



New business opens, page 10

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



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Exclusively Online



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

July 4 parade in Home

Also online

- ▶ Kevin Reed column
- ▶ KPMS grads
- ▶ Scholarship winner
- ▶ Photo gallery



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Photo by Karina Whitmarsh, KP News

Art Specialist Jennifer Eakins spent time with students teaching them the game of Frisbee Golf during the Minter Creek Elementary School's field day. Eakins is one of the teachers in the district who was let go due to budget constraints.

Peninsula teachers caught in budget crunch, most recalled

By PJ Kezele, KP News

Declining enrollments, increased costs and state funding cuts have all amounted to a projected \$5.2 million budget shortfall for Peninsula School District in 2009-2010. Historically, enrollment varies by 50 to 100 students per year, however, in 2009-2010, enrollment is expected to decline by 300 students.

"We've had a somewhat surprising decline in enrollment in kindergarten," Steve Leitz, principal at Minter Creek Elementary, said. "We have 48 students enrolled for 2009, and we lost 88 graduating from fifth to sixth grade. With a loss of about 40 students, that's more than one classroom."

Cost increases include the usual suspects: salary obligations, utilities, insurance and unemployment, compounded by property tax delinquencies. While the new levy funding will bring in an additional \$860,000, the district is still left with a \$2.2 million deficit.

The majority of the state's \$3 million reduction of I-728 funding will impact all-day kindergarten. PSD was left with four options for the program: maintain full funding by cutting elsewhere, reduce to half day only, charge tuition or reduce to four full days a week. By reducing one day per week, the district will save \$420,000, while still preserving their ability to provide tuition free, all-day education to kindergarten students. If the district were to opt for half-day kindergarten, it would necessitate mid-day transportation, which would result in an offset expense of about \$350,000 per year.

One priority for the district amid the turmoil is to stay committed to maintaining current class-size ratios throughout the district. In a budget survey administered by Peninsula School District, "maintaining current class size" was identified as the highest priority.

While layoffs are based on seniority, specialist positions are at greatest risk

(See CUTS, Page 22)

FD 16 lid lift on ballot for August

Staff Reports

In order to maintain the current level of service for Fire District 16, a lid lift levy is planned for a ballot in August.

Though the lid lift levy has failed in the past, chief Chuck West said the increase in demand for services of FD 16 to the citizens of the Key Peninsula calls for action now.

Chief Tom Lique said the funding is just not there to support the demand for more employees.

"Our biggest expense is employees (firefighter/paramedics) and that is the

last thing this community could afford to lose, but we have to make some tough choices soon," Lique said. "We are going to have to ask the voters what they want to do."

FD 16 relies on volunteers, career firefighters and paramedics to perform the day-to-day operations.

Originally the levy called for a rate of \$1.50, the maximum of a fire levy. With each year the property values rise, the levy decreases due to the law that requires the amount taxed to decrease as the values go up.

(See LEVY, Page 6)



Photo courtesy of Mike Baum

A fire in Lake of the Woods as seen from an aerial view. While FD 16 crews responded to this fire a medical aid call came in. FD 16 had to call on Gig Harbor District 5 to respond to the medical aid call.

KP residents not satisfied with DTV change

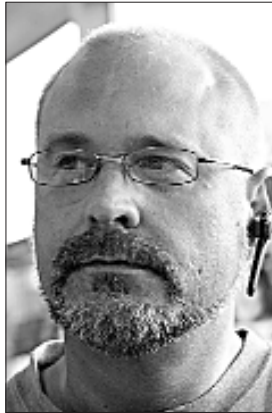
Editors Note: Those who are currently using cable or satellite were not included in this story, as well as those residents who were not using a DTV converter box on their television. The interviews were conducted outside the Key Center Peninsula Market.

By Rick Sorrels, Special to the KP News • Photos by Hugh McMillan, KP News



**Kristin Neuschwander,
Lakebay**

"We don't receive any signal anymore."



**Scott and Colleen Clemens,
Rocky Bay**

"We only receive one channel now, the religious one."



**Kate McCourt,
Lakebay**

"We have a big antenna and receive 20 channels."



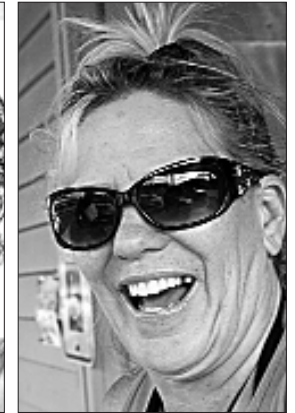
**Wes Shinn,
Jackson Lake**

"Lost all channels except 13 on my Digital TV."



**Nicole Nieman-Carr,
Key Center**

"We have a huge antenna, but still lost everything except Channel 13 and the religious channels."



**Adrienne Ricci,
Glencove**

"We lost all signal."



**Kendra Brown,
Vaughn**

"We received all channels before, now nothing at all."



**Chuck and Cheryl Chalfant,
Joemma Beach**

"We did not lose any channels, but are disappointed that the definition did not improve as we expected."



**Diana Shearer,
Jackson Lake**

"Lost all signal."



**Diane Gressley,
Longbranch**

"We no longer receive Channels 5,7,11, or 13."

COMMENTARY:

High terrain and trees are blocking DTV signal from the primary transmission tower on Queen Anne Hill in Seattle for many KP residents. Some improvements are scheduled for July. In mid-July, Channel 7 will be adding 86-feet to its Queen Anne antenna. Many "translators" (secondary towers) have not yet been "tuned" to broadcast digital. Channel 7 translators in Port Angeles (Channel 30) and Bremerton (Channel 26) will be "tuned" soon. The FCC is currently processing a Channel 7 request for a new translator in Olympia, which would help the KP.



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BRIEFS

news

Bus route changes begin mid-July

Home will lose bus service starting July 13. Route 113 will go no further than Key Center, but will add a stop at St Anthony Hospital. Full details in June issue, available on line.

State offers property tax deferral

Olympia, Wash., - Homeowners on limited incomes can apply to defer

paying their second half property taxes due Oct. 31.

Applicants must have an annual household income of \$57,000 or less in 2008, have owned the home for at least five years, use it as their primary residence, and have sufficient equity. Deferred taxes cannot exceed 40 percent of equity.

The deferred taxes must be repaid, with interest, when the property is sold or no longer used as the homeowner's primary residence. The interest rate is 5 percent for 2009.

For more information, see the Department's publication Property Tax Deferral for Homeowners with Limited Income, call 360-570-5900, or contact your county assessor.

KP residents still waiting for SR 302 improvements

By Rick Sorrels
Special to the KP News

The scoping phase of the Washington State Department of Transportation study for the SR 302 re-route has been completed. Scoping is the first stage of developing an environmental document, and solicits input from the public and from agencies, according to the WSDOT. The four most attractive corridors for the new road location have been identified and a final report filed, including comments from federal agencies like the EPA.

The scoping phase did NOT look at nor significantly consider terrain, contours, land acquisition or cultural or historic landmarks, or a host of other concerns, including cost. These issues will be left to the environmental and subsequent phases of the study, which could drastically alter the ranking and ultimate location of the new road.

An additional \$1 million has been allocated to start work on the environmental impact statement. DOT has sent notices to landowners requesting permission to enter their land to conduct necessary studies.

Meanwhile, a very large dump truck with an equally large dump trailer, westbound on SR 302 near Danforth Street had a mechanical breakdown at 2:15 p.m. June 2, blocking all westbound traffic for one hour. The truck driver managed to re-start his rig and get it moved up the hill and out of the

traffic before rush hour hit.

"The tow companies located on the two peninsulas do not have a truck large enough to move a large dump truck like this", said Kevin Dieckman who supervises operations at Mountain View Towing on the KP and also Town & Country Towing on the GH peninsula. "A Class C tow truck would need to be called in from either Tacoma or Port Orchard."

"There is no shoulder at all", said FD16 Fire Chief Tom Lique. "A driver with a flat tire would be forced to choose between stopping within the single lane of fast moving traffic, driving a considerable distance on his flat tire and rim, or pulling into the deep ditch which would require a tow truck to get out."

Safety improvements had been planned for SR 302 between Lake Kathryn and the Purdy Spit, with construction scheduled for the summer of 2009 and the summer of 2010, but that project was delayed due to the state budget crunch.

With the efforts of Sen. Derek Kilmer, Rep. Larry Seaquist and Rep. Jan Angel, \$7.5 million in funding has been re-established for safety improvements for SR 302 for an expanded area from the Purdy intersection with SR 16 all the way to the Elgin-Clifton "Y". DOT Project Manager John Donahue stated "Construction could start as early as 2011, and include a third lane and wider shoulders through the Wauna curves."

Bay Lake under alert

By Rick Sorrels, Special to KP News

Toxic algae Caution signs were posted at Bay Lake on May 22, and it is nothing new. The problem has gotten worse since officials began watching for signs of algae in the lake four years ago.

"We first started monitoring Bay Lake in 2005," said Ray Hanowell, environmental health specialist with the Washington State Department of Health. "We've posted advisories every year since 2005 for Bay Lake. It is worse in the late summer and early fall, but sometimes we see it in the spring also."

Toxic algae can be deadly, especially for pets and small children who have much smaller body weight than adult humans. The Washington State Department of Health has two levels of toxic algae advisory.

A "Caution" sign is posted when algae has been observed (by eye) in sufficient density that illness may result. When a "Caution" sign is posted, areas of high algae concentration (scum) should be avoided.

A "Warning" sign is not posted until after lab testing has verified that a toxic level of algae exists, according to DOH officials. If a "Warning" sign is posted, the lake is not safe for recreational activities. Keep in mind that when a "Caution" sign is posted, toxic levels may exist and the DOH may not have received the lab verification yet.

"There is still much unknown about toxic algae," Hanowell said. "There is a lot of research going on. There have been no known human deaths from toxic algae in Washington State, but toxic algae was not even considered as a possible cause of death until just recently."

"Bay Lake from time to time has contained both types of toxins created by the algae. The neurotoxin is the same toxin created in shellfish that has caused a number of deaths. It is unknown why a completely different critter would develop the exact same neurotoxin in saltwater shellfish as the algae produces in freshwater lakes. The other toxin causes chronic and permanent liver damage."

"The toxins are very potent," said Frank DiBiase, a Longbranch resident who supervises the Toxic Algae Program. "Death can result within minutes to hours from the neurotoxin, and within two to three days for the other type. The new state standard is 6 micrograms per liter for the one type, and 1 microgram per liter for the other."

The problem seems to be getting worse each year.

"Palmer Lake was posted in 2007 and 2008, but those algae blooms were of shorter duration," said Hanowell. "By shorter duration, I mean several weeks verses months."

"We used to believe that a surface scum needed to exist before a toxic level could be reached, but there were some recent lab tests which detected toxic levels in clear water samples," he said. "Much still needs to be learned."

Common household products are like food for the algae, he said.

"We do know that chemicals such as phosphates feed the algae and cause large blooms," said Hanowell, "so residents in the entire drainage basin for areas such as Bay lake should take special care to avoid using fertilizers, or soaps containing phosphates to wash clothes, dishes, or cars. Also be especially alert for septic leakage and pick up pet waste. Owners of farm animals should work closely with Pierce Conservation District (884-9474)."

Volunteers such as Ron and Sandy Selbert of Bay Lake monitor lake conditions and take water samples for testing. "We were concerned about the lake and how it has been changing over the past several years," said Sandy. "We want to protect ourselves, our animals, and our neighbors. They simply don't know (the threat)."

"Toxins (in the water) can enter the body two ways," said DiBiase. "They can be swallowed by drinking or swimming, and they can be inhaled from water spray, for example, while water skiing or splashing."

"Pets and small children lack common sense and are of special concern," said Hanowell, "They will even drink and play in scummy water."

"There are no toxic algae wardens, no tickets are given," said DiBiase. "The advisory signs are posted for a reason, your health and possibly your life are at risk."

If you, your child, or pet have been around the water and are showing signs such as vomiting, lethargy, disorientation, or seizures, see a health care professional as soon as possible.

Lake residents (any size lake) who would like to join the Algae Watch Program should call 798-2845/3530.

For information call the Environmental Health Program at 798-6470.

EDITORIAL

Summer is a time to play, relax, celebrate, and build summer memories. On the Key Peninsula we have our own brand of summer fun, with neighborhood and community celebrations for Independence Day, and lots of water sports throughout the summer months.

Celebrations can turn to tragedy if we aren't vigilant and keenly aware of playing safely.

Independence day is the quintessential summer holiday. July 4 fireworks celebrations are planned for the Key Pen with a parade in Home and a fireworks display over Henderson Bay. Most of us enjoy a few fireworks at home as well. Commemorating this holiday is fun, but there are plenty of dangers that go along with the holiday's celebration.

Fireworks are legal through July 5, on private property on the Key Peninsula. However, we should all use some common sense when discharging fireworks.

If not handled properly, fireworks can do serious damage to property, and cause injuries. Cherry bombs, M-80s and some other explosives are federally banned.

According to the Pierce County Fire Marshall Wayne Wienholz, fireworks purchased at tribal stands may not be legal off of tribal lands. Firecrackers, bottle-rockets, missiles and similar devices are illegal except on tribal lands.

During dry conditions fireworks are especially hazardous to property. It is also a good idea to use some neighborly etiquette and keep the noise confined to the July 4 date.

As summer marches on and temperatures rise, most of us are drawn to the water. It is important to remember that the waters on the Key Pen may feel warm on top but are much cooler below. Swimming in natural waters such as lakes, rivers, ponds and the sound is more difficult than swimming in a pool.

Law requires that children under 12 years old wear a life jacket on moving boats that are less than 19 feet, and recreational boats must carry one U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket for each person aboard.

Each year there are reports of young children drowning. We must provide constant supervision for the little ones during all of the summer celebrations; use lifejackets when we are in a boat, and make this summer on the Key Peninsula the best yet.

Seeing red on health care

Health care costs continue to rise and as adequate health insurance is becoming more unaffordable, many families have problems paying for their medical care. High out-of-pocket spending for insurance co-pays and deductibles coupled with slow growth in personal income contribute to the rise of medical debt and personal bankruptcies forcing many families to make hard decisions between the necessities of life. Often health insurance is the necessity that is sacrificed.

More and more people are juggling medical debt and turning to credit cards to pay their health care bills. A recent study released by the Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation that aims to promote a high performing health care system, has found that nearly 79 million working age adults in the United States are struggling to pay medical bills or have medical bill problems. In addition, 7 million adults 65 and older have these same problems, bringing the total to 79 million adults with medical debt problems. Of all these people 60 percent of them had health insurance.

As if not serious enough, the number one cause of bankruptcy is directly related to health care expenses.

A recent study by Harvard University researchers found that the average out-of-pocket medical debt for those who filed for bankruptcy was \$12,000. The study noted that 68 percent of those who

ANGELIQUE
KNAPP
WRITING FOR CHANGE



filed for bankruptcy had health insurance. In addition, the study found that 50 percent of all bankruptcy filings were partly the result of medical expenses. Every 30 seconds in the United States someone files for bankruptcy in the aftermath of a serious health problem.

Let me tell you a story about a young woman named Angie. Angie works for a non-profit for over six years with a family to support. Angie has a great job and very good medical insurance with no premiums and very low co-pays through 2004. By 2008, her insurance premium increased to \$120 per month with \$20 co-pays and high deductibles and lab costs but she rarely needed to take anyone in her family to see a physician. One day Angie found a large lump on her forehead. She went to her regular doctor and paid the co-pay. The doctor referred her to a specialist, where she paid the co-pay. The specialist believed she had a cyst so she scheduled an appointment to remove the cyst, at a cost of almost \$800 after her insurance paid out. The lump came back. The doctor believed the stitches did not dissolve and

As if not serious enough, the number one cause of bankruptcy is directly related to health care expenses.

performed a very similar procedure plus lab work to the tune of \$700. The doctor called Angie the very next day to tell her that after receiving the lab results, she did not have a cyst but had a fibroma tumor that could not be determined as cancerous or non-cancerous. The doctor advised her to have surgery and reconstructive surgery to her face as soon as possible. With a large scar from her nose to her forehead and thousands of dollars in medical bills, she recovered.

Although she had planned for emergencies, Angie used all of her savings to pay half of her medical bills and struggled to pay off the rest of her medical debt for the next eight months.

That woman was me.

It is wrong that insurance companies make profits year after year based on the health or sickness of people while the very people they serve go into debt or bankruptcy. What can you do? Write to Rep. Larry Seaquist, Rep. Norm Dicks and Sen. Maria Cantwell and tell them that it is time to reform our healthcare system.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Graduated income tax needed

In his LTE, Norman Groenig appears to equate a progressive income tax to socialism. I view taxes, in whatever form, as the cost of living in a civilized society that provides not only the roads, fire services, police and military that we need but also the means to assist those who need assistance. Although it is true that a graduated income tax asks for

more from those with greater assets and income, don't those persons also receive the greater benefit from government through protection of their assets since they have more to protect?

I started working 66 years ago during WW II, started paying income taxes shortly thereafter and still pay income taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, etc. I don't mind that some of my taxes provide benefits to needy individuals because I love living in a society that provides for the needy along with the wealthy.

Washington State has an extremely regressive tax system that needs to change. We need a graduated income

tax, we need to reduce the amount and application of the sales tax and eliminate or provide a better business and occupation tax. Greater fairness would no doubt be the result.

George Robison, Gig Harbor

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.

Big fireworks, music show over Henderson Bay

By Keith Stiles
Special to the KP News

Residents of the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor will be treated to a free major fireworks display on the evening of July 4 with bursting rockets, fiery streamers, and colorful flowering figures over the Head of Henderson Bay.

The big display, which is sponsored by the Henderson Fireworks Committee, will be launched from an anchored raft out in the Bay where it will be easily visible to onlookers centered on the Purdy Spit and from shore locations on both sides of the Bay well to the South. The program is planned to start at approximately 10 p.m.

As in previous years, the bursting of the bombs, rockets and colorful patterns will be accompanied by beautiful coordinated music, furnished by the Fireworks Committee, headed by Mr. Richard Gillette of the Purdy area. The music will

be played over a large sound system, also on a raft out in the Bay for the benefit of those on the surrounding shoreline, and also broadcast simultaneously over Gig Harbor radio station KGHP-FM, 89.9 and 93.7 MHz. On previous occasions parking space for viewing the display has been at a premium, and viewers are urged to obey all parking regulations and use special caution while walking along or crossing the roadway.

Also, while picnics, beach chairs and the like are suitable for the beach area proper, viewers are reminded that no open fires are allowed on the beach and the regulations have been enforced in years past. It is also important that viewers respect private property rights of homeowners along the Henderson Bay shoreline. In addition to being heard on standard, portable, and car radios the coordinated music program on KGHP-FM may also be enjoyed on the Internet at KGHP.org.



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(From LEVY, Page 1)

That original amount of \$1.50 has decreased to 87 cents. In August FD 16 will ask the voters for \$1.09.

Two positions are open on the FD 16 Board of Commissioners, and Lique said the elections have been controversial for years.

"It is our hope that the voters will separate the issues and support the community's needs for emergency services, as well as make an informed decision on their representatives to the Board of Commissioners," Lique said.

"The bottom line for me is that the job does not change for the members of our Department, houses burn the same way, people with heart attacks and strokes need the same care," he said. "Our members are stepping up to these chal-

lenges with fewer responders than our surrounding departments and still getting the jobs done.

"We are however at a critical tipping point. Last week we responded to a house fire in Lake of the Woods. The crews were able to stop the spread of the fire and get it extinguished but during this house fire the department also received a medical aid call, our personnel were not able to leave the fire and respond to the medical aid request. We were very fortunate that Gig Harbor Fire had a Paramedic unit they could send out to assist us in providing care. I am concerned that as the demands for service continue to increase on these surrounding agencies that we may find ourselves in a position where they do not have available resources to send when we request them."

CORRECTION

In the June edition of the Key Peninsula News, an error was reported in the sales tax amount for the Key Pen. The current sales tax rate for the Key Peninsula is .084. The Key Peninsula News regrets the error.

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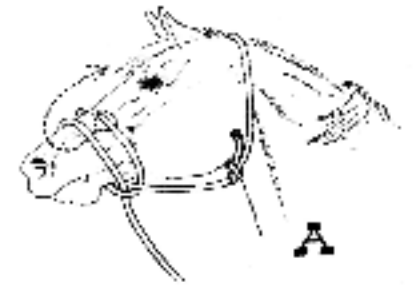
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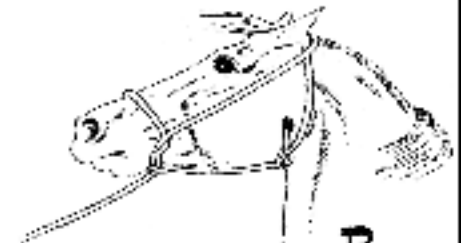
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Parade and summer celebration set for Key Center

The Crazy Key Parade and Summer Family Fun Day are set for Aug. 8. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at the Key Center fire station and the excitement will continue during the Summer Family Fun Day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Olson Road will be closed to traffic until the parade has made its way to the civic center.

The whole community is invited to participate, and applications for booths, farmers market, and parade float entries are due by July 31. The family event will include live entertainment, a beer garden, food and games. Old time fun reminiscent of Pioneer Days will include a fishpond, penny/candy scramble, a three-legged race, petting zoo and clowns.

Horse drawn wagons, classic cars and a high school marching band are a few of the early parade entries, and families and businesses are encouraged to use some imagination and decorate a float with a

Krazy fun theme.

The prize for best float is a couple of dinners at a local restaurant, and a photo in the Key Peninsula News.

Applications are available online at kpciviccenter.org, and are also available at Sunnycrest Nursery and at the civic center.

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Longbranch Improvement Club

**Longbranch
 summer fun**

July 11 50 Years Afloat
 Celebrate the 50th anniversary of
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 at 11, free family games and races
 12 to 4, Dave Calhoun sings 12 to 3,
 Free antique car show 11:30 to 3 at
 clubhouse, Artist signing, dressing for
 Virginia V model capped with 5:30
 BBQ dinner and 8:30 to midnight dance
 featuring The Daily Flash. Advance
 tickets \$20/adult for dinner dance combi.

July 18 LCC Salmon Bake
 A family tradition, from 2 to 6 pm

Aug 1 Beyond the Borders
 Co-produced by Two Waters Arts
 Alliance and the LCC. Art show,
 world food, beer garden and exotic
 vehicles. Free concert from noon to
 6pm: klezmer, cypriot jazz, surf guitar,
 electric cello, Afro-Brazilian samba, CF
 drummers and world mallele players.
 A work of free family fun, thanks to Key
 Pen Metro Parks and Pierce County
 Arts Commission.

253 884-6022 for LIC information
 253 884-9157 for event info or tickets
 LIC Clubhouse at 7317 Key Pen Hwy S,
 5 miles south of the Home Bridge
www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

Horseshoe Lake Golf Course



Save 4 (four) receipts from Purdy 76 each with an 8 (eight) gallon minimum gas
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Make your tee time with HLGC at 253-857-3326 or go online to www.hlgolf.com.

HLGC is located at 1250 SW Clubhouse Court, Port Orchard, WA 98367.

Limit one 2 for 1 card for each four receipts. The four receipts must be dated from May 1, 2008 through
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www.keypenparks.com ~ 253-884-9240
answers@keypenparks.com

SUMMER CAMPS

CAMP	AGES	TIME	DAYS	DATE	LOCATION	FEE
Cheer	5-6	12-1 pm	Mon-Fri	July 6-10	Volunteer Park	\$ 35
Cheer	7-12	10- 11:30am	Mon-Fri	July 6-10	Volunteer Park	\$ 40
Skate	4-10	10am-12 pm	Mon-Fri	July 27-31	Vol. Pk Sk Pk	\$ 50
Skate	10-15	12:30-2:30pm	Mon-Fri	July 27-31	Vol. Pk Sk Pk	\$ 50
British Soccer	3-4	9-10 am	Mon-Fri	Aug 3-7	Volunteer Park	\$ 50
British Soccer	4-5	10:30- 12pm	Mon-Fri	Aug 3-7	Volunteer Park	\$ 75
British Soccer	8-15	1-3 pm	Mon-Fri	Aug 3-7	Volunteer Park	\$ 100

Cheertastic Cheer Camp

Come be a cheerleader for a week! Participants will have the opportunity to learn all aspects of cheerleading including motions, jumps, cheers, dances and stunting. There will also be a performance at the end of the week! Campers should wear sweats or shorts and tennis shoes, and bring a snack and drink each day. T shirt and pompons are included. Min 10, Max 20 per age group.

Skate Camp

Key Pen Parks and All A Board Skate Shop present the 2009 Skate camp at Volunteer Park. Come learn the fundamentals of skateboarding, practice safe skating and have a blast! Min 10, Max 20 per age group. Helmets Required.

Cinema Under The Stars Every Friday in August

There is no better place to enjoy a movie this summer than Volunteer Park! Grab a blanket and come out for an unforgettable evening. Bring the family and we'll supply the stars! Or The Way Concessions will be open for movie snacks and drinks. A suggested donation of \$1.00 and a can of food for Key Peninsula Community Services is appreciated. Cinema under the stars is sponsored by CenturyTel.

August 7th Journey to the Center of the Earth in 3D
August 14th Kung Fu Panda
August 21st The Express
August 28th Bedtime Stories

New this Year: Pre-Cinema Entertainment!

Audience members are invited to participate in our games and demonstrations before Cinema Under the Stars, while even getting the chance to win something special! Come prepared to participate or just enjoy the entertainment before the movie!

August 7th Earth BINGO, sponsored by Sunmycrest Nursery
August 14th Taekwondo demonstration by Black Belt Academy
August 21st Skills, Drills and Plays demonstration by Peninsula Youth Football
August 28th Disney Trivia, sponsored by El Sombro's

Key Pen Parks
"The key to your next adventure"

Beyond the Borders Arts and Music Festival

Staff Reports

Longbranch Improvement Club opens for the third annual Beyond the Borders Arts and Music Festival Aug. 1 from noon to 6 p.m., where the sounds, sights and tastes of other cultures can be experienced without a passport.

Entertainment schedule:

Outdoor stage:

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - The Erev Ravs (Klezmer with chutzpah)

2 - 3 p.m. - Malibu Manouche (Gypsy Jazz meets Surf Guitar, featuring Neil Andersson, from Pearl Django, and Peter Pendas)

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Jami Sieber (World music and vocal with electric cello and percussion)

5 - 6 p.m. - Sambatuqué (Afro-Brazilian and Afro-Cuban with vocals and dance)

Indoor stage: (between outdoor performances)

Percussion Intermission (local drum ensemble)

Ukelele players and singers from WASSUP (Washington Association of South Sound Ukelele Players)

The Two Waters Arts Alliance juried Art Show will be inside, with A People's Choice Award given. Vendor booths with assorted arts, crafts and free trade goods will be both inside and out.

The LIC will serve up specialty desserts, including baklava, last year's favorite.

A Beer and Wine Garden near the outdoor stage will provide plenty of seating.

Beyond the Borders, a family-friendly FREE event open to the public, is co-sponsored by LIC, TWAA, Pierce County Arts Commission and Key Pen Parks Commission.

Artists or vendors who would like to participate can call 884-4807 or 884-2955.



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In just a few weeks, we're creating
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in our church! Find out what it was
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August 3-7, 2009

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KP home to new coffee roaster

Jake's Brew Company Deli-coming soon

By Irene Torres, KP News

Since Joe Sanchez drinks a lot of coffee, it was natural that he would want to learn to roast the beans to suit his discerning taste. What started as a part-time hobby, roasting beans in a hot-air popcorn popper has grown into a local, small business.

Before moving to Gig Harbor in 2008, Joe's wife, Bejae, worked as a barista in a Fort Lewis coffee shop, and Joe worked at Starbucks for years. Joe is a computer technician for the Peninsula School District, but hopes to be able to share his passion for coffee with friends, family and others, in his business on a full-time basis, someday.

With encouragement from their daughter they started Jake's Brew Company. When they named it for their grandson, Jake, he told his grandmother, "I'm a legend. Because I have a company named after me."

The company brochure states, "Jake's is dedicated to providing the most exclusive and unique coffees. Each of our coffees is drum-roasted by hand, exacting the standards of freshness, degree of roast, and raw bean quality. By providing individual attention to each roast, we are able to uphold the highest standards of quality." Joe says he inspects nearly every bean he roasts to ensure that quality, which takes a lot of time.

The Sanchezes roast beans from Costa Rica, Honduras, Kenya, Nicaragua, Sumatra, and Guatemala. They package their signature coffee blends for sale by the order, and most weekends the couple can be found at the Key Peninsula Farmer's Market, at the Gig Harbor Farmer's Market, and most recently at the Tacoma Broadway Market serving espressos, flavored coffees, and fun.

Jake's offers gift boxes and gift baskets, and serves at parties and catered events. "We have added some new blends, Bejae said, "and now roast between 40 and 50 pounds of beans a month."



Photo by Minda LaRose

Joe and Bejae Sanchez have opened Jake's Brew, a coffee roasting company at 134th Avenue on the KP.

To keep the business close to home, the Sanchezes are in the process of remodeling to open a deli at the corner formerly known as "Makin' Bacon" at the corner of 134th Ave. and the Key Pen Highway. "We're excited about the location," Bejae said. They had hoped to open in early July. "I wish I could say it was going to be sooner. We basically had to start all over, re-doing the floor, and now the counters are going in, and there is a lot to do, so it may be toward the end of July," she said.

"We're very excited about the Key Center location. We hope the deli will be a home-away-from home where people can sit with their families, relax and enjoy. We want to involve the kids and display their artwork in the deli, and some of the local kids who take music lessons will be invited to play music for us. We are devoted to local people and businesses," she added.

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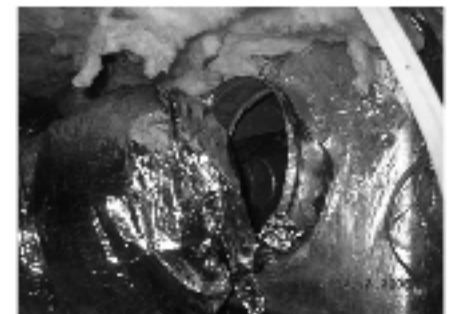


Did you know that running an extra refrigerator / freezer in your house can add hundreds to your utility bill over the year? That is why PenLight has teamed with JACO Environmental who will come to your house, pick up your working refrigerator or freezer, and send you a check for \$30.00!

To sign up for the program visit our website (www.penlight.org) or set up a time for pick up with JACO directly at 1-800-299-7573.

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Photo courtesy of Marjorie Summerfelt

This old Western Red Cedar stood in a field off Lackey Road. It was part of the community for many years. It came down in May.

Ancient landmark tumbles

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Western Red Cedar that stood in the field off Lackey Road literally bit the dust in May.

"It kept bending more the last two years," says Marjorie Rose Niemann Summerfelt, who has lived on the property most of her life. Last year about 6 feet came off the top.

The cedar became a local landmark after Summerfelt's first husband, Jack Niemann, cleared brush and small trees to make the area into a field.

Summerfelt says John Larson helped log the area about 1939, five years before the Rose family bought the property.

"They took all the fir, but left the maples and cedars," says Summerfelt.

A "second tree" grew out of the first and made another top, but it also came down with the old one. A second cedar about the same age still stands at the back of their property, but it lost its top to lightning.

Local folks often used the tree in the field to give directions to their homes, and many slowed down or stopped to watch the eagles that chose the tall sentinel to scan the area. Visitors often

slowed to look at the tree, or stopped to ask about it.

"Some people stopped after it came down," says Summerfelt, "and they had tears in their eyes." They miss that tree. It was visible above the younger firs from farther south along Lackey Road.

Lackey Road wasn't paved when the Roses arrived.

"It was blacktopped in 1948," says Summerfelt, "and then the power company came in, put up poles, and issued us a certificate for power." Until then, they had no electricity, and toted their water from the creek and a spring.

Niemanns bought the property from her parents, and brought their "new" house from SeaTac, where a runway was being cleared. It was barged to Home, and moved in sections to the present site. A basement was constructed while the building stood on blocks.

Summerfelt hosts Rose family reunions, and her siblings still think of it as "the old home place."

Part of it is gone with the demise of the cedar, but lots of memories remain for the four generations who have lived and gathered there over the years.

COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to news@keypennews.com • Deadline 15th of the month

Now-July 4-Fireworks sold

The Key Peninsula Civic Center fireworks stand will be open for business 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. through July 4 in O'Callahan's parking lot in Key Center. The stand helps support local community programs which benefit kids, seniors, scouts and more. A discount coupon is available at www.kpciviccenter.org or in this issue of the Key Peninsula News.

July 1-Candidates needed

The Community Council of the Key Peninsula will be holding elections this September. Be a voice for your community and run for one of seven positions. Candidate applications will be available at the Sunday KP Farmers Market at O'Callahan's.

July 2- Fuchsia club meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets at 7 p.m. at the Library in Key Center. Myvanwy, 884-2283

July 2- Puppet show

Watch Puppets in the round presented by Puppets Please at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. This free lively traveling marionette show is suitable for all ages. 884-2242

July 6-10- Cheer camp held

The Key Pen Parks sponsor a cheer camp at Volunteer Park. Camp for ages 7-12 (grades 2-6) will be held from 10-11:30 a.m. for a fee of \$40, and camp for ages 5-6 (grades K-1) will be held from 12-1 p.m. for a fee of \$35. Campers should wear sweats or shorts and tennis shoes and bring a snack and drink. The camp fee includes a T-shirt and pompoms. (KPMS will be used in bad weather.) 884-9240

July 6, 13, 20, 27- Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at Albertson's

from 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. every Monday in July.

It will be at Peninsula Light Company on Tuesday July 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See the online edition of the Key Pen News for other dates, locations and times.

July 7-Tennis lessons begin

Children ages 4-12 can learn to play tennis quickly by having fun with specialized equipment, short courts, and modified scoring. Times are 10-11 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; cost is \$49. A minimum of 4 players is required.

Adult tennis, for players 18 and older, will be taught from 1-2:30 p.m. on Saturdays (starting 7/11) in July. The cost is \$45; players furnish rackets. Minimum of 4 required.

Key Pen Parks, 884-9240

July 9- Artist shares work

Tweed Meyer, a well-known local artist, shares memories of her visits to Ruth Bartlet's Springhill Farms, one of the original organic farms in the area. She will introduce her book "A Visit with Ruth" and exhibit her stunningly vivid art work at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-2242

July 11- Lyme group meets

The July meeting of the Lyme Support Group will be from 3-5 p.m. at the Key Center Library. The support group focuses on guidance, advocacy and education for those whose lives are affected by Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections.

Anna "Willo" Hart at midnightdawn@gmail.com or (253) 307-4637

July 16- Puppet show

The Puppet Theatre presents "Rumpelstiltskin" and "Too Much Noise" for all ages at 10:30 a.m. at the Key

Center Library. 884-2242

July 18- salmon bake

A salmon dinner (or a hot dog) including corn on the cob, potato salad, strawberry shortcake and a beverage will be served from 2-6 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Live music, a silent auction and other activities are included. Tickets for adults are \$12 in advance or \$14 at the door; children ages 6-12 are \$5. 884-3063

July 20-24-VBS

WayPoint Vacation Bible School holds registration at 8:45 and school from 9-12 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Pre-register at 884-2269.

July 23-Toddler stories

Rhyme and Read with Mother Goose, for ages 3-6 accompanied by an adult, will be held at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-2242

July 27-31-Skate camp

Key Pen Parks and All-A-Board Skate Shop present a skate camp at Volunteer Park. Ages 4-10 will skate from 10-12 a.m. and ages 10-15 will skate from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Fee is \$60 for instruction and prizes. Helmets are required. Seth Ivers has over 20 years of experience and expertise in skating and will be assisted by guest skaters. A minimum of 10 and maximum of 20 for each age group. 884-9240

July 30-Beat night

Poets' Beat Night is held in O'Callahan's Beer Garden from 6-8 p.m.

Aug 3-7-British soccer camp

Key Pen Parks is holding British soccer camps at Volunteer Park. Camp for ages 3-4 is at 9-10 a.m. for a fee of \$60, camp for ages 4-5 is from 10:30-12 a.m. for \$75, and camp for ages 6-15 is from 1-3 p.m. for \$100. 884-9240

Aug. 6- Create art

Be creative at the Key Center Library this summer by attending the "Go Art" program at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Registration for ages 6 and up is at 884-2242.

Aug. 8-Parade and fun day

Key Peninsula Civic Center hosts the Crazy Key Parade and Summer Family Fun Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Civic Center. This fun, family-friendly event will include a parade, entertainment, farmers market and craft fair, fish tank, beer garden, petting zoo, games, food and more. For parade entry forms, vendor applications or sponsorship information, visit www.kpciviccenter.org, call Key Peninsula Civic Center at 884-3456 or email kpciviccenter@centurytel.net.

August 29-Fun run

WayPoint hosts a summer fun run at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$10/person, which includes a t-shirt. To register, e-mail Rory Adams at radams@waypoint-church.org

Tuesdays - TOPS meets

Take Off Pounds Sensibly #1325 meets at 9 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Enjoy free child care, fun and support. 884-1335

Wednesdays-Walker schedule

Key Peninsula Parks sponsors Wednesday Walkers each week from 10-11:30 a.m. at different spots on a rotating schedule. Adults 18 and over (dogs must be on a leash) are welcome to meet at Penrose State Park for an easy/moderate walk on July 1. The next walk, an easy/moderate one, is at Rocky Creek (SR 302/150th Ave) on July 8. The walk on July 15 is at Maple Hollow (48th St/Van Beek Rd in Lakebay) and is rated difficult. July 22 is an easy walk at Volunteer Park. July 29 an easy/moderate walk will be at Penrose State Park. The walks continue to rotate on the above schedule. Chad, 884-9240 or www.keypen-parks.com.

OFF THE KEY

July 3 & 5-Play presented

"The Miss Firecracker Contest!" by Beth Henley will be presented on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Paradise Theatre, 9911 Burnham Drive NW, Gig Harbor. (No show July 4) Tickets are \$18/adults, \$15/senior & military, and \$8 students. Call 851-PLAY or vrichards@paradisetheatre.org

July 7, 14, 21, 28-Free concerts

Summer Sounds at Skansie Brothers Park in Gig Harbor will be held at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Bring a lawn chair and a picnic and enjoy the view and a free concert.

July 10-Welcome club picnic

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club will hold their annual picnic from 3-8 p.m. at Crescent Creek Park in Gig Harbor. The menu includes fried chicken, salads, and watermelon. Present members or folks interested in becoming members are welcome. Please contact Marcia Nolan at 857-5324 if attending.

July 10-Musical opens

The Encore! Theater presents Disney's "High School Musical 2" on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays with a special performance on July 23. All shows begin at 7 p.m. The show is performed outdoors adjacent to Impact Church International, 4819

Hunt Street, Gig Harbor. Tickets are \$6 (kids through 6), \$8 (kids 7-12), \$11 (seniors, teens, military) and \$15 (adults) and can be obtained online at encoretheater.org or on site immediately before the show. Bring a picnic, if desired, a blanket or chair, and a jacket. This show is presented due to a generous grant from the Gig Harbor Arts Commission.
858-2282

July 11- Alzheimer's group meets

The Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group of Gig Harbor meets at Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way, Gig Harbor, from 10-11:30 a.m.

This group is for patients, caretakers and families of Alzheimer folks. Call Whitney Farr-Pilz, 206-229-1540, for more information.

July 13-Theatre arts camp begins

Paradise Theatre Arts Camp '09 will be held July 13-25 for kids ages 6-18 at 9911 Burnham Drive NW in Gig Harbor. A performance will be on July 25 at Boyd Auditorium, Peninsula High School. Camp will include daily workshops in acting, dance and voice and special performances by guest artists. There are three sessions with prices ranging from \$150 up. A junior camp for ages 3-5 will be held July 6-10. Call for session times and fees, 851-7529, or vrichards@paradisetheatre.org

July 13-16-Baseball camp

The Grand Slam Baseball Camps for kids 6-14 will be held in Gig Harbor with current local college players and high school coaches teaching fundamentals of baseball. Fee is \$105. Call 360-802-2232 or www.grandslamcamp.com to register. Baseball and softball camps will also be held in Olalla from July 27-30.

July 14 & 31-Weight loss support

A free weight loss surgery support group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. in the café at Borders Books, 4601 Point Fosdick Drive NW, Gig Harbor. Merrilee Schedin, 265-2276

July 18-19-Allyn salmon bake

The 27th annual Allyn Days Festival and Salmon Bake will be held on Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. with the salmon bake served from 12-6 p.m. followed by a free dance from 6-9 p.m. The salmon bake includes alder-baked salmon, cole slaw, baked beans, corn on the cob, Indian Fry Bread and beverages and costs \$14. Sunday will have booths and entertainment from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 360-275-0780 for information.

Aug. 1-Car show

The Gig Harbor Cruisers Car Club hosts the 12th annual Narrows Classic Car Show at the NEW location of 4735 Point Fosdick Drive in Gig Harbor (Uptown) from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$15 donation admission for show cars. Renee Crist, 265-2824

Thursdays-Toastmasters

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

Thursdays- Senior Society

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

Saturdays-Writers meet

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

Sundays- Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market is open 12-4 p.m. in O'Callahan's parking lot. July 5 features Pierce Conservation District; CHS summer fun kid demos will be held on July 12 & 19; Master Gardeners' summer pruning information will be available on July 19. "Farmers Market Week" activities are available on August 2. www.kpfarmersmarket.org

Lions Club invites public to join

The Key Peninsula Lions Club meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the VFW Room of the KP Civic Center in Vaughn. All interested parties are invited to attend the meetings and to consider joining the club. For information, please visit the club's web site at <http://keypeninsulawa.lionwap.org> or call 253-853-2721 or 253-884-3319.

JULY PUBLIC MEETINGS

- KP Metro Parks, July 13, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, July 14 & 28, 3 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, July 8, 6:30 p.m.-business, 7 p.m.-presentations, at Key Center Library
- Peninsula School District Board, July 23, regular meeting, 6 p.m. at district office, 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor
- Key Peninsula Civic Center Board meeting the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore Room



Share Bible July 12th

Longbranch Community Church
www.longbranchchurch.net
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Interdenominational Services
Sunday Service 11:00 am
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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Three volunteers on KP share common goal

By Donna Smeall, KP News

Greg Anglemeyer, Kathy Bailey, and Aubrey Coby all share a common goal: helping students improve their reading and math skills at the elementary and middle schools level.

Communities In Schools of Peninsula Program began in 1999 with full incorporation by 2000. The first program on the Key Peninsula was initiated at Vaughn Elementary; today there are 12 affiliates of the CISP with the local program in place at four elementary schools and one middle school. Their mission was and is today, to champion the connection of needed community resources with the

Peninsula School District schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school and prepare for life.

"We served 183 students last year with either reading or math mentoring, an additional 2668 students with one time services plus coordinated services for parents," said Laurel Shultz, Program Director, who acts as liaison for CISP between the community and the schools to bring the needed services to the students.

Ms. Shultz coordinates the volunteer mentors' activities, the Site Coordinators' oversight and connects with local community agencies to promote student learning.

Volunteers such as Anglemeyer, Bailey and Coby are what make the program a success, Shultz said.

"We have fabulous volunteer mentors in these three, as well as those mentors we have at Vaughn and Minter Creek Elementary schools," she said.

Greg Anglemeyer has been a long time CISP mentor at the Key Peninsula Middle

School and comes in daily to the sixth grade math classrooms and the Tuesday After-school program.

"He believes strongly in supporting student learning," Shultz said.

Anglemeyer is also a member of the CISP Board. In 2004 Anglemeyer retired and chose to move from Tacoma to the Von Geldern Cove area on the Key Peninsula.

"It truly takes a community to improve the lives of those who live in it," said Anglemeyer of his commitment to the CISP program. "The few hours a week that CISP asks of me is but a return on my time which is truly priceless in the lives of the children I work with."

His role at KPMS is to aid the sixth graders in reinforcing their math skills, help them with their homework and guide them towards good life choices.

Meanwhile, Kathy Bailey, another mentor who serves at Evergreen Elementary School as a Reading mentor, works with the lower grade levels. Although only a two-year resident of the

Key Peninsula, she jumped right into the community and decided to work as a reading mentor in the fall of 2007.

Kathy Bailey, a retiree, lives in Whiteman Cove, located between Home and Longbranch. A former resident of Auburn, she elected to move to Key Peninsula to savor the tranquility and beauty of Key Peninsula, she said.

"I love being able to provide some support to struggling readers and it has been very rewarding to watch their progress," she said.

At the conclusion of this past year's service, one of her students who is transitioning from second to third grade told her, "I read every night and I like reading now...compared to when I first met you."

The last mentor highlighted here is a Peninsula High School student, a senior this fall. Aubrey Coby is a lifelong Key Peninsula resident.

Coby not only volunteers with the CISP program, but also with the Peninsula Football team, video-taping their games plus she volunteers at the S.A.V.E. Thrift store quite often.

As a CISP math tutor Aubrey said each mentor works with three to four children each day.

"What we really need is for this to be slimmed down to 2 students that we each can focus on... we really need more people to become mentors," she said.

A powerful message was sent to Aubrey when she showed up on her second day to help out.

"Knowing I was able to help someone by phrasing the math problem in a way where he 'got it', made me understand that I could make a difference," she said.

CISP's program is a nonprofit educational service offered free of charge and volunteers of any age are encouraged to visit the CISP office or stop by one of the schools on the Key Peninsula to become a mentor.

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FD 16 to hire paramedic

By Irene Torres, KP News

On May 20, Fire District 16 conducted testing to find the right candidate to fill an open Firefighter Paramedic position. The testing was done with the assistance of a company called Public Safety Testing, a group used by a number of local agencies to recruit, screen, and perform a written and physical ability test.

Fire Chief Tom Lique said in an email to KP News, "The Department has been operating one paramedic short for a while now but wanted to wait to find out the position on staffing that the Citizen Advisory Committee was going to take. The CAC position was one that supported filling this vacant position so the decision was made to move forward."

Public Safety Testing provides a list of candidates.

Lique explained the candidate selection process, "We take this list, confirm that the candidates meet our minimum requirements and invite them into the District so that we can look at their skills

and how they interact with the public. We put the candidates in a position where they have to treat a mock medical patient, trauma patient, solve a problem brought by the public and write a patient care report. The candidates were then brought back on the following day and interviewed by a panel consisting of the Department physician advisor, a Chief Officer, a member of the Local 3152, and a citizen. The results of these two days are compiled and a ranked list is produced. I then have an opportunity to interview the candidates (in this case I invited the top 3)." After the candidate clears a background check, one of the candidates will receive a conditional offer of employment, and then they will have to pass a medical assessment, drug and alcohol testing, and psychological evaluation.

Lique said, "Once all these assessments are passed, a full offer of employment occurs and the new employee will be assigned to their 1st year of probation. We hope to have this position filled by August 1."

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St. Anthony expands, KP patients benefit

Staff Reports

As the demand for more medical services increases, St. Anthony Hospital is responding by adding more beds. In May the hospital added 16 beds, bringing the total to 64 for medical and surgical patients. There is already a plan to activate the remaining 16 beds in September, which will reach the 80-bed licensed maximum.

Since the hospital opened March 17, more than 3,900 patients have been treated at the facility. More than 6,000 outpatient visits have been recorded, and the Gene and Mary Ann Walters Center for Emergency Services admitted more than 750 patients for stays that were overnight or longer.

Fire District 16 transports to all area hospitals, and they determine which hospital based on several factors. One of those is the condition of the patient. Those patients who qualify for care at St. Anthony are benefiting from a quicker arrival to have their medical needs met.

To determine the need for transports to trauma facilities, Paul Bosch, division chief for FD 16 said in an email to KP News



St. Anthony opened in March in Gig Harbor.

Courtesy of St. Anthony

“Paramedics utilize a ‘trauma triage tool’ (or flow chart) to determine the degree of injury and the most appropriate receiving center. The triage tool evaluates vital signs and level of consciousness (decreased status is Step I Trauma), anatomy of injury (significant or debilitating injury is Step II Trauma), biomechanics of injury, e.g., ejection, high fall, rollover collision (mechanisms meeting criteria are Step IIIa) and other risk factors, including very old or very young,

underlying medical condition and pregnancy (Step IIIb.)

Based on the results of the trauma triage tool, the paramedic will determine which facility the patient should be transported to for the best on-site, on-staff care, he said. Step I trauma patients are routinely placed on a helicopter and flown to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Steps II and III may go to Tacoma General or St. Joseph’s Hospital.

Bosch’s data suggests transport times are

Travel times for comparison:

- Key Center to Tacoma General (Tacoma) = 37 minutes (22.7 miles)
- Key Center to St. Joseph Medical Center (Tacoma) = 35 minutes (23.8 miles)
- Key Center to Harrison Medical Center (Bremerton) = 44 minutes (27.0 miles)
- Key Center to St. Anthony Hospital (Gig Harbor) = 20 minutes (10.9 miles)

almost cut in half. “This means our customers are reaching definitive care quicker and time-critical insults/injuries are being resolved sooner. In regards to medic unit out-of-service times, the information can be interpreted to demonstrate that not only are our medic unit’s travel time reduced going to the hospital, but are likewise reduced returning from the hospital at a corresponding rate. This translates into having our KPF D responders back on the peninsula and able to promptly respond to the next 9-1-1 caller’s needs.”

Irene Torres contributed to this report.

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Summer Burn Ban

The summer burn ban starts July 1st and is expected to go through Oct 31st. All residential outdoor burning is prohibited except small recreational fires intended for cooking (camp fires). These fires must follow State regulations listed below.

WA State Rules

- The fire pit must be no more than 3 feet in diameter:
- Lined with a non combustible material (bricks, stone or metal)
- Constructed at least 25 feet away from any buildings or forest
- At least 5 feet away from a tent
- They should also have a screened cover to catch embers
- Only seasoned firewood can be burned inside the pit
- An responsible adult must be in attendance (16 or older.)
- All fires must be fully extinguished before leaving

As the weather gets dryer, these fires also will be banned for safety, so watch and listen for burn ban information. **And Be Safe.**

PS: Burn Barrels have never been legal.

Fire Commission Sends Levy Lid to the Voters

Seeing a shortage of almost \$200,000 in next year's budget the Board of Fire Commissioners approved sending a levy lid lift to the voters in the upcoming August primary election. The lid lift will ask voters for \$0.22, making the rate \$1.09 per thousand of assessed value for the fire district. With the economic times as they are the commission decided to scale back from the \$1.30 previously requested. This is a little less than the recommendation of a Citizen's Advisory Committee for a \$0.23 levy.

To the average home of \$300,000 it will cost \$68 per year over the current property tax rate. With that money the fire district will be able to continue the present level of service with 24 hour staffing the Wanna and Home fire stations.

Without the balanced revenue the district could be looking at a reduction in the level of service we deliver. Voters will also be tasked with the selection of two fire commissioners this fall. It will be up to the voters to decide future direction of the fire district.

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 July 11th & 12th
- Class will be held at the Key Center Fire Station
- Fee is \$25 for material cost

Calendar of Events

Our new meeting room is available for public use. Contact Vanessa to schedule at 253-884-2222

Commissioner's Mtgs @ 3 pm	July 14th & 28th
CPR/1st Aid	July 11th
Krazy Key Parade	Aug 8th
Summer Family Fun Day	Aug 8th

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Rick Stout

Rick first joined the district as a Volunteer Firefighter in 1977 and worked up to Volunteer Battalion Chief. He served out of the Home Fire Station until he retired in 1997. He was a military medic and later worked out of the Madigan Ambulance. He has served as a fire commissioner since 2001. He lives in Home with his wife, Maureen.



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5th Avenue awards puts PHS drama on map



Photo courtesy of Team Photogenic

Faith Higgins won Best Actress at the 5th Avenue High School Musical Awards in Seattle. The Peninsula High School drama department was nominated for three awards.

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Peninsula High School's drama department chose "Wonderful Town," for its production this year, and it was nominated for 5th Avenue High School Musical awards in three categories. Awards were presented June 8 at the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle.

The big win was for Faith Higgins who played the role of Ruth Sherwood and won Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role. The other nominations were for Outstanding Orchestra and Garrett Young who was a freshman this year was nominated for the award of Outstanding Supporting Actor.

Jonathan Bill, drama and history teacher at PHS said the recognition for the drama program was huge.

"Pretty much every high school that does a musical participates," he said. "It has a very big feel, very professional. It really puts your program on the map."

Judges attend the musicals at different times during the run of the shows to score

performances.

There were 8,000 students who participated in the competition this year, and Marilyn Sheldon, managing director of the 5th Avenue Theatre said the goal of the awards program is to give high school theater as much recognition as high school sports.

Higgins, who was a senior at PHS this year, said the whole drama class wanted to increase recognition for the program and do well at the awards.

"We worked really hard and decided to get the business class involved to get a marketing strategy for our production," Higgins said. "We achieved our goal of being nominated for more than a specific person."

This wasn't her first time being nominated. As a sophomore Higgins received honorable mention for her role as a supporting actress, and last year she tied for the win of Outstanding Supporting Actress. She said winning this year was a big accomplishment.

"I wrote it down on a list of life goals," she said. "I was waiting for my shot."

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GED diplomas awarded at KP Civic Center

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The first Friday in June, eight students of the Tacoma Community College Gig Harbor Campus-sponsored Key Peninsula Adult Basic Education Program were presented their diplomas in a cap and gown ceremony.

Linda Creswell, TCC program coordinator, said it is the only TCC-sponsored program in Pierce County.

Barbara Schoos, a GED teacher with the program, and Gary Gebo, a volunteer math tutor who is a retired commercial airline pilot presented the certificates. Jud Morris, director of the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, gave the keynote address.

His message of "Don't Give Up," was well received and echoed by some graduates who related their own stories.

Graduate Charmaine Canady-Snarr told the gathering, "I'm 36 years old and got my certificate in November. The opportunity that Tacoma Community College provided for me is/was a stepping stone

for things much greater to come. They make it easy to get started. The classes were held in a very neutral, comfortable environment. Most of all, it was fun to have Barbara Schoos & Gary Gebo there. Their patience, enthusiasm, drive and contact were invaluable and inspiring. I would recommend anyone and everyone who just for a moment thought about getting their GED to go pursue it. Believe me, you will inspire yourself!"

Jody Cook told the audience, "I went to Peninsula High School starting in ninth grade. I was doing good until I fell into the wrong crowd and started to do drugs. I just kept falling further and further into the drug life. It got so bad that I got busted at PHS for selling marijuana on the trails. Then in eleventh grade I thought, 'What's the point of being in school? I am a junior with one freshman credit.' So I dropped out. Then about two years later I met a beautiful woman at a friend's house. We got together and I haven't left her side since. I have now been clean for two years and I haven't

Fatima David Mason, Judeena Lahue, Kirk Thompson, and Christina Payment; back, Ed Wilson, Charmaine Canady-Snarr, Jacob Carbone, and Jody Cook receive their diplomas during the ceremony June 5.

Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News



looked back since. I have to thank my wife, our children, and mother-in-law for pushing so hard to get me clean and get me to get my GED.

"Getting my G.E.D. diploma was one of my most proudest moments, especially in front of my family," said Adriane Thompson. "Thanks to Gary and Barbara

and everyone else who supported this program."

Eight other students, unable to attend, were also recipients of the honor.

For more information on the GED program, contact Linda Creswell, at Tacoma Community College, Gig Harbor Campus, 253-460-2355.

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OBITUARIES

Helen Doris Kezele

Longtime Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula resident Doris "Gram" Kezele, 87, passed away on June 1, 2009, at the Franciscan Hospice House in Tacoma.



KEZELE

She was born Dec. 28, 1921, in Aberdeen, Wash., to Roy Herbert and Alice Elizabeth Dobell. She graduated from Salem High School in 1941, and lived in the Tacoma and Gig Harbor area for 60 years.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 37 years, Anthony (Tony) D. Kezele.

Giving to the community to make life more enjoyable for others was one of Doris' many outstanding gifts.

She was a member of the Key Peninsula Cootiette Club No. 609 for 30 years, including a turn at being voted the Cootiette "Grand Grey Back" for the

State of Washington, and also volunteered her time to the Key Peninsula Lions Club, Key Peninsula Civic Center, Key Peninsula Health Clinic and the Key Peninsula Fire Fighters Association. Other times, you could often find her scouring a local garage sale or heading to the Oregon Coast.

Admittedly a seamstress by vocation, Doris enjoyed cooking, crafts, traveling and was a legendary master at telling stories.

In a tradition of camp songs and Yahtzee, she inspired generations with her limitless, engaging creativity and love.

From her obsession with her favorite color, green, to her prized pieces of driftwood art, she will forever be missed by so very many.

Doris is survived by her daughter Linda (Chester) A. Young of Browns Point, sons R. Paul (Jean) Gookins of Sequim, Philip (Karen) A. Kezele of Seattle and Timothy (Pamela) J. Kezele of Home; sister Diana Jane Raymond of Gig Harbor; four grandsons (Cary Young, Christopher Young, Craig Young and Nicholas Kezele); three granddaughters (Julianne Gookins, Amanda Gookins and Caitlin Kezele); two great

grandsons (Connor Young and Charley Joh Young); a great granddaughter (Rachel Lynn Young); and numerous nieces and nephews.

Remembrances may be made to the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, PO Box 82, Vaughn, WA 98394. A chapel service was held on June 6 at the Haven of Rest Memorial Park.

To submit an obituary

Please email to news@keypennews.com, or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394.

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(From CUTS, Page 1)

because they are based on covering teacher planning periods. "If we have to cut back on teachers, we have to cut back on specialists," Leitz said. "We have to have a physical education and health specialist per the Revised Code of Washington, and our music specialist had higher seniority. That meant our art teacher had to be cut. Some schools use art advocates to boost up art in schools. We haven't been in this situation before, but I'm sure we'll be looking into it."

For Jennifer Eakins, art specialist for Minter Creek Elementary, it means not only having to look for a job, but also possibly leaving a community she loves.

"It is sad, because this is such a tight knit community," Eakins said. "We're so close. Everyone's so personal with their kids. They know them so well. There are so many parent helpers in this school."

In addition to the loss of a popular teacher, some Minter Creek parents were also upset about the way the school informed the parents about which teachers were to be laid off.

"The school district sent home a letter with my kids' weekly packet," Holly Lemon said. "It listed the teachers who had received a 'RIF' notice and wouldn't be returning next year. The kids were really upset when they read that one of

their favorite teachers, Miss Eakins the art teacher, was on the list. I talked with that teacher and told her that my kids had cried when they found out she was leaving. She told me that a lot of kids had come into her classroom crying after that letter went out. I wish that the school district had either sent the letter in an envelope addressed to the parents, or waited until the end of the year to send it out. The timing was pitiful."

"I wasn't aware that the letters were going home," Eakins said. "Of course, their kids are emotional about it. They don't understand. They're still going to take it that they're losing someone they see every day. It was unfortunate that the kids got a peek at it before their parents, but it was good that the kids will be prepared before they show up next year and their teacher is gone."

Five Minter Creek Elementary teachers were given layoff notices, although almost all have been recalled or have taken jobs elsewhere.

Jacque Crisman, Evergreen Elementary principal said the school had six initial layoff notices; however, four of those teachers have positions again. "The district did a nice job recalling those people back and trying to get them back in the buildings they came from," Crisman said. "Before the end of the year, people will know exactly

where they will be."

Crisman said she notified parents of the layoffs through her "Coffee with the Principal" meetings, but kept things general and did not name any particular teachers.

Six teachers from Vaughn Elementary were given layoff notices, and three have been recalled. According to one parent volunteer, Principal Benoit has held off on notifying parents about layoffs until a final determination is made on who will be recalled. Two Key Peninsula Middle School teachers received layoff notices, and one has been recalled.

"It's a tough situation," Leitz said, "but the district is doing everything they can to get everyone through it."

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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Key Peninsula Middle School teacher Michael Hunziker presented KPMS graduate Amber Hess with the new \$1,500 Terri Radcliffe Hunziker Memorial Scholarship. See full story online at keypennews.com



Photo by Mindi LaRose, KP News

Peninsula High School Senior, Tyler Pattison, Drum Major leads the marching band in the Maritime Parade.



Photo by Scott Turner, Special to the KP News

Graduates turn their tassels during the Peninsula High School graduation June 14 at noon at the Tacoma Dome.



Photo courtesy of Vince Kosel

Vaughn resident Nancy Howard saw a bear eating out of her birdfeeder June 14, and said by the time she got to her camera it was meandering south. Vince Kosel was working on a house nearby the Howard home and happened to have a camera with him. The photos were taken on Case Inlet.



Windermere Real Estate offices throughout the country took half the day off on June 19 to do a community service project. The Key Peninsula office chose to help with cleanup work at a KP Habitat for Humanity home. Pictured here are Janette Weister and AJ Million.

Photo courtesy of Sue Davis