



Brush picking is picking up  
Page 10

# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



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JANUARY 2011

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## Key Pen fire chief is Officer of the Year

By Danna Webster, KP News

Fire District 16 Fire Chief Tom Lique was honored during the annual banquet of the Pierce County Fire Chiefs' and Fire Commissioners' Association on Dec. 2 at the Fircrest Country Club. Chief Lique was selected as the "2010 Chief Officer of the Year" and presented with the prestigious "Chief Dan Packer Memorial" award. According to the vice president of the Fire Chiefs' Association, Gary McVay, this award was first created for Deputy Chief John McDonald, who displayed extraordinary leadership at the East Pierce Fire District following the tragic death of their Fire Chief Dan Packer during a California wildfire in 2008.

"In 2008 we needed to recognize the Chiefs doing great things, with an award," he said. To date, Chief Lique is one of only three chief officers who have received the award. He was selected by

(See **Lique**, Page 7)



Photo by Scott Turner, Special to the KP News

Fire Chief Tom Lique has endured one of his toughest years in the position. His peers honored him with the Chief Dan Packer Memorial award when Lique was chosen as the 2010 Chief Officer of the Year in December.

## Nominations due for Citizens of the Year

Staff Report

Now is the time to nominate Citizens of the Year for the 27th annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards dinner. Although the dinner will not be until March, 2011, the sponsoring Key Peninsula Lions Club needs time to arrange to photograph each nominee, prepare material for the media, prepare secret ballots for the voting process, hold an initial reading of nominees, then hold the secret ballot election. This must be accomplished by Jan. 15 at the latest. Therefore, deadline for submission of nominations is Jan. 4. Nominations may be made via

regular mail to: CoY, KP Lions Club, P.O. Box 63, Vaughn WA 98394 or via email to hmcmmn1000@centurytel.net. For information, please call KP Lions president George Robison at 853-2721 or Hugh McMillan at 884-3319.

Anyone may submit a nomination. Persons nominated for this honor should be residents of, or work on, or own property on the Key Peninsula who have performed voluntary service for the KP Community either over a sustained period or any special deed of merit. Nominations MUST contain the nominee's telephone number, physical address, and a brief description of why the person is being considered for this honor.

## PSD board OKs bond for February ballot

By Marsha Hart, KP News

The Peninsula School District Board has approved a bond for the Feb. 8, 2011 election. The district will ask for \$78 million to be used for upgrades to security, safety and health.

"The current rate for 2010 is 69 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value," said assistant superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto. "The rate for the bond that was passed in 2003 and

(See **Bond**, Page 19)

## County seeking flood damage info

The Pierce County Emergency Operations Center is collecting damage information from homeowners and business owners affected by recent flooding. Residents and business owners in Pierce County who suffered damage should call the Department of Emergency Management at 866-798-6363 (toll free).

Callers should have the following information available: Name and address of affected property; Type of insurance (homeowners); A description of damage, even if uninsured; A personal estimate of uninsured losses; Estimates of the fair market value of the damaged home or business.

It is not necessary at this point for property owners to have a contractor's estimate. The findings from this assessment will be used by the Governor to request a possible disaster declaration and federal disaster assistance from the president.

This process could take up to a couple of weeks or more. Federal disaster assistance, if and when it becomes available, only covers uninsured losses. Among the immediate steps that individuals and families impacted by the floods should take include: Call your insurance agent to check on your coverage. Keep detailed records of all clean-up and repair costs, including photographs. When the time comes to make repairs, be aware of local permit requirements and do a thorough check of potential contractors.



Photo by Marsha Hart, KP News

## Collision by civic center

On Dec. 4 a green Chevy Astro van driven by John Schuler crashed into a gray Honda Odyssey driven by Randy Goodnite as Goodnite was leaving the Key Peninsula Civic Center. FD 16 and Pierce County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene, and Goodnite was transported to an area hospital. Goodnite had his 8-year-old son in the car at the time of the crash. The child was not transported to the hospital.

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# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

[www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

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2. The objective of Key Peninsula News is to support and create community by reporting news and features and providing a forum for local information. News and editorial coverage focuses on the Key Peninsula and immediately adjacent areas within Fire District 16.

#### OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS!

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## District Seeks Voter Approval for Financing First Phase of Facilities Plan

Voters within the Peninsula School District will be asked in February to approve a \$78 million bond that would pay for capital improvement projects districtwide. The improvements are part of a 30-year, four-phase long-term facilities plan that has been in the works for several years. It would be the first voter-approved bond since 2003.

The goals of the facilities plan are to:

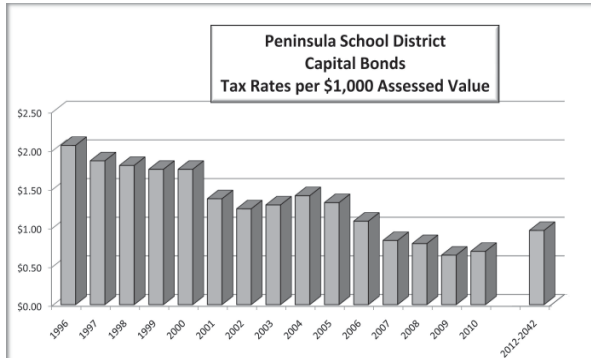
- Focus on safety, essential repairs and replacement in a systematic way to protect the community's investment and extend the life of all district facilities;
- Ensures progressive and modern educational facilities for our current and future students;
- Establish a consistent and transparent funding plan to support long range facility goals;
- Maintain a stable and low tax rate for our local taxpayers.

"We're protecting our community's investment in our schools," says Superintendent Terry Bouck. "We also want to make sure our students have technology that's up-to-date, facilities that are safe and secure — but we are not talking about anything extravagant."

As part of the bond, all schools will receive new security systems including external video cameras; upgraded furniture and equipment; and updated instructional spaces with interactive whiteboards, amplified sound and other technology upgrades. The majority of the buildings, including Evergreen, Minter, Vaughn, and Key Peninsula Middle School, will receive upgraded fire alarm systems that will include horns and strobes.

Other projects at schools serving Key Peninsula students will include, among others:

- Cafeteria/commons/gym areas at Evergreen and Minter Elementary Schools;
- Accessibility improvements at Minter Elementary
- Major mechanical upgrades at Vaughn Elementary;
- Accessibility improvements, interior finishes upgrades and repair/replacement of operable walls at Key Peninsula Middle School;
- Upgrades and repairs in Buildings 500-600, roofing repair and upgrade of stadium bleachers at Peninsula High School.



Pierce Co. School Districts	Bond	Levy	CP Levy	Total
Carbonado	\$1.39	\$4.45	\$0.11	\$5.94
University Place	\$2.42	\$3.40	\$0.10	\$5.93
Orting	\$2.78	\$3.14		\$5.91
White River	\$2.24	\$2.76		\$5.00
Bethel	\$2.01	\$2.77		\$4.78
Tacoma	\$1.22	\$3.44		\$4.65
Puyallup	\$1.70	\$2.90		\$4.60
Sumner	\$1.70	\$2.66		\$4.36
Clover Park	\$0.88	\$3.45		\$4.33
Franklin Pierce	\$0.57	\$3.43	\$0.32	\$4.32
Dieringer	\$1.92	\$2.39		\$4.32
Steilacoom	\$1.98	\$2.20		\$4.17
Eatonville	\$1.31	\$2.65		\$3.96
Fife	\$0.98	\$2.13		\$3.11
<b>Peninsula</b>	<b>\$0.69</b>	<b>\$1.47</b>		<b>\$2.15</b>

Pierce County School Districts 2010 Total Tax Rates per \$1,000 Assessed Value source: Seattle Northwest Securities

### January Events

- 4 Parent Council Meeting District Office 9:30 a.m.-12 noon
- 17 No School—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed
- 18 Superintendent Forum at Key Peninsula Middle School Library 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Superintendent Terry Bouck hosts four evenings annually inviting anyone interested in the school district to take part in casual dialogue.
- 27 School Board Meeting Discovery Elementary School Library 6:00 p.m.

### Music

Winter delivers a lot of musical performances from all of our schools. Please log on to our website and the District Calendar to view January music events in your neighborhood: [www.psd401.net](http://www.psd401.net)

### 2009 Presidential Award— Karen Borders

Representing Washington State, Key Peninsula Middle School science teacher Karen Borders is the science recipient of the prestigious 2009 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is presented annually to the best pre-college-level science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level.

### Snow make up days

In accordance with our District calendar, snow make up days will be held on Friday, March 11th and Monday, June 20th. This accommodation for the two snow days will result in the change of 1st semester from Wednesday, January 26th to Friday, January 28th. The 2010-2011 Student Calendar has been updated and is available for viewing at the PSD website under the District scroll down menu.

# BRIEFS

## News

### KPAC Open Positions

Applicants are sought for two open positions on the Key Peninsula Advisory Commission (KPAC). The KPAC proposes changes to land use regulations, and approves certain types of development permits. Commissioners are appointed by the Pierce County Executive, and serve without pay. Call 798-2630 for details and application forms.

### Fire Commissioner vacancy

Pierce County Fire District 16 (Key Peninsula Fire Department) lost one of its board members on Nov. 12.

The Board of Fire Commissioners is the governing body and policy-making group for the district. The District and its four commissioners are now requesting resumes and letters of interest from any registered voter who resides in the fire district and is interested in being ap-

pointed to the vacancy.

In the letter of interest, each person should, in their own words, tell why they would be interested in serving as a Fire Commissioner for the Key Peninsula Fire Department and stress the particular parts of their background they believe makes them well qualified to serve as a commissioner.

Letters and resumes should be sent to: District Secretary Pierce County FPD 16 8911 Key Peninsula Hwy KPN Lakebay, WA 98349. The deadline for such submissions is January 10, 2011 at 4:00p.m.

### Temporary DSHS office on Key Peninsula

The DSHS Mobile Community Services Office will be at the Key Peninsula Community Services Building on Jan. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each vehicle is a fully functional office, equipped with all the amenities found in any of the 62 stationary Community Services Offices across

the state. The offices include a wheelchair lift, semi-private interview areas, a reception area for four to six persons, and a sun shade for people to be protected from the elements outside. The Mobile CSOs are sent with trained eligibility specialists to areas around the state to accept and process applications for basic food, cash and medical benefits, conduct eligibility interviews, verify eligibility factors and authorize benefits to approved households, frequently the very same day.

Apply for DSHS services right here on the Key Peninsula. No driving across the bridge.

### Delano Beach transferred to State Parks

The Pierce County Council voted unanimously Dec. 14 to approve the transfer of Delano Beach on the Key Peninsula to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Delano Beach is con-

tiguous with Penrose State Park, which means it is most efficient for the state and its on-site rangers to be responsible for park stewardship and public service.

The Council also voted to transfer eight other properties in the Gig Harbor area to the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District.

Under the transfer agreement, Pierce County will allocate \$166,000 a year for three years to PenMet Parks to help with maintenance and operations of the properties. After the third year, PenMet Parks assumes all responsibility for the lands.

The Executive and Councilmembers praised outgoing Councilmember Terry Lee (District 7) for his work over the past five years to promote these property transfers. They noted that talks continue with other jurisdictions about transfers of county properties. The county's policy of transferring properties was established by the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, per ordinance 2008-38s and 2009-81s.

*Source: Pierce County*

## Join The Mustard Seed Project in 2011!!

*We're building an elder-friendly Key Peninsula where our friends & neighbors can age in place.*

### January 2011 Third Thursday Community Forum

"Update: Transportation (for all ages) on the Key Peninsula  
January 20, 2011 10 a.m.

Brones Room, Key Center Library

### Immediate Volunteer Opportunities:

Key Senior Information Center Volunteers  
Volunteer Driver—KP Senior Ride Program  
Call 253-884-2216

### Key Senior Information Center

Free, confidential & useful information for seniors & their families.  
253-884-9814 [tmsp@centurytel.net](mailto:tmsp@centurytel.net)

Support Your Local Food Bank!

During this holiday season,  
please remember to send us your  
*annual donation.*  
Your support has never been more necessary.

Thanks,  
Penny Gazabat  
Executive Director

**Our Food Bank Needs:**  
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Flour, Sugar, Pinto Beans, Mac & Cheese

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

A Special  
Thank You to  
**Dick Peterson**  
for being our  
December Volunteer  
of the Month



Key Peninsula  
Community Services  
Food Bank & Senior Center  
17015 9th St Ct KPN  
P. O. Box 392  
Lakebay, WA 98349  
**253-884-4440**  
FAX **253-884-6196**



Photo courtesy of Claudia Gabard

## Rising waters

Creeks were rising as the Key Peninsula received heavy rains in December. The footbridge at Trillium Creek Winery was in jeopardy.

## KP Little League registration open

Key Peninsula Little League is now registering players and is accepting 4-year-olds for T-Ball. Walk in registration dates are: Jan. 29 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Feb. 5 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or Feb. 9 from 6-8 p.m. or print a registration form from the Web site at [eteamz.com/keypeninsulalittleleague](http://eteamz.com/keypeninsulalittleleague) and mail to: KPLL, P.O. Box 516, Vaughn, WA 98349.

## 2011 budgets approved

by Rick Sorrels

It's budget time for the various local governments. Below are their approved budgets for 2011, compiled from budget documents.

	2010	2011	% change
City of Tacoma	\$ 1,429,135,879	\$ 1,363,144,484	down 5%
Pierce County	796,546,591	762,293,570	down 4%
Peninsula School District	95,595,900	97,425,983	up 2%
City of Gig Harbor	52,851,520	40,678,075	down 23%
Pierce County Library	28,639,318	28,564,891	----
FD5, Gig Harbor	18,678,620	18,563,480	down 1%
FD16, Key Pen	4,675,966	4,781,828	up 2%
Gig Harbor Parks	3,777,094	3,756,830	down 1%
Key Pen Parks	903,089	917,396	up 2%

# KEY PEN PARKS

www.keypenparks.com ~ 253-884-9240  
answers@keypenparks.com



### Mid-Winter Break Day Camp

If you're looking to have a good time with your friends, make new ones, and be in a safe environment, Key Pen Parks Mid-Winter Break Day Camp is for you! Come join us for an exciting day of games, crafts, & movies. Make sure to bring your own lunch, snacks are provided. Dress for indoor and outdoor activities. Space is limited; pre-registration is required.

Grade:	K-5 <sup>th</sup>
Location:	Volunteer Park Concession Stand
Day/Date:	Wednesday, 2/23
Time:	9:00-4:00pm
Fee:	\$53
Min/Max:	10/20

*Note: Deadline to register 2/17*

### Zumba New Years Kick Off January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

Come and get hooked on Zumba this year! We take dance movements from the Salsa, Cumbia, Cha Cha & Belly Dance; put it altogether and you have.... Zumba. Dress in comfortable clothes, wear comfortable athletic shoes, and bring a water bottle/towel. First Class is FREE.

Ages:	18 +
Location:	KPCC, VFW Room
Time:	9:00-11:00 am
Fee:	FREE

*Note: Purchase a punch card for \$53 which will allow you to attend any Zumba class for six punches or \$80 for combined sessions of Zumba or Zumba Gold. Visit our website for more Zumba information!*

### Junk In Your Trunk

This is a new twist on the old garage sale. Load up your trunk and sell your stuff from the back of your vehicle. You bring the junk and we bring the people! Just drive up and sell. Registration form can be found on our website under the Special Events page. Pre-registration is required. Reserve your spot now! Space is limited to the number of parking spaces available.

Date:	March 12th
Location:	Volunteer Park
Time:	9:00-4:00 pm
Registration deadline:	March 8th by 4:00 pm
Vender Fees:	\$10 per Car \$20 per SUV/Van \$30 per Truck/Trailer

*Note: Vendors will be assigned spaces to park and sell items*

For more information contact Key Pen Parks at 253-884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com)



# Peninsula Views

## EDITORIAL

### School District seeks bond

With the state budget still in crisis, our school budgets are echoing the same. That is why the Peninsula School District Board has approved a bond measure for the February ballot, and will be asking for \$78 million.

Superintendent Terry Bouck said the district has been careful and methodical in identifying what the district needs. District administrators, some staff, parents and community members have logged hours of work to help come up with a plan for all schools in the district.

If the bond passes in February property owners will pay 96 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. On a \$200,000 home that will mean about \$55. It is lower than the bond that passed for 2003, which was at a rate of \$1.41 per \$1,000 assessed value.

Bouck and assistant superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto will be meeting with community groups in the coming weeks to present their findings, and talk about where the bond money will be spent.

Safety, health and security are the three main areas they will focus on, and Key Peninsula Middle School and Peninsula High School are scheduled to get upgrades in almost every category.

Water pressure is a huge problem at KPMS, and according to Bouck it is on the list for improvement, as well as an all weather track and upgrades in five other categories. Vaughn Elementary School is scheduled to get \$2 million in mechanical and electrical upgrades, Evergreen Elementary will get a cafeteria, and upgrades in four other categories, Peninsula High will get upgrades in eight of nine categories, including athletic field upgrades, ADA accessibility improvements and security.

Bouck said vehicles have been stolen from the parking lot at PHS, and the district plans to install outdoor security cameras at all district schools.

Even in a tough economy, we have to support education in our community. Peninsula School District has some of the highest test scores in the state. Community support and involvement are what keep the district strong. Maintaining the facilities and updating them to keep up with the changing world will help students continue to succeed.

An informational meeting will be held during the Key Peninsula Community Council meeting Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in the VFW Room.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thanks for Lunch, ladies

Cheers to the two ladies in the Flotation Restaurant at Purdy the morning of Veterans Day. A friend and I, wearing our veteran hats from the Korean War, were having breakfast and when these ladies

were leaving they passed our table and said, "Happy Veterans Day, men." We both thanked them and thought "how nice." After a long wait we asked our waitress for our bill ...

"Sorry, fellows," she said, "Those two ladies that just left paid for your breakfasts."

We were shocked and happily surprised! Wherever you are, ladies, many thanks and cheers ... YOU MADE OUR WHOLE DAY!

*Jim Miller, Wauna*

## Discovering a new path

I discovered the Key Peninsula five years ago, when I read an ad for a cottage on Herron Island on Craigslist. It said, "Drive down magical roads to a private ferry; come to an island where deer eat out of your hands."

I was looking for a change from the California suburban lifestyle where people didn't know their neighbors and neat rows of houses had no personality. My last child went off to college and I needed to shake things up in my life. I loved my career as a Marriage and Family Therapist, but, after 20 years, it was time to work on myself.

So, on a whim, my husband and I flew up to Seattle, rented a car, and drove down that magical road. We never looked back. It took time to sell our home and close down my practice, but last year we moved to Herron Island as full time residents.

Today we feed a herd of deer on our front lawn. We know that Wilber likes to be scratched behind the ear, Scrapper is the young buck who will pick a fight with any other deer, and the orphaned baby wouldn't make it through the winter without our help. We have become friends with the owner of the Drive Thru Feed Store—he has pictures of our deer in his office—we're there every week for bags

### Gayle Herman Sound Living



of grain. Our house is known as 'The Deer House' on the island, and visitors stop by to take pictures and participate in the feeding ritual.

On most Friday nights, we sit at the fire pit and join neighbors who have lived here for many years. Herron Island takes on its own charm as people relate stories about past incidents, interesting characters and antics of the raccoons and deer.

Once a month there is a meeting where Island business creates heated discussions reminding us that this is a small town. We're all learning to get along.

It is a simple life, very different than the fast paced life we left behind in California. We enjoy this new pace—long walks on dirt roads covered with overhanging trees, beach combing and finding amazing life in the water, boating to nearby islands, and getting to know our neighbors and community.

We are starting to branch out and explore our surroundings. In upcoming articles, I will share my Newcomer's View of the Key Peninsula, South Puget Sound and beyond.

Thank you for your support.

*Jeffrey Nelson  
President, Key Peninsula Community Fair*

### KeyFest in Trouble

During the week of Dec 13th, the Fairs storage container at Volunteer Park was broken into. All of the equipment that supplies electricity to the Fair was stolen. Unless we can recover or replace this equipment our ability to hold the Fair is in jeopardy.

Witnesses are encouraged to call the Pierce Co. Sheriff. If you would like to make a donation to help replace the stolen equipment you may do so at Sound Credit Union in Key Center.

### Letters Policy

Submissions are used on a space available basis and may be edited if used. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or e-mail to news@keypennews.com.

(From Lique, Page 1)

unanimous vote of the Association's executive board. "To be chosen from nearly 130 chief officers in the district is nothing to shake a stick at either," McVay added.

The award was recognition of Lique's tenacity and leadership during the most challenging years in Key Peninsula fire district history. Lique handled issues that range from the critical decision to fire a chief during a levy election to investigating a complaint of indecent exposure from an anonymous letter writer. "In the time of trying to make that decision (firing the chief), the thought came to me: this was either a strong move or the largest blunder in the history of the fire department. It could be devastating to the EMS levy and to the entire work force," Lique said.

The result of his decision was the decisive approval of the levy by voters. For Lique the levy votes reinforced integrity first and foremost as the basis for decision making issues. He applied the same standard toward the anonymous complaint. He stood in front of the King 5 cameras and said there would be an investigation into the complaint about fire fighters skinny

dipping at Penrose Park. The result of the investigation by legal counsel found that the incident did not occur during a fire department function--the fire fighters were camping and off duty; and because they went into the water on the back and dark side of Penrose, there were no witnesses--the fire fighters said they couldn't even see each other. "The Board determined that discipline was not warranted," Lique said. He feels the message was sent. "We do have integrity in the fire department. We will look into it," he said.

The Dan Packer Memorial award is dedicated to the memory of a man who was "Chief of Chiefs" according to Cliff McCollum, Assistant Chief at Brown's Point-Dash Point Fire District 13. McCollum was pleased that Lique was selected. He has known him for many years and they have taught classes together in Tacoma. "(Lique) is well deserved of that award," he said. "This man has devoted his whole life at that fire department."

Lique started working at the Key Peninsula fire department in 1984. It was his senior year of high school, and during the ride home on the school bus, Robert Bosch talked him into working together at the fire department. He spent his spring break in



Jess White dropped off a handmade fire station he built complete with fire engines and a (self-propelled) chiefs' car that PCFD 16 Chief Tom Lique snatched before it could fly off the front desk as Fire Commissioner Ruth Bramhall and White look on.

Photo by Scott Turner, Special to the KP News

an initial training class and says, "The rest is history. I had the bug, I knew this is what I wanted to do. I knew this was the community I wanted to do it in."

Lique graduated in June of 1985 and moved into the fire station in Key Center as a resident fire fighter. He put himself through paramedic school and formed a habit of taking courses that applied to the career ladder he was climbing. Eventually, he enrolled in an Associates Arts program at Bates Technical College and has finished a degree in fire command and administra-

tion. He is presently completing a second AA degree in emergency medicine. He believes a fire officer with a formal degree adds credibility to the organization.

The fire chief job is literally full time. With his pager, Lique is on the clock 24 hours a day. Recent health issues have caused him to realize that he has been burning his candle at both ends. He is making an effort to work fewer hours at home when he is out of the office. However, he admits he is famous with the staff for sending 3 a.m. emails.

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**Kegs to go!**

Call & reserve one today!!

**253-857-3897**

New Years Eve

**Vinayal Rock**  
first time outside of Seattle

no cover!

**Complete Prime Rib Dinner**  
\$14.99 5 pm-10 pm

**Party Favors!**  
Champagne Toast!

**Hospitality Van available-Call for details**

# On the Way Deli closed shop

By Danna Webster, KP News

The doors closed for the last time at On the Way Deli, December 8. John Palmer's large 1972 Army deuce and a half military transport truck was pressed into service as a moving van. After five years and 4 months, Lisa Larson is moving on. "I need to get healthy," Larson said. "It's time to stop, take care of me, and start fresh with the New Year." Larson thanked Palmer and her father, Steve Smith, for their assistance and support that compared only to that of her mother, Irene Torres.

She added, "Thanks to all my loyal customers. I could not have done what we did without you. It's been a lot of fun. Hope to see you around. We will miss all of you," she said.



Lisa Larson is flanked by supporters, father Steve Smith and friend John Palmer.

Photo by Danna Webster, KP News

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# A new sports bar with KP history

By Danna Webster, KP News

Many regular patrons poured in to check out the remodeling work done to their favorite local pub as the tavern formerly known as Sit and Sip became Taterman's Sportsbar on Nov. 1. They were also there to celebrate the return of the owner, Sandra Erickson, who had established the Sit and Sip originally in 1997.

"On opening day, everybody came in. All the hard work and effort really paid off from the warm greeting I got from everybody," she said.

After operating the tavern for seven years, Erickson sold it in 2004. When the tavern became available in 2010, she felt an obligation to reestablish the business. "My driving force to do this again was because I made it what it was in '97. We had a family atmosphere. Everybody was just there for everybody. I had to do it for the customers. I felt re-

sponsible," she says.

It was no easy task to step back into the business. New applications were needed for all accounts, permits and licenses. Erickson and her crew "gutted" the interior and cleaned, painted, and furnished it like new. There are still projects to complete such as more lighting, more pictures, and more signs outside. This summer she plans to obtain a Class H license that will allow the tavern to serve hard alcohol.

Erickson wanted a new name to go along with all the changes made to the building. She chose the nickname of her grandchild, Logan Erickson. The family calls him Tater Man which is a reference to the coincidence of viewing his first ultrasound while working in the family garden. They thought the image resembled a potato they had dug which seemed to have a head, belly and umbilical cord. At age 21

(See Sports, Page 11)



Photo by Danna Webster, KP News

Sandra Erickson proudly displays her 2008 best bus driver award on the wall of her tavern business, Taterman's Sportsbar.

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# Brush picking is big business, again

By Karen Lovett and Colleen Slater,  
KP News

An industry that took hold back in the 1930s has burgeoned into a thriving multimillion-dollar business. The non-timber forest products industry is booming in Western Washington. A number of companies in Mason and Kitsap counties buy local brush. Sword fern and evergreen huckleberry were the prized foliage for floral arrangements in those early days, but by the 1950s, salal, the native rhizomatous bush *Gaultheria shallon*, with leathery, glossy dark green leaves that grows so abundantly in Western Washington had surpassed other species in popularity in decorative floral sales worldwide.

Third generation brush picker Brett Skahan started picking with his parents, Elmer and Helen Skahan, when he was 5 years old. His grandfather John Skahan, grandmother Margaret Gross, step-grandfather Elton Gross, and uncle Dick Skahan all worked picking brush. His sister, Cathy Skahan Carlson worked until she finished

college. Brett still lives at the family home on Highway 302 where their brush shed stands on the other side of the road.

"Sometimes the market slows down," Skahan said. "I always call ahead to make sure they are buying and find out what they need. So many immigrants are picking now, they flood the market and fill the quotas. It's hard for the rest of us to compete with that. It's illegal to take brush without a no-cost permit from the sheriff's department. The permit runs out at the end of December and you have to get a new one every year."

During the holiday season the demand for certain natural items increases.

"At Christmastime they buy cedar, holly and pine cones. They buy huck a few weeks a year. You have to shake off any berries. You can't pick when it's freezing. The leaves will turn black. If the weather is hot, you can only work early in the morning to keep it from wilting. If you get it wet, it turns like lettuce.

"Pick off any leaves with black or white spots. They won't buy it if it has mold. It



Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

Brett Skahan, with hands of huckleberry and salal, two plants that grow in abundance in Washington while being prized by florists back East.

can get mold if it grows in the shade."

The season is closed from May or June into July while the plants are growing new leaves.

"Short salal, a hand (bunch) is about as long as the elbow to the fingertips and weighs three-quarters of a pound. These are usually 60 cents a hand," he

said. "... Long salal, 2 feet hands weigh 11/2 pounds. Huck has been going for 80 cents a hand."

A special permit is needed to harvest mushrooms commercially.

"Watch out for bears and bees. Making noise usually takes care of bears. Bees can be hanging in brush or trees or may be in the ground."

A Floral Greens Report filed by George Draffan (Endgame.org/floral) 2006, covered extensive research on the industry. "The introduction of racially differentiated labor markets has been a key means of resolving the supply shortage problem ... and the competitive pricing issues." Latino, particularly Mexican and Guatemalan as well as an Asian-dominated labor force has taken over much of the local industry. Eighty to 90 percent of the multimillion-dollar market is made up of export sales.

## Local Picking History

Audrey Paul's husband, Stanley, (now deceased) started picking brush with his

(See **Brush**, Page 11)

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(From **Brush**, Page 10)

brother at 15. It provided enough pocket money for him. He picked brush until he was drafted. After 3 ½ years in the army, he came home and planned to do something else, but there weren't jobs on the Key Peninsula, and he wanted to stay. He'd bought a house in Lakebay before he was drafted, and rented it while in the service.

He and new bride Audrey cleaned it up and lived there. Soon 40 acres across the road was for sale, and they bought that. Later they bought acreage on Lackey Road, and also had access to her father's leased land in Vaughn. Audrey stayed home and did household chores in the morning, but started on their own piece of property learning how to pick brush, and picked a bale for Stanley to add to his before he took it to sell. At the time, they received 16 cents a bunch for huckleberry and salal. Stanley was paid only 8 cents a bunch before the war.

While they lived in Lakebay, they sold their salal and huckleberry to F. D. Kelly, who'd set up a brush shed in the old Lakebay School – now the ( KP Community Services and Food Bank).

It was near where they lived. In 1957, they moved to Horseshoe Lake and sold most of their property.

Audrey went out with Stanley to pick. Audrey was considered the best picker by many who knew her. Sometimes they sold to Raymonds, who had a brush shed across the lake, but later they mostly sold to Rodman's on Bliss Cochrane Road in Vaughn. By the time Stanley was ready to retire at 65, Rodman's was slowly backing out of the business, some buyers limited their buying to 300 bales per week, and the Pauls decided they didn't need to pick any more for a livelihood, so they stopped. The market dropped off soon after.

(From **Sports**, Page 9)

months, Tater Man does not yet appreciate that he has a business named after him.

Tater Man's mother, Tiffany Erickson, and her sister, Tawnya, will both help out at the tavern. Tiffany, who is a third generation Erickson to work at the shipyard, will tend bar; and Tawnya, who will graduate from South Kitsap this year, will host karaoke events. Erickson says the business is in the family's blood. Her parents worked at the Shipwreck 9 Tavern on Lake Union and her mother worked for 50 years at Ivar's Captain's Table on the Seattle Pier.

Erickson and her husband, Jim, moved to Lake Holiday on the Key Peninsula in 1990. The location was central for their commutes to work. The move eventually led to the purchase of the Sit and Sip Tavern. Currently, Jim and Sandra maintain day jobs.

Jim, a civilian employee at the shipyard, is Overhaul Superintendent. Sandra sandwiches her work at the tavern between her morning and afternoon bus routes for the South Kitsap School district. She has driven the school bus for seven years and in 2008 was awarded "The Best of South Kitsap Award" for the best bus driver.

At Taterman's, Erickson is supported by three bartenders, Dwayne (Bubba) Parks, Chelsea Borderson and Chris Christiansen. This is the second time around for employee Christiansen who is also the general "go to" man.

In 1997, he came to work for Erickson after retiring from the shipyard where he had been her husband's boss. He was one of the first Sandra called to join her in November. "In 1997 I came to work for two weeks and stayed three years," he jokes, "In 2010, when Sandra called and asked 'are you ready to do it again?' I said 'let's do it.'"

Customers at this sports bar do more than sit and enjoy games on television. Taterman's is a member of the American Darts Association (ADO) and holds scheduled tournaments. In addition to darts, customers play Foosball, pool, and, in the summer, horseshoe and co-ed softball.

According to Erickson, a lot of the customers are local contract and construction workers with handyman skills. They commonly help each other out with jobs that need to be done. "It's about customers helping each other. They are all good friends and they enjoy coming here," Erickson says, happy to be rebuilding the original friendly spirit.

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# COMMUNITY WORKS

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

## Now Crab feed tickets

The annual Crab Feed, featuring crab caught by local fisherman Steve “Winks” Lodholm, will be on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 4-7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Tickets are available at Key Fitness, Sunnycrest Nursery, and the KP Civic Center. Tickets are \$25/adults, \$10/kids 6-12, free/under 6. 884-3456

## Jan. 1 Zumba kick-off

Get hooked on Zumba this year! Enjoy a free class from 9-11 a.m. in the VFW Room at the KP Civic Center. Zumba combines Latin rhythms with dance. The class is for 18 years and older; wear comfy clothes and athletic shoes and bring a water bottle and towel. Key Pen Parks, 884-9240

## Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. It will also be at Peninsula Light on Jan. 11 from 12-3:30 p.m.

## Jan. 4 Skate night training

Skate Night Volunteer Training, for high school kids who wish to volunteer on Friday Night skates, is offered from 5-9 p.m. in the VFW Room at the KPCC. This 4-hour training is required prior to participating. Apply online at <http://bit.ly/FNSk8-2010> VolunteerApp

## Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 Pre-walker story time

Story time with simple books, action rhymes, knee bounces and songs is for pre-walkers and toddlers, accompanied by an adult, from 10:30-11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-2242

## Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 Story play time

Story play time for ages 3-6 is from 11 a.m.-noon. Art activities, stories, rhymes and singing are followed by play time for caregivers and children. 884-2242

## Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 Family story time

Family story time for families with preschoolers is held beginning at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Enjoy simple books, action rhymes, sing songs and movement games. 884-2242

## Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 Friends' night

Lakebay Community Church invites children grades K-6 to Friends' Night every Wednesday from 6:30-8 p.m. At Friends' Night, kids experience games, projects, snacks, surprise activities, and music centered on a weekly Bible story. Call 884-3899 or see website: [www.lakebaycovenant.net](http://www.lakebaycovenant.net).

## Jan. 6 Thursday zumba

Zumba classes are held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. from Jan. 6-Feb. 12 in the VFW Room at the KPCC. Cost is \$48 and the class is for 5-20 people who are 18 or older. Punch cards are available to attend any Zumba class. Key Pen Parks, 884-9240

## Jan. 6 Ballet deadline

The deadline to register 4-9 year olds for KP Parks' Ballet 101 is today. Classes will be held for 6-15 students on Tuesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 15 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. Cost is \$48; ballet slippers are required. Register with Chad, 884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com).

## To submit an event

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

## Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 Skate nights

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

## Jan. 8 Saturday zumba

Saturday Zumba is held from Jan. 8-Feb. 12 from 9-10 a.m. in the VFW Room at the KPCC. Cost is \$48 and the class is for 5-20 people who are 18 or older. Punch cards are available to attend any Zumba class. Key Pen Parks, 884-9240

## Jan. 8 Zumba gold

Zumba Gold is accessible for seniors, beginners, or others needing exercise modifications. Zumba Gold meets on Saturdays, Jan. 8-Feb. 12, from 10:15-11 a.m. in the VFW Room, KPCC. Zumba Gold builds cardiovascular health and works the hip, leg and arm muscles. Cost is \$48; class is for 5-20 people. Punch cards are available to attend any Zumba class. Key Pen Parks, 884-0240

## Jan. 8 Mountain people

“Mountain Men and Women of the Fur Trade” will be presented as a fam-

ily event at 2 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Learn about black powder guns, leather fringes and the legendary summer rendezvous of the trappers. This is part of the Second Saturday monthly events planned at the library. 884-2242

## Jan. 10 Seattle shopping

Key Pen Parks is offering a day at the Seattle Pike Place Market, a shopping district like no other. Choose from the freshest in farm produce, unique specialty foods, international grocery items, handmade crafts, antiques and collectables, books, clothing, and more. Enjoy lunch at one of the nearly 60 restaurants. This trip is for 18 and older and will be from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and costs \$21 plus lunch and shopping money. Seating is limited. To register, call Chad, 884-9240 or [Chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:Chad@keypenparks.com)

## Jan. 11 Tumbling deadline

Tumbling for 4-9 year olds will be held for 6-15 students on Thursdays, Jan. 13-Feb. 17 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at KP Civic Center. Cost is \$48 and sweat pants, tights and gym shoes are needed. Register with Chad 884 9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com)

## Jan. 11 Friends' meeting

The Friends of the Key Center Library meet at 5 p.m. at the library. 884-2242

## Jan. 12 Kids' basketball

KP Parks offers co-ed basketball skills clinics for pre-k to third grade

(See Community, Page 13)

(From **Community**, Page 12)

kids on Saturdays, Jan. 15 to Feb. 19, at the KP Middle School. Cost is \$45; parent involvement is required. For more information or to register, call Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com.

## Jan. 13 Poetry reading

Lorraine Hart discusses and reads from her book of poetry "There I Had to Go" at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Lorraine is the lead singer and songwriter for Jazz Musette, a popular Key Peninsula musical group. Signed books will be available for purchase. This is a free event sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library. Donations for the Key Peninsula Food Bank are encouraged. 884-2242

## Jan. 14 Basketball deadline

KP Parks sponsors a non-refereed, organize your own team, full-court, no trophies or standings, and call your own fouls 4-on-4 recreational men's basketball league. Games will be on Sunday evenings (after 4 p.m.) from Jan. 16-March 6 at the KP Middle School gym. Four to eight teams will be taken on a first-come, first served basis at a cost of \$197/team. Register by Jan. 14 with Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com.

## Jan. 15 Lyme group meets

Lyme Support Group meets from 1-3 p.m. in the Bromes Room at the Key Center Library.

## Jan. 18 PSD Forum

The Peninsula School District hosts a Superintendent's Forum at KP Middle School library from 6:30-8 p.m.

## Jan. 25 Teen time

Teen time is from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Join us for crafts, games and snacks. 884-2242

## Jan. 30 Winter concert

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra presents its free Winter Concert at 3 p.m. at the Peninsula High School auditorium. Four orchestras, beginning to advanced, will perform. PYO will accept applications from experienced string musicians from Jan. 15-Feb. 15. For more information, contact Paula at

253-534-5384 or info@harborpyo.org or www.harborpyo.org.

## Feb. 23 Deadline for day camp

Key Pen Parks offers a Mid-Winter Break Day Camp for K-5th graders on Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Camp will be held at the Volunteer Park Concession Building; dress for indoor and outdoor activities required. Activities include games, crafts and movies; snacks are provided, but each participant needs a sack lunch. Space is limited; cost is \$53 for each of the 10-20 participants. Pre-registration is required by 2/23.

## JANUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS

### KP Community Fair Association

Jan. 4, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room

### KP Metro Parks

Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex

### Fire District 16

Jan. 11 & 25, 3 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station

### Key Peninsula Community Council

Jan. 12, 7 p.m. in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; speaker is PSD Superintendent Terry Bouck, who will discuss the school bond.

### Peninsula School District Board

Jan. 13, 6 p.m. regular meeting at district office; Regular meeting, Jan. 27, 6 p.m. at Discovery Elementary Library

### KP Civic Center Board

Jan. 13, 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room, KPCC

### LIC

Potluck dessert meeting, Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club

## OFF THE KEY

### Jan. 21-Feb. 6 Play presented

The Paradise Theatre presents "The Foreigner" on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 3 p.m. Prices are from \$10-22. 851-7529 or www.paradisetheatre.org

### Jan. 1 Run for Heroes

A New Year's Day Run for the Heroes will start and end at Skansie Brothers Park. The 5k or 10k race will benefit the fallen officers' families from the fire and police in the local area. See more information at www.active.com or 851-3488.

### Jan. 1-16 Stars and Stripes

The Harbor History Museum presents Stars and Stripes from world-renowned graphic designer Kit Hinrich's collection of over 5,000

American flags and flag-related objects. The museum is closed on Mondays. www.harborhistorymuseum.org or 858-6722

### Jan. 17 Monday movie

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club hosts a free movie, "Forrest Gump" at 10 a.m. at the Galaxy Uptown Theatre.

### Jan. 18 Gardening event

Valerie Easton, columnist for the Seattle Times, will speak on "Work Less & Love your Garden More" at 1 p.m. at the Pierce County Environmental Services Building, 9850 – 64th Street West, University Place. This event costs \$10 and is presented by the Tacoma/Peninsula Unit of the Washington Park Arboretum. Reservations required; call Patti McFerran, 253-853-7979.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Tuesdays TOPS #1325

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

### 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

### Thursdays Lakebay writers

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

### Saturdays Writers guild

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

# Special dog needs a miracle

Torn ACL is keeping otherwise healthy service dog from fulfilling his full abilities; friends are raising funds for corrective surgery.

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Anna Hart, who contracted Lyme Disease 12 years ago, has a near constant

companion in her mixed Black Shepherd and Labrador pup, Rajani.

She is training him to be a service dog, and he's an avid learner, but he has a torn ACL in one back knee that hampers his ability to do all he might do.

Anna loved German Shepherds, but understood that a mixed breed might be a healthier dog than a purebred. She selected that particular cross because she thought it would be a good combination,

and a friend of her nurse happened to have puppies that fit that mix. Anna and her mom, Lorraine Hart, went to look, not expecting to find the right dog so soon. Within five minutes, the runt of the litter was in Anna's lap, and she was just as smitten with the 3-month-old pup.

Rajani, which means Empress of the Night, seems to when Anna needs help or special comfort. Sweats are an effect of Lyme, and they may start sudden-

ly. Rajani jumps up on the bed with Anna, and stays with her until they pass. When Anna raises her head, the dog knows it's okay to leave.

Another problem with the disease is the ligament that keeps her toes straight out is shortened, and Rajani will sit on Anna's feet, the warmth of her body being good medicine to straighten them out for a time.

(See **Miracle**, Page 21)

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Bill Poch  
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**MCCORMICK WOODS** \$325,000  
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Andee Bemrose  
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**BAY LAKE** \$25,000  
Beautiful lot across the street from Bay Lake & just blocks away for the Lakebay Marina & Penrose State Park. Community well hookup available. Electricity in street. Build your new home or use to park your recreational vehicle for a summer home.  
Andee Bemrose  
253-857-3304 #78145



**LAKEBAY** \$49,999  
Great property picture framed by tall firs. This 1.34 acres is on a corner lot & in a cul-de-sac. Property has 3 bedroom gravity septic system & a 4 party shared well. Existing dwelling has little or no value per county assessor.

Dottie Mazza  
253-857-3304 #160365



**VAUGHN** \$65,000  
Nice mostly flat, shy 2 acre building site on Elgin Clifton Rd. Easy access to Belfair, Gig Harbor, Port Orchard & the beautiful Key Peninsula. Affordable & ready for your plans.

Andee Bemrose  
253-857-3304 #142706



**LONGBRANCH** \$94,500  
Super level building site with a 10 ft easement to the beach with 2<sup>nd</sup> class tidelands rites. Enjoy sunsets across the Case Inlet. 180 degrees of marine & mountain views lasting through eternity.

Bill Poch  
253-857-3304 #119732



**LONGBRANCH** \$119,000  
Enjoy watching the wildlife on this peaceful, shy 10 Acres, with 2 separate tax parcels in a level, private setting. Well & septic installed; former dwelling destroyed by fire. Foundations are visible and could possibly be used. Well is 213 ft deep. State parks and boat launch nearby.

Dottie Mazza  
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# KP Fire Commissioner Rick Stout answers his last call

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Richard G. "Rick" Stout, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army, a second term Key Peninsula Fire Commissioner, a long time member of the VFW District 4 award winning Honor and Color Guard, a volunteer armorer at the Camp Murray history museum, and a much admired and loved Key Peninsula citizen activist was taken by cancer shortly after the close of this year's Veterans' Day. He was 78 years old.

During his three plus years with the Air Force, he served in Europe and in Korea where he received military decorations. After his honorable discharge from the Air Force, he briefly lived a civilian life before joining the Army where he served more than 20 years before retiring with the rank of sergeant first class.

He was a highly decorated veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars from which he was awarded, among others, the Gallantry Cross Medal and a Bronze Star when serving with the 101st Airborne Division.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

At the memorial services for Key Peninsula Fire Commissioner Rick Stout at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Gig Harbor Nov. 27, KPF Division Chief Chuck West, KPF Firefighter/EMT Jake Frame, and in the cab of KPF's fire engine, Stout's granddaughters Myelle Stout and Kaylee Stout who aspire to be firefighters, KP Fire Commissioner Ruth Bramhall, KPF firefighter/EMT Scott Anderson, KP Fire Commissioner Sheila Hunt, and Belfair FD Lt. Mike Sammons, a former resident of the Key.

Paul, the youngest of the Stouts' sons, said, "Dad never talked about his experiences in 'Nam. I didn't even know he'd been awarded the Bronze Star until I was

going through his things after he passed away."

"In Viet Nam he was known as 'Big Daddy' to younger troops," said his wife,

Maureen, "because he did everything possible to keep them safe."

He was a member of the Army's pistol and rifle team and was involved in competitive shooting, and while stationed in South Germany he ran a Rod and Gun Club.

After retiring from the army, he worked 18 years in civil service as a medic with Madigan Hospital's emergency room.

In the mid 1950s while stationed as an MP with the Air Force in England, he flew on resupply missions to Korea. It was there he met Anne Maureen McNiff of Lonehead, Scotland, at an Ernie Ford concert in the dark. He'd promised a buddy to take her and a friend back to their quarters near where they served as "plane plotters" tracking aircraft over England.

"It was, essentially, a blind date," said his wife. It was followed not long thereafter by a marriage that lasted over 54 years. Their sons, Dennis, Michael, Stephen, Thomas, and Paul and daughter Katrina were born wherever his military tours

(See Stout, Page 16)

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# Kids make gifts during annual program at LIC

By Colleen Slater, KP News

“Kids and Christmas,” was held at Longbranch Improvement Club in December, with [some] local children spending several hours creating Christmas gifts for family members, having their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and receiving some special treats. This was the sixth year of the program.

It’s a free community/family event involving much organization and many volunteers.

The LIC provides photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, who arrived by fire truck. Dale Goodvin and Denny Prichard were the main photo elves.

The event included distribution of Toys for Tots, usually done through food banks. The ones coming to LIC are designated for children residing in 98351-98349 zip codes, basically the Evergreen Elementary service area. The free/reduced lunch program needs at Evergreen are very high.

“Several years ago LIC received a very generous gift specifically for Kids and Christmas. It has been doled out as needed, to sustain the program,” says Carolyn Wiley, event chair. “Angel Guild has been very generous,” she says.

“Photo taking can get a bit pricey,” she says, plus LIC isn’t equipped to check



Photo by Rich Hildahl, KP News

A large group of volunteers helped make the holidays a little sweeter for children in the community during the Kids and Christmas event at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

qualifying income for families. “We provide enough additional toys so all children are welcome.”

Linda LeBlanc developed the format that has been used for several years.

About 75 Scouts from Girl Scout Service Unit 622 (Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor) and Boy Scouts from Troop No. 27 gathered supplies to teach young attendees how to do various projects for

gifts for parents and siblings. Vicki Baltmiskis, Girl Scout leader, has organized this group of eager young people doing community service. The “teachers” are comprised of Girl Scout Cadets, sixth – eighth graders, and Boy Scouts sixth grade and up.

Nancy and Lynn Carr managed the toys – pick up, delivery, and scheduling of the wrapping. This involves coordinating with

Tami Martin of KP Family Resource Center/Children’s KP Community Service, a driver, Toys for Tots, and a crew of LIC volunteers.

Peg Bingham organized the edible treats – cookies, cocoa and hot cider.

“This is truly a wonderful program that would not be possible without the support of many individuals and groups on the Peninsula,” says Wiley.

(From *Stout*, Page 15)

took him, from Germany and Italy to the States. Those children gave the Stouts 14 grandchildren.

The Stouts took up residence in Home, Wash., in 1976 where he personally built several additions to their house. Among these was a large swimming pool in which the kids frolicked each summer with their many local friends. The kids all attended Peninsula School District schools and graduated from Peninsula High School.

Rick and Maureen’s was a close and loving family.

Son Paul said, “Growing up in Home all of us kids had horses and competed in ‘Play Day’ equestrian competitions. We were also members of FFA (Future Farmers of America) and raised rabbits and goats to show. Dad was always there

encouraging us to be our best.”

Rick Stout’s father was an Eagle Scout and encouraged Rick to take on the challenge himself. Son Paul, said, “Becoming an Eagle Scout with Boy Scouts of America taught dad that being a volunteer is the greatest gift you can give to your community and he loved doing so.”

Rick Stout was one of the original group of four volunteer KP firefighters who trained and received legal certification as licensed pyrotechnicians enabling them, for the nine years that it lasted, to fire off a professional 4th of July fireworks display on Von Geldern Cove in Home. Thereafter, he conducted fireworks shows in Oregon, at Tanglewood Island, Wash., and even worked with inmates from McNeal Island to put on a show off Steila-coom.

Rick was a proud member with over

10 years in the VFW Color and Honor Guard as its team armorer, and had over 500 services at Tahoma National Cemetery and other locations such as schools, funeral services, and various other events.

Rick Patterson, director of the Camp Murray history museum where Rick served as a volunteer armorer, said, “All loved Rick and he and his great knowledge of building, repairing, and maintaining weapons will be greatly missed.”

He was a long time volunteer with the Key Peninsula Fire Department, rising to the rank of battalion chief before retiring. He was serving his second elected term as a Fire Commissioner of KPFD at the time of his death.

He was a Fourth Degree Knight of the Knights of Columbus, a 10 year member of the Elks, a former member of the KP

Lions Club, a trailblazer with the KP Lions annual Volksmarch, a gunsmith, locksmith and, in the words of son Paul, “the list goes on and on.”

Daughter Katrina said, “Dad loved everybody, even some not so nice bodies. He never had an unkind word about anyone. He was a very family-oriented good father – and he loved the KP Fire Department. He had his full faculties right up until the end.”

As testimonial to Rick’s character, his wife Maureen described how his oncologist, Dr. Frank Seneal, who “dressed as a clown with a big red nose on Halloween at St. Anthony’s Cancer Center, said, ‘Rick is the bravest man I’ve ever known.’”

And he is missed by many.

Services for Fire Commissioner Rick Stout that took place at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Gig Harbor on Nov. 27.



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The Key Peninsula News sincerely thanks everyone who contributed to our annual fund drive. To those of you who did not wish to be named, we hope you also know how much your contribution means to the Key Peninsula News. To those who could not contribute this year, we thank you for reading our newspaper, and supporting our advertisers.

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# Inclement weather and PSD regulations

By Terry Bouck, Special to the KP News

During the winter storm season people often wonder why school is open, delayed or canceled. They ask, "Why do buses run late one day and not the next? Why is school open at all when the roads are bad?"

Peninsula School District's 9,000 students live within a 120 square-mile area that includes a wide range of topographical features. There are hills and lowlands, thick forests and miles of shoreline. Road conditions often vary widely during inclement weather, ranging from roadways that are clear to those covered with snow, ice and downed power lines or trees. We consider roads and all other information available when deciding whether to operate on a normal schedule, start late or close schools.

The process that is used to arrive at this determination is quite involved. Weather information is reviewed the day and night prior to the decision, and neighboring districts are consulted. Beginning at 3 a.m.,

the superintendent, deputy superintendent and transportation personnel drive emergency bus routes throughout the district. At the same time, temperature predictions are reviewed to determine if roads will warm up enough to allow a late start or if conditions are expected to worsen during the day, forcing a school closure.

If school is delayed or canceled, we attempt to inform families as soon as possible through a variety of ways. SchoolMessenger automatically notifies most parents and guardians within 15 minutes of being launched. Family emergency numbers are used in this system, so parents and guardians need to be sure that all numbers are updated at their child's school. If you want to continue to receive emergency notification through our system but want the ability to manage when you access the message, you may want to consider using your cell number as the primary contact.

We also use the Internet and local TV and radio stations to reach families. The District's website [www.psd401.net](http://www.psd401.net) has emergency messages posted during in-

cident weather. The website will state whether schools are late, closed or operating on normal schedules. Additional information on closures and emergency bus routes can be located under the "Schools" tab. The District Emergency Information telephone line, 253.530.1088, is another resource.

Further, the District subscribes to a state emergency notification system to which parents may subscribe. School Report, through Public Schools Emergency Communications Systems (PSECS), will automatically send you an email notifying you of any delays or closures. The notices are posted at [www.schoolreport.org](http://www.schoolreport.org).

While we attempt to make the best, safest decision for the entire District, we respect the fact that parents must make the final decision on whether their children attend school or not.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email if you have any questions, Terry Nelsen Bouck, Superintendent, Peninsula School District, (253) 530-1002 or [bouckt@psd401.net](mailto:bouckt@psd401.net).

# PHS debate team earns top honors

The Peninsula High School debate team competed in the Washington Debate Coalition's annual tournament Dec. 3 and 4 at the University of Washington and took first place. It was the first time a Seahawk Public Forum debate team made it to the semifinals, and to the finals.

Jennifer Han and Cody Brower placed first in Public Forum Debate. Brower also won the Top Speaker award. Miranda Bessex and Cameron McMillan placed 5th in Public Forum Debate. Jessica Schatz and Nick Mendenhall placed 8th in Public Forum debate.

More than 400 students from 45 schools attended the Auburn-Riverside High School Invitational on Dec. 10 and 11. During that debate Daniel Brokaw was Top Presiding Officer in Novice Congressional Debate and Jessica Schatz won 6th place in Interpretive Reading. Schatz and Nick Mendenhall placed 5th in nN and Jen Han placed 10th in Open Public Forum and Miranda Bessex and Cameron McMillan placed 3rd in Open Public Forum.

"It's the first time ever that PHS has gone to state in Public Forum, and the first time in over six years that any PHS debaters have earned a state berth," said Sheri Ahlheim, debate instructor and math teacher at PHS.

"I am so proud of the kids! Our success is due in part to the efforts of some amazing volunteers: Nancy Jaworsky who finds interpretive pieces for the kids and Andrew and Melissa Morrison who help with the debaters."

Public Forum is a relatively new debate form, she said, and the students started seriously working on it last year.

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(From **Bond**, Page 1)

collected in 2004 was \$1.41 per \$1,000. The rate for 2012, if the bond is passed in February, will be 96 cents per \$1,000. On a \$200,000 home that will be about \$55 more in 2012. So that is still below the 2003 rate."

The money will pay for improvements to the interior and exterior of buildings, including windows, doors, floors, heating and cooling systems, and basic security and safety on each campus, said Terry Bouck, superintendent.

"I was astounded when I came here five years ago and we had no security cameras on the outside of our schools," Bouck said. "That is absolute almost necessity at most districts now, and we need them on buses."

Some of the money from the 2003 bond was used to improve traffic flow at 11 of the district's 15 schools, he said, and traffic flow is an ongoing concern.

Safety is a concern across the district, and Bouck sited the stadium seating at Peninsula High School as one of the areas that needs attention.

"They are old and at times when the crowd gets so excited, those seats move away from the framework of the stadium," he said. "We have them bolted down at this point, but they need to be ADA accessible."

Architects and engineers have assessed the school buildings, and Cuzzetto said they found Artondale Elementary needs the most attention.

"We're planning to significantly renovate that school," he said.

Just as homes need maintenance, Bouck said school buildings do also, and part of the bond money will be set aside to replace or upgrade furniture and equipment.

"We need some money to replace what wears out," he said. "We understand it is difficult times, but we also feel this has been a very well thought out plan. We included the community members, staff, parents and principals and we're encouraged that once we get out there and explain the benefits people will understand the investment in the community. We hope it will also mean jobs.

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## KPMS teacher receives prestigious award

By Danna Webster, KP News

Key Peninsula Middle School science teacher Karen Borders was on an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. on Dec. 15 to shake hands with President Obama. She is the Washington state representative to receive the 2009 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Borders was instrumental in acquiring the NASA Explorer School Program for KPMS.

"The goal of our partnership with NASA is to increase student achievement through the incorporation of aeronautics and space exploration into science, technology and mathematics. KPMS continues to work within this partnership by offering STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) focused elective classes to students," writes the NASA Explorer School Team Leader.

Awards are given to mathematics and science teachers from the 50 states and four U.S. jurisdictions. The award recognizes the best pre-college-level science and mathematics teachers from across the country. Nominees are first determined at the state level and winners are selected by a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators. Winners of this Presidential honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

## All that jazz

Josh Lewis plays in the Jazz Ensemble concert Dec. 15 at Peninsula High School. The PHS Jazz Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Concert and Symphonic bands have upcoming performances at the Pacific Lutheran University Honor Band Festival on January 7th and 8th and the District Jazz Festival on February 1st at PHS. The Band Boosters can be reached at: boosters@peninsulaband.com.

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(From **Miracle**, Page 14)

Anna, who seems to have a special sensitivity to animals, tells about raising three runt squirrels and successfully returning them to the wild.

"They came back with their families, but kept them a safe distance," she says.

A memorable incident occurred on a middle school field trip when she lived in New York. The students visited a wildlife refuge, where a wild wolf pack lived on 45 acres. The children who wished could go inside a special enclosure to meet a few of the wolves. Anna, who had studied a lot about canines, including wolves, followed the instructions of the keeper and her own instinct. She went inside the large room-size area and sat on a rock. The keeper brought in five wolves, including the Alpha, Beta and Omega ones, then he went out and closed the gate.

Anna kept her eyes lowered for a while, knowing that immediate eye contact with the Alpha wolf was a challenge. The Alpha wolf approached, and when Anna raised her head slowly, the wolf seemed delighted, put her ears back, and when she returned to the other wolves, looked back

to see if Anna followed, so she did. She spent about 45 minutes with the wolves. The keeper said he'd never had another untrained person they accepted so fast.

Rajani has basic training that Anna provided and continues, but not the socialization part necessary to be a service dog. She takes aspirin twice a day for her leg pain, even though she tries to avoid putting weight on it. She has taken stronger medication, something most 2-year-old dogs wouldn't need. The alternative is surgery. Dr. Jeffery Irwin of Minter Veterinary Hospital believes that because of Rajani's age, and overall good health, the surgery would be successful. The only problem is that it costs \$25,000, and neither Anna nor her family can afford that expense.

A friend suggested they open a bank account where concerned friends and neighbors could contribute funds toward the surgery.

"It's a hard economic time for everybody," says Hart, but she will do whatever she can for her daughter.

The Sound Credit Union account number for contributions is 131914.

Perhaps a miracle will happen for Anna and Rajani.

## Marian (Minna Stone) Green

Marian Green, 81, of Port Hadlock, known to people on the Key Peninsula as Minna Stone, died Oct. 12 in Gig Harbor. Daughter of Harriet (Harms) and Ernest Stone, she was born Jan. 7, 1929 in Lakebay, where she grew up.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Earl Green, children Bonnie (Don) Ninneman, Janet (Bill) Townsend, and Michael (Cathy) Green, seven grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, brothers Gene Stone of Lakebay and George Stone of Gig Harbor, sisters Mildred Muller and Margaret McSpadden.

Minna was a cheerleader and graduated from Vaughn Union High School in 1947, the last class of VUHS graduates. A memorial service was held in November in Port Townsend.

Her grandfather, Ed Stone, won the prize for naming the Key Peninsula in 1930.

## Patricia May Kaylor

Patricia May Kaylor passed away at her home on the Key Peninsula on Nov. 15, 2010. Born in Tacoma in 1925, she was 85 at her passing.

Although she retired from Cottesmore Nursing home 20 years ago she continued to provide in home health care assistance to members of our community for many years after retirement.

Always one to stay busy, she knitted dozens of caps and booties in her spare time for the babies at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital.

After suffering a stroke in April of 2009 she worked tirelessly to regain her strength so that she could take her great grandchildren on a vacation trip to Hawaii in November of 2009.

She will be sorely missed by all of us whose lives she touched.

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# Historic sermons inspire descendants

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Edwin More, Jr., a Congregationalist pastor, kept a careful record of where he preached and when, and noted which sermons he shared on each occasion.

Doug Paterson of Lakebay rescued More's collection of sermons and visitation book when the basement where he lived flooded. He took them to his mother, Kae Paterson of Gig Harbor. More was her grandfather, who arrived in Roy, Wash. in 1905. They lived on Raft Island at least from early 1912 to early 1915, preaching at Rosedale, Arletta, Purdy, and Longbranch.

The Patersons believe he traveled on the two peninsulas by horse and buggy.

He also preached in Yelm, Lakeview and Lake City, now part of Tacoma, and lived in Spanaway.

Before he headed west, More lived and preached in New York, Illinois, Iowa, and other places.

The son of a non-believer, he met and married Anna Reynolds, a strong Congregationalist, when she traveled to New York for art school. She had used her art to support her mother and siblings.

One Sunday, More accompanied his wife to church, and soon became a believer and enrolled in seminary in Chicago.

He used contemporary events and people in his sermons, including President McKinley being shot by an anarchist, a famous Chicago murder, and even a dishonest uncle.

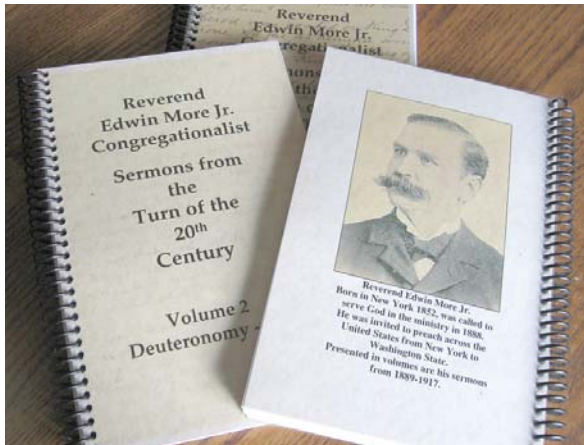


Photo by Colleen Slater, KP News

The first three volumes of More's transcribed sermons.

He used a light bulb as a visual aid for one.

In a sermon about using one's gifts, he told about a ferryboat, and a supposed emergency. At Longbranch, he used the Lorenz name and boat for the example.

Dorene Paterson, Doug's wife, began scanning the sermons three years ago, and has now transcribed enough for three volumes of about 20 each.

"It will probably be about 45 books to-

tal," she says.

Dorene leaves the spelling and punctuation as is. She sometimes laughs as she reads the sermons, notes in the visitation book, and pages of Anna's journal. One notation says Anna described one man as looking like a horse. He was Henry Bergh of ASPCA fame.

The visitation book includes the attendance of church services and the amount collected. One collection totaled 75 cents

with 18 people attending. He was paid \$30 per month at Roy in 1914. It also records people he visited, and some of the names from his time on the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas are familiar.

One note on Purdy says there was no service because nobody came. Another tells of a telephone call – no church – dance.

One sermon preached in several churches by request dealt with hypnotism and religion. At that time, hypnotism was a popular subject, and More had strong opinions on it.

Anna brought her pump organ west with her. When More preached at Rosedale, they transported the organ by boat, and she played for the service.

Granddaughter Kae coveted that organ, but it was given to a cousin at Anna's death. A few years ago, the cousin's son offered it to Kae, but it was in many pieces. Kae and husband Robin collected it and had it put back together, including having a new nameplate made for the missing one. She refused to let the marks on the instrument be covered over. Those are reminders that it was carried across the water from Raft Island to Rosedale – the scuffs and scratches are history.

Doug, currently a tugboat captain, seems to be following in some of his great-grandfather's footsteps. He is visitation pastor at Lakebay Community Church, recently received a BA in religion, has preached a few sermons, and is working toward a Bi-vocational ministry license.

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# Out & About

To see more Out & About photos, visit our web site at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com) and follow the Photo Gallery link. See more of your neighbors out and about, Key Peninsula scenes and happenings. The online gallery features web site exclusive photos!

Hugh McMillan was at the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce dinner and awards banquet at Canterwood Country Club Dec. 11, doing his usual with camera in hand when Derek Kilmer was introduced as the person who would hand out the Citizen of the Year award. As he listed off the many contributions of the recipient McMillan's face began to show his surprise. McMillan volunteers in many ways for both the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor communities, and his dedication to young people and their education in both communities is just one of many reasons the chamber chose him as the Citizen of the Year. Pictured is McMillan, Kilmer and Blythe Price, office manager for the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce.



*Photo courtesy of Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce*



El Sombrero gets a facelift as the workers create an authentic Mexican stucco façade for the restaurant in Key Center.

*Photo by Danna Webster, KP News*

## KP News 'Where in the World'



*Photo courtesy of Leonard Hill*  
Leonard Hill and his wife Cathy Stevulak live on Herron Island. The couple took their copy of the KP News with them to Berlin in September where they were visiting friends after a business trip to London. The photo was taken at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate.



Isabella Stonecipher spends a little time with Mrs. Claus during the photo op at Volunteer Park Dec. 11.

*Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News*