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# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

*The voice of the Key Peninsula*

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## Costless Pharmacy robbed

Staff Reports

A man who allegedly walked into the Costless Pharmacy in Lake Kathryn Village Jan. 12 and robbed the pharmacy has been arrested. The crime occurred at 4:30 p.m.

Suspect Michael Ray Mansen was arrested in Tacoma two hours later. Mansen is also a suspect in a Tacoma-area pharmacy robbery, according to the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

Witnesses reported seeing Mansen approach the pharmacy counter. According to police reports, he gave the pharmacist a note that demanded she hand over all of the Oxycontin within 60 seconds, and stated that he had a gun strapped to his leg.

Several bottles of the drug were given to the suspect, and he fled the Wauna store on foot. Witnesses watched as the suspect got into a car, and were able to get the license plate number.



At the Gentle Giant Farm, Maureen Sikora with Shire horse, Lady, and her colt, Quest. The lonely ram lamb, Vaughn, was waiting for his new owners to pick him up but in the meantime he decided he wants to be a Shire horse when he grows up.

Photo courtesy of Greg and Maureen Sikora

## Helping hands on KP

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Gentle Giant Farm is run by the teamwork of its owners, Greg and Maureen Sikora. The animal chores are Maureen's domain and Greg does all the maintenance and veterinary work. In the middle of December, just before the storms and holidays, Greg suffered a back injury that put his half of the teamwork out of commission. The news spread rapidly across the Key Peninsula farm community. A fellow farmer

hauled in two truck loads of firewood to keep Maureen from taking up the chainsaw, another came to dress turkeys that were sold for Christmas dinners, neighbors stepped in to finish the new chicken house extension and keep the chickens dry, egg customers stopped in to help with chores, though many of them had never worked on a farm.

Some of the Sikora family made long distance flights to take on the chores.

(See FARM, Page 18)

## KP Fair takes year off for overhaul

By PJ Kezele, KP News

After a difficult decision-making process, the Key Peninsula Fair Board elected John Biggs, current vice president of the Longbranch Improvement Club, as the new fair board president Jan. 15, thus sealing the fate of the fair for 2009. Biggs made it clear that if elected, he would take a year off to give the fair an overhaul.

"The best thing to do for the fair is to take it down — all the way down," Biggs said. "If I'm going to be president, it is if you folks decide not to go forward with a 2009 fair. I'm not interested in dragging this thing down the road."

Tom Boardman, currently vice president of the fair, said if elected fair board president he would "like to build a simple fair for this year — a one- to two-day event so we don't have to deal with so many volunteer hours." Boardman also recommended moving the date of the fair to August, closer to the harvest season, and eliminating the carnival.

Biggs also recommended possibly working more closely with the school district to build up enthusiasm with the kids and moving the fair to October.

After opening remarks, the candidates stepped out of the room for an open discussion period. Sensing that the choice was less about the candidates themselves, and more about the future of the fair, the discussion focused on

(See FAIR, Page 22)

# SR 302 study moves forward under skepticism

By PJ Kezele, KP News

Both skeptics and interested parties alike lined up outside the doors of the Key Peninsula Civic Center for a Washington State Department of Transportation SR 302 Corridor Study Scoping Open House on Jan. 12. The meeting drew around 200 people over the course of the evening, with about 50 people lined up when the doors opened.

A series of public meetings held last year helped narrow the options to "four build alternatives" that will be included in an environmental impact study. "We have eliminated two alternatives over the course of the past few months based on studies and a screening process for environmental impact, feasibility and how well they will work," John Donahue, WSDOT project manager, said. According to Donahue, there are no favorite alternatives at this point. "Every alternative going forward is on equal footing."

However, a contingent opposed to any new alignment alternative that would cross the Burley Lagoon to SR 16 disagreed and lined up early to express their dissatisfaction. Some had hoped, in particular, to have Alternative 4 that would follow 144th Avenue eliminated based on its high cost; however, Dave Skinner of the study team told one Burley resident, "They won't just allow us to look at cost. We also have to look at the environment."

Some attendees also questioned the need for further study and public meetings. "Considering how long ago this study began, I don't know if any of us will see it in our lifetime," said Jim Hunter of Burley. "Most of us won't live long enough to see it built." According to the SR 302 Corridor Study Schedule and Process, no final decision will be made on an alternative until "2010 and beyond."

Another unanswered question revolves around the Purdy Bridge. "We really don't know what will happen," Skinner said. "There has been absolutely nothing decided. It could move, stay where it is or become a pedestrian bridge."

The bridge, built in 1936, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It has impacted us for a couple reasons," he said. "If we were to replace it, we would impact a historical bridge, but it's not a deal breaker to take it out. We could use the existing architecture or do something with the piers to make it look like the old one."

While Skinner compared the situation to the building of the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge, in that case the old bridge was maintained and the new bridge was built in line with the existing architecture.

Skinner said similar construction resulting in two bridges each with one-way traffic is not feasible for the Purdy Bridge, due to the "big safety problem with the Wauna curves and access to driveways."

WSDOT is particularly interested in comments on the purpose and need for the project and the range of alternatives that will be evaluated. "We're trying to solicit formal written comments to become part of the written report," Donahue said. "It is important the comments come in writing by the Feb. 13, 2009, deadline to be included."

The official National Environmental Policy Act and State Environmental Policy Act scoping period began Jan. 2 and ends Feb. 13. Key Pen residents and businesses are encouraged to submit their comments to John Donahue by phone at 360-357-2788, by email to donahjo@wsdot.wa.gov or by fax at 360-357-2748.



Archon Tree Service workers removed dead fir trees from the Key Peninsula Civic Center property to avoid potential damage.

Photo by PJ Kezele

## Dead fir trees no match for crane

By PJ Kezele, KP News

Two dead fir trees at Key Peninsula Civic Center were no match for Archon Tree Service and their crane. Even so, wind stopped progress the first day, as workers contended with trees swaying as much as one foot.

"We came the first day and got part of one of the trees out before it became too windy at the top and we had to rappel out and come back the next day," Brian Allen, owner of Archon, said.

Lakebay Fuschia Society was concerned about the impact of the tree removal on the gardens they maintain at the civic center. However, Allen said "The gardens were far enough away that they were not

that big a deal, although workers did have to take care to throw the brush away from the garden."

Using a crane, the crew lifted out the trees in nine 16- to 25-foot sections. According to the digital readout on the crane, the sections weighed 2,500 to 6,000 pounds, and the largest section was about 3 feet in diameter. Local Boy Scouts Troup No. 220 will process, dry and sell the wood, with the profits being split 50-50 with the civic center.

"By using the crane, there was minimal impact to the grounds," Allen said. "Most companies have to piece it out. Using the crane is just a more efficient way to go in terms of safety, time and impact to surrounding vegetation."

### KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com

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

# State recommends closure of Joemma Beach Park

Staff Report

The governor's budget recommends the closure of Joemma Beach State Park. A crowd gathered at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, Jan. 22, to hear Tom Pew, Manager of Kopachuck Area, and other state park rangers present the decision making process. All Washington State Parks were evaluated according to the goals of Centennial Vision 2013. Thirteen parks were found to be inconsistent with those standards: one is Joemma Beach and a second is Kopachuck in Gig Harbor. In order to meet the state required 10 percent budget cuts, the state park department is recommending closure: lock the gates, board up the facilities and allow walking access only. "It's not too late," Pew said. The governor's budget is the first step. The next step is for the legislature to approve the recommendation. For citizens who want to influence that decision, the timeline is only a couple of weeks to contact state representatives.

Commissioner Chairman, Elmer

## State Park contact info

Tom Pew, Area Manager  
pew.tom@parks.wa.gov or  
kopachuck@parks.wa.gov;  
253.365.3606

Rex Derr, Director, Washington  
State Parks and Recreation  
Commission: derr.rex@parks.wa.gov;  
360.902.8501

Local representatives:  
Senator Derek Kilmer:  
Kilmer.derek@leg.wa.gov;  
253.858.7616 or 360.786.7650  
Rep. Larry Seaquist:  
Seaquist.larry@leg.wa.gov; 858.1013  
or 360.786.7802  
Rep. Jan Angel:  
angel.jan@leg.wa.gov; 360.786.7964

Anderson, Key Pen Parks, assured the crowd that they would make every effort to save the park: first as a state park and second as a district park. In a later email, Anderson told KPNews, "As a parks district, first and foremost, Key Pen Parks fully supports any and all

## "The elected officials should listen."

— Tom Pew, area manager

efforts to maintain Joemma Beach as a state park and to keep it open to the public. We consider Joemma Beach unique in its location, assets and usability as a park. The loss of the boat ramp and dock would be devastating to water recreation in the south Puget Sound.

Failing this, Key Pen Parks will attempt to do whatever is necessary to obtain title to the property and assume responsibility for maintaining it as a viable asset to the Key Peninsula." The commissioners of both Key Pen and Gig Harbor had met with state representatives that afternoon.

Pew urged all in attendance write letters to the legislators and the state park department. "The elected officials should listen," he said.

# Grants available

Staff Reports

Key Pen Park Commissioners awarded the first Park Grant of 2009 in the amount of \$1,000 to Two Waters Arts Alliance and Longbranch Improvement Club for the Beyond the Borders Music & Arts Festival. Key Pen Park's Grant Program was established to help KP community groups improve park and recreation opportunities.

Opportunities are still open for grants, with \$5,000 available in \$1,000 grants, and a remaining \$10,000 for one or more larger grant projects.

Projects supported by Park Enhancement Grants are: Capital improvement projects, Park maintenance and Recreation programs.

In order to qualify, community groups must match Key Pen Park's contribution with volunteer time, in-kind donations of goods and services, and/or financial contributions.

Interested parties may contact Key Pen Parks office at 253-884-9240 or go to [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com) for more information on the grant program.

# Jessica Smith



**Jessica Smith**

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(O) 253-884-4664  
(C) 253-514-0471

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# Feast OR Famine

**Fat Tuesday, Feb. 24 6 to 8 pm**

Longbranch Improvement Club at 4312 Key Peninsula Highway S.

Featured speaker **Judith Weinstock**

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Key Peninsula Community Services,

Key Peninsula Family Resource Center,

The Home Port Restaurant

\$25 tickets at sponsors, Sunnycrest Nursery or call 884-9157

# Centennial approaches for park on chopping block

Joemma Beach and Kopachuck State parks are on the chopping block of state budget cuts. If Joemma is closed, it means rangers will leave, the buildings shut, maintenance stopped, and the gates locked, though we would still have walk-in access. Why Joemma? The State Park Agency will be 100 years old in 2013, and like any organization worth its salt (whatever that means), they have a vision statement that defines where they want to be in 2013. As you might expect, it's called "The Centennial 2013 Vision" and goes 'a'lil' somethin' like this: "In 2013, Washington's state parks will be premier destinations of uncommon quality, including state and regionally significant natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources that are outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment and learning of all people." So, in light of that, the Agency sent forth an internal

## KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



team to measure each park against set criteria, and Joemma and Kopachuck were near the bottom of that list.

The good news is that it's not final yet. It's in the legislation for approval. People like us are encouraged to holler about it to our representatives. I don't need to tell you how great it is to go down there on a clear day and feel that sun on your face, or how you can camp, swim, boat, fish, walk your dog, and renew yourself in the fresh salt water breeze. Or the thrill of seeing seals and hearing them bark, and watching bald eagles or kingfishers fly along the sand and pebble beach that's

home to sand dollars and sea stars, all framed with a water view and a touch of the snow-capped Olympics. Most likely you know Joemma is a crucial part of life on the Key, improving quality of life and real estate values. I could sing the park's praises for days in speeches, songs, poems, interpretive dance and mime, but I'll spare you all that. Instead I'll ask that if you care about this park, please write an email that explains why it should remain open. Make the message personal, about how and why you use the park. If you know folks outside the immediate area that use the park or boat there, encourage them to send a message as well, since this will signal interest from a larger geographical area and help the effort. Consider what would happen if the property was abandoned. Trash dumping, vandalism, and drug dealer activity would increase. Most importantly,

**Most likely you know Joemma is a crucial part of life on the Key, improving quality of life and real estate values.**

our children would miss out; these future citizens whose views and lives are shaped by the experiences they have there.

Make your case firmly and boldly. Leave out statements like "corrupt government bums" or "public upside-down crucifixion of state officials broadcast on cable TV," as tempting as it might be to say. Then send your message to our representatives. Email me at news@keypennews.com for the longish list of reps to include, along with some other information. But we need to do it soon. So c'mon KP! Let's get it on!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### God bless you guys

I was driving down KP Highway about 10:30 am Dec. 24.

I made it to the Angel Guild Thrift store, but it was closed. I turned around just before the Home area. As I drove back I saw a newer gray Chevy Cavalier sliding towards me. I was able to steer my 1986 pickup truck into the snow bank and avoid a near head-on crash. As I tried to get out of it the truck was sliding deeper and deeper off the road. I had my little dog Gus with me and I was starting to get nervous. Then a lady stopped in a Suburban and tried to help dig me out. After that, another two gentlemen stopped with their four-wheel drives and helped pull me out. I was beside myself when they told me Merry Christmas.

If I ever get stranded again I hope I'm lucky enough to do it in your neck of the woods. God bless the Peninsula people and their friends and families.

*Greg Miller and "Gus my dog,"  
Tacoma*

### SR302

Second only to the Narrows Bridge, the proposed SR302 reroute will be the largest ever capital expenditure of the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas. The proposals include: no action; two Burley Lagoon bridge options; widening 118th (Minter Valley) to Kitsap County's Pine Road; and a diagonal from the power line road near 144th, across 5 or 6 farms, to Pine's eastern leg.

An overlooked route crossing the westerly edge of 360 acres of DNR land near 144th and 302 and extending to Pine should be further examined. Omitted as an option because the property was incorrectly perceived as owned or committed by agreement to the Key Peninsula Park system, the route has multiple advantages which yield a "win-win" to the possible park, commuters, environment, neighborhoods, and farms. The cost cutting route: saves five or six farms; eliminates 1.5 miles of road, two miles of condemnation and several wetland disruptions. The potential park benefits by free access from both Kitsap and Pierce counties. If for instance, 60 acres are used for road, 300 acres will remain for park purposes-still an ambitious undertaking.

Owned by the DNR, the cost savings from dual use of the property will enable our legislators to more easily convince the state to part with the land. This is a real

opportunity for the financially strapped Key Peninsula Park District to realize its ambitious goals by enhancing its ability to successfully gain community funding by partnering with citizens to develop a solution to benefit all.

*L. Paul Alvestad, Gig Harbor*

### KPVI Thanks our Community

Key Peninsula veterans Wally Cornman and Jerry Benoit traversed snowy roads over the Narrows bridges and through the city to deliver 250 Christmas gifts to American Lake Hospital Veterans. All 250 gifts were provided by Key Peninsula area residents and consisted of items like wallets, slippers, socks, hats and scarves. Known as the annual "Trees of Sharing" project, chairpersons Trula Knudson and Ginger Zampini placed small Christmas trees at KP community services and Key Peninsula markets at Purdy, Lake Kathryn and Key Center. Each week they faithfully collected the gifts and had them ready for delivery.

Key Peninsula Veterans Institute members share in one huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who donated generously to this outreach for our hospitalized military veterans.

Also, KPVI provided 35 different gifts to Children's Home Society in Vaughn,

with the help of Chairman Eddie Suchanek. Eddie used funds donated, then purchased the gifts and delivered them for the children. Even in difficult times, this Key Peninsula community continues to sacrificially give for our veterans and children.

*KPVI salutes you!*

### PSD Levy

In trying economic times everyone would like to cut expenditures. But there are some that merit continuation, such as expenditures for education. That is why we support renewing the Peninsula School District levy. We urge voters in the district to vote yes on the levy renewal.

The budget presented by Governor Gregoire proposes cuts in education that the legislature needs to carefully review. We can't afford to cut enrollment in our community colleges and universities. We must continue to deliver the educated workforce needed by business and industry, or watch the competitive position of our nation continue to fall. Please, everyone, urge your legislators to not make cuts that will reduce enrollment.

California just announced a 6 percent enrollment cut that certainly will not help our national competitiveness.

*George and Cindy Robison, Gig Harbor*

# Is anybody listening to you?

Having your voice heard is important for both public and private organizations. Dire consequences can result if an organization ignores the people that it represents. Let's see what's happening locally:

KP LAND USE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The citizen-created KP Community Plan was adopted in 2007 (effective in 2008) to ensure that land development and use complies with the desires of the community. Community members were appointed to the KPAC (a county agency) to ensure that community control continued.

The Plan has flaws and needs study by KPAC to determine needed changes. Planning department personnel who act as "advisors" have their own agenda and have pushed through changes in regulations which conflict with the Community Plan, for the stated purpose of "making the job easier for planning." They appear to want to "standardize" developmental

**RICK  
SORRELS**  
THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



regulations throughout the county, eliminating the unique character and desires of individual communities.

The fledgling KPAC is starting to stand up and oppose these misguided efforts of the planners, but is caught in a "Catch 22." Planners tell KPAC that they must comply with the Open Public Meetings Act, which requires meeting notice, minutes, and secretary (provided by planning), but planning has failed to provide a secretary for any meetings other than the minimum to hear variance requests. KPAC has therefore been prohibited from holding meetings to identify and correct problems with the Community Plan and its implementing regulations,

or to solicit community comment on changes being forced by the planners.

Of immediate concern is planning's efforts to add extensive restrictions on cottage industries. Unlike the rest of Pierce County, the KP has no towns or cities, has a bare minimum of "commercial" areas, and has relied heavily upon supporting businesses conducted out of the home (cottage industry). Adding more and more restrictions upon our established infrastructure will force an entire re-think and re-write of our Community Plan.

If the County Council wants community planning and community involvement, then it needs to allow it to function as designed, recognize that planning cannot be "standardized" simply to make life easier for the planners, and ensure that adequate funding exists for the KPAC to function. If not, then they should eliminate the farce and save money.

*The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of the KP News.*

*We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on this page and present these views for public information only.*

Longbranch Improvement Club

Always something interesting in Longbranch

**Dan Mazur, Everest Hero**

Don't miss hearing Dan's story of mountain adventures and the 1st. World-banned for seeing what he did, he will share his life story of exploration, discovery and participation in an exotic world. Bring the family to this free event, Thursday 7 pm February 12

**LIC General Meeting**

Dinner potluck, bring your neighbors. Wednesday 6:30 pm February 18

**LIC Feast or Famine Banquet**

Commemorate Fat Tuesday through drink and thin at the new kitchen. Featured speaker Judith Weinstock. All proceeds benefit Key Peninsula Food Bank. \$25 per person, tickets at Sunnyside Nursery, Home Port, KPCC and KPTRC. 6 to 8 pm February 24

**Spuds 'n Suds**

LIC members and guests enjoy the 1st Annual St. Paddy's Day Prelims. Save the date! Saturday, March 14

553 884-6022 for LIC information

553 884-9157 for event info or tickets

LIC Clubhouse at 4312 Key Peninsula S.

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www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

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## PenLight Faces Increasing Changes

**C**urrently, Bonneville Power supplies PenLight's immediate energy needs at their wholesale rates. But that is about to change.

### PenLight Steps Up

Recognizing that times are changing and our more common sources of energy are declining and can't keep up with demand, PenLight has opted to enter the power production business.

In order to keep future rates as affordable as possible, PenLight is investing in a joint ownership agreement with the Harvest Wind Project located in Klickitat County, near the city of Goldendale.

"For the first time in our 83 year history, we will be in the power production business," stated Jafar Taghavi, CEO of PenLight. "We must step up to meet the demands of the future. We

want to be able to continue to provide low cost power to our members but to do that, we have to look forward to sustainable, renewable, green energy," he added.

### Stretching Our Dollars

We are continuing to hold steady on our rates — PenLight ratepayers have not had an increase since 2001. And just like everyone else, PenLight must stretch our buying power. So by investing now in wind power, rather than later, we will be able to continue to offer our members sustainable, affordable, green energy while adhering to the wishes of the voters of Washington and the passing of Initiative 937

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Penlight has invested in wind power generation to keep up with our community's future demand for electrical energy.

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# BRIEFS

news

## Deadline looms for nominations

Nominations for Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year must be received by the sponsoring Key Peninsula Lions Club not later than Feb. 4 to enable the Lions to secure photos of all nominees, pursue the annual routine of reading all nominations at a club meeting, then, at the next meeting, voting by secret ballot for individual member's choices.

Nominees may be of any age, should be residents of, work on, or own property on the Key Peninsula. Persons nominated should be considered for having rendered volunteer service on behalf of the Key Peninsula community whether for a single outstanding contribution or for sustained contributions over many years. No member of the Lions Club may be nominated. Send nominees' names, telephone numbers, mailing addresses, and a brief description of why you feel they deserve to be recognized to KP Lions, PO Box 63,

Vaughn, WA 98394, or via email to HMcMNP1000@centurytel.net.

The KP Lions Club, which has sponsored the annual awards dinner since 1984, will host the event for the 25th time this year at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn, WA, March 21 at 6 p.m., social, and 7 p.m., dinner. State Senator Derek Kilmer will serve as the event's keynote speaker and give a presentation on the merits of volunteerism. Tickets, \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door, are available at the Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center or may be obtained from members of the KP Lions Club.

For information please call 853-2721 or 884-3319.

## KP Fair board, KP Community Council meet

The KP Fair board joins the KP Community Council at the Feb. 7 meeting. The two boards will discuss plans for the 2010 fair at 6:30 p.m. in the Brones meeting room of the Key Center Library. For more information, contact Danna Webster at danna004@centurytel.net or 884-6455

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# Two Waters

ARTS ALLIANCE

*This year TWAA is celebrating its seventh year of arts programming on the Key Peninsula. Two Waters serves the local community with public events, artists in schools and exhibition opportunities for local artists. We invite you to join us for one of our upcoming events and sign up to become a member in order to attend TWAA events at a reduced cost and support the arts on the Key!*

## EVENT CALENDAR

Tears of Joy "The Shoemaker and The Elves" Puppet Theatre

Feb 7th • 4 PM  
KPCC

7th Annual Spring Fling - a gala event celebrating the arts of the Key Peninsula. Members \$10 Non members \$15

Mar 7th • 7-10 PM  
KPCC

3rd Annual Beyond Borders - an afternoon of international food and music

Aug 1st  
LIC

## "The Shoemaker and the Elves" Puppet Theatre



TWAA is proud to sponsor the February 7th Tears of Joy "The Shoemaker and the Elves" Puppet Theatre. The Shoemaker and the Elves is a traditional Japanese Bunraku puppet drama that combines samisen music and puppetry techniques. The

Shoemaker and the Elves is an adaptation of the Grimm brothers' fairy tale, re-told in a 1940 Manhattan setting, with a cast of characters that includes Louis Armstrong, Groucho Marx, and Carmen Miranda, and of course the shoemaker, his wife, and the clever elves. It's a story of hard times and hard work, but also of acceptance and helping hands, with fun and a little magic added to the mix. Come see "The Shoemaker and the Elves" for an afternoon of cultural delight and wonderment. Suggested \$5 family donation at the door.

## Seventh Annual Spring Fling, a celebration of the Arts of the Key Peninsula

Two Waters Arts Alliance invites you to our signature event on the evening of March 7th at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn 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.

# Angel Guild, a business success story

By Danna Webster, KP News

On Jan. 14, the Key Peninsula Community Council hosted presidents of 10 local non-profit organizations. As the presidents told their histories, half of them bowed to the Angel Guild officer in the audience and expressed their appreciation for support received. By the conclusion of the reports, it was evident that the Angel Guild is a highly profitable non-profit organization and they give it all away.

Angel Guild finance officer, Nadine Sanders, was their representative at the KPCC meeting. During her presentation, she recognized the many organizations in the room that the Angel Guild was pleased to have supported, and shared with them that the most successful year, to date, was 2007 when the Angel Guild contributed \$73,000 to requests. There was an audible gasp from the audience at that amount and she received an enthusiastic ovation as she concluded her report.

With merchandise ticket prices like 25 and 50 cents, and \$1.25, how does the

Angel Guild do it?

According to the Angel Guild treasurer, Margo Danforth, it is "because of the by-laws. We have certain parameters that guide us," she said. "We do not give to individuals, political organizations and not to churches." Danforth also quoted from the mission statement to illustrate those guidelines: the Angel Guild is "to serve and fund worthy causes and community organizations on the Key Peninsula." When money is given to an organization based outside of the Key Peninsula, such as the YMCA, the Guild "stipulates that it (the grant) is to be spent for children on the Key Peninsula," she said.

It is difficult for the public to see how much work goes into raising funds. Although based on donations, the majority of donations cannot be used in the store and are passed on to other organizations. The store's standard is that nothing is put in the store that the volunteers would not buy. Danforth noted that the Angel Guild is definitely a business right down to the collection of state sales

tax. "We are a very organized organization, and have a purpose, and that's how it works," she said.

The Angel Guild has almost 50 volunteer members. Members pay \$5 dues and must work in the store a certain number of hours in sorting, sales or one of the other various jobs. An executive board is elected in March and installed in April. Currently the board is served by Marlene Miles, president; Pat Kunzl, vice president; Pearlita McColley, secretary, Margo Danforth, treasurer; Nadine Sanders, financial officer; and the coordinating manager, Bonnie Stinson, who has served for about 14 of the Guild's 36 years in business. The executive board prepares a monthly financial statement, maintains a three-month expense reserve, reviews grant requests and makes recommendations. The requests and recommendations are presented to the general membership on the fourth Monday of the month where a vote determines all final decisions. Annual grant money donations are posted in the store.

According to Sanders, although a lot of

people think the Angel Guild is like Santa Claus, grants are dispensed based on the amount of money available for each month. When winter storms caused store closures in Dec. 2008 the available funds for Jan. were low. This is Danforth's second year to serve on the board as the financial officer and she continues to be amazed by the money raised by an all volunteer work force. "I'm totally blown away by the money," she says.



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"The Shoemaker and the Elves," will appeal to an audience of all ages. Two Waters Arts Alliance will present the Tears of Joy Theatre production Feb. 7 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Photo courtesy of Tears of Joy Theatre



## Two Waters presents puppet show

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Two Waters Arts Alliance is dedicated to keeping the arts alive on the Key Peninsula. As part of its ongoing commitment to bring the arts to people of all ages in the community, the non-profit organization will present Tears of Joy Theatre's production of "The Shoemaker and the Elves," to the Key Peninsula for public performance Feb. 7 at 4 p.m. in the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Suggested donation is \$5 per family.

"Two Waters underwrites the expense," said Mark Runions, volunteer events chair for the non-profit organization. "This story is a little friendlier than some, because there are no ogres or witches. They won't be on a stage, they will perform right on the floor."

Based in Portland, Tears of Joy Theatre creates puppet theatre that celebrates the diversity of world cultures. Their mission is to teach children and enrich their lives by helping them experience, create and perform art with professional artists.

Three of its productions have received American puppetry's highest honor, the Citation of Excellence in the Art of Puppetry.

"The Shoemaker and the Elves," is an adaptation of the Grimm Brothers' fairytale. Set in 1940 Manhattan, the cast includes Louis Armstrong, Groucho Marx and Carmen Miranda in addition to the shoemaker, his wife, and the elves.

During the production, Runions said the audience will see the puppeteers, and some of their movements. After the performance, he said the audience is

welcome to talk to the puppeteers and ask questions about the puppets and the show.

Students at Minter Creek Elementary School were treated to a free performance of "The Shoemaker and the Elves," in January as part of the theatre's community outreach program.

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## Mustard Seed hosts forum

By Jeanette Brown  
Special to KP News

Taking care of the aged who need it most on the Key Peninsula is the focus of the Mustard Seed Project. Each month Mustard Seed hosts a Third Thursday Community Forum meeting from 10 a.m. to noon in the Brones Room of the Key Center Library. The meetings focus on one of the four key topics regarding the aged in the community- housing, transportation, health and wellness, and information referral, said Edie Morgan, founder of the Mustard Seed Project.

January's forum meeting focused on housing, with information on the Beacon Hill Village model for aging in place.

Founder of Shared Housing Services of Tacoma-Pierce County, Stella Jones, was the guest speaker. She described the program that matches potential housemates.

"(It is) a timely program that has great potential for folks who have considered opening their home to share space, daily tasks and monthly expenses," Jones said.

Recently the Mustard Seed Project

began referring senior KP residents to the program. Some of the questions that have come through the Key Senior Information Center led to the referrals, Morgan said.

Rosemary Pinneo shared information on the volunteer opportunities with Franciscan Hospice and Palliative Care. Pinneo is "looking for volunteers with warm hearts and good listening skills to support patients and their families".

Hospice volunteers support patients and their families in the places they call home and Palliative Care volunteers are Phone Pals.

The public is encouraged to attend the Feb. 19 meeting, which will focus on the topic of transportation, Morgan said. Mustard Seed collaborates with Catholic Community Services to provide transportation to seniors on the Key Peninsula, and there is a need for more volunteer drivers, she said. For more information on services for seniors, visit the Key Senior Information Center located on the southern side of the Key Center Library building. It is open weekdays 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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# Teen dance almost canceled

By Marsha Hart, KP News

The Sound Byte Teen Dance is the brainchild of Tom and Julie Boardman. They hold the dance at the Key Peninsula Civic Center when the space is available, and when the school events schedule is most conducive to a large turnout.

However, turnout has been low, and the workload is heavy. The Boardmans announced at the Jan. 17 dance that it would be the last dance, unless the kids wanted to step up and help out. About 10-15 kids swarmed the couple, ready to do whatever was needed, she said.

"It's not just the cleanup, it's the preparation, the planning way in advance, that day's prep and cleanup and I would say 90 percent fell onto our family, my husband and three daughters," Julie said.

The dances end at midnight, and she said the family has been there until 3 a.m. some mornings trying to clean up.

Though they were resigned to ending the dances, she said they wanted to give the kids a chance to change the outcome.

Kris Allen is a senior at Peninsula High

School. He stepped up.

"We cleaned the bathrooms, the dance floor, replaced the blacklights with normal lights and helped clean the kitchen, game room, and did an overall clean and put stuff away," he said.

In fact, those kids had the place whipped out in about 30 minutes, Boardman said.

"They'd get finished with a little project and come back and ask, 'what do I do now.' They really took us seriously," she said.

Now that the kids have spoken through their actions and obviously want the dance to continue, Boardman said she would like to see a committee of kids help with planning the next dance.

Allen said people need to spread the word about the dance to increase attendance, and Ashley Torres, 17, said it would help if word spread to the other schools.

"It's not every day you have a community putting on a teen dance, especially on the KP, so having a separate dance from school is a lot better," Torres said.

When the DJ announced it could be the

last dance, Torres said, "I immediately thought, 'now what am I going to do with my weekends.'"

The next Sound Byte Teen Dance will be sometime after March, Boardman said, depending on availability of the civic center and other schedules.

If you would like to help with the dance, please call Julie or Tom Boardman at 858-6477.

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# Home resident brings light to chronic illness

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Anna Hart of Home suffers from a chronic form of Lyme disease, a debilitating illness mostly ignored by the medical community due to a lack of information, and political and economic influences.

Anna, now 28, said she was camping 10 years ago when she was bitten by an infected tick. It took three years to be diagnosed and another two years to receive treatment for the disease. She did not have the classic bulls-eye rash, and was told she was cured after a standard antibiotic treatment of 35 days.

At one point she was "fired" as a patient from a prominent medical facility because she'd been on multiple antibiotics too long, said the insurance company. Her latest blood tests indicated continued activity of the Lyme infection, but she was told it was "all in her head."

Anna is now in the third and chronic stage of the disease, but finally able to be mostly out of her wheelchair, and active in focusing attention on this long controversial subject.

She started an online support group for Washington state residents, <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/WALDUC-Support/> The focus is on guidance, support, advocacy and education for those whose lives are affected by Lyme disease, especially in this state. There is also a link to a Lyme disease caregiver's group.

"Our family has walked the surreal journey of this disease and its misinformation for a decade now, ... finding many others suffering in our area. This has made us determined to advocate and educate our neighbors, doctors, our



Photo courtesy of Dale Goodvin

Anna and her mother Lorraine are on a mission to educate the community about Lyme disease. Anna has a chronic form of the disease.

community about Lyme, seriously underreported and misunderstood in Washington State," Lorraine Hart said.

"Ticks have tested positive for Lyme and co-infections all over this area," she said. "In the early stages this disease can be taken care of easily but left to become chronic and multi-systemic, it's a long, arduous, expensive battle to regain quality of life. There is no awareness in this state."

Hart interviewed 50 doctors in the Puget Sound area who all claimed there was no Lyme disease in this state. At least now the Center for Disease Control does have a count, and admits there are likely many more cases not reported.

The International Lyme And Associated Diseases Society believes Lyme disease is responsible for a range of medically unexplained symptoms and recommends long-term antibiotics as a cure.

The Infectious Diseases Society of

America claims there isn't sufficient evidence to support a diagnosis of chronic Lyme disease after the recommended treatment. The National Institute of Health agrees. Both IDSA and NIH recommend against long-term antibiotic treatment saying it is ineffective and potentially harmful.

Jordan Fisher-Smith, a former California park ranger says "Antibiotics are not bad for you if you have a fatal disease." Fisher-Smith is a major commentator in a film shown last month in Gig Harbor, "Under Our Skin" by Open Eye Pictures. He has his life back after years of incorrect diagnosis and treatment. Hart says there is a group of Lyme Literate doctors who "work in tandem, knowing that antibiotics are so hard on the body and help is needed (like probiotics - beneficial bacteria) to keep the treatment from being as difficult as the disease." New York and California are the only states that have passed laws stating that treatment should be set between the doctor and patient, as opposed to being determined by insurance limitations.

"We really have a chance in Washington, to get ahead of the curve with Lyme disease," says Hart, "if we can educate our doctors on the latest research instead of the old misinformation that has been allowed to stand...for business' sake.

"Several people ... are working on opening a Not-For-Profit Lyme Organization for our state — the Washington Lyme Disease United Coalition," Hart said. "Legal steps are in motion for a 501(c)3 tax-deductible nonprofit status. Imagine the dreams we can bring to realization when we come together honorably and work for a common purpose."

Limited copies of the DVD are available from Hart. She is willing to show the film to groups or organizations. Call 253-307-4264.

For more information: Pamela Weintraub, "Cure Unknown: Inside the Lyme Epidemic," a true story of a family's experiences, available at our local library.

[www.lads.com](http://www.lads.com) and for the opposing view: [www3.niaid.nih.gov/topics/lymeDisease/](http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/topics/lymeDisease/) or [www.idsociety.org/lymediseasefacts.htm](http://www.idsociety.org/lymediseasefacts.htm)




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# COMMUNITY WORKS

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

## Feb. 1, 5, 6, 7 & 8 – PHS presentation

The Peninsula High School Drama Department is presenting Michael Fayn's "Noises Off," a PG (no little ones) comedy at the Milton S. Boyd Auditorium at the school. Admission is \$7 for general/adult and \$5 seniors, military, and students w/ASB cards. Times are 7 p.m. for all dates plus a 2 p.m. show on Feb. 1. Call Jonathan Bill for information, 253-530-4450.

## Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23 – Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at the Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. on Mondays in February. See the Calendar on the Key Peninsula News website for other dates/locations.

## Feb. 5 – Fuchsia club meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will meet on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at the Key Peninsula Community Center in Vaughn. Please note that this is a change from the regular location. [cbjackson@netscape.com](mailto:cbjackson@netscape.com)

## Feb. 5 – Library input needed

Pierce County Library System wants to hear from residents throughout the county about what library services people want and need now and in the future. People will have an opportunity to share their ideas and opinions to help the Library plan for and deliver quality services for the next 20+ years during an open house throughout the county, from 6:30-8 p.m.

The ideas will become part of a master plan called: Pierce County Library 2030, which will form the basis for facility improvements, including potential future buildings, expansions or replacements of library branches.

<http://www.piercecountylibrary.org> or 884-2242

## Feb. 7 – Get a tattoo

The Friends of the Key Center Library present a PCREADS event, Mehndi Madness, at the Key Center Library from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Learn the fine art of henna painting from Krysteen Lomonaco and take home your very own free temporary tattoo. Preregistration required. Donations for the Key Peninsula Food Bank encouraged. 884-2242 or 425-712-8423

## Feb. 7 – Home club meets

The Home Social Club's annual meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at the Home Park's new covered picnic shelter; dress warm. All are welcome and the agenda is open. Lori, 884-4412.

## Feb. 10 & 12 – Google workshops

The Key Center Library presents a free Google workshop to give adults a hands-on overview of some of the features of Google. The workshop is great for beginners and intermediate users and will be held on Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. and Feb. 12 at 8 a.m. Pre-register at 884-2242

## Feb. 12 – Mountaineer speaks

Dan Mazur, a Mt. Everest rescuer, will speak at the Longbranch Improvement Club at 7 p.m. He will discuss the challenges, enchantment, survival and ethics of climbing mountains. This is a free community event, but donations are welcome. 884-6022

## Feb. 12 & 26 – Meditation class held

A free meditation class is being offered on Thursdays at the Key Center Library from 7-8 p.m. All are welcome to come for an hour of meditation using simple relaxation techniques, contemplation, and guided imagery. Quiet your mind, feel more refreshed and open to life. Facilitator, Melody Long. 857-5462 or [durgama@spiritone.com](mailto:durgama@spiritone.com)

## Feb. 14 – Make a book

Create and produce your own illustrated storybook in an event presented by the Tacoma Art Museum at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Participants will learn to make folded books from a single sheet of paper, illustrate these books with stamps, collage materials, pens and string, and explore one of the many ways books work. Kids ages 6 and over with adult companion are welcome. 884-2242

## Feb. 14 & 28 – Eat wild plants

Two "wild edible plant walks" will be presented by Rangers Dan Christian and Matt Smith. The first is at 2 p.m. at Kopachuck on Feb. 14. The second walk is at Penrose Point at 2 p.m. on Feb. 28. Both walks will meet in the large parking lots. Enjoy sampling stinging nettles and other plants on these walks. Space is limited to 15 people, so advance registration is necessary. For Kopachuck, call 253-265-3606 and for Penrose, call 884-2514.

## Feb. 18 – Mid-winter camp

Key Pen Parks is offering a mid-winter break camp for 6-10 year olds at Volunteer Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All day camp costs \$45. Mad Science session only from 9 a.m. to noon costs \$30. Bring your own lunch and dress for indoor and outdoor activities; snacks are provided. Early pre-registration is required and space is limited to 25. Registration forms are available at [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com) or contact Chad at 884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com).

## Feb. 19 – Garden talk

The Friends of the Key Center Library host a free talk by Linda Chalker-Scott, author of "The Informed Gardener," at the Key Center Library at 7 p.m. Explore gardening myths and misconceptions and have a cheaper, greener, and more sustainable garden. Autographed books will be available for sale. Donations for the Key Peninsula Food Bank are encouraged. For information, call 884-2242.

## Feb. 24 – Feast or famine

Soup through Thick or Thin is the "soup kitchen" theme for this Key Peninsula Food Bank benefit held at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Food distribution reflects the world-wide profile of food availability — 10 percent of the world's people have an incredible amount of food at hand; 20 percent have access to adequate food, but 70 percent live at the subsistence level. Your ticket guarantees you a bowl of soup, and who knows — you just might be dining with the fat cats. Judith Weinstock, chef, teacher, and author of the "The Kingston Cafe Cookbook" will be the featured speaker. Dried soup mixes and soup bowls will be available for sale as well as several silent auction items. Tickets are \$25 and are available at Sunnycrest Nursery, or from Feast or Famine sponsors: Longbranch Improvement Club, Key Peninsula Community Services, Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, and Home Port Restaurant. This program is supported by the generosity of individual and business members of the Key Peninsula Business Association.

Contact Carolyn 884-9157 for details.

## Feb. 26 – PCREADS Discussion

The Pierce County Library PCREADS program and the Friends of the Key Center Library will hold a discussion of the book "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin at 11 a.m. This book is being read by many in Pierce County and is a "story of a remarkable humanitarian campaign in the Taliban's backyard." In 1993, Greg Mortenson joined an expedition led by Dan Mazur in an attempt on Pakistan's K2. In a state of exhaustion and disorientation, Mortenson wandered away from the group and eventually arrived in a small village, where the course of his life was dramatically altered. Read the book then join the book discussion at the Key Center Library.

884-2242.

## 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. 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 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 – 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

# FEBRUARY

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Peninsula School District Board, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. regular meeting at Discovery Elementary;
- KP Metro Parks meetings, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, Feb. 10 & 24, 3 p.m. at Lakebay Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, Feb. 11, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library

# OFF THE KEY

## Feb. 4 – Potluck supper

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club will sponsor a potluck supper at 6 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 7101 Skansie Ave, Gig Harbor. "Food of Your Youth" is the theme and members are requested to bring a special food that is reminiscent of their youth. Roselyn, 853-4999

## Feb. 5-8 – Les Miserables

Paradise Youth Theatre presents Les Miserables School Edition. Times are 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for Senior and Military, and \$8 for students. You may purchase tickets online at [www.paradisetheatre.org](http://www.paradisetheatre.org) or call 253-851-PLAY.

Paradise Theatre is at 9911 Burnham Dr Nw, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. The play begins in Toulon France in 1815. Jean Valjean has been imprisoned. He is released and starts his life over in Montreuil Sur Mer. It is a gripping story of redemption told against the backdrop of the French Revolution.

## Feb. 27-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 Ave. NW, Gig Harbor. 858-2282.

## 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.

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# FD-16 STATS

## Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

**Jan. 10**

Firefighters investigated a fire alarm at a residence in Home. After making access through a locked gate they found a secured home with the fire alarm sounding but no apparent fire. After investigating the haze in the residence they found that the home owner had set off a "bug bomb".

**Jan. 11**

A woman was struck in the back of the head when she tried to intervene in an argument between two men at a Key Center establishment. The woman was transported to Tacoma area hospital after she was reportedly knocked unconscious during the incident.

**Jan. 12**

A man in his 80s was transported by ambulance to a Tacoma hospital after complaining of chest pain during a routine blood pressure check at the Key Center fire station.

**Jan. 13**

Personnel investigated a landslide at a residence in the area of Home. About 50 yards of soil situated next to a driveway slid down about 20 feet. The property

owner stated that the area had been a stream bed and was filled in for the driveway more than 30 years ago. He said that water was pouring out of the area in four different places after the slide. He speculated that mitigation measures might include provision for the natural water course this time.

**Jan. 14**

While working in an attic space, a 58-year-old Wauna man fell through the suspended ceiling beneath him to the concrete floor 7-feet below. The man was treated by paramedics and transported to a Tacoma hospital.

**Jan 15**

An 80-year-old Lakebay woman was treated for injuries after the air bag in her car deployed during a rear end type collision near the intersection of 134th and Key Peninsula Highway. The woman was transported to a Tacoma area hospital by medics.

**Jan 16**

A 45-year-old Lake Minterwood woman experienced an altered level of consciousness after taking her medications. She was treated and transported to a Tacoma hospital.

— Submitted by FD 16  
Division Chief Chuck West

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## KEY PEN

# PARKS



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### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL— Concessionaire for Key PEN Parks

Key Pen Parks is requesting proposals for the furnishing of all staffing and equipment necessary to provide food concessions at Volunteer Park, on the Key Peninsula. Key Pen Parks needs are outlined in a Request for Proposal (RFP) available from Key Pen Parks office. Proposals will be received until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. Each proposal shall be submitted in the manner as stated in the RFP.

For a copy of the complete RFP, please contact Key Pen Parks Office, 5514 Key Pen HWY, Lakebay, WA 98349 (253-884-9240), or go to the Park's website at [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com) or email [vocttg@keypenparks.com](mailto:vocttg@keypenparks.com).

### Beyond the Borders Music & Arts Festival \$\$\$\$ awarded Park Grant

Key Pen Park Commissioners awarded the first Park Grant of 2009 in the amount of \$1000.00 to Two Waters Arts Alliance and Longbranch Improvement Club for the Beyond the Borders Music & Arts Festival. Key Pen Park's Grant Program was established to help community groups improve park and recreation opportunities for residents of the Key Peninsula.

For 2009, there is \$15,000 available in two pools, with \$5,000 available in \$1,000 grants, and the remaining \$10,000 available for one or more, larger grant projects.

#### The types of projects supported by Park Enhancement Grants are:

- Capital improvement projects
- Park maintenance
- Recreation programs

In order to qualify, community groups must match Key Pen Park's contribution with volunteer time, in-kind donations of goods and services, and/or financial contributions. Interested parties may contact Key Pen Parks office at 253-884-9240 or go to [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com) for more information on the grant program.

### Key Pen Parks Board Selects Leadership Positions

At the January 12 board meeting, Key Pen Parks Board Commissioners elected the following individuals to 2009 leadership positions: Elmer Anderson, Board President, Greg Anglesper, Board Vice President, and Kip Clinton, Clerk.



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	Sold Dec 2007	Sold Dec 2008	For Sale as of 01/17/2009
<b>Highest</b>	\$1,393,000	\$866,000	\$1,600,000
<b>Lowest</b>	\$99,000	\$156,900	\$53,000
<b>Median</b>	\$399,915	\$320,000	\$187,800

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# Tax time tips

By, Sharon Hicks, KP News



In most situations, failing to prepare will produce stress and anguish. Are you one of those who walk into a tax accountant's office a week before April 17 with either boxes or bags full of receipts and say "here you are?" This can be an accountant's nightmare.

Two tax accountant's offices offered tax tips to relieve that April tax season stress. Many of us wait until the last minute searching to gather everything together but that adds to the stress.

The Tax Shack in Purdy gave this advice to alleviate a lot of frustration:

1. The easiest way is to organize your receipts into categories. 2. Get a checklist form any accountant's office of things to look for. If you're new to tax preparing this is very informative and saves a lot of confusion on how to start. 3. If you don't save or can't find receipts use old bank statements, which are acceptable. 4. Start now for 2010 by doing all of the above.

Ellis Accounting in Wauna had similar tips. 1. If you're new bring last year's

returns such as 1099 and W2 and any other reports you may have. 2. Separate receipts into categories then run tabs on them. Place each category into an envelope with the total on the outside. This expedites the whole process. 3. If you have any questions, by all means, call any office to help you.

By organizing your receipts and putting them in one place so you won't have to search at the last minute, the 2010 tax season can be a breeze. Come next April the hardest part is done and you won't stress out.

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Liz Gelfe 253-857-3304 #28183105



**KEY PENINSULA** \$200,500  
House Beautiful!!! Gorgeous interior of this flowing floor plan. Open & spacious living area. Cherry laminate floors, custom paint & slate fireplace create an impressive effect. Sprawling lawn & gardens on this large full 1+ acre lot with a tall privacy fence & garden shed.

AJ Millon 253-857-3304 #28112430



**LAKEBAY** \$215,000  
3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1848 sq ft double wide manufactured home on 5 acres. Large kitchen/family room, den & living room. Master bedroom has sitting room/office & master bath. This is a great property for horses & or small farm. Susan Hoover 253-857-3304 #28125706



**HERRON ISLAND** \$475,000  
Excellent opportunity to own a low bank waterfront home! Located on a cul-de-sac with a Northeastern view across Case Inlet. Large master suite with jetted tub. Private setting on this 80' of waterfront. Extra large garage/shop for all your toys. Dallas Amidon 253-857-3304 #28134044



**PALMER LAKE** \$40,000  
Surrounded by trees this property is located in the private lake community of Palmer Lake. The lake is stocked with trout, so you can enjoy fishing; perfect for pickle boating or canoeing. 2 State Parks near by, Penrose & Joemma. Build your dream home or get-a-way.

Dottie Mezza 253-857-3304 #28143765



**HERRON ISLAND** \$350,000  
Diamond in the rough. Very affordable waterfront cabin with western Olympic Mtn & Case Inlet views. Cabin needs updating. Nice medium bank beach. Excellent place to unwind, weekend get-away or full time living. A great place to call home, let your dreams come true.

Dallas Amidon 253-857-3304 #28172460



**HOME** \$240,050  
Beautiful 2 story home on 1 acre. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, family & living rooms. Deck looks out over property. Stainless steel appliances, hard plank siding, tile & upgraded carpet. Located on a quiet dead end street surrounded by large tracts.

AJ Millon 253-857-3304 #28145233



**LAKE OF THE WOODS** \$100,000  
This 3 bdrm, 2 bath home is designed to delight. Master features his & her closets & a big 4 piece bath. Cozy up to the wood stove in the family rm or relax in the spacious living rm. Kitchen has lots of counter space. New carpet & fresh paint finish out this package!

Janette Welster 253-857-3304 #28101423



**LONG BRANCH** \$225,000  
20 acres with beautiful views of South Puget Sound. Prime, mostly level acreage located at the southern tip of the Key Peninsula. Paved road, electricity, gravel & nice sandy soils. Surrounded by 500+ waterfront acres (Devil's Head). Gorgeous potential to fulfill your dreams. AJ Millon 253-857-3304 #28004180



**LAKEBAY** \$100,000  
Ready to move into! New carpets & fresh paint in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath open concept home. Large front porch to enjoy the evenings or early morning sunrises. Play area, dog run & shed for garden tools. Green belt located behind yard.

Dallas Amidon 253-857-3304 #28174806



**HERRON ISLAND** \$100,000  
Herron Island get-away cabin, very private, dead end lane. Unbelievable views of Case Inlet, Olympic Mountains & north to Rocky Beach & beyond. This cute & cozy updated cabin is ready for your visit & approval. Herron Island offers boating & playfields.

Dallas Amidon 253-857-3304 #28180284



**HERRON ISLAND** \$80,000  
Located 40 minutes from Gig Harbor is where you'll find this get-away on Herron Island. This cabin is located on a corner lot close to South Beach. All furniture except TV comes with cabin. This little diamond in the rough can be updated & ready to go. Dallas Amidon 253-857-3304 #28154900

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# Pruning can produce beautiful tree, tasty fruit

By Elsa Kush  
Special to the KP News

Our Peninsula is dotted with old apple orchards and almost every older home has one or two apple trees in the backyard. Driving along the roads you might see a forgotten apple tree covered in brambles and still blooming in spring.

Apple trees can live to 200 years old and still bear fruit, getting more beautiful and interesting with age (just like women). Caring for them can be very rewarding. Not only can you improve the quality of the fruit, but you have a living piece of history.

Overgrown and neglected apple trees will bear numerous small, not tasty fruit. This can be turned around with renovation pruning, a three-year process which restores the horizontal framework.

Every tree is unique. There are a few absolutes that the home gardener can follow and stay out of trouble. First, never take out more than a third of live growth in one year. Second, make a good cut, when cutting a large limb follow the

branch back to its source, either a primary limb or trunk of the tree. Take off the entire branch, cutting a primary limb back part way makes the tree look like an amputee and any cut not made just beyond the collar does not heal properly. Look for a ring of ridged bark encircling the base of the branch where it grows out from its source. This ring of bark called the "collar" will grow in and wall off the wound. With a handsaw first make a stump by cutting off the limb one or two feet from the Union. The weight of a branch can cause it to rip off before you are finished cutting. By making a two-step process of cutting off the limb you are much more assured of a cut that heals over quickly. The first cut comes from the bottom up about a third of the way into the limb. Second cut comes from the top down to meet the lower cut. The final cut to finish taking off the limb is from the top down just in front of the collar. Always take out dead or broken branches. A broken branch invites rot and fungus. Some large limbs may need a chainsaw. If you are not



Photo by Mindi Larose

Elsa Kush prunes her favorite apple tree on her family's property in Longbranch.


young, foolhardy, or proficient with a chainsaw, call a professional, the nursery will have a list of people to recommend.

The first year of renovation is carried out in late winter. Look for limbs that are

growing straight up; follow it back to a main healthy branch that is of reaching height. The goal is to reduce the height of the tree and let sunlight back into the center of the tree. Less tree plus sunlight equals better apples. Take out two or three more of these upright limbs and any dead or damaged branches; this is good for the first year. Even though apple trees are quite tough it took decades to get overgrown, so be patient. Don't expect to correct years of neglect in one session.

Elsa Kush grew up in Longbranch with 60 apple trees and six siblings. She is a certified arborist working in Gig Harbor. Visit her website [kushpruning.com](http://kushpruning.com) for much more information.

*Editor's Note: To read the full version of this story, please visit our website at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)*



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# KEY PENINSULA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## February is usually our coldest month

**Driving safety:** Prepare your vehicle by checking the condition of the tires, windshield wipers, and antifreeze levels. Keep your gas tank topped off and bring along a safety kit if you get stuck somewhere. Remember winter storms come without warning.

**Carbon Monoxide:** Carbon Monoxide is a by-product of combustion that is odorless, colorless and deadly. Do not use propane or kerosene heaters inside your home during power outages and never use a BBQ inside your home. Equip your home with a CO detector if you have any propane or natural gas appliances.

**Hypothermia:** Kids love the snow but don't let them stay out too long. Elderly are especially susceptible. Half of all hypothermia deaths occur in people 65 & older. Limit your time outside. Watch for warning signs of hypothermia like uncontrolled shivers and decreased ability to speak or function. Call for help immediately and warm slowly.

**Emergency Supplies** Keep an emergency supply kit in your home. Be prepared to be isolated for up to one week. That means enough supplies for everyone in your house including special needs such as diapers, medications and animal food. Keep a small one in your car also, you never know.

## HELP US HELP YOU

Often times our patients are unable to communicate with us and we have to search for answers. If you have a medical condition please help us by writing down your medical history along with your current list of medications and carry it with you. In your home post it on the refrigerator. If you have a cell phone store the phone number of a friend or relative that knows your medical information under ICE (In Case of Emergency). These simple measures could save us time that could save your life.

## Calendar of Events

- ▶ Commissioners mtg.  
Feb. 10 & 24 @ 3 p.m.
- ▶ CPR/1st aid Feb. 7th  
*Call 253-884-2222 to register*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Rick Price

If you have had the opportunity to meet Rick you will remember his gentle smile. He joined us in January 2007 as a seasoned paramedic and has proven to be a great asset to the organization. He and his wife Stephanie live in Home with their growing family of dogs, goats and chickens.



## Safe Sitter Class

The Key Peninsula Fire Department is looking for Safe Sitter classes for youth between 11 and 14 years old. Safe Sitter is class 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 7th & 8th  
Class will be held at the Key Center Fire Station  
Fee is \$25 for material cost

SPARKY SAYS

Winter Storm season is here, are you ready for the next one?





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## PHS students receive college-level instruction in AP classes

Peninsula High School students can get a headstart on college through Advanced Placement classes. The AP classes cover college-level instruction in the high school classroom setting and students can receive college credit after successfully taking exams.

"The major difference between the AP English class and the standard grade level class is seen in the breadth of material we cover, and the depth into which we are able to delve," says Mike Blair, who teaches AP English at Peninsula High School. "The workload for the AP course is also similar to that of college."

At Peninsula High School, AP courses range from calculus and world history to biology and chemistry. The school added new courses in environmental science and economics this year, and will add psychology next year.

"We're committed to meeting the



Peninsula High School AP English teacher Mike Blair and his students are discussing the play "A Doll's House" by Henrik Ibsen.

demand of students," says David Goodwin, assistant principal. "As we see demand, we're adding more courses."

The school has 200 more students enrolled in AP classes this school year. Mionela Wakefield, a PHS senior, says

she likes fast-paced classes. "AP classes are more rigorous," she says. "Once you go into college, you'll have a broader base of knowledge."

In Blair's English class, students read a new piece of literature every two

weeks, including works like Ibsen's "A Doll's House," Euripides' "Medea" and Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment." Students are expected to take an active role in the class.

"Much of the class time is devoted to discussion of the work, and in particular how to view a piece through various critical lenses," Blair says.

Senior Ian Clark says he particularly enjoys this English class because he gets to read so much. "I want to have an idea of what the workload will be like in college," he says.

All PHS teachers participated in training last summer at the Advanced Placement Institute, and the school has been featured in *Newsweek* magazine at the top of high schools based on AP classes per capita. "Our teachers went through intensive training, and they are committed to providing more challenging instruction," Goodwin says.

### Kindergarten Registration Kick-off!

**When:** Saturday, February 28 from 9 a.m.-noon

**Where:** All Peninsula School District elementary schools

We are excited to accept Kindergarten registration for fall 2009! All elementary schools are open for registration during regular school hours from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. beginning March 2, 2009. Please try to avoid the first and last hour which are the busiest times of the day. If you prefer to register during the summer, you can do so before June 30 and after August 17. Please contact the school prior to stopping by to ensure the office staff will be available to assist you.

Eligible kindergartners are children 5 years old by August 31, 2009, and who reside in the district. For detailed information and downloadable forms please visit the Kindergarten Registration page in the Education Programs drop down menu at: [www.psd401.net](http://www.psd401.net). **All-Day Kindergarten is standard at all PSD elementary schools, at no charge.**

#### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is a "typical" day for a Kindergarten student?**

**A:** A typical daily schedule would include: opening/greeting activity, reader's workshop, recess, phonics and handwriting, room centers, writer's workshop, lunch/recess, music/PE/computers and team time. Kindergarten students enjoy busy days full of social interaction with friends, academics, specialist time and teamwork.

**Q: Where is the bus stop near my house?**

**A:** Each August the District's Transportation Department publishes the address/location for each bus stop. The

schedule includes pick-up time for transportation to school, and the drop-off time for the return trip home.

**Q: What if parents decide a half-day program is best for their child?**

**A:** Parents have the option of deciding that their child will attend for only half the day. Kindergartners must attend in the morning, and parents are responsible for picking up their child prior to lunch; there is no midday transportation for kindergarten students. Parents need to work with building principals.

### February Events

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 3     | District Jazz Festival<br>7:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill                                 |
| 12    | School Board Regular meeting 6 p.m. at Harbor Ridge Middle School                  |
| 16-20 | No school – President's Break  |
| 24    | All District Choral Festival<br>7 p.m. at Chapel Hill                              |
| 28    | Kindergarten Registration Kick-off at all PSD elementary schools from 9 a.m.-noon. |

*For a complete listing of music events visit the district website in the Education Programs & Events section at [www.psd401.net](http://www.psd401.net).*



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

It was concert night for the Key Peninsula Middle School beginning band Jan. 13. Parents were treated to an evening of music performed by the beginning band students, and given information about the school's beginning band program. The advanced band will play Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Peninsula High School, and all KPMS bands will perform during a concert March 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the KPMS gym.



## Out of this world

Before a crisp digital projection of the space station, Karen Borders, Key Peninsula Middle School's NASA Explorer School lead teacher, addresses the audience at the Gig Harbor Galaxy Theatre. Students from KPMS and other schools in the district got a chance to engage in a live conversation with astronauts at the International Space Station on Jan. 20.

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## Prep hoops, good news, bad news

By Keith Stiles  
Special to the KP News

The Peninsula Seahawk basketball teams had both a good and bad night Jan. 23, in meeting Bonney Lake with the boys posting a 61-40 win, while the girls ended up on the short end of a 72-52 score. The boy's game saw 10 of the Hawks contributing to their winning total, while six of the Lady Hawks found the net in their losing cause.

On Jan. 20, the Peninsula boys had an easy time with White River, winning 64-

35, while the girls let a close one slip away, the White River girls winning a close one, 58-56.

## Swimming

Meanwhile, Peninsula School District Swimming and Diving teams were off to a fine start, both the Peninsula Seahawks and the Gig Harbor Tides were undefeated in league competition as of Jan. 21.

## Little league baseball

There was a hopeful sign of Spring on the horizon, as the KP Little League held registration for the 2009 season on Jan. 24.

## Wrestling stats

Jan. 22

Peninsula 30 White River 44

145- Sly (P) def Williams by dec. 2-0;  
152- Oswald (P) def Leckman by pin  
4:35; 160- Madden (WR) def. Reichert  
by pin 3:16; 171- Russel (WR) def. Hein  
by pin 1:16; 189 Davidson (P) def.  
Anderson by dec. 7-2; 215- Myers (WR)

def. Wehmier by pin 1:25; 285-  
Hamilton (P) def. Meaghar by pin :48;  
103-

Geddes (WR) def. Border by pin 2:32;  
112- Lovelace (WR) def. Shohoadrov by  
dec. 11-9; 119- Embly (P) def. Kelly by  
pin 2:27; 125- Boley (P) def.

Lonergan by pin 2:33; 130- Gurule (WR)  
def. Allen by pin 1:16; 135- Kavtzman  
(WR) def. Elliott by pin 3:32; 140-  
Williams (WR) def. Henry by tech. fall.

(From FAIR, Page 1)

whether the fair would suffer by taking a year off, and whether or not a one-day event would be viable.

Phil Bauer, representing Key Peninsula Civic Center, led off the discussion.

"I don't think the fair works. It is extremely labor intensive," Bauer said. "If you're an adult, there's nothing for you to do. I keep thinking about the Oysterfest in Shelton. They have a wine garden, microbreweries, great food centered on theme and really good entertainment. If we take a year off — who cares? I'm not afraid we're going to lose something — what are we going to lose?"

Stu Stuhaug, president of the LIC agreed. "Even the Davis people [who run the carnival] said we talk about having a fair for the kids, but all the entertainment is for people with gray hair and no hair. The fair is somewhat schizophrenic."

Joe Barrows, also representing the LIC, agreed.

"It needs to be looked at from the grass roots up," Barrows said. "If I had my choice, let's have an all out, maximum planning effort in 2009, and come back reenergized and huge in 2010."

The length of the fair was also a

**"If I had my choice, let's have an all out, maximum planning effort in 2009, and come back reenergized and huge in 2010."**

— Joe Barrows, LIC representative

sticking point for some. Jud Morris, representing the Key Peninsula Business Association, and Ed Taylor, representing the civic center, both felt having a one-day fair would be a mistake based on past events and the amount of energy it takes to set up the fair. Others, such as Stuhaug, felt the three-day event was a hardship for vendors in terms of cost and time.

Biggs said he is ready to take the throttle and move the fair forward for 2010.

"I recognize this is a divisive issue. We need to get after this and not just put it aside," Biggs said. "I want to get on this right away. I don't see any reason why we can't be exploring options so we can get some general direction as soon as possible."

At the Key Peninsula Business Association meeting the following day,

Biggs announced the fair board decision. Biggs told the association that he hopes Boardman will continue as vice president and especially wants Boardman to manage the fair. "Tom Boardman is the ideal guy to run the fair. I will propose to make Tom the fair board manager. As far as running the fair, I think he is the man to do it," Biggs said.

If anyone is interested in participating in the planning process for 2010, the next meeting is tentatively set for Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the VFW Room at Key Peninsula Civic Center.

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Members of the Peninsula School District were at several sites within the district Jan. 17 waving signs promoting a yes vote for the school levy vote on February 3. Among those stalwarts were Key Peninsula Middle School principal Jeri Goebel and Voyager Elementary School teacher Jim Falcocchio who are seen here at the Purdy intersection of SR-302 and SR-16. *Photo by Hugh McMillan*



There are two Claudias in Key Center, who each work on separate sides of town. Claudia Jones, who works at KC Chiropractic, Peninsula Markets and is a volunteer at the Fire department, challenged Claudia Loy, owner of Sunnycrest Nursery and Floral, to a food drive. They are hoping that the community will become a part of their across town "do good rivalry." So between Feb. 1 and Feb. 24 (Fat Tuesday's "Feast or Famine" dinner) they will be collecting nonperishable canned foods, and /or cash to be donated to the Key Peninsula Food Bank at the Community House in Home. *Photo courtesy of Claudia Loy*



*Story & photo by Danna Webster*

## Key Center liquor store robbed

Thieves hit the Key Center state liquor store Christmas Eve or early Christmas morning. After trying to break out the large front window, they resorted to breaking through the glass of the front door and squeezing through the bars, according to store owner, Libby Rittenhouse. She believes one of the thieves may have been a child because only a very small person could squeeze between the bars on the door. "They broke in and took off with several bottles of liquor. The police are still investigating and have finger prints," Rittenhouse said. Additional security has been added to the store and a new towing policy for the parking lot. Because a truck was parked overnight on Dec. 24, there was interference with some of the photographic evidence. "All vehicles will be towed after the bar closes, after last call," she said and added that the police investigation is still on-going and "the state will be looking into it a lot more," she said.



Madison Hansen, Evergreen Elementary 4th Grader, leads the class in a Daily Work Review lesson in "XtraMath." It is a computer program developed by David Jeschke, a Seattle resident, father and computer programmer. The program was offered to students in the Peninsula School District, and helps them gain fluency with math facts. "Although this program could be marketed for a large amount of money," said PSD math coach Amy Barber, "David is humbly letting us access this free of charge."

*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

*Editor's Note: To read the full version of this story, visit our website at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)*