



Bowling, page 23

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Photo by Jerry Libstaff, Special to the KP News

A Bryde's whale washed up on the beach in Dutcher Cove. The closest home for Bryde's whales is the coast of California, and experts believe there are only about 12 of them living there.

Rare whale beached in Dutcher Cove

By Jerry Libstaff,
Special to the KP News

A deceased Bryde's whale was sighted floating in Case Inlet near Harstine Island Jan. 17, and Monday morning the body drifted into Dutcher Cove where it beached as the tide receded. Cascadia Research, a non-profit organization chartered to manage and protect threatened marine mammals was contacted. They sent representatives to investigate the animal, define the species and deter-

mine the cause of death.

A spokesperson for Cascadia verified that the whale was indeed a Bryde's whale (pronounced broodus) and is extremely rare for our area.

The male adult measured 40 to 50 feet and weighed about 13 tons. The team secured the body to prevent it from going further into the Cove during the night. At daybreak Jan. 18, the team moved the whale from the beach at high tide. With assistance of

(See WHALE, Page 26)

Not guilty plea in KP kidnapping case

Staff Report

A Key Peninsula man was arraigned in Pierce County Superior Court Jan. 13 and ordered jailed in lieu of \$100,000 bail after pleading not guilty to four criminal counts.

Pierce County prosecutors charged Justin Michael Smith, 23, with two counts of felony harassment, one count of fourth-degree assault and one count of obstructing a law enforcement officer.

SWAT teams and law enforcement from all over Pierce County descended upon Lake Holiday Jan. 12. Smith allegedly choked his wife and left the couple's residence with a weapon and their infant son. He fled in his Hummer, crashed it, and took off on foot into the forested area with the child at about 10:30 a.m.

According to police reports, the infant, 11 months old, was found unharmed in a wheelbarrow about 2 p.m. Smith was found a short time later with the help of the Puyallup K-9 unit and was treated for minor dog bites prior to being taken to the Pierce County Jail.

Initial reports stated that Smith was considered armed and dangerous, and both Vaughn Elementary School and Key Peninsula Middle School were in modified lockdown until deputies were able to locate Smith.

Traffic in and out of Lake Holiday was halted, and cars were searched. Only residents were allowed into the area.

(See KIDNAP, Page 26)

Garbage truck takes a dive



Photo courtesy of Chuck West

This American Disposal garbage truck careened down 4th Avenue in Home and landed in Puget Sound. The driver said he heard a "pop" at the top of the hill and the brakes weren't engaging.

By Sharon Hicks and Marsha Hart,
KP News

On the morning of Jan. 11 sisters Kathleen Tei and Joyce Dailey were sitting quietly in their living room when they suddenly heard a huge thump "much like a large wind gust but more so" said Tei. The sisters got up to investigate only to see a garbage truck in the water in front of their house. At the same time a rather shaken man was heading to their house. After stating that he was OK, he asked if one of them would call American Disposal to let them know what had just happened. The driver, Albert Warner, was invited in and told them he was just starting down the top of 4th Ave. when he heard a "pop" and realized he was gaining speed. The sisters stated that he told

them he had tried everything he could to slow down, including reverse; he knew he was out of control and had lost his brakes. Seeing nothing but a utility pole and water at the bottom of the hill he maneuvered the truck to the right to avoid the pole and jumped out at the corner as the vehicle careened through a corner of Kathleen and Joyce's yard, across "A" Street, over a bulkhead and about 40 feet into Von Geldern Cove.

According to a report from Key Peninsula Fire District 16, the water rescue team assisted the tow company by attaching cables to remove the truck from the water. Warner was uninjured. Pierce County Sheriff's Department is investigating the cause of the accident, and the Department of Ecology is investigating for any hazardous waste contamination in the water.

Proposed foster care facility sparks concern

By Marsha Hart, KP News

About 50 Key Peninsula residents packed a recent Community Council meeting to ask questions and voice concerns about a proposed development in Vaughn that would house foster children.

The discussion was continued until Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Vaughn Elementary School, when the owners can be present to answer questions. The project, Homestead at Alder Cove, is planned as a privately owned non-profit, 40-acre facility on Hall Road that will house up to 192 foster children. In a statement sent to the KP News, Sue and Kenneth Braaten, owners of the property, said, "This is not for children who have severe emotional issues, violent behavior, sexual misconduct or other deviant problems."

Amenities that are proposed for the site include: eight residences broken into three smaller pods for a maximum of 24 children per home; recreational and inspirational facilities; dining areas; administration building; swimming pool facility; theatre; gymnasium; vegetable and flower gardens; ball field and trails.

"My dream for these innocent victims is that they will have a safe, happy, and comfortable place to call home until they are adopted, graduate from high school, or return to their family. I want them to be able to always have a familiar home, and I want them to be surrounded by mentors and families who will encourage and support them,"

said Sue Braaten.

A permit to harvest five acres of timber on the property sparked concern in the community, however the project isn't even close to the ground-breaking, Braaten said. In order to do so, the land use permit must be granted, and that application hasn't been submitted.

Land use consultant and permit facilitator Eva Jacobson, owner of Still Water Planning in Gig Harbor, is working on the permit process for the project.

"Right now at the property there is no work being done. There is an application submitted to clear approximately 5 acres of land in the center of the property. Jacobson worked on the St. Anthony Hospital land permit process, she said, which took more than two years.

"Those are mostly alder trees (being harvested) and this is not even clearing for the project, but for the timber harvest which is allowed through reforestation and forest programs," Jacobson said.

In fact, the process for the application for a land use permit is only about half complete, she said. Currently they are gathering information and are in the investigative stage, and all of that costs money. The project was slowed down due to the economic downturn.

"The application process is very involved and it has to contain all of the State Environmental Policy Act require-

(See **HOMESTEAD**, Page 26)

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Dogs attack, kill pet goats, sheep

By Marsha Hart, KP News

The owners of two dogs that killed four animals in a fenced area at Brookside Veterinary Hospital have been located. The couple surrendered custody of the dogs to the Pierce County Animal Control, and a report is being forwarded to the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney for review.

The two dogs were believed to have been chasing a deer on the morning of Jan. 19. The deer had leapt into a fenced area at the veterinary hospital on 118th Ave. The adult male Australian Shepherd mix and St. Bernard mix were able to dig under the fence and have access to five animals. They went after all of them, said Dr. Lisa Woods, owner of the animal hospital.

Two pet goats were killed, the dogs injured a sheep so badly it had to be euthanized, and they badly injured another. They also killed the wild deer.

It was a scene too horrific for Woods, as she and her staff had experienced a similar tragedy two years ago. In that incident, two pit bulls killed a goat and a goose at the clinic, and injured another goat, Ralph. Ralph survived, and is the lone survivor of this attack. Woods isn't sure he will live.

"They just kind of give up when they're hurt," Woods said.

As she happened on the scene at about 7:30 a.m. Jan. 19, she said it was difficult to bear. One of the sheep had the flesh of its face torn off, and was still alive when Woods found her, but later died.

"It felt like my heart was ripped out of my chest again," she said.

Two years ago Woods lobbied for a tougher dangerous dog ordinance for Pierce County. She doesn't blame the dogs. As a veterinarian Woods knows the nature of dogs, and said all breeds are capable of this type of behavior.

"When multiple dogs team up they are like a pack of wolves and they kick into a primordial state," she said. "When people think, 'My dog would never do that,' it very well could."

She does blame the owners.

"Owning a pet is not your right, it is a responsibility and that falls on the pet owner," she said.

If records reveal that there have been calls to the owners for similar problems with the dogs, Woods said they could face even more consequences.

"If they were deemed aggressive and the owners haven't confined them, penalties will increase," she said.

According to the Pierce County Animal Control, the owners would be required to maintain a \$1 million insurance policy and meet other restrictions if their dogs have been officially deemed dangerous, and also



Photos courtesy of Pierce County Animal Control

This St. Bernard mix and an Australian Shepherd mix will be euthanized by the Pierce County Animal Control. Once dogs have killed an animal, they are deemed dangerous.

could be facing \$120 per violation or misdemeanor charges for the destruction of property (attacking animals that are owned.)

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EDITORIAL

During the last Key Peninsula Fire District 16 Commissioners' board meeting, a representative from a public relations firm was trying to persuade FD 16 to hire them in an effort to undo some damage to the district's image.

Though most would agree that FD 16 has suffered from damaging actions and remarks by various insiders throughout the years, clamming up and shutting out the media is not the answer.

One of the suggestions during this meeting was to eliminate all interviews to local media, and have all comments and answers to questions from such media come only from the public rela-

tions representative.

While this may sound like a great idea, effectively silencing the people who have in the past made what some believe to have been damaging remarks, it is in no way an answer to the problem.

The Key Peninsula is a unique community. It is small, tight-knit, and friendly.

While a PR firm may work for some large city's fire district, Key Peninsula residents expect to read stories that quote commissioners and fire fighters. Removing that open dialogue could create a worse scenario.

Some believe the levy has failed because of the infighting between fire commissioners. To ignore it and deliver some niceties from a PR person is not going to fly with the residents of

the Key Peninsula.

Shutting out the local media will make things worse. Residents of the Key Peninsula have been skeptical about the leadership of some commissioners, and by silencing the commissioners and delivering pat answers to tough questions, it will only serve to make the residents angry, more mistrustful, and suspicious about what is really going on within the fire district.

Only by trusting the local media with the information can public opinion of commissioners be repaired. The news media represent the public. Media observe, ask questions the public want answered and deliver information to them.

Owning up to mistakes, admitting when something has gone wrong, and

Some believe the levy has failed because of the infighting between fire commissioners.

providing information about how it will be made right again is the best way to repair the public's opinion of Fire District 16 commissioners.

By allowing open interviews with fire fighters, who are on the front lines and know the job, and commissioners to answer tough questions from reporters, you gain the respect of the public and provide open access to information that taxpayers demand.

Transparency will lead to trust.

Dogs belong at home

What happened at Brookside Veterinary Hospital is a wake-up call to all pet owners. The Key Peninsula is a very rural area, but even in the forested Key Peninsula the leash laws still apply. Allowing dogs to roam free is a bad idea that can turn into a nightmare for pet owners and others.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dogs bite about 4.5 million people each year. In 2006, more than 31,000 people had to undergo reconstructive surgery as a result of dog bites.

A seemingly friendly, mild-mannered dog can turn vicious once it has become part of a pack. And according to Dr. Lisa Woods, a veterinarian and owner of Brookside Veterinary Hospital, it can happen with any breed. It happened with a St. Bernard mix and an Australian Shepherd mix, two breeds that aren't typically in the news as dangerous breeds. These dogs dug under a fence, determined to kill what they were chasing — a wild deer. But once inside, they attacked at will, killing four animals and leaving another in critical condition.

Responsible pet ownership can stop these attacks.

By educating themselves about dog behavior, breed characteristics and adhering to leash laws, pet owners can help stop these tragedies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fire district needs leadership

If Mr. Yanity has information of five incidents of drug abuse at Key Peninsula Fire District 16 and has not called the board of commissioners into an executive session to make the full board aware of his enlightenment, he is not carrying out his duty as commissioner. If he has information and does not make it known he is placing the district at risk, the other firemen and citizens of this district in danger. It is time for the Pierce County Commissioners to investigate these statements by Mr. Yanity. If they are true, they should follow up. If not they should remove Mr. Yanity from his seat.

We saw the need for more fire departments, we passed a levy to pay for it and built them. Why would the commissioners do this with no master plan? For personnel cost of maintaining the new departments and programs for training, equipment plus cost overruns. Now we have no one manning any of the departments properly, not because of the firemen, because of poor planning, poor leaders, poor public participation. Did no one realize when these departments went on line they would require these

additional costs to operate? Now we are cutting services to levels below that of the service of where we were before the new departments were constructed including ambulance service.

Robert Elliot

Keep the trees

Here is my opinion regarding the killing of those trees along Olson Ave. I don't care if you like this opinion or not but here it is: Your decision is cruel. Those trees house and feed animals, give me shade in the summer, and gorgeous colors in the fall. Squirrels use them as their own highway in the tree tops so that they don't have to come down to the road and get smashed.

Warblers eat the microscopic mites on the leaves and just for laughs, the trees provide oxygen for us. If some idiot can't control his speed around the curves and goes flying off the embankment, it isn't the trees fault. Try slowing down. It's not rocket science. Not every square inch of earth should be scraped, cut down, pulverized to make my life better. I like the earth. It pleases me.

Suzy Meyer, Carney Lake

Removing trees won't make road safer

Being a property owners in Vaughn, my husband and I travel Olson road daily, and do not understand how

removing the trees will make the roadway safer. If anything, we believe removing the trees will make the hillside less stable, which will result in more of the hillside caving as it did a few years back. The plant material on the side of the road helps to stabilize the hillside. The trees have acted as a guardrail for many years. I believe it would be much smarter to use the funds to add guardrails to what currently exists without the removal of the trees.

You cannot imagine the impact removing trees is having on property owners in this area, to say nothing of the habitat for wildlife. I live in the lowlands in Vaughn and have been the recipient of all the excess water that flows from higher elevations as a result of logging of the trees.

We ask you to be considerate of those of us who are careful drivers and love the beauty of the drive from Vaughn to Key Center.

*Sincerely,
Waneen Post-Marks*

To submit a letter

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Election system reform highlight of luncheon

By Irene Torres, KP News

Several KP residents and elected officials attended the Gig Harbor Republican Club luncheon on Jan. 16 at the Inn at Gig Harbor. Guest speaker, Secretary of State Sam Reed, gave a detailed overview of the election reforms that have been implemented and funded by the legislature.

The most significant reform is a combined elections system for all 39 Washington counties. This system is designed to interface with databases for the Department of Corrections, the Washington State Patrol, the Administrator of the Courts, and the Department of Licensing.

This feature will allow the Secretary to compare voter registration records to eliminate duplication and fraud.

Upcoming events:

Feb. 2: 26th District Democrats general meeting in the Kitsap Room at the Givens Community Center in Port Orchard at 7:00 pm.

Feb. 13: 26th Legislative District Republican Caucus at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor at 9 a.m.

Feb. 22: Annual Pierce County Republican Party Lincoln Day Breakfast at Broadway Joe's in Lakewood. Phil Kiver, speaker.

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Wauna fire station closed, volunteers asked to fill in

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Fire District 16's Wauna station closed Dec. 11 after frozen pipes in the attic burst. Career and volunteer personnel have been moved south to the Home station.

"The sprinkler system and domestic water pipes in the ceiling froze and leaked about 150 gallons a minute, as far as we can calculate," said Fire Chief Tom Lique. Firefighters pulled down an estimated two tons of wet drywall which volunteers disposed of, said Lique. Power, water and heat were lost but no equipment or vehicles were damaged.

The department's insurance adjustor estimated the cost of repairs at \$20,000. Instead, the department wants to convert the apparatus bay to an open truss space like other Key Pen stations, improving air circulation to the plumbing, for an estimated \$15,000 payable by insurance.

But the station will not be staffed after repairs are made: "Volunteers that live up in that area will respond to that station, take the rigs and roll on calls," said Division Chief of Technical Services Chuck West. "It may in the future have volunteer residents again."

Consolidating staff in the Home station was planned for Jan. 1 to accommodate the department's new three person per shift minimum.

Previously, at least two career firefighters would be stationed at both Wauna and Home, together with any volunteers on duty, 24 hours a day.

"When you have three [career personnel] you need them all to be at one place together, you can't have one guy at a station alone without a [career] partner," said West. "We will save a little bit in facilities cost with reduced utility bills and wear and tear on the building

but that is secondary. The biggest saving will come in the reduction of personnel costs.

"Even with those cuts we had to borrow from our savings, so it's not sustainable into 2011," said West.

"We're adding four to six minutes or so to calls north," said C Shift

Battalion Chief Hal Wolverton. "The [Home] station is holding up. We had to move some lockers into the hallways, make room for more bunker racks. Our kitchen table had to be replaced with an office conference table and all the exercise equipment has been moved to 46 [Key Center station]."

"But down time around here gets a little crowded, when we have down time, that is," said firefighter/paramedic Rick Price.

Consolidating personnel to a single station conversely highlights FD 16's staffing shortage. National Fire Protection Association standards recommend two career personnel per aid unit and four per engine, which would make a minimum total of eight per shift for the Key Pen, said West.

However, the department can only assign seven career personnel for A and B shifts, and six for C shift. With injuries and illnesses, the reality is closer to four or five career staff working each shift.

Volunteers have been asked to step into the gap in staffing, said volunteer firefighter Doug Gelsleichten. "It's tough for most volunteers because people do have lives, they have full-time jobs, but they are expected to get six hours of training a month and five calls a month to maintain their volunteer status."

Gelsleichten has a fire science degree and EMT/B certification, and is qualified

(See FIRE, Page 9)

Key Pen Parks commissioners appoint board member

From a list of five applicants, Key Pen Parks commissioners appointed Mark Michel to fill the seat vacated by Elmer Anderson during the Jan. 11 meeting. Michel was sworn in that same night and will serve two years. The seat will be up for election in 2011.

Michel is a Lakebay resident, an Alaska Airlines pilot and served as president of the Evergreen Elementary PTA for two terms.

He served on the Volunteer Park Master Plan adhoc committee, and was part of the trails committee as well.

Drive-up post office boxes stolen, patrons asked to report losses

By Danna Webster, KP News

A blue metal mailbox that sat outside the Lakebay Post Office was found in a ditch along Herron Road a few days after it was stolen, according to Postmaster Steve Jorgenson. The Lakebay box wasn't the only one taken.

On Saturday morning, Dec. 26, Vaughn post office PTF Clerks, Sherrie Rondeau and Joe Abrego, were shocked to learn their drive-up mailboxes were stolen sometime during the Christmas holiday. Their Saturday morning routine was severely disrupted with calls to authorities and interviews with inspectors.

As part of the investigation, Rondeau checked with other Key Peninsula post offices and learned that Lakebay had suffered the same crime. However boxes at Lake Kathryn and at Capitol Lumber in Key Center were not stolen.

By Dec. 28, Vaughn had a new drop box to replace the stolen ones. It is double in size of the previous boxes and has shiny new nuts and washers.

Patrons who dropped off mail between the hours of 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 24 and 1:30 p.m. Dec. 26 should report to the Vaughn and Lakebay post offices. Vaughn Postmaster Joann Clark and Lakebay Postmaster Jorgenson have a form available at the post office for this incident. "Come in and see me, or my clerk, and get Form 2016," advises Clark. "The form gets people off the hook with their creditors for having their mail stolen," she says.

Notices have been posted at both post offices about reporting stolen mail. Jorgenson says no one has come forward with a report for the Lakebay branch. Notices are also posted offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the thief.

A neighbor to the Vaughn post office, Mike Christiansen, reported that he apparently was an eye witness. About 1:30 a.m. Dec. 26, he looked out his window to see why his dog, Molly, was growling and saw an older white Chevy long-bed truck parked at the mailboxes. He could hear the banging of a man hitting a box. His first inclination was that the man had maybe broken his mirror on a box and was angry enough to get out and kick it. When he learned from his next door neighbor and uncle, Don Anker, about the theft, he realized what he had witnessed. Both men found the incident hard to believe. "Who'd ever think somebody would be out stealing mailboxes," Anker wondered.

Christiansen said the driver left his lights on during the heist. "The time they were here and the time they were gone was less than five minutes," he said. Christiansen heard the truck pull away from the post office and head east toward the Key Pen highway. He believes the truck turned south on the highway.

Disbelief was the sentiment shared by the many patrons at the post office Saturday. They gathered around in the parking lot speculating about the inci-

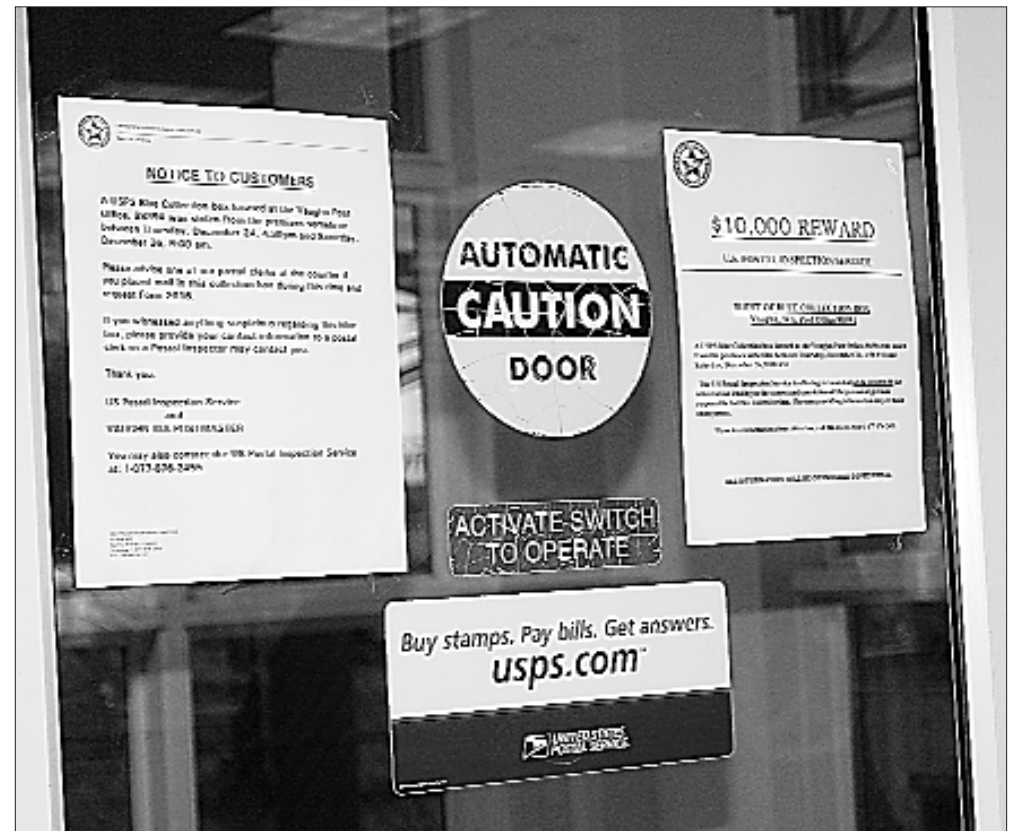


Photo by Danna Webster

A new drop off box was in place at Vaughn post office Monday, December 28. It appears double the size of the former boxes which were stolen Christmas night.

dent. Some drivers threw up their hands as they drove through the vacant drop-off driveway. One such driver rolled down his window and asked Jake and Tammy Jacobsen what happened to the mailboxes.

"Someone stole them," answered Jake Jacobsen and added, "They were kind enough to leave the nuts and washers." The driver shrugged and while closing his window called back, "Only on the Peninsula."

Postal clerk Abrego speculated the cause of the theft might be one of two reasons. Either the thief hoped for a lot of checks in Christmas cards or perhaps he reasoned there would be end of the


month payment checks in the boxes.

The theft is under investigation by Pierce County Sheriff Sergeant Brian Ward and Deputy Robert Larson. Their report has been forwarded to the Law Enforcement Support Agency (LESA) which will coordinate reports with federal agencies. "It is unknown how much mail was in the drop box(es)," the report reads. Mail theft is associated with the crime of identity theft. Other charges for this crime may include bribery, ransom, and embezzlement. Mail theft is a federal offense.

Key Peninsula News first reported this story on our Web site on Dec. 28. Visit us at www.keypennews.com.



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BRIEFS

news

Key Peninsula Council forum

The Key Peninsula Council Feb. 10 meeting will be dedicated to an information forum regarding a foster home project for the Vaughn area. The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. at the Vaughn Elementary school. KPC guests will include the owner of the Homestead at Alder Cove, local sheriff and fire officials, and county officials. The public is invited to attend. For information contact Cinda Baldwin at 884-1754 or email cinda-baldwin@centurytel.net.

Hundreds set to visit legislators for Arts Day

Olympia – Arts advocates from across the state will visit their legislators on Arts Day 2010, Feb. 2 to speak with them about arts and cultural issues. The Washington State Arts Alliance has coordinated Arts Day for 27 years, and

provides tools for advocates to participate. Area Team Captains coordinate the visits so the entire state is represented in Olympia and all legislators are visited.

For more information about Arts Day, or to learn more about WSAA's programs and activities, visit www.wsart-salliance.com or call 206-448-1909.

Census 2010 hiring on KP

The 2010 Census is hiring for the upcoming count, and applicants are being tested each week on the Key Peninsula. Census takers will work a temporary and flexible part time job, and the pay is \$17.50 per hour plus mileage. Call 313-0233 for more information.

Museum looking for photos

The Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum opens on Feb. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m., with a special display on whales in our local waters, fishing, crabbing, clam digging, etc around the Key Peninsula.

The board is looking for photos and stories about these experiences to include in their display.

If you have something to contribute, or materials you are willing to have copied,

please contact Joyce - 884-5403 or Leona - 884-3272.

Old local artifacts and especially stories and pictures of early pioneers, places and events are also good contributions for the museum.

Regular museum hours will be on Thursdays and Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. Other times can be arranged by appointment. There is no charge for the museum, but cash donations are always welcome.

Volunteers needed to paint homes

Pierce County residents who are senior citizens, or low-income residents with disabilities are eligible for the Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful program through Associated Ministries.

Volunteers from churches and civic organizations provide the service at no cost to homeowners. The paint is purchased with donated funds.

Deadline for application is May 1, and applicants must be at least 60 years old, or have a disability and be receiving disability income; own their home in Tacoma/Pierce County and be low income.

Volunteers paint only the exterior of

the home. Since the program began in 1985 volunteers have painted 1,902 homes. Last summer more than 1, 600 people volunteered with the effort. Five homes were painted on the Key Peninsula last year.

For an application call 385-3056, ext. 106, or visit www.paintbeautiful.org.


To form a volunteer work crew, call 383-3056, ext. 105.

Buy Local Directory coming to the KP

Buy local campaign is coming to the Key Peninsula. The Key Peninsula Business Association is dedicating their effort to support local businesses by establishing a directory of all businesses (members and non-members) on the Key Peninsula.

The directory will be published as a pullout section in the April edition of the KP News. Publication in the directory is free to all Key Pen businesses with a business license. Any business that wishes to be included in the directory should fill out and mail the KPBA form available in this edition or visit www.kpba.com.

Deadline is March 5.



Crawford's Chirp & Company has just opened a new location in Gig Harbor! We would like to extend an invitation to all bird and animal lovers to stop by our new location at 11717 Key Peninsula Highway, WA-302.

Crawford's is a bird, cat, dog, and wild animal supply store specializing in organic and all natural foods and treats. From seed bags to cans of pet food, stop in and see our selection. We also offer an array of beautiful hand-crafted pieces of garden art, bird houses, and wind chimes to make your yard an inviting space.

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Structural damage, traffic volume led to new bridge

By William C. Dietz, KP News

In the case of a serious earthquake the old five span Vaughn Bay bridge could have collapsed. The bridge, which was built in 1966, was determined to have some structural damage that required more than seismic retrofitting as first thought by county engineers.

"In 2002, Pierce County identified the Vaughn Bay Bridge as a seismically vulnerable structure....," Henry Gertje, Pierce County Engineering supervisor said. "That is, the bridge beams were not restrained for lateral or longitudinal movement and the beam seats, or supports, were not of sufficient size to accommodate the anticipated movements."

Gertje went on to explain that in the event of a major earthquake, or even a moderate earthquake in the wrong direction, the bridge beams could have slipped off their supports causing a catastrophic failure.

The new structure will consist of two 12-

feet-wide travel lanes and two 6-foot wide shoulders, which will replace the old five-span bridge.

As for why the new bridge is so heavy-duty Gertje points out vehicular traffic has increased in both volume and magnitude over the last 50 years, and "...the superstructure for the new bridge is more massive because it is spanning the entire channel with only one span. The previous structure accomplished the crossing using five spans in conjunction with four intermediate piers or supports. Due to environmental constraints, the intermediate piers were eliminated in the new design, resulting in a much more massive superstructure."

All of which makes sense. But some Key Pen residents may wonder why it was possible to replace the Vaughn Bay Bridge while the notoriously narrow Purdy Bridge continues to be a serious choke point.

"The State of Washington receives an annual allocation of bridge replacement

and rehabilitation money from the federal government," Gertje said. "The State then determines which State bridges will be replaced or rehabilitated. Depending upon the needs of the State and available funding, they allocate a portion of the federal funding for bridges under the jurisdiction of the cities and counties."

And that's where the approximately \$3 million required to replace the Vaughn Bay Bridge came from. But Gertje, who works for Pierce County, pointed out that the Purdy Bridge and SR 302 are under the State's jurisdiction. And because the Purdy bridge qualifies to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places the situation is much more complicated than construction of the Vaughn Bay Bridge. Meaning that the archeological, social, and environmental impacts of demolishing the bridge would have to be reviewed and resolved before such a replacement could be considered. Plus replacement of the existing Purdy Bridge would have to compete with other projects for limited funds.

Finally Gertje wanted to thank the traveling public and local residents on behalf of Pierce County Public Works. "People have been very patient," Gertje said. "And we really appreciate it."

(From FIRE, Page 5)

to drive an engine and ambulance. "I try to come in at least twice a week for 24s," he said. He is also looking for a job, since FD 16 isn't hiring.

"I'm trying to double the number of volunteers," said West. The department has about 30 volunteers "on the books" right now, but only between six and eight are regularly active and able to fight fires or drive equipment.

"We get a lot of applicants," said West. "The problem is I can't afford to even train them. I can't afford to put bunker gear on their backs. We had about 30 applicants this year. I'm going to end up taking five, because that's all we can afford."

"I am working on grant applications right now from FEMA that could help us," said West. "One is to rehire the [firefighter] position we're down. A separate grant would give us money to train and equip volunteers."

"We've figured it takes seven to nine volunteers to make up the activity level of one career person," said West, because of training requirements and volunteers' availability.

"And then once they're up and trained, we typically lose half" to other departments, said West.

"It's hard to come to work everyday and be motivated knowing that in August your future is in the hands of the citizens out here and that levy passing," said Price, referring to the EMS levy due for renewal by Key Pen voters later this year. "It weighs heavily on your mind. There's a lot of us that are testing to move out of the district and find another job."

Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of six stories on FD 16.

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Longbranch Improvement Club

Feast (or Famine) in Longbranch.

Feb 16 Feast or Famine

How much is enough? A Mardi Gras event to benefit KPCS Food Bank. Just like in the world, some will feast, some will be lucky to get a bowl of rice. Sponsored by the LIC, KPCS, KP Family Resource Center and the Home Port Restaurant. Featured speaker is Carrie Little, of Mother Earth Farms. 5:30 to 8:30 pm. \$25 tickets at \$1000. Sunnycrest Nursery or call 384-9157 before Feb. 8

Feb 17 General Meeting

Join your friends and neighbors for a potluck dinner and meeting. 6:30 pm in the LIC Clubhouse

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253 384-6322 for LIC information
253 384-9157 for event info or tickets
LIC Clubhouse at 4312 Key Pen Hwy S.
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www.longbranchimprovementclub.org



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KP Civic Center needs funds, members

By Marsha Hart, KP News

It was a tough year economically for most organizations in 2009, and the 2010 outlook isn't much better for the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

As a non-profit organization on the Key Peninsula, the civic center provides many opportunities for other groups who need a space for meetings, classes, and events, said president of the association, Bruce Macdonald.

"I think primarily we are faced with the annual dilemma at the civic center, and that is that our income just never quite matches up with our expenses," Macdonald said.

Each day the civic center spends about \$250 just to keep the doors open, he said, producing a budget of \$90,000 a year. And in 2009 there were a few unexpected expenses. The septic system needed to be replaced.

"The board feels very uncomfortable with increasing rent or fees," he said. "It seems antithetical to what we're trying to accomplish, which is to provide affordable multi-use space."

Flavors of Fall has been one of the most successful fundraising events for the civic center. It brought in just over \$50,000 about three years ago, Macdonald said.

"We split the money with Two Waters Arts Alliance, because we had significant help from them with the event," he said. "This time we're going to do it on our own. The civic center really needs the money."

The Crab Feed, Winter Warm-up and Chili Cook-off have been big hits with the community as well.

The Crab Feed is this month, and Macdonald said it's a good idea to show up early. "Last year the event was so popular we ran out of crab," he said. "Basically we just want people to come together and enjoy some food and each other's company. The crab feed also includes spaghetti, salad and bread.

"These events have grown throughout the years, and I expect they will continue to grow."

The civic center hosts the Liveable Community Fair, a chance for the community to see what services and organizations are on the Key Peninsula. That event is in conjunction with the Fuschia Society sale.

"It's an opportunity to display what the civic center does so well and somewhat uniquely in our community," said Macdonald. "We provide event space that is pretty versatile. There aren't too many places that have low-cost rentals on facilities that include a commercial kitchen and gym space, private room space and office space for some organizations."

The Key Peninsula News office and the History Museum are housed at the civic center. Churches hold services at the civic center, and whether residents need a space for a reception or a funeral, the civic center has space that can be rented for any number of events.

The board also needs new members, fresh ideas and voices and new energy, he said. Anyone in the community can join, or help out with civic center sponsored events.

For more information about the Key Peninsula Civic Center, or to help with the events, call 884-3456, or visit the Web site at www.kpciviccenter.org.

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Lavender Park offers dreams, antiques

By Danna Webster, KP News

Key Center has a new business called Lavender Park. It is located on Rita O'Dell's farm at 9310 Cramer Road, a short distance north from the flashing light intersection. Hand-made soaps, lavender seeds, flowers, wreaths and dream pillows are among the products made from O'Dell's lavender gardens. The dream pillows are small pouches that slip inside pillow covers and are supposed to evoke certain types of pleasant dreams, according to O'Dell.

"The jury is out. I have people trying them out," she said.

The pillows are made from old quilt covers, filled with recipes for specific types of dreams that include such ingredients as lavender, rosemary, and sweet hops.

"I enjoy making them and selling them for reasonable prices so costumers will come back for more," says O'Dell.

The lavender products are featured in a small shop off the main house that brims with antiques. O'Dell had a shop with antiques in Puyallup and has never stopped adding to her collection.

"I had to get back in my antique area," she said. First, however, is the lavender farm. She plans to grow herbs and flowers this spring and summer and hopes to have products for the Key Center farmers market this season.

"I want to develop the farm. I want it to be a working farm," she said.

The farm and shop are open to the public on Saturday afternoons during the winter months. For information contact 253-884-3297.

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Spring Fling

Two Waters Arts Alliance invites you to our signature event on the evening of Saturday, March 6th at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Rd. KPN in Vaughn, for our 8th annual Art Exhibit/Sale.

The event will open its doors from 7pm to 10pm and will include Live Music by Jazz Musette, a Student Art Exhibit, Silent Auction, hors d'oeuvres and no host bar.

Announcing a CALL TO ARTISTS and STUDENTS for Spring Fling artwork. See e-newsletter on TWAA website, www.twowaters.org, for details.

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You are important to TWAA. As we expand our programming for the community and our schools, we have a growing need for volunteers and donations. Please contact us at twowaters@hotmail.com to volunteer or go to www.twowaters.org to donate. TWAA is an all-volunteer organization. *Beyond the Borders* is around the corner!

KeyFest taking shape

By Kelly Maxfield, KP News

Get ready for a new tradition to launch this summer on the Key Peninsula. After a one-year hiatus, the Key Peninsula Fair will return in a new format that is being called KeyFest. The inaugural event will take place Aug. 27 and 28 at Volunteer Park.

The Key Peninsula Fair Association decided to forego holding the fair in 2009 and embark upon creating a new vision that would better honor the individuality of Key Peninsula citizens. The previous format that ran from 2001 to 2007 was becoming too commercial and was losing sight of small town appeal.

KeyFest will honor the rich diversity of the peninsula while featuring local artists, crafters, farmers, businesses, and residents as the main participants and vendors of the festival. The idea is to create a family friendly environment that fosters learning, fun, and interaction with fellow community members and neighbors.

KPFA president Tom Boardman took office in December 2009 and is working hard with other board members to bring the vision to life. Tom has been a member of the association nearly four years and is taking over the reins from outgoing president John Biggs. "I want to encourage local organizations and artists to become part of this event. We want to feature our citizens and make this their festival," Boardman said.

John Biggs is serving as vice president this year and was the main advocate for change in the fair format. "Because the focus is on the Key Peninsula as a great place to live and play, we want KeyFest to become a vehicle that will bring all of us together," Biggs said.

The planning for the August festival continues, but a large list of event ideas is

forming. A community parade, a 5-K fun run, hayrides, community tug-of-war, dunk tank, pie eating contest, and water balloon wars are all on the list. Instead of a carnival, there will be field games such as a coin scramble, beanbag toss, three-legged sack races, slug or crab races, darts, and horseshoes. All games will be low-cost and offered by community organizations.

KPFA board member Kris Sherman will present her personal petting zoo and is organizing a tent that will feature flowers, vegetables, homemade jellies, pies and much more. Local clubs will be asked to judge entrants and ribbons will be awarded. Other contests may include best-dressed dog, best use of a blue tarp, sandal fashion show, and ugliest dog or cat. The ever-popular fishing tank will be stocked for youth anglers and organizers are hoping to present a firefighting competition and display of skills. The ideas are endless and the only roadblock is finding enough volunteers to fulfill the vision.

Food concessions will be provided by a cooperative agreement with Volunteer Park's concessionaire and local organizations and churches. No outside food vendors will be used in the food court. A beer garden will be open both days and a dance floor will be located outside the beer garden so all ages may partake in the evening music presentations.

Vendors, participants, and volunteers can visit the KeyFest web site at www.keyfair.org for more information and applications. Priority will be given to local vendors and residents to display their wares. Local vendors will be offered the opportunity to market at KeyFest on both days for the low price of \$50. Vendors based outside the Key Peninsula are will be offered both days for \$110.

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Wine tasting shop opens in Allyn

Allyn couple provides unique tasting room and wine shop

By Danna Webster, KPNews

Top of the Cork is one of six new businesses to open in Allyn last year. Co-owners Diane Aries and George Kenny opened their wine tasting room Thanksgiving week. It is snuggled

between Bear in a Box, the store affiliated with George Kenny's Chainsaw School of Woodcarving, and Marty's Music Store on highway SR 3. The shop features northwest wines with special focus on the promotion of small local wineries. There is a wine tasting event every weekend.

"Though we don't have our own winery, we want to become an outlet for the local vineyards," Kenny said. The shop is a new business for Kenny whose woodcarving career extends over a decade.

As evidence of the quality vineyards in the northwest, Kenny shows a current copy of Wine Spectator magazine. The issue features the top 100 wines in the United States. He spreads the magazine open on top of an all natural-wood tasting bar to the page rating Columbia Crest 2005 cabernet sauvignon as number one in the country. That is why Columbia Crest and a variety of Oregon and Washington wines stock the shelves of Top of the Cork. The store offers wines

at mid-range prices from \$12 to \$50.

Aries and Kenny learned their new trade under the tutelage of Darwin Dunker of Poulsbo. He has formal training in the wine industry and worked for several years at Willa Kenzie Estate wines in Oregon.

"Dunker taught us how to present, what wines to get. He comes on weekends and does special events," Kenny says.

The owners are also assisted in the store with the computer skills of Aries' sister, Judy Butler. Butler is developing the Website which will offer discounts, free tasting with friends and special group events. The sisters are comfortably at home working in the Allyn community. They are both graduates of Shelton High School.

The winter hours for the tasting room are Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The store is also open Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. About the end of March, they will extend the store hours.

For information call 360-275-5657 or email gknwman@yahoo.com.



Photo by Danna Webster

Shop co-owner, George Kenny, shows a bottle of popular local wine made in Grapeview. His new wine tasting shop has opened in Allyn.

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For class content, email carleswainston@hotmail.com



COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Feb. 1- Open swim

Open swim exercise programs (not family swim time) offered Monday-Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Easter Seals Camp Stand By Me, in the heated indoor pool. Cost is \$4.25/session with a punch card available for 10 sessions. Drop-ins are welcome. Contact 884-2722.

Feb 1 – Travel club meets

Domoni Glass presents a free program on her travels to Tahiti at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Claudia Loy also speaks about her recent New Zealand trip. 884-3937 or 884-4647

Feb. 2-Swimming

Easter Seals Camp Stand By Me offers open swimming, in the heated pool, from 8- 9 a.m. and water aerobics from 9:20-10:20 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$4.25/session paid monthly. Life guard is present. Contact Donna Daily, 884-4473

Feb. 2, 9, 16- Baby time

Baby Explorers presented at 11 a.m. for infants 0-24 months at the Key Center Library. Children must be accompanied by a care giver. 884-2242

Feb. 3, 10, 17- Family time

Family story time presented at 11 a.m. for families with preschool children at the Key Center Library. Children must be accompanied by a care giver. 884-2242

Feb. 4- KP museum open

The KP Historical Society Museum opens from 1-4 p.m. with special displays about life in the waters around the KP. The museum, located at the civic center, will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays. The museum is always seeking artifacts and contributions. The museum is free, but cash donations are welcome.

Feb. 4-Fuschsia club meets

The Fuschsia Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Call Ginnie Aardal, 884-9744

Feb. 11- Forager speaks

Langdon Cook, author of “Fat of the Land: Adventures of a 21st Century Forager,” tells of his experiences living off the land and sea in both the rural and urban Northwest. This free talk is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library, in conjunction with the Pierce County Reads Program, at the Key Center Library at 7 p.m. Donations to the Key Peninsula Food Bank encouraged. 884-2242

Feb. 11-15-Smile week

During national Give the Kids a Smile week, dentists in Pierce County provide free dental care for those who qualify. Pre-registration is mandatory and space is limited. Untreated tooth decay is painful, unsightly and makes it hard for kids to eat, sleep and pay attention in school. Call Pierce County Dental Society at 253-272-1101

Feb. 13- Valentine dance

KP Lutheran Church sponsors a 60s Disco Valentine Dance for ages 18-27 from 8-12 p.m. at McColley Hall. Tickets are \$5. Wear your best 60s outfit; music and refreshments available. 884-3312

Feb. 14 - Love duets

Bring your loved ones to the Key Center Library and celebrate Valentine’s Day with Norm Hollingshead, popular Seattle Opera lecturer, as he explores opera’s most beautiful love songs. This free presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library at 2 p.m. Donations to the Key Peninsula Food Bank encouraged. 884-2242

Feb. 15-19-Art camp

Sticks & Stones Art Camp presented by Two Waters Art Alliance and Key Pen Parks for students in first-fifth grade. Camp is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and will cost \$95/per student. This is a hands-on experience creating nature-based projects and teaches the basic study of flora and fauna by using materials inspired by nature. The instructor, Key Peninsula native Roshni Robert, lives and works in Home. Space is limited to 20. Pre-register with Chad, 884-9240 or Chad@keypenparks.com

Feb. 16- Feast or famine

This is an annual Mardi Gras event, which benefits the KPCS Food Bank, held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at LIC. The featured speaker is Carrie Little from Mother Earth Farms. Feast or Famine is sponsored by the Longbranch Improvement Club, KP Family Resource Center, KP Community Services and the Home Port Restaurant. Tickets are \$25/person. Contact 884-9157

Feb. 17- EMP visit

Key Pen Parks and Children’s Home Society sponsor a trip for kids ages 12-15 to the Experience Music Project in Seattle. Cost is \$16. EMP captures and reflects the essence of rock ‘n’ roll, its roots in jazz, soul, gospel, country, and the blues and its influence on hip-hop, punk, and other genres. The trip will depart from Volunteer Park; be there by 8:30 a.m. and bring a sack lunch. Return is approximately 4 p.m. Participants must be registered for the EMP trip by Feb. 10; get registration forms online or at the park office. A minimum of 9 participants are required. Call Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

Feb. 18-Community forum

The Mustard Seed Project’s third Thursday Community Forum from 10 a.m.-noon held at the Key Center Library. This month’s focus is Community Creative Thinking: “Visualize Ideal Aging on the Key Peninsula.” Participants

should bring their ideas of programs needed to enhance aging in place or to meet the needs of aging parents or to create a “senior utopia.” Ideas about classes, programs, services, housing, etc will be shared and the outcomes from this communal creative thinking session will be used to develop plans for the future. 884-9814 or ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org

Feb. 22-Park meetings

The Key Pen Parks Board of Commissioners meets twice in February and March. The first meeting is the regularly scheduled meeting (Feb. 9) and the second meeting is a study session at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22. All meetings are at Volunteer Park. 884-9240.

Feb. 26- Diversity meetings

The KP Council Diversity Committee hosts two meetings from noon-1 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. The committee will promote diversity on the Key Peninsula with partners on the KP, the community and guests by celebrating National Black History Month. All citizens are encouraged to join and support this new grassroots committee. Refreshments provided. 255-9713.

Feb. 27-Edible plant program

Ranger Dan Christian leads a walk starting at 2 p.m. at Penrose State Park. Participants learn about local edible plants and spot all sorts of healthy greens for free. Limit of 15 folks, so register early. Meet in the big parking lot. Register w/Dan, 884-2514

March 10- Adult trip set

Key Pen Parks offers a self-guided tour of the Washington State History Museum for those 18 and older from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The museum features interactive exhibits to learn about Washington’s unique people and places. After the museum visit, participants

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To submit an event

To submit an event for the Community Works calendar, please email to news@keypennews.com, or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394. Briefs must be submitted by the 15th of the month.

travel to the Old Spaghetti Factory for lunch (bring lunch money). The trip departs from Volunteer Park; be there by 9:15 a.m. Participants must pre-register by March 3. Cost is \$40 and 5 to 7 people are needed. Contact Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

March 14- Market vendors wanted

The KP Farmers Market meets from 4-6 p.m. at the Key Center Library. This meeting is for interested volunteers and vendors, including farmers -large or small, crafters, food producers, and those participating in full or a partial season during the 2010 market. Call 884-1088 or kpfarmersmarket.org

March 29-April 2- Spring break camp

Key Pen Parks sponsors a "Theater on the Key" Drama Camp during spring break for children in grades 3-5. Camp is held in the Volunteer Park

Concession building daily from 9-12 a.m. The accumulative project is the performance for family and friends of "Cinderella Outgrows the Glass Slipper" at 1 p.m. on April 2. The camp director is Faith Higgins, who is trained in opera and classical voice and also acts locally. The camp costs \$95 and registration deadline is 4 p.m. on March 25. A minimum of ten and maximum of 20 is needed to hold camp. Contact Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

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 meet

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

Thursdays- Senior Society meets

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

OFF THE KEY

Feb. 1- Chorus practice begins

The Peninsula Community Chorus begins practice for the spring concert from 7-9 p.m. at the Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way. There are no auditions; all are welcome. 858-9446

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22- Blood bank

The blood bank will be at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. It will also be at St. Anthony's Hospital, in the Smalling Education Center, on Feb. 9 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Feb. 6, 7, 13, 14- Matinees presented

Encore! Youth Theater, in conjunction with the Academy of Performing Arts, presents weekend matinee performances at 2 p.m. of "The Magical Land of Oz" written by Tim Kelly with music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur. This energetic musical production is appropriate for all age groups. All tickets are \$7 and are available immediately prior to the show at the theater located at 6615 38th Avenue Northwest. Seating is festival seating, no reservations, so arrive early to assure seats. All performers, with the exception of Aunt Em, will be played by actors 7-18. 858-2282

FEBRUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Lions Club, Feb. 3 & 17, 6 p.m. social, 6:35 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting, KP Civic Center
- Key Pen Parks, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex; Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. study session
- Fire District 16, Feb. 9 and 23, 3 p.m. at meeting room, Key Center Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Council, Feb. 10, 7 p.m. Forum at Vaughn Elementary
- KP Civic Center Board, Feb. 11, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room
- Peninsula School District Board, Feb. 11, 6 p.m., regular meeting, district office.

Thursdays-Lakebay writers

The Lakebay Writers meet from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-3931

Saturdays-Writers meet

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

Feb. 17

Gig Harbor Republican Women have NO meeting today. Instead they join WFRW's Day at the Capitol.

A meeting is scheduled with state legislators at 11 a.m. in the Columbia Room of the Legislative Building in Olympia. At 2 p.m. is the group photo in the rotunda and then attendees visit the offices of their elected officials. For more information, www.ghrwomen.org

Feb. 18

In preparation for the Farmers Market season, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department will hold an information session from 10 a.m. to noon. The session will cover guidelines, fees, and applications.

3629 South D St., Tacoma, 98418. Katie Lott 789-3577.

Key Nation

It is dawn on the Key Peninsula. I know this because a woodpecker is banging its head against the side of my house. What at first I took to be gunshots or a string of firecrackers exploding is merely a Northern Flicker declaring his love for his territory, his mate, and our siding. Then comes another explosion: our 6-year-old kicking open his bedroom door followed by the daily full voiced inquiry, "IS IT A SCHOOL DAY TODAY AGAIN?" He does homework over oatmeal, or under oatmeal as it were, using the worksheet as a place mat. He fills in blanks and answers simple questions. One directs, "Describe your favorite color." "RAIN," he writes.

We wait together for the school bus on the side of a road walled in by evergreens. I drink coffee while the boy demonstrates the many uses of pine needles, red ants, or gravel. The bus emerges from the tunnel of trees and snaps open its doors at the same time every day. I reset my watch as the boy climbs aboard.

Later I am reading and being read to

Ted Olinger KEY NATION



at a local school. A disheveled third grader finishes his breakfast and drops into the chair next to me dragging a book on beetles or dinosaurs or quasars. I decide to be inspirational and joke, "Pull yourself together man, you look like you slept in your clothes."

His eyes well up and he says, "I did sleep in my clothes." I ask the teacher what more I can do to help him and his classmates. "Don't leave," she says.

In the afternoon I sit at a T-Ball game watching a baseball roll unconcerned across an infield while the 5- and 6-year-old players point and tell each other what to do about it. It's a game one can comprehend instantly but spend a lifetime watching. Every child hits, every child runs, every team wins. The same thing happens in every game but never

in the same way.

It's like reading the same book over and over again only to discover a new journey to the same ending every time.

Occasionally work pulls me across the Purdy Spit and the Narrows Bridge, and then over a larger span from SeaTac to some distant city. Houses are built closer together than trees grow. Yards, where they exist, are overwhelmed by barriers. I sit at tables ringed by people telling each other how to do their jobs. I begin to recall what it was like to live in that world instead of the accidentally unseparated island nation that is the Key Peninsula. I forget the color of rain.

At home in the evening a neighbor emerges from the brambles, bringing me a half empty bottle of homemade raspberry wine. "Where's the first half?" I ask. "It was a long walk," he says. We sit on the deck and sample his work. Forty or 50 crows glide like shadows across the twilight sky to their nearby roost, all silent to protect its location. "Crows are notoriously proud and possessive of where they live," I point out, adroitly. "So is everyone else on the Key Pen," says my neighbor.

Reflections



Photo by Mackenzie Mills

The third place photo in the Key Peninsula Middle School 2010 "Reflections" contest went to Mackenzie Mills. See story with winners on page 19.

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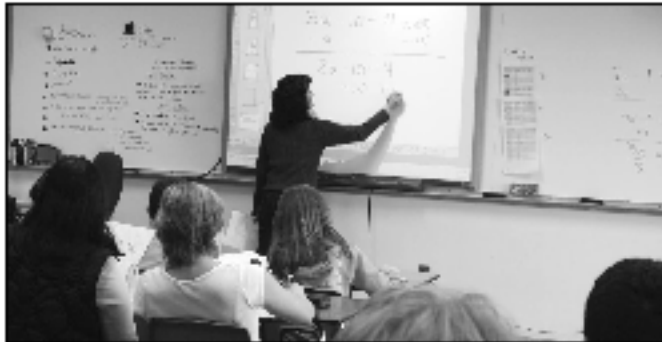
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School District Pilots New Math, Social Studies Materials

Peninsula School District is in the process of adapting a new social studies curriculum for elementary schools and new mathematics for eighth grade, and teachers throughout the district are piloting the materials in the classroom.

The new social studies curriculum for grades third through fifth will not only create consistency district wide but also upgrade and resupply materials for the first time in about two decades.



Kopachuck Middle School math teacher Anne McCreland is among the teachers field testing the new eighth-grade materials.

Social studies include world cultures in third grade, Washington state history in fourth grade and U.S. history in fifth grade.

The materials that are being field tested are based on the newly required classroom-based assessments and will provide teachers with the support they need, says Amy Nelson, PSD director of assessment and accountability. A committee comprised of teachers from all the elementary schools studied best practices and prioritized needs to select the best materials, then presented them at an open house.

"The curriculum provides good resources for teachers and it aligns with state GLEs (grade-level expectations)," Nelson says.

The field testing new mathematics eighth grade materials follows the successful use last year in high schools as well as the adoption this fall of a math program for struggling middle school students. The materials being field tested provide for a better transition between middle and high school math, says Amy Barber, math specialist for the district.

"When we looked at performance expectations for new math requirements, they were sufficient for sixth and seventh grade but not for eighth," Barber says. "We looked at the standards and found materials to match them."

The new math materials provides extensive online support for parents as well as better preparing those students who plan to take standardized college tests. "We're getting a lot of positive feedback from parents," Barber says.

Partners in Learning

Peninsula School District teachers, Tacoma Community College staff, Gig Harbor Peninsula Area Chamber of Commerce members, and the Key Peninsula business district provide support for our students to learn basic business and life skills for becoming productive successful citizens through the Junior Achievement Program. The annual Partners in Learning event is part of the kick-off meeting for the school district staff in August. It gives the teachers the rare opportunity to visit the local businesses to discover services that are available to them in our community. Funds raised during this event enable our elementary and middle school students to annually participate in financial literacy offerings at J.A. World.

Coming in March, May & June

As part of its outreach effort to staff, parents and community members, the Peninsula School District will sponsor Superintendent Forums open to the community. These sessions will be unstructured and will allow community members to raise issues and ask questions pertinent to the Peninsula School District. The meetings will be held at school sites to afford community members the opportunity to visit their neighborhood schools and better understand their school system.

The evening will be hosted by Superintendent Terry Bouckard will rotate throughout the District's middle schools to afford maximum opportunity for participation. All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end by 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

March 15, 2010	Harbor Ridge Middle School
May 4, 2010	Key Peninsula Middle School
June 1, 2010	Kopachuck Middle School

At A Glance

Anyone may speak at Board business meetings. The Board also accepts written testimony, either delivered or mailed to the District Administration Office. Communications addressed to the Board are distributed to all Board members.

February Events

- 2 District Jazz Festival: All middle and high school jazz bands from 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at Peninsula High School.
- 9 District Choral Festival: All schools from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill.
- 11 School Board Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at District Office.
- PHS Band-O-Rama: Key Peninsula Middle, Harbor Ridge Middle and Peninsula High School 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at PHS.
- 15-19 President's Day and Mid-winter Break—no school.

Board Members 2009-2010

Five citizens serve on the Peninsula School District Board of Directors, each representing one of the districts that make up the school district. They are elected for four-year terms. Members of the Board of Directors are volunteers.

District 1

Matthew Wilkinson, Vice President
253-884-1128

District 2

Wendy Wojtanowicz
253-858-6969

District 3

Jill Guernsey
253-851-6402

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Jill Uddenberg, President
253-265-1545

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John Earl
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Susan Hoover
253-857-3304

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253-857-3304

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Cinda Baldwin
253-857-3304

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Photo by Kelson Mills

First place photography winner: "Sunset Vaughn Bay Bubbles" by Kelson Mills.

Students receive 2010 PTA arts awards

By Karen Lovett, KP News

"Reflections" is a local, state and national PTA art contest. The theme this year was "Beauty Is..."

YOU decide what "Beauty is..." means to YOU and how to interpret it artistically.

The contest was open to 6th, 7th and 8th graders and Key Peninsula Middle School held their Reflections Awards Night Jan. 12, where artwork was displayed. All participants

received a Special Recognition Certificate and ribbon.

The judging panel was made up of Key Peninsula writers, dancers and musicians, and artists from the Two Waters Arts Alliance.

Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category, and all participants will have their picture taken for the KPMS yearbook. First place winning entries will be sent to the State Reflections Chair, and possibly move on to the state level of competition.

There were four categories in which students entered projects: Visual arts, Photography, Dance and Literature.

Winners were: Visual Arts 1st-Dakotah Carr, 2nd- Sarah Kashuba, 3rd-Kelson Mills.

Dance 1st-Mackenzie Mills

Literature 1st-Nicholas Bosch, 2nd-Tre Starks, 3rd- Karissa Talent.

Photography 1st-Kelson Mills 2nd-Kelson Mills 3rd-Mackenzie Mills

Cash prizes were donated by the KPMS PTSA. Galaxy Theater, Dairy Queen and McDonalds donated prize coupons.

More photos at keypennews.com.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Special Olympics Coaches

By Karen Lovett, KP News

When Jamie Osuna suggested that her sons Danial and Davin should find volunteer work to help out in the community, the twins had no difficulty choosing sports coaching. They never played organized team sports themselves in school, but rain or shine, they shot hoops together for years at home and then played with friends at City Park in Gig Harbor. So the prospect of coaching the Special Olympics was the perfect match. They work with the teams through the three seasons of soccer, softball and basketball.

Their soccer team, the Gig Harbor Hornets, has more than 20 athletes ranging in age from 16 to 49. They won the regional competition at Mt. Tahoma this year, competing with teams from all over the state during one week. They went on to compete at the State Special Olympics at Fort Lewis in May. The participants stayed in the army barracks overnight. The girls and women fell asleep early in their barracks, while the boys and men stayed up late talking and text-messaging on their cell-phones. The green team won the gold and the black team the silver. The couple of months of two-hour practices every week had paid off.

Art Stevenson, whose daughter Dayna is one of the Special Olympics athletes, is the head coach. Steve Floyd and his daughter Elizabeth, a part-time Special Ed teacher, are also volunteer coaches. The number of coaches allows them to concentrate on players who need the most help to raise them up.

New members receive personal attention from the coaches who encourage them to learn by watching their more experienced teammates. They generally blend in quite quickly. An obstacle course tests the skill of the players and they are divided up according to their abilities. Most of the athletes play every year, so they have become familiar with each other to become well-honed teams. The Gig Harbor team is a totally special needs team, but they even beat unified (mixed special-needs/non-special-needs) teams.

Soccer ended in May and then the Gig Harbor All-stars softball team took over. Baseball season ended in mid-August.

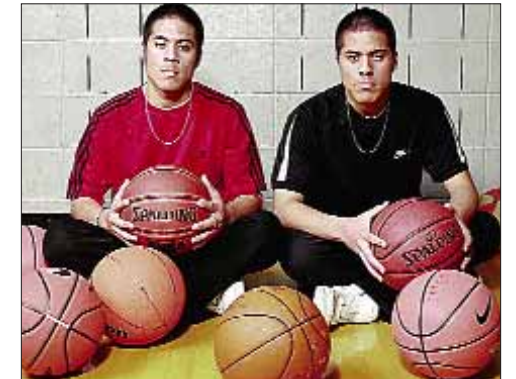


Photo by Karina Whitmarsh, KP News

Danial and Davin Osuna volunteer in the Key Peninsula community in many ways, including the Special Olympics. The two coach basketball, and also work with soccer and softball teams.

Now we are in the midst of basketball season. The so-far unnamed team made up of about 30 men, women, boys and girls practices at Goodman Middle School in Gig Harbor on Monday nights from 6-8.

The twins wear different clothes and shoes and work with different athletes so team members can distinguish Danial from Davin.

According to Danial, "Working with Special Needs athletes is the most fun volunteer job. It gives you the best feeling. They run up and give you a hug or a pat on the back. It's a very satisfying feeling being part of their life — almost like family. There is no better place to help."

Besides coaching, the boys also volunteer loading and unloading sacks of Key Peninsula Newspapers.

The 18-year-old twins have set high goals. They both love physics and have always wanted to fly.

Danial is enrolled at Tacoma Community College and plans to transfer to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz. to acquire a degree in aeronautical engineering. Davin is headed to Cloverpark Vocational Technical Institute for a professional pilot's degree.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Special Olympics, or if you have a Special Needs family member who would like to compete, call Gig Harbor Special Olympics manager Cheri Floyd, wife of Coach Steve Floyd at 253 857- 7645.

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A twist on pinewood derby



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Very serious but friendly Cub Pack 222 Tigers Nolan Bone and Andrew Alegrete give their all puffing through straws aimed at the sails of their competitive "Raingutter Regatta" vessels.

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

With November's last gasp, 65 Cub Scouts, leaders, parents, and siblings of Boy Scout Cub Pack 222 gathered in the Key Peninsula Civic Center to discuss and plan the group's impending winter campout. They were also there to participate in another of the most exciting things Cubs can be involved with: The Raingutter Regatta.

This is the third year of the Cub Scout sanctioned event, said Cubmaster Tim Calhoun.

"It is a simple competition that the scouts have a lot of fun with. Boat kits are available at the Scout Store in Tacoma; the gutters were donated to the pack; and the fun is enjoyed by all."

Cubs cheer one another on as they huff and puff, blowing their paper-sail-ensconced vessels the length of the gutters to the finish line.

Calhoun explained that Tiger Scouts are 1st graders and wear orange colored hats and neckerchiefs, 2nd graders are Wolf Scouts and wear yellow hats and neckerchiefs, Bear Scouts are 3rd graders and wear blue hats and neckerchiefs, and 4th and 5th graders are year one and year two Webelos scouts respectively and wear multicolored hats and neckerchiefs.

"I like all of the cool boats," said Cub Daniel Schurr, and fellow Cub Ben Goins said, "I like the rain gutter regatta because you get prizes and a badge."

Cub Nolan Bone was proud that, "my dad helped me paint my boat silver because it is one of my favorite colors."

"I like the rain gutter regatta because everyone makes boats to race," said Webelos Scout Nicholas Wiklund.

To Cub Justin Pasin, "It's more fun than pinewood derby because you actually have to power the boat yourself."

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KP GED program offers freedom, key to future

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Inside one of the meeting rooms of the Home Fire Station a group of six were working on algebra, another group sat discussing history, and others worked individually at other tables in the room.

A free General Education Degree program is allowing Key Peninsula residents to make a change in their lives. The program was started about nine years ago through Tacoma Community College, and fundraising efforts such as the Key Peninsula Business Association's annual dinner auction, and the Gig Harbor Garden Tour help fund the scholarships.

"There are people in our class, who if they had to pay for it could not afford to get the GED," said Dale Skrivanich, a tutor for the course at the fire station.

The sandwich board sign that stands at the entrance to the fire station has been the best advertising, said John Ellickson,

instructor for the program. Currently there are 25 students enrolled. Each one has a unique story.

"This is the best class," said Jessica Sleeman, a 31-year-old mother of two who lives in Longbranch. She wasn't focused on school as a teenager, but knows having a GED is the key to her future. "This will give me the job I want. I want to go into medical billing."

Circumstances are a bit different for Shadrach Detloff, a 16-year-old self-taught musician.

"I wasn't doing so hot in school," he said.

It wasn't that he couldn't do the work, he said, it was that he felt the whole process was unnecessary. It led to boredom, and ultimately a drop in grades. That caused problems at home.

"I was being kicked out of the house I was living in so I didn't have a place to stay. This way I can get the degree quickly and can get on with my life."

Once Lance Phelps, 17, fell in with the wrong crowd at school and got behind on his studies, he said he felt so far behind he couldn't catch up. He just moved to the Key Peninsula last summer, and said he hopes to go on to a program at a local college in auto body and welding.

And Carrie Kegher, 17, has been home-schooled all her life.

"I'm tired of being stuck at home doing the work by myself, and I'm tired of school and just want to get it done," she said.

The course at the fire station is the only satellite GED course offered through TCC. All others are on TCC campuses.

All of the fees for the course and testing are covered. Each student must pass five tests, math, reading, writing, social studies and science to earn the GED.

Each student can learn at his or her own pace, receive specialized tutoring from volunteers with the program, and come and go as they please. The scholarship pays for the cost of the test, and all of the materials, said Barb Schoos, a volunteer with the program.

"The state used to match the funds and the state will not match them in the

future," Schoos said. "When I first started doing fundraising, the Gig Harbor Rotary gave us a big chunk of money. Last year the Key Peninsula Business Association gave us \$500 plus the opportunity to rake in the bucks on the auction."

Schoos said she has always enjoyed teaching but never did it formally.

"I'm a retired physician, so all through medical training I was always teaching the ones coming up behind," she said.

Other volunteers include Gary Gebo, who tutors students in math, and was a math major in college.

"You never know what this will lead to, and we hope it opens doors to a better life," Gebo said.

Liz Gefre is also a tutor, and was a GED student herself.

"I studied for about three months and had the highest score they had seen," she said. "I had no idea I could go to college at 38 or 39 and graduate from Western Washington University with honors. I know how important it is."

People can stop by anytime we're in session, Ellickson said.

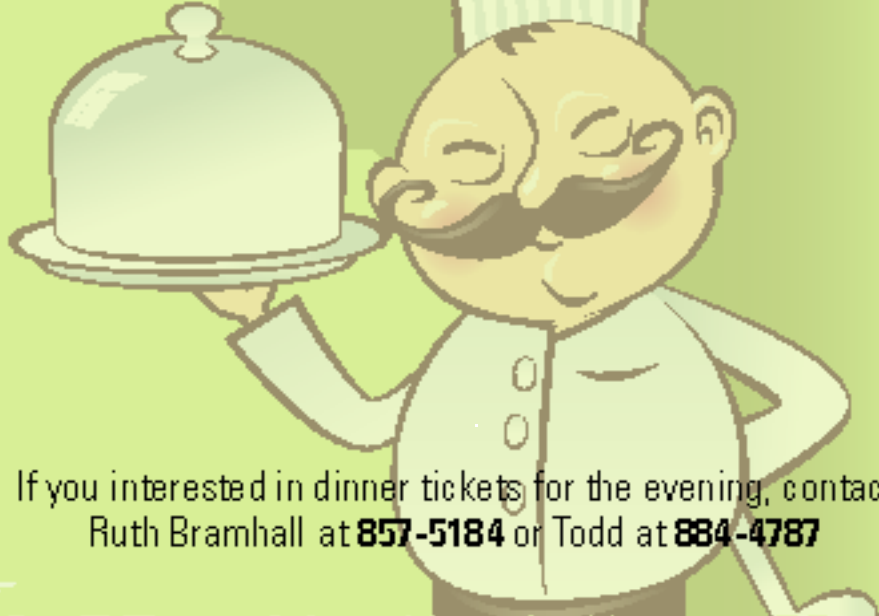
For more information about the GED program at the Home Fire Station, call 460-2356.

Key Peninsula Business Association Dinner

February 8,

6:30 pm at the Civic Center

Your do not have to be a member to attend.



If you interested in dinner tickets for the evening, contact Ruth Bramhall at **857-5184** or Todd at **884-4787**

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Silent Auction to benefit GED on Key Peninsula.

How much is enough?

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The third annual Feast or Famine Mardi Gras event to benefit Key Peninsula Community Services food bank will be held on Feb. 16, Fat Tuesday, at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

As in previous years, ticket holders redeem their tickets at the event for a sealed envelope and hold it until a signal for everyone to open them at once.

A special table for 10 percent of the guests will be decorated with fancy dishes, candles, etc., and the people fortunate enough to sit there will enjoy a multiple course meal of roast beef and all the trimmings.

Twenty percent of ticket holders will eat a healthy but moderate meal with no extras, while the remaining 70 percent will dine only on bare subsistence – Cruel Gruel.

“It won’t be quite as cruel as it could be,” says co-chair Carolyn Wiley, “because in preparation for Lent, we’ll

be using up some fat, butter or cream.”

This event is designed to demonstrate how the world fares on a daily basis. Only about 10 percent of the world can afford and obtain more than enough food needed to satisfy their hunger. Seventy percent of our world neighbors are usually hungry.

“This is an unabashed fundraiser for our local food bank,” says co-chair Vicki Biggs. “They are serving 300 families per month now.

There are many local families who experience food insecurity.”

Evergreen Elementary School has the highest percent in the district of children on free or reduced price lunches at 74 percent, with all other KP schools higher than the district average.

The theme of the dinner event this year is “How much is enough?” with speaker Carrie Little, who runs Mother Earth Farms in Puyallup.

A silent auction is planned with early donations including pottery by Gary Anderson, a ship model by David Wickland. Hand-crafted soup bowls by

pottery Matthew Hulse and Elaine Quigley, plus soup mix will be available for purchase.

“Bring money,” says Biggs, “and be prepared to spend.”

Biggs says there will be a surprise for “added drama,” but she wasn’t providing any other clues.

Volunteers this year include some teens from the Key Peninsula community who have helped with the Family Resource Center summer programs.

“We made about \$4,000 last year,” says Biggs, “and I expect we’ll do that well again this year.”

Wiley added, “Our goal is to meet or beat last year, and to have everything paid for before the doors open.”

Individuals, businesses and organizations in the community are giving donations to help defray expenses, she said.

Children are welcome to participate, but families may not all be sitting together, depending on their table assignment in the envelopes.

Wally Johnson of Home Port will be head cook again this year.

The planning committee includes Biggs, Wiley, Penny Gazabat, Norma Iverson, Peggy Bingham and Arlyce Kretschman.

Sponsors are The Longbranch Improvement Club, Key Peninsula Community Services, Key Peninsula Family Resource Center and The Home Port Restaurant.

Tickets are \$25 per person, and available from the sponsors or at Sunnycrest Nursery. You may also call 884-9157. Tickets must be purchased before Feb. 8 for an accurate meal count for the cooks.

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February 10—Board Elections

February 16—Feast or Famine Banquet

Longbranch Improvement Club

March 6th—Volunteer Appreciation Dinner—at KPCS 6 pm

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Rah, Rah

Marisa Bruneister and Anelisse Peterson of the Green Cheer Squad at PHS show off the team's inspiration, 4-year-old Erika Boley during the Harbor CheerFest competition. The competition drew 600 spectators. High school cheer teams competed in the Harbor CheerFest, an all-day event that attracted 16 Western Washington teams and seven all star teams for a total of 410 competitors. Winners included Kaela Smith and Cole Delaney of Peninsula in the co-ed partner stunting competition, and Erica Boley of the Mini Seahawks in the individual competition. Teams competed to earn a score to advance to the state championships Jan. 23.

Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News



Vaughn wins four in a row

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

For the fourth year in a row Vaughn's kids under the guidance and encouragement of its PE specialist, Marc Ross, have been named Washington State Champions of the Presidential Council on Physical Fitness. Just getting it once is a tremendous accomplishment. But four years in a row is, well, almost unachievable.

Ross explained that all award winning kids earned the honor last year, "so if they say they are second graders, then they earned their award as a first grader."

Some of the award winners are now sixth graders and attend our middle schools but were enabled to "play hooky" to attend the awards ceremony to receive the medals they earned in the fifth grade at Vaughn.

Asked what it took to earn the award, second grader Joanna Roberts wrote, "1. Hard work. 2. Hard work and 3. Hard work!" Classmate Amelio Pena said, "It felt like it took lots of time to do it." Gehrig Matison said, "It took a lot out of me. I felt like I was going to explode!"

To 3rd grader Amiah Bilderback, "It

took skill and practicing hard" and 4th grader Taylor Lukenbill thought, "I can get Presidential and doing all the tests done right."

Calley Wood, 5th grade, does, "sports all year round, it helps to be in shape and makes it a little easier for the testing."

These six kids felt winning the award was, "The best ever!" "so good!" "awesome!" "happy and excited" "great getting the award in my hands!" and "all the hard work that I had done paid off."

Receiving the award in front of the school assembly felt, "Like I had just sprouted...like a flower!" "It was hard to stand up in front of everybody." "It felt so good!" "Happy, excited and scared when I got up on stage but later I felt very good!" "It was awesome standing with the other presidential award winners and showing the whole school that I can earn the award."

Calley Wood said she, "felt proud to be a Vaughn Husky," and "proud to have Mr. Ross as my PE teacher to push us kids to achieve the fourth straight year of Presidents Council on Physical Fitness Award. In my head I hear Mr. Ross' words saying, 'you gotta want it.'"

No strikes, all heart

By Ted Olinger, KP News

The Peninsula Seahawks Girls' Bowling team (0-11) faced the undefeated Trojan Women of Olympic High School (Bremerton) at the Hi-Joy bowling alley in Port Orchard on Jan. 12. At the end of the match, the Hawks' record was 0-12.

"We're still looking for that first win," said Coach Kevin Davis, with just three games left in the season. The team has sent players to district tournaments since Davis started it six years ago, and one went to state last year. "It's tougher this year," said Davis. "We've got a lot of new faces. A lot of our competitors bowl in leagues year 'round. After the season they go back to their leagues. Not one of our girls bowls outside league. There's no way you can expect to compete strongly when you have such a variation in experience."

It's senior Katy Stefanoff's first year on the team, but the Key Pen resident is now a team captain. "Once I started it, I got hooked. I want to join a league once I'm in college," she said.

"We need to slow down and focus on where we're rolling the ball and not just chucking it down," Stefanoff said, describing challenges facing the team. "If you can roll it consistently at the same spot with the same ball then you're gonna get a strike every time or close to it."

Coaching can be difficult because bowling is "a recreation sport," said Davis.

"It's a sport they go and do with their buddies," he said. "It's not uncommon to have some curly fries in the middle of practice, or a game. You're not going to see a lot of kids playing basketball calling time-out to go get a snack."

"The nice thing is their positive attitude even though they're struggling," said Davis. "They play their best against their toughest competitors. They just bowl their hearts out."

"When you're on junior varsity it doesn't really count, so you can just have fun, you don't have to stress if you're having a bad

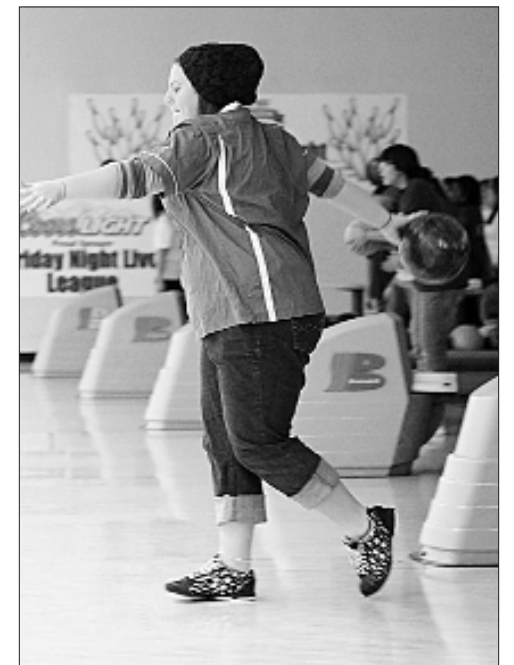


Photo by Kyle Coster, KP News

Katie Stefanoff of Vaughn is the team captain.

day," said freshman player and Key Penner Kendra Brown. "But when you're on varsity, it counts, and you feel bad if you let your teammates down."

Sophomore Lacey Shelley is another Key Penner new to the team this year. "We've been losing a lot and I think it's kind of bringing the team down," she said. "We need encouragement, we need to bring each other up." Shelley is enrolled in Advanced Placement classes and has no time for other sports. But after this bruising season, will she be back next year? "Definitely," she said.

While there is frustration and disappointment on the lanes, there is also camaraderie and support, even from opposing teams. Almost every roll of the ball is celebrated with cheers and high fives from other bowlers, whoever they're playing for.

Olympic High bowler Sutthiluck "Maprow" Watthanaphirom, a 16-year-old exchange student from Thailand, said, "This is the first time I've bowled for serious stuff."

Maprow ("Coconut" in English) already knew how to bowl when she joined her team this year. "I've improved a lot. I love it because we are all good friends and it's very fun."

Peninsula sophomore Shelbi Olson, in her first year on the Seahawks, said she joined because, "I thought it would be fun, and it's turned out to be fun," but admitted her record is "pretty inconsistent." What can she and her teammates do to improve? "Bowl," she said.

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Come join us at Volunteer Park for a week of nature based art from around the Key Peninsula! Get hands experience creating nature based projects and learn the basic study of flora and fauna by using leaves, pencils, papers, watercolors, and wood all inspired by nature. Space is limited.

Grade: 1st-5th
Day/Date: Feb 15th-19th, M-F
Location: Vol. Park Concess. Bld
Time: 10:00-1:00 pm
Fee: \$95
Min/Max: 10/20

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Theater On The Key Drama Camp

Students will learn a different lesson on the aspects of dramaturgy. They'll learn theater terms, projection, character development, improvisation, pantomime, and how to express themselves through a variety of fun games and warm ups. The accumulative project will be the performance of "Cinderella Outgrows the Glass Slipper" in front of family and friends. The camp will help students improve their skills in public speaking, reading, writing, and cognitive thinking.

Grade: 3rd-5th
Location: Volunteer Park
Concession Building
Time: 9:00-12:00pm
Fee: \$95
Min/Max: 10/20

Notes: Registration deadline is March 25th by 4:00pm. Friday April 2nd will be held at KPCC from 1:00-3:00pm for performance

Experience Music Project Trip for teens Set for February 17th

Come and experience a tour of the EMP with us! You will see the exploration of creativity and innovation of popular music. By blending interpretative

interactive exhibitions with cutting-edge technology, EMP captures and reflects the essence of rock 'n' roll, its roots in jazz, soul, gospel, country and the blues, as well as rock's influence on hip-hop, punk, and other recent genres. Bring money or a sack lunch.

Fee: \$16
Age: 12-15
Time: 8:45-4:00pm

Notes: 9 participants needed to run trip. All trips will depart from Volunteer Park. Please arrive 10 minutes before departure. Registration documents are online and available at the park office. Registration for trip is one week prior to trip date.

Trip made possible by Children's Home Society & Key Pen Parks

Adult Coed Spring Softball Starts April 15th

Dust off your cleats and grab your gloves. Spring is approaching fast and it is time for Coed Softball on the Key Peninsula. Key Pen Parks is now accepting team registrations. Teams will play an 8 game season plus playoffs at the end. Games will be held Thursday nights starting April 15th-June 24th. Fee is \$ 525.00. Please see website for NEW registration procedures under the Adult Program section or call for more information. Fee includes umpires and softballs. Max of 8 teams.

The Luck of The Irish Women's Tournament

Day/Date: March 6-7
Location: Volunteer Park-E/REC
Duration: 4 game guarantee
12 team minimum

Fee: \$210.00
Call for more information

For more information contact
Key Pen Parks at 253-884-9240 or
chad@keypenparks.com

OBITUARIES

Frances Myers

Frances Kathleen Johns Myers, born Dec. 17, 1929 in Monroe, La., passed from our presence Jan. 5, 2010 in Gig Harbor, Wash. Frances was a resident of New Orleans for 30 years living the past nine years on the Key Peninsula. She retired as a Comptroller for the Federal Civil Service. She was also a member of the VFW Auxiliary in New Orleans, the Cootiette Club of Washington, and the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute of which she was a charter member and served as Secretary for several years.



MYERS

She always had good times with her friends in the Veterans clubs she belonged to and playing bingo on Thursday night at the Senior Center. Frances also enjoyed sewing, genealogy, and her kitty cats. Her quick wit is remembered by all that knew her.

She will be deeply missed.

She was preceded in death by her husband Thompson Myers and is survived by her son, Michael Myers of Seattle.

Graveside Services were held Jan. 14,

2010 at Vaughn Bay Cemetery. A reception followed at the Key Peninsula Senior Center. Please leave online condolences at www.havenrest.com.

Thomas Soderquist

Thomas C. Soderquist of Burien, died Dec. 25, following a long illness. Grandson of Carl Soderquist, who owned the Mercantile in Longbranch for many years, Tom was born in 1952, a lifelong resident of South Seattle. A 1971 graduate of Mt. Rainier High School, he attended Highline Community College, served two years in the Army, stationed primarily in Germany during the Vietnam War. Tom was best known for his artistic expression in music and drawing, and unique sense of humor. He was happiest when performing as lead singer or playing drums in local bands. He is survived by the love of his life, Marilyn (Rust), daughters Shyla (Wayne) Dashiell of Puyallup, and Amy Carruthers of Renton, son Tom (Sarah) in DesMoines, grandchildren: Wayne, Kailey and Jared Dashiell, Emma and Benjamin Soderquist; a sister, Chris (Chris) Haugen of Gig Harbor, brother Mike (Debbie) of Newberg OR, and his father, Eric Soderquist of Burien. He was preceded in death by his mother, Barbara in 1983. Grandfather Carl installed the first telephone on the southern peninsula. Eric Soderquist is a special friend and classmate of Vaughn resident Hazel Kingsbury.

Community garden coming to KP

This spring the Key Peninsula will be the home of a community garden, sponsored by Healthy Communities of Pierce County.

The Key Peninsula Community Garden will be behind Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, thanks to a lease with Dale and Claudia Loy, owners of Sunnycrest. The garden will be run with the administrative support of Key Pen Parks.

A community garden in Gig Harbor, Wilkinson Farm City Park, was successful in 2009, so Barb Carr, head of the Gig Harbor - Key Peninsula Community Garden Steering Committee turned the focus to creating a true community garden on the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas.

The goal is to bring families and seniors together to grow organic fruits and vegetables and share the harvest with their families and community.

Applications will be available soon for

the 100-square foot plots. A community meeting will be held Feb. 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the St. Anthony Hospital Green Point Dining Room for those who wish to be part of the community garden.

To fund the project, Route 16 Running & Walking will sponsor a 4-mile "Knock Your Socks Off" fun-run along the Cushman Trail starting at 6565 Kimball Drive on Feb. 14 at 8:30 a.m. Registration is due Feb. 12. Cost is \$15 plus two cans of food; Co-Ed Teams are \$25 plus four cans of food; and kids 10 & under free.

For more information, visit www.route16runwalk.com.

For information about Healthy Communities of Pierce County, visit www.healthypierce.org and on Facebook.

For information about the community garden, call Barb Carr at 228-0538, or visit ghcommunitygardens@gmail.com.

Key Pen Parks

"The key to your next adventure"



(From **HOMESTEAD**, Page 2)

ments and that in and of itself is huge, which adds all of environmental concerns, housing concerns, etc.," Jacobson said.

After that permit application is submitted, the public notices will go out, she said.

The Braatens do have a vision, but Jacobson said talking about it would be in generalities, and until the work is complete for the permits, specifics are not available.

"Once you apply for a conditional use

permit then there will be public meetings, and we want the neighborhood to be a part of this project, but it is not appropriate to do that until we apply for the permit," Jacobson said.

Funding will come from grants and donations, Braaten said. The couple owns Best Western Wesley Inn in Gig Harbor and a recent women's conference served as a fundraiser for Homestead at Alder Cove.

For more information about Homestead at Alder Cove, visit www.homesteadcove.org

(From **KIDNAP**, Page 1)

As police from many districts including Pierce County Sheriff's Office, Tacoma Police Department, and Puyallup Police Department, canvassed the area, a helicopter hovered above from the King County Sheriff's Department. A pre-trial conference is scheduled for Feb. 2 and jury trial date is set for April 8.

Key Peninsula News reported this story with up-to-the minute information on our Facebook page Jan. 12.

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(From **WHALE**, Page 1)

a Taylor Shellfish barge, they transported the body to an undisclosed location to examine it and collect samples for more investigation. They said they are certain the whale was not hit by a boat or dragged into the area by a ship. Samples will determine if the animal died from disease, bio toxins or contaminants.

Bryde's whales rarely venture beyond

tropical and sub-tropical waters and are not migratory. They are generally solitary coastal animals and are believed to reside in one area year round, according to the American Cetacean society.

There may be 100,000 Bryde's whales in the world, with an estimated 12 animals in the coastal waters of California. Investigators said we may never know how the animal came to be in Case Inlet, but they hope to determine what happened to cause its death.



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Photo by Sharon Hicks, KP News

A rare clear day in January provided the perfect view of the snowcapped Olympic mountains.



Photo by Sharon Hicks, KP News

Active Construction, Inc. finished up installation of underground pipe for Peninsula Light on S. Vaughn Road.

KP News 'Where in the World'

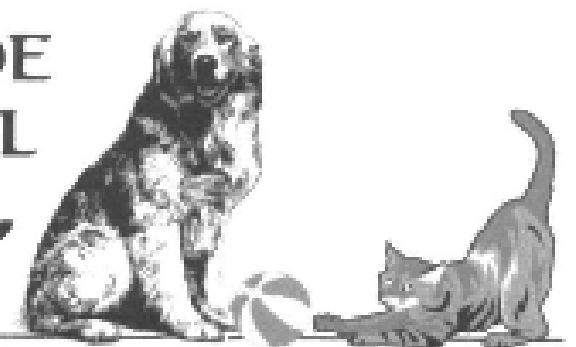


Holly Hendrick took her KP News to Vancouver. How far do you go with your KP News? Send us a pic at news@keypennews.com.

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Unusually high tides were cresting the sandspit at Olman Point.

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