning March 2; however, elementary offices are particularly busy the first and last hour of the school day.

**Summer Hours**—if you would like to register your child during summer time, you may do so before June 30th or after August 17th. Please contact the school to ensure the office staff will be available to assist you.

Evergreen  
Jacque Grieman, Principal  
Betty McCord, Office Manager  
530-1300

Winter Creek  
Steve Leitz, Principal  
Jill Knecht, Office Manager  
530-4300

Vaughn  
Mike Benoit, Principal  
Winnie Pearson, Office Manager  
530-4700





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Horseshoe Lake Auto Wrecking operates on property owned by Harvey Ennis. The property has been classified as a level 1 in toxicity, representing the highest relative risk by the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

*Photo courtesy of Bjorn Debord*

(From TOXIC, Page 1)

"We've got a permit to discharge water," Ennis said. "We got that permit. We had a group come in and survey it to determine what needed to be done. It would cost \$45,000. Donahue (Ray Donahue and Associates) said, 'For an additional charge I can come in now and clean all of that up and get you off the list,' but it didn't seem like a good investment to me."

Rebecca Lawson, Southwest Region Manager for the state Toxic Cleanup Program, said a lack of resources has hindered any follow-up by the state.

"My folks all have full plates — some are overflowing..."

Ennis said he is not aware of any legal processes or procedures regarding the property, and the wrecking yard is still in operation, however the price of metal has dropped.

That's an issue because to clean up the site it would be necessary to scrape the topsoil into a pile, and infuse it with contaminate eating microbes (estimated cost \$35,000 in 2006), or scrape the topsoil off and have it hauled away (estimated cost \$80,000 in 2006.) Either option would force the wrecking yard to shut down, depriving both the operator and Ennis of income.

When Key Pen News first published a story about the site in 2006, Ennis admitted that his property could be worth as much as \$1.5 million.

Now, when asked if he would clean up in order to sell, Ennis replied, "Yes, I would."

And, when asked if he has plans to sell, he said, "No, not at the moment."

Though the state obviously has the site on its list, it is not on the list of priorities, Lawson said.

"Since we talked (for the 2006 story)," Lawson said, "I got a mandate in my priorities based on the Governor's Puget Sound

Initiative—and that's where I have focused the limited resources I have to do the clean up work."

On a web page at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget\\_sound/2007actionagenda.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget_sound/2007actionagenda.htm), the Governor's Puget Sound Initiative is described as a "...funding plan (that) speeds up the cleanup of toxic chemicals, restores waterways and salmon habitat and helps replace old septic systems and overflowing sewers."

Lawson went on to say, "What we tried to focus on was contaminated sediment sites and adjacent upland sites that could be contributing to contamination in the Sound. Horseshoe Lake doesn't fall within that category. We don't have any information that would lead us to believe that Horseshoe Lake site is directly impacting Puget Sound."

Of course Lawson's department could force Ennis to comply. Here's what she said back in 2006: "When Ecology approaches them they don't have an option... They have to clean it up."

"We can issue an enforcement order requiring them to clean it up," Lawson said in 2006. "Or we can clean it up ourselves—and recover the cost from the owners."

With a projected statewide budget shortfall of \$3.2 billion resulting from the current recession, Lawson's department isn't likely to get additional resources soon.

"Our program, the toxic clean up program, identified seven priority embayments, and three of them are in my region," she said. "Those three are Port Angeles harbor, Oakland Bay, and Budd Inlet near Olympia.... Action could also require an attorney — and we have a shortage right now."

"It isn't if we will get to Horseshoe Lake," she said, "it's when we will be able to get to it.... Eventually, I'm very confident we're going to get to sites like Horseshoe Lake."

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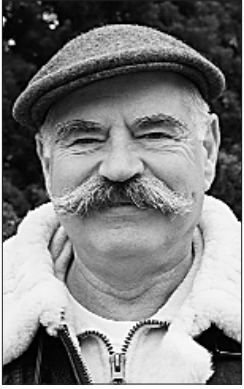
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## 2009 Lion's Citizen of the Year nominees



Gahard



Jones



Renz



Webster



Jeschke



Ehrhardt



Home



Robison



Morgan



Werner



Garrett



Ware



Hendrick



Torres

**John Biggs** -president KP Community Fair; past president LIC; very active in LIC events.

**Tom Boardman**, and wife Julie run Friday Night Skate; involved with KPCC's Board of Directors; members of KPBA's Board of Directors; VP of KP Community Fair.

**Mark Burris**- leader Boy Scout Troop 220; assisted flood victims; helped with repairs at local church; participated in food drives for KP Food Bank; assisted Veteran's Institute's annual Aisle of Flags at Vaughn Cemetery.

**Oliver Coldeen** - cooks Sundays at KP Community Center; Chef Supreme of Salmon Bake; worked with IMPact; sings in church choir; leads "praise time;" on Board of Deacons and Church Council; making desserts for Feast or Famine.

**Mary Cultum** - local 4H dog group; offers free sewing instruction; volunteers at Angel Guild Thrift Store.

**Debbie Ehrhardt**-volunteer Evergreen; involved with LIC, "all you need to do is think something ought to be done and Debbie's there volunteering to do it."

**Tara Froode** - community volunteer.

**Claude Gahard**- 2008 president KP Farm Board; helped plan HarvestFEST Farm Tours; initiated "Farm Angels" to assist a local farm; VP KP Farmers' Market board; represents KP at county level on Pierce County Agriculture

Board.

**Frank Garratt** -was helpful to the search committee for KP News in recruiting and selecting Executive Editor. Joining with KP News staff and publishing board and the KP Civic Center, he brought the informed reader's perspective and represented the community's interests; volunteers with Two Waters Arts Alliance, the KP News, and the TCC Foundation.

**Holly Hendrick**- civic center secretary; actively volunteering there since her stint as receptionist; helped in creation of KP Farmers' Market.

**Dianna Home**- involved in community activities in Home; a long-time volunteer at Angel Guild Thrift Store in Key Center.

**David Jeschke**- resident of Bellevue, developed online math-fact practice program, XtraMath; providing it free to PSD.

**Wally Johnson**- owner of the Homeport Restaurant. First Monday of each month Homeport offers a free lunch to Evergreen 5th graders who achieve personal or academic goals; active in LIC; volunteers with "Feast or Famine."

**Claudia Jones** - volunteer firefighter/EMT with KP Fire Dept.; with her husband Bill, was the fire and EMT force on Herron Island until the family moved to the mainland;

**Mindi LaRose**-KP News volunteer photographer; volunteered as photo editor for a book-

publishing project for the paper; coached PAA soccer together with her husband Dave; runs a monthly Coffee Talk for Girls at PHS; has helped with PHS Boosters' auction.

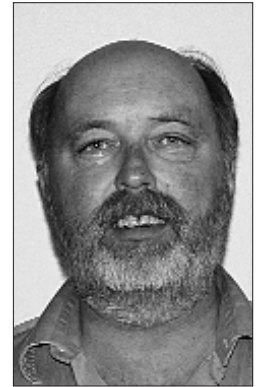
**Robert Love**- Math Mentor at KPMS; dedicated and models excellent attendance for the kids in the program.

**Edie Morgan**- Founder of Mustard Seed Project. Products of her efforts are found in the Key Senior Information Center and assistance programs.

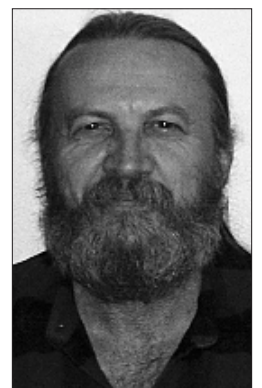
**Ricky Peterson, Richard Peterson and Jimmy Worthington**, men of Herron Heights; do volunteer work in the community; clear snow from older neighbors driveways, fix flat tires, hot water heaters, get firewood for neighbors and cut it, and other odd jobs. Neighbors offer funds for their acts of kindness, but they always refuse to accept.

**Connie Renz** -volunteer Communities in Schools reading program at Minter Creek; each Thursday as a Math Mentor at Purdy Elementary; recruited her husband as a Reading Mentor at Minter Creek.

**Ed Robison**-volunteer Habitat for Humanity; designed picnic shelter for Home; assisted with retaining wall at Volunteer Park; hosted several youth from foreign countries under the Lions



Peterson

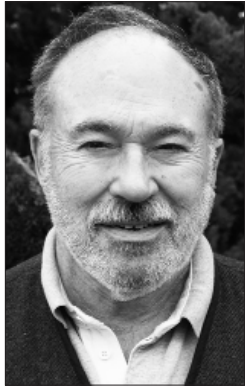


Worthington

(See AWARD, Page 23)



2009 Lion's Citizen of the Year nominees



Biggs



Burris



Cultham



LaRose



Coldeen



Tieg



Tieg



Peterson



Love



Tollefson



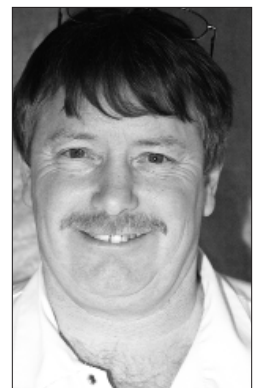
Taylor



Froode



Boardman



Johnson

(From AWARD, Page 22)

Youth Exchange Program; commander in the US Navy Seabees and a veteran of the Iraq conflict.

**Sharyl Taylor** - serves at the KP Food Bank. Sharyl's kind disposition, attention to detail, and thoughtfulness of others has been a huge asset to our community.

**Rich and Patsy Tieg** - officers KP Veterans Institute; attend KP Lutheran Church- Rich is on council; help with community meals and church functions. Rich serves on TCC Advisory Board for Radiologic Technology program; both were involved with Camp Woodworth and its outreach to underprivileged children at Neighborhood House in Tacoma.

**Rodika Tollefson** - credited with bringing the KP News up to the high standard it now enjoys with its readers; was very helpful in smoothing the way for the KP News' new executive editor, Marsha Hart and when called upon gives freely of her expertise.

**Irene Torres** - serves as the president of the KP News Publishing Board; volunteers her time as president, writer, proofreader, news gatherer, and all around advisor for anything regarding operation of the KP News.

**Hilda Ware** - volunteer Communities In

Schools at Vaughn; moved to Hoodspoint in the summer, but continues to drive to Vaughn Elementary each Tuesday to volunteer in its Reading Program.

**Danna Webster** - represents KP Community Council Board of Directors; organized farm tours, farmers market, Poets' Beat Nights, Cornucopia dinner, and was instrumental in formation of KP News publishing board; elected to Board of KP Business Association.

**Eunice Werner** - has volunteered at Evergreen since 2004; works with Communities In Schools at Evergreen as a reading mentor; recruited husband, Dick, as a CISP reading mentor at Evergreen.

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# Rare 1923 Chevrolet Superior Roadster cruises on Peninsula

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

When Mike Nelson's dad wanted him to have his 1923 Chevrolet Superior Roadster Mike didn't really want it nor did he know then what to do with it.

Nelson said his mother Rosemary had her eye on the car for a year before his dad finally bought it in California in 1961. He named the car Rosie.

The hitch was that the Roadster came with a Model "A" Ford, which Nelson drove to high school. He wanted to drive the Roadster but his mother said, "keep your hands off, it's mine."

When his mother died a few years ago, Nelson's dad wanted him to have the car. It had been sitting in a barn since 1980, and was a dirty gray color, rusty, with parts strewn in the front and basically in the midst of being disassembled.

Not sure what to do with the broken down Rosie, Nelson said he had it transported to where he lives now. Eventually, Mike went out to the garage to try hand cranking it to start which only lasted a

minute or so. The second try was even less and on the third the old girl refused to turn over.

At this point Mike's wife, Nancy, took an interest and together they decided to restore it. They discovered that antique parts were hard to find, especially little things like slotted screws, and hexagon bolts. When new the items only cost about two cents and now Mike found them for \$85 each, and the bolt had to be rebuilt.

Nelson says he is excellent at troubleshooting but when it came to the carburetor it threw him for a loop. He said the float setting has to be precise. Seeking advice from a California friend it was discovered that the early models used a larger condenser so to increase the size he had to add a second one for the ignition.

The couple said they started restoring the car three years ago and finished the process just before the winter storms came. Nelson says, "That car is an adventure to drive" and he loves showing it off



Mike Nelson rides in his car Rosie, a 1923 Roadster that he and his wife Nancy recently restored.

Photo by  
Mindi Larose

in Key Center.

As he drives along he said he notices horns beeping and people of all ages waving. Nelson said he wants people to touch and ride in the car, not just look at it. Rosie travels at 40 miles per hour, max, holds 10 gallons of fuel and gets about 26 miles per gallon. She has a 154 cubic

inch, 30 horsepower engine.

Nelson said there are only four other Chevrolet Superior Roadsters known to exist today. One, he said, is being driven and enjoyed like theirs, one is in Germany, and two are in museums. Mike has also restored a 1956 Chevy and a 1968 Chevrolet Chevelle.



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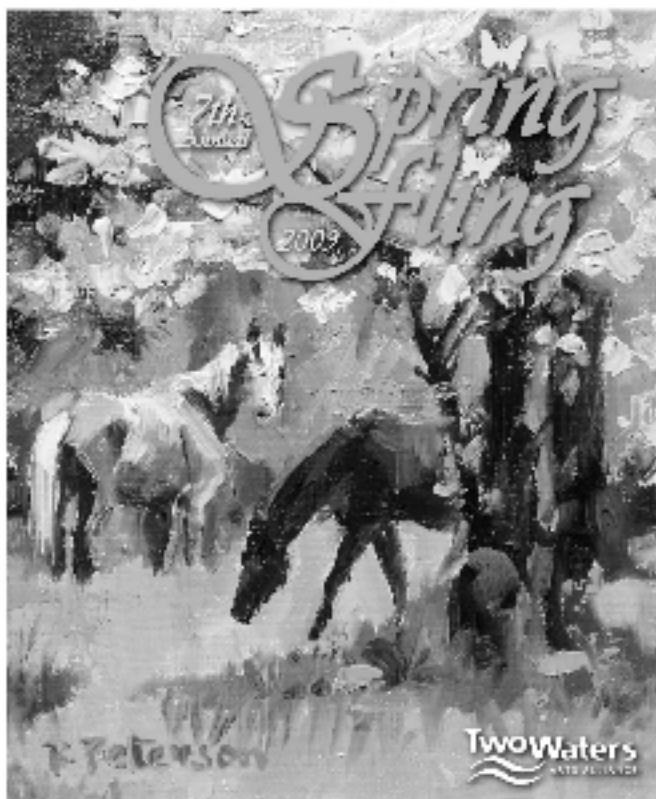
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Two Waters Arts Alliance invites you to our signature event on the evening of March 7th at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaught for an Art Sale, Student Art Exhibit, Live Music by Jazz Musette, hors d'oeuvres and no host bar. Announcing a **CALL TO ARTISTS** for Spring Fling artwork. See e-newsletter on TWAA website for details.

Two Waters Arts Alliance • PO Box 858 • Vaught, WA 98394 • www.twowaters.org

## Wetlands habitat, ball field priorities for 2009

By PJ Kezele, KP News

For Key Peninsula Metro Park District, 2009 will be a year of holding up their end of the bargain. Two major projects funded by grants will dominate capital improvement projects for Key Pen Parks in 2009 — Minter Creek Phase 1 and Volunteer Park Field No.1 Renovation. Both projects are partially funded by matching fund grants that obligate the district to complete the work in 2009.

The Minter Creek Phase 1 project includes acquisition of eight protected acres for riparian protection. The riparian wetlands are significant to the creek, as the plant life has an influence on the aquatic ecosystem.

A matching grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition in the amount of \$120,000 is expected to fund the project.

"The property at Minter Creek is a unique, valuable piece of land that will serve many different purposes for the Key Peninsula community," Executive Director Scott Gallacher said. "By acquiring this property, our goals are to provide public access to water, protect habitation and offer opportunities for environmental education."

The district has been making payments since mid-2008 to purchase the property.

The purpose of the acquisition is to increase public access to a prime fishing ground for local and visiting recreational anglers. Minter Creek is a popular chum fishery and attracts anglers from around the state. The public water access would also serve as a canoe and kayak launching

spot and water trail trailhead. The acquisition will preserve the pristine estuarine, riparian and upland habitat surrounding Minter Creek, help prevent habitat degradation from residential development and maintain the ecological balance of the site. Opportunities for education and existing trail connectivity are additional benefits.

"It is our goal to respond in a way that will meet those needs, yet preserve the integrity of the property in order to create a vibrant, livable area where both nature and people can thrive," Gallacher said.

The second major project, the Volunteer Park Field No. 1 Renovation, is being partially funded by a Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Youth Athletic Facilities Grant. In conjunction with Key Pen Parks, the Key Peninsula Little League will use the \$75,000 grant to renovate Field No. 1 in Volunteer Park. The field was built on clay without any subsurface drainage, which has caused flooding problems that have damaged the field and led to the need for a retaining wall. Work will include installing an automated irrigation system, new backstop fencing and the retaining wall, and increasing and improving access from the parking area to the field for people with disabilities.

"This field is the only high school regulation baseball field, as well as the only lit playfield, on the Key Peninsula," Gallacher said.

Key Pen Parks and the Little League will contribute \$112,860 in labor, cash and donations of cash, equipment and labor to the project.



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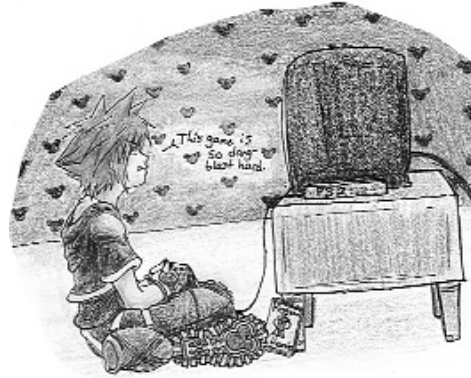
# Lakebay resident winner of Manga art contest

By Donna Smeall, KP News

A Running Start/Tacoma Community College student and five-year resident of Lakebay, Lauren Asmussen snagged 3rd place in the Pierce County Manga Art Contest held in the last months of 2008. Her parents, Lewis and Amy, relocated the family from Denver, Colo. to Lakebay when family friends moved here to be closer to their family. Additionally, Asmussen has a talent for playing the violin, an instrument she studied for nine years. This is her

third year playing with the Peninsula Youth Orchestra, and has received Phi Theta Kappa honors in her academic career.

Asmussen will graduate with her Associate of Arts degree in Arts and Sciences in May. Her career ambitions include acquiring a Mission's Degree from the Grace Bible College of Michigan and possibly, even another degree in Graphic Design. Her interest shown in Manga art came after watching her friend drawing Manga art and she is self-taught.



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# Out & About

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Winter commuters from Herron Island arrive on the Charlie Wells under the Olympic Mountain range in February. *Photo courtesy of Ron Cameron*



Workers were busy making the final adjustments for the new traffic light at 94th Ave. and KP Highway near Lake Kathryn Village. The light was functional by 3 p.m. Feb. 12. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*



About 200 children and parents packed the Key Peninsula Civic Center for the Tears of Joy puppet show "The Shoemaker and the Elves," Feb. 7. The show was sponsored by Two Waters Arts Alliance. *Photo by Margo Macdonald*



*Photos by Hugh McMillan*

Above, John Biggs stands to introduce himself and his wife Vicki during the Key Peninsula Business Association annual banquet at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Feb. 9. More than 50 attended the banquet and silent auction. The auction raised more than \$1,000 to benefit the Tacoma Community College GED program specifically for Key Peninsula residents. Left, participants look over items at the auction.