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Key Center, page 8

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Kuteeyaa Dancers wow crowd



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

For more photos of this event, visit our photo gallery at keypennews.com
 More than 100 packed the Longbranch Improvement Club for the Kuteeyaa Dancers performance Nov. 14. The group performs Tlingit, Tsimpshian and Haida songs and dances, and performed to a crowd of all ages.

The Aleut Children's Theater Players performed a short tale, "How the Raven Brought Fire," at Shiloh Farm. The event was free to the public, but donations to the Key Peninsula Food Bank were accepted. More than six boxes of donations were collected, said Carolyn Wiley, events chair woman.

Meeting at Camp Easter Seal to focus on KP crime, prevention

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Recent crimes on the Key Peninsula have led one group to organize a meeting to address the problem. All residents are encouraged to attend the meeting Dec. 10 at Camp Easter Seal at 6 p.m.

In the area of S. Vaughn Road, recent thefts include a vehicle, mill, log splitter and other equipment.

Though the Sheriff's Department is aware of the crimes in the area, Neighborhood Patrol Deputy Jake Kreis said there hasn't really been an increase in crimes. Though there have been several incidents on the Key Peninsula, Kreis said the crime rate is low.

"There is no huge crime spree," he said. "This time of year is probably the lowest crime period of the year, there are some, but not a rash of crimes."

Another burglary was reported at Peninsula Market in Key Center Oct. 22 at 1:48 a.m. There have been no arrests made in that case, according to Emily Watson, community service officer at the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Purdy Detachment office.

Residents are worried, and the Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Team that represents residents from the start of South Vaughn Road to Olman Point is sponsoring the meeting. The organization is dedicated to developing emergency procedures in the neighborhood,

(See **CRIME**, Page 24)

New book celebrates Key Peninsula scenery and people

Staff Report

In November the Key Peninsula News released its new coffee-table photography book "Celebrate the Key Peninsula."

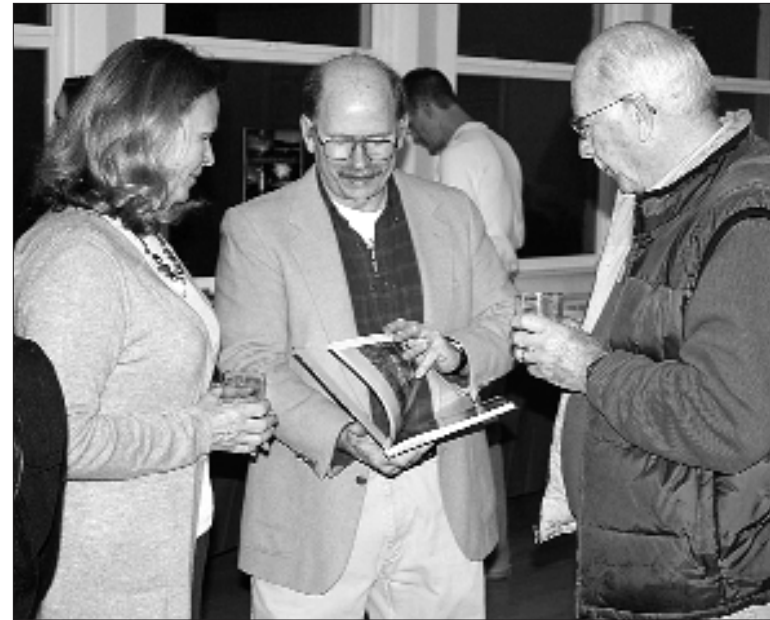
The book, published by the nonprofit newspaper and produced almost entirely by volunteers, features more than 140 pages of color photography of scenery, local arts and artists, community events, and includes a section with historic photographs and a special section with art from Key Peninsula Middle School digital photography students.

Five Key Pen writers authored the separate chapters in the book, and photography was contributed by newspaper staff as well as many readers and

area residents.

"Celebrate the Key Peninsula" was sponsored by many local businesses and community organizations, which made the printing and production possible. All proceeds from the sale will help raise funds for Key Pen News operations.

The book, available in limited quantities and retailing at \$49.95, is available from the newspaper office in the Civic Center in Vaughn as well as from Sunnycrest Nursery, Trillium Creek Winery, the Key Peninsula Museum, Peninsula Market in Key Center and at Lake Kathryn, Cost Less Drugs and Capitol Lumber. Mail-in orders may also be downloaded online at www.keypennews.com/celebrate.



Kathy Bauer, Chris Bronstad and John Nederlee, who were among the many community contributors to "Celebrate the Key Peninsula," look through the book at the recent launch party at the KP Civic Center.

Photo courtesy
Darrin Tollefson

FD 16: Life without the levy

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of six stories on Fire District 16. To see the first in this series, please visit keypennews.com.

On Nov. 3, Key Peninsula residents voted down the fourth consecutive levy lid lift requested by Fire District 16 since 2006. The levy failed by 684 votes or 14 percent, the largest margin with the largest turnout (4,858) since the last fire levy passed in 2004.

The Board of Fire Commissioners along with Fire Chief Tom Lique has prepared a new budget that includes more cuts for the district.

"Right now, I'm looking at consolidating our career staff into a single building, dropping our minimum staffing to three [career personnel per shift]," said Lique at the Nov. 10 commissioners' meeting. "[That's] guaranteed staffing of only a single medical unit."

A newly vacant firefighter position will also go unfilled.

Battalion Chief Robert Bosch,

the union local president, said from the audience, "We stand beside the Chief in the process of trying to find creative ways to continue the staffing so nobody has a job loss and to contain the overtime, but it is critically important that the board of commissioners fully understand that a reduction in staffing is the wrong direction to go."

The department currently requires a minimum of four career firefighters per shift, including two paramedics, one officer and a fourth firefighter.

That allowed 24-hour staffing

of two aid cars, but also drove up overtime costs when scheduled personnel couldn't make their shifts, requiring off-duty substitutes.

"We've made a ton of concessions as an organization for years now trying to save \$10,000 here and \$20,000 there," said Bosch. "The quickest way to maintain revenue is to eliminate personnel." That means cutting services.

The department responded to 941 medical calls and 248 fire calls through Oct. 31 this year. Chief Bosch himself responded to 162 medical calls, 10 fires, and 51 service or other calls.

At the Nov. 10 commissioners' meeting, Commissioner Yanity objected to both proposed cuts and spending in the 2010 budget.

"I have trouble when we can't afford to keep an engine on Herron Island for \$10,000 a year, yet we're [discussing] \$16,000 on a back-up generator for this building [Key Center HQ]. We have money for that but we're not going to service Herron Island," he said.

Outgoing Commissioner Jim Bosch said, "It's not that we don't have money for Herron

(See **LEVY**, Page 24)

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

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

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Candidates respond to Key Peninsula elections



Photo credit

The Friday after Election Day 2009, Fire Chief Chuck West, Commissioner Al Yanity, and Commissioner Chair Ruth Bramhall (in photo above) reported the levy vote results to the Key Peninsula Business Association. The KPBA president, Jud Morris said, "I see three people sitting directly next to each other who all have different views. I want to congratulate you for coming together, having breakfast together. I want to thank you for your civility at this breakfast," he said.

By Danna Webster, KPNews

Three weeks after the November elections, KPNews interviewed the candidates for the fire and park district commissioners.

Next to the levy result, the closest race between commissioners was the Metro Parks contest between Michael Hays and Edward Robison. Robison won that race for Position 4. He says the work ahead for the park commissioners will include a lot of planning and public review. Key Pen Parks needs to plan "how we utilize all the land acquired last year. Maple Hollow and the 360 being the largest acquisitions," he said.

Like all government departments, the park district is experiencing a reduction in revenue with decreased sales tax, zoo tax and property taxes and it will have to "determine what we can afford to do with the revenue we have," Robison said. It is his opinion that the park district has a very reliable revenue projection with clear parameters and a good record of operational cost. Much can be accomplished as long as the commissioners

work within those restrictions. The work ahead may have to be done in phases and aim at specific improvements. "We can make it work," he said.

This past year, Bill Trandum filled a vacancy on the board and he succeeded in his bid for Position 2 over his opponent, Sylvia Tinio. "I'm grateful for everyone who voted for me. I believe this team of park commissioners is well suited to working together. Our most important objective is to earn the public's trust so they will know we are spending their money wisely, protecting their property, and putting it to uses that will enhance the quality of life on the Key Peninsula," Trandum wrote in an email to KPNews.

Both park commissioner candidates, Hays and Tinio, plan to apply for the vacant seat on the park board, which opened up with the resignation of Commissioner Elmer Anderson. The election was a new experience for Hays. He had never run for office before. He praised the attributes of his opponent and then outlined his two specific targets for park goals: trails and coastal property. He wants a trail system to connect the Key Pen parks; and he wants to enhance the public access of parks with coastal property. He is not a big fan of building structures on parklands. "I am much more interested in going with the natural strengths and character of the peninsula. We have this rural beauty. People moved here for what the Peninsula is," he said.

Tinio serves on the Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care committee. She evaluates park plans in terms of accessibility for the elderly and handicapped public. She has recommended an "easy trail" at Volunteer Park — a gently graded, wide trail with natural rocks and wooden benches where people can stretch and rest. She says this trail should be toward the front of the park where people would feel safe to walk. "If they feel safe, they will come," she says. She hopes to sit on the commissioner board rather than a committee because "a committee only makes suggestions, on the board you can vote, make sure something is done about it." She believes in involvement. "Don't sit back and criticize and comment. You've got to do something," she says.

The fire district commissioner 4 race was between Richard Hanna and Sheila

Hunt. Hunt defeated Hanna by a two to one margin. Because of serious medical problems for some of his family, Hanna thinks the election may have turned out for the best. "There's a lot of things going on in my own life. I'm a lot better off without that position," he said.

Hanna's campaign was a long list of wrongs at the fire department. He claimed drug and alcohol abuse; and mismanagement of hiring and training practices. "I see a lot of problems. I didn't figure I could solve all of them," he said.

Hunt said she looks forward to working with the 2010 board. "I think it's very exciting as the dynamics of the board has changed," she said. The commissioners will try to assure the best service possible with what the department has available. "I would like to work with the fire department to streamline — take a hard look at the process. Decide what we have to do to make this thing better," she said. Hunt believes re-establishing the Citizens Advisory Committee would help with public relations issues. She thinks such a committee might determine "how we can improve our service to the public and what issues to address in order to be able to pass a levy."

The widest margin between the commissioner candidates was the race for Fire District Commissioner 2. Claudia Jones received three times more votes than James Bosch. Bosch did not respond to the KP News about the election.

Jones wants to continue to serve as a volunteer for the fire department; and she is ready to tackle the budget challenges caused by the levy failure. "I don't think people understand that they are going to jeopardize their own well-being and the effect on their homeowner's insurance by voting the levy down," she said.

She attributes her successful campaign to the backing of many Peninsula businesses which hosted rallies and allowed sign demonstrations. She strongly disapproved of the negative ads published against her opponent and was careful to disassociate herself from them. "It very much disturbed me and I was not a part of all that," she said. "I want to thank Commissioner Bosch for his time and energy for over 12 years. His intelligent leadership has made a difference in the department," Jones said.

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EDITORIAL

Key Pen News upgrades online news coverage

As this year comes to a close, there are a few changes coming for the Key Peninsula News in 2010. These changes are exciting, and will take the newspaper into the future. Change can be a scary thing. It makes a lot of people very uncomfortable, knocks us a little sideways and feels strange until we get used to it.

But if there is no change, there is no growth.

Our staff is growing, so you will see new names on the bylines of stories and the

Marsha Hart
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



photo credits. The selection committee for the 2010 Key Peninsula News guest columnists spent a lot of time trying to determine who, among those who submitted columns for consideration, would become the three new voices for the KP News. The three 2010 guest columnists are Dan Whitmarsh, Ted Olinger and Heather Bigger.

As these new columnists and staff volunteers get to work, I will be forging ahead with plans to update our Web site.

An updated Web site will not only

provide you with Key Peninsula News in a different format, it will also provide our advertisers another avenue to reach customers.

In 2009 we focused efforts on building our Sports page.

In 2010 we plan to add a Religion page. The intention behind that page is to provide information to our readers about all organized faiths on the Key Peninsula, and the surrounding area. Look for more information on this in the coming months.

We recently took steps to make our news even more accessible. The Key Peninsula News now has a Facebook page, and you can also follow us on Twitter. Some of our stories will be posted to these sites, making it easier and convenient for those who get their

The Key Peninsula News now has a Facebook page Key Peninsula News, and you can also follow us on Twitter @ KeyPenNews.

news online to stay connected to Key Peninsula News.

Our goal is to work even harder in 2010 to gather the news that matters to you as we implement these changes.

Look for us on Facebook and become a fan. Follow us on Twitter, where you will find us at KeyPenNews. And of course, visit our Web site keypennews.com and look for changes there in the near future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Christmas Day dinner at civic center

Ready or not, here come the holidays! Once again we are preparing for our annual Christmas Day dinner for seniors citizens. There are many seniors in our community who are sitting home alone on Christmas Day and we want to extend an invitation to these people to come to the Key Peninsula Civic Center at Vaughn and be a part of our dinner party. Because of all the preparations of food and gifts and transportation, we are not equipped to accommodate unannounced, drop-in guests. We need to know in advance who will be joining us that day. We ask that everyone help us reach out to potential guests so that we can contact them and extend to them an invitation. It is our desire to include each and every senior around here that wants to come. Please call us at 851-4556 as soon as possible with names of interested seniors. We are waiting for your call.

The Salatino family, Wauna

Ignore politics, go for services

The levy which recently failed would have supported the current level of serv-

ices. As a result, staffing will be reduced and ambulance service cut in half. The vote as of Nov. 5 was 1,482 voting no and 1,130 voting yes.

A proposal: that those of us concerned about this reduction in services donate directly to Fire District 16. The proposed amount for the year 2010 was \$1.09 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. My plea is to ignore the politics, and go for the services. This proposal is my idea, not sponsored by any community group or the Fire Department. Please deliver your donation directly to the Key Center station.

Dory Myers, Lakebay

Accident victim is thankful

I would like to share a heartfelt THANK YOU to the wonderful gentlemen who stopped Friday morning, Nov. 6 when I was involved in a single car accident on Key Peninsula Highway at 64th St.

Two men stopped - one cut my seatbelt so I could quit 'dangling' because my SUV landed with the driver's side in the air and then when helping me out, because of glass on the ground (and my shoes had flown off) the other put his own coat down on the ground for me to walk on in spite of icy rain. To you I say again, God Bless You, and thank you.

And to the other folks who stopped to help I offer my thanks for restoring my faith in my fellow humankind.

Peggy Foote

Excessive speed costs lives

On Nov. 12, someone driving along Bliss Cochrane Road struck and killed a dog. She was not just any dog. Her name was Lucy and she was a trained service dog to a local disabled lady in need of Lucy's expertise.

Lucy was a family member, friend and companion to all. She got out of her fenced yard this one time. Now she is gone, because of someone driving too fast and someone who didn't stop to help.

Please think when you're driving fast on these roads - someone's pet or child might be around the next corner.

Lucy, your licks will be missed.

Kim Cohen

Levy alternative

I've talked to several of our neighbors and we have come up with an idea to save our Fire District 16. This is a great tragedy that could easily be remedied. For those of us that voted the for fire levy at Fire District 16, I think we should donate the amount we would have had to pay on our taxes. It was 14 cents per thousand, which amount to a latte twice a month. At least this way we could keep the fire district 16 going through this year. The donations have to be specified for operations only.

We don't need to lose one ambulance, we actually need three. Our response time will be too much, lives

are at stake. This is a great fire department and I for one, don't want to see it going backwards when we have worked so hard to improve it over the years, it is a waste of time and money.

After, figuring out the amount I would have had to pay on the levy for a house of value of \$241,000 it was only \$34.71. I had not actually figured out the amount, but it turned out to be so little, I can actually say, I'm really ashamed of the people that did not vote for the levy, such a little amount that would have made such big impact on our Fire Department.

I feel with the budget crunch, the fire commissioners fees should be waived until this Fire Department gets the money they need to operate. I don't feel we need any unnecessary expense. I want to be the first to get the ball rolling, they're getting my donation tomorrow.

Judith R Elliott

To submit a letter

To submit letters to the editor, please email letters to news@keypennews.com, or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394.

Letters to the editor should be no more than 250 words and include full name and contact information for verification.

I believe them

The voters of the Key Peninsula have spoken. We now have two newly elected Key Peninsula Metro Parks District Commissioners and two newly elected Fire District 16 Commissioners.

I have had a chance to listen to all the candidates for the above-mentioned positions, and I truly believe that they will do what is best for the Key Peninsula Parks, the Fire District, and Key Peninsula residents, too. And just as importantly, they will listen to what Key Peninsula residents want and need. If I am wrong, we can vote them out of office or recall them.

There were issues that the candidates disagreed on and concerns that they agreed on.

One concern that all the candidates agreed on was the need for "adequate" funding for Park District services and Fire District services. Services cost money. In this terrible economy all services, businesses, and people are hurting

JUD MORRIS FROM THE WATER'S EDGE



and are in need of additional income to not just thrive, but to survive. We all have seen how this recession has devastated families, businesses, and services. It is truly an "equal-opportunity-devastator."

No one on the Key Peninsula has been spared the negative impact of this economy. I am not sure if any votes were impacted by the candidates' stands on the economy or the need for "adequate" funding, but I know that no one wants more taxes at this time to pay for anything.

All the candidates are long-time residents of the Key Peninsula, and know the issues that impact Key Peninsula residents. And Key Peninsula residents

know the candidates and the issues, too. Some of the candidates were incumbents and some were challengers. And civil discussions by truly committed people are always so much appreciated. These are very important decision-making positions and I know the candidates and the Key Peninsula community has taken this election very seriously.

It is not hard to see how so many people have so many opinions and emotions about their issues and candidates. Some people say their vote doesn't matter, or all the candidates are all alike, I can't agree with that, but more importantly, hopefully you didn't either.

There have been too many close elections. Remember how close the 2004 Washington governor's race was? Your vote does count, and all the candidates know it. Your right to vote is very valuable. Wars have been fought to protect this right and your responsibility to use it.

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Budget decisions could save FD 16, redeem public faith in commissioners

What does FD16 do now? The Lid Lift Levy went down to dismal defeat (again). Commissioners are threatening to sell off fire engines, close fire stations, and lay off firefighters and EMTs. Reserve funds are at a record low. Voters have lost faith in their Fire Commissioners.

Budget decisions for 2010 will be finalized within the next couple weeks, which will ultimately determine the continued existence or eventual extinction of FD16.

Two overriding requirements should drive the Commissioners' deliberations:

1) Fire departments are "emergency" agencies that respond to unexpected extreme conditions like earthquakes, windstorms, range fires, terrorist attacks, pandemics, economic collapse, tsunamis, floods, riots, earth slides, vehicle pileups, etc. A large reserve fund MUST be maintained for emergency uses that cannot be planned.

Not having recently experienced extreme conditions like the fire that consumed Key Center in 1972, or the range fires that frequently burned across the entire width of the KP in the early 1900s, the Commissioners should recognize that we DO live in turbulent times, we are still "at war" with certain sects which have vowed to destroy our society, and our first line of defense, our fire department, must not be hamstrung by reducing the reserve (emergency) fund to an unconscionable level.

2) Minimum manning (immediately available firefighters) must not be reduced below four at any given time. Fire Standards dictate that firefighters CANNOT enter a burning building without four firefighters available (three on scene and one standing by "geared up"). The fire department was created for the express purpose of fighting fires. Being able to actually enter a burning building to save lives is of paramount importance.

For the last couple years, the Commisisoners' response to tight budgets has been to raid the reserve (emergency) funds. This cannot continue. The reserve funds are below minimum levels now, yet talk is to reduce

RICK SORRELS
THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



it even more. Other discussions focus on reducing response personnel to one ambulance crew, which is an insufficient number to enter a building on fire.

Reducing the number of paperclips purchased or raiding the reserve fund again will NOT solve the problem. Drastic changes need to occur. The Commissioners need to consider the following:

1) Ten supervisors (chiefs and lieutenants) may be too many. If layoffs occur, the Union Contract requires that the last hired goes first, further tilting the Chief to Indian ratio.

2) A large number of firefighters are nearing retirement at the top of the pay scale. Monetary incentives to encourage retirement could be cost effective, and create a younger and fitter force at a lower pay step, with room for career advancement.

3) We can no longer afford to pay full premium pay for qualified firefighters/medics who are unable to respond to emergencies due to medical limitations.

4) Some staff positions might be filled at less cost by individuals not qualified as firefighters or medics.

5) Desk-bound Chiefs could be rotated through the duty schedule.

6) Consider changing the policy that all emergency response personnel must be qualified as both firefighter and EMT. All that up front training is quite expensive.

7) Changing from a 24-hour duty shift to an 8,10, or 12 hour day could save money, especially the requirement to maintain sleeping facilities.

8) It is not cost effective to sell off functional equipment at bargain basement prices when accidents (like two totaled

(See RICK, Page 26)

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KP Parks Commissioners to vote on master plan

By Marsha Hart, KP News

A \$10 million master plan for the Key Peninsula Sports Complex, known as Volunteer Park, is ready for review and action by the board at the Dec. 14 board of commissioners meeting.

Key Peninsula residents volunteered many hours to build the Key Peninsula Sports Complex. The park was dedicated in 1977 and as the needs of the community have changed, the park has seen many uses.

With the acquisition of more land, including the 360 property in the north end of the Key Peninsula, the need for a plan has become even more of a priority for the park district.

"There has always been talk of doing a master plan," said Scott Gallacher, executive director of Key Pen Parks. "This year we put money in the budget to do some planning for Volunteer Park."

The request for proposals went out in mid-August, a qualified firm was selected,

and the project was fast-tracked. Public meetings were scheduled for input from Key Peninsula residents, and the park commissioners will look to approve, adopt it, make recommendations and modify the plan Dec. 14.

"Right now we have a plan, but it brought out some challenges we may have," Gallacher said.

First things must come first, and Gallacher said the big-ticket items are first. Infrastructure must be examined and enhanced, including ways to deal with storm water.

"You have to look at those things in depth and that is what the plan has done," he said. "Sometimes you want to do everything but it may not be physically doable."

Restrooms and a parking lot are needed at the park, but Gallacher said there are infrastructure needs that must come first.

Gallacher said as a small agency, Key Pen Parks will take it in bits and pieces,



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

After an hour or so of on-again-off-again drenching rains, Key Pen Parks executive director Scott Gallacher, flanked by park commissioners Bill Trandum, Greg Anglemyer, Ed Robison and Kip Clinton, explored the roadways of the district's major acquisition, 360 acres of wooded to-be-parkland.

focusing on the planning now, so when the economy turns around and times are good the homework is already finished.

Partnerships, collaborations and grants are all ideas for funding, he said.

"I have questions as to, is that the best way to spend the resources of our limited district, and do things need to be evaluated. There might be something we can do with volunteers and other means," he said. "We want to be good stewards of the

community dollars."

Public input has provided ideas for use, and some of those ideas won't fit at Volunteer Park, he said. This forced a look at the other properties as well.

"By having a plan it will allow us to sit in a better position than not having a plan, that way the granting agency knows we've done our homework," he said.

The Key Pen Parks Commissioners will meet Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Parks commissioner resigns, resumes accepted

Resumes are being accepted to fill a vacancy on the Key Pen Parks Board of

Commissioners. Elmer Anderson resigned from his position on the board in October.

Resumes will be accepted until Jan. 5 at 4 p.m. The position is open to all residents of the Key Peninsula.

Current commissioners will interview applicants Jan. 11 and appoint someone during the regular meeting scheduled the same day. The appointed person will begin serving immediately.

The appointee will serve until the next general election in November 2011.

Send resume and cover letter to Key Pen Parks, Position No. 1, P.O. Box 70, Lakebay, WA 983495, or email it to scottg@keypenparks.com, or call the parks office at 884-9240.



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New grocery store for Key Center

By Danna Webster, KPNews

Rumors, that Peninsula Market building plans are on hold until spring surprised owner Don Stolz. He talked to KPNews the day after he had just signed the last three documents required to officially put a building permit in his hand.

However, signing the official documents did not mean he had the building permit in his hand.

"That doesn't mean things are easy," Stolz said as he described how certain vacation schedules had interrupted the smooth flow of meeting building requirements.

Stolz wanted to be clear about the rumor.

"There is no specific postponement until spring," he said.

The Peninsula Market owner explained the dynamic process for permits and licensing and said he is prepared to meet the requirements of each necessary phase. One major accomplishment was achieved with the completion of the appraisal.



Photo by Danna Webster

New signage in front of Peninsula Market in Key Center announces expectations for the grocery and retail store complex.

"You always think next week it is going to be finalized, that's the last step. And then you have to do this and you have to

do that," he said. "Do I have a 'shovel in the ground date' — no. But my hope is for December."

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Winter Warm-Up event draws big crowd

By Kelly Lynn Maxfield, KP News

The second annual Key Peninsula Winter Warm-up Crafts Fair and Chili Cook-off provided plenty of excitement, and the parking lot was filled to capacity by 11:30 a.m., a mere 90 minutes after the doors opened.

The entrance was bustling with entire families arriving to experience the sights, smells, and camaraderie of the event.

A variety of arts and crafts filled 47 tables, which had been sold out since September. The offerings included jewelry, beach glass creations, wood-working, Sumi ink paintings, felted purses and hats, custom darts, collages, soaps, photography, birdhouses, and much more. Vicki Niemann creates art from beach glass she has collected over the years while kayaking the waters of Puget Sound. Groovy Glass Designs by Kristie Cronin was born out of a love of creating art while working as a full-time mother. Business was brisk, prices were fair, and smiles were abundant.

At noon, Bruce Macdonald began the process of determining the 2009 Key Peninsula chili champion. Twelve pots of chili perfumed the air of the Whitmore Room while the eight judges began the serious business of tasting the chef's efforts. The format this year was open category and included beef, pork, and sausage creations. After testing and discussing the initial 12 entries the field was narrowed to four finalists. Thus began the second round

of tasting to determine the top three finishers. The finals came down to mere decimal points of difference, but after nearly an hour of tasting the judges made their final decision.

Finishing in fourth place but out of the awards was Leonard Zook. Third place winner was Kim Wiley who also participated as an artist in the craft fair. Second place went to Dorne Webster, who has worked as a professional chef. The first place winning chili was awarded to Lori Wikoff, a 22-year resident of Glen Cove. This was her second year entering the contest and she was extremely honored to reach the status of champion. Her husband Joe serves as her official taste tester, she said.

"I simply entered the contest to have fun. It was a kick to be here win or lose." She wouldn't divulge her "secret" ingredient but honored the Key Peninsula Market by using their sweet Italian sausage as the meat base. She intends to donate her cash winnings to our local food bank, she said.

The Minter Creek Elementary School choir, led by teacher Paula DeMoss, performed for the crowd. The program focused on patriotic songs complete with Uncle Sam hats and waving flags. Parents of the students filled the area in front of the stage to cheer on their performers and snap photos.

The event has become successful in only its second year with over 400 people partaking in the activities and offerings this year.



Photos by Rodika Tollefson, KP News

Lori Wikoff, Dorne Webster and Kim Wiley won first- through third-place (respectively) in the chili contest that was part of the Civic Center's second annual Winter Warm-Up Craft Fair and Chili Cook-off in November.



Minter Creek Elementary students perform under the direction of music teacher Paula DeMoss at the Civic Center's second annual Winter Warm-Up Craft Fair and Chili Cook-off in November.

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- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, and needles are hard to pull from branches when bent between your fingers, needles do not break.
- Cut away a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption to keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- Before using outdoor lights, check labels to be sure they sure they have been certified. To secure, string them through hooks or insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Never pull or tug to remove them.
- Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite and suddenly burn intensely.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Never burn candles near evergreens. Burning evergreens in the fire place can also be hazardous. When dry greens burn like tinder, flames can burn out of control, and send sparks into the room or up a chimney to ignite creosote deposits.
- Plan for safety. Remember, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections.

Rolling Blackout in the Front Office

Our Front office is experiencing a shortage on staffing. We are not able at this time to fully fund the coverage while she is out on maternity leave. We will be trying to fill the job as much as we can and we will post the expected hours on the front door. We apologize for the inconvenience.



Public education programs like Pre-school visits and Safe Sitter classes are being eliminated next year due to budget reductions.

Cutting Back

With the levy failure we are continuing our efforts to reduce our costs in many ways. Over the last few years we have cut the budget in ways that the public wouldn't notice but we have nothing left in those areas. Going into 2010 we will be reducing our minimum daily staffing to three people and cutting a firefighter position.

The result of that is that we will not be able to staff two ambulances everyday. Nor will we be able to continue to staff the Wauna Fire station. We will serve you as best we can within the funding we have.

Calendar of Events

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

Commissioner's Mtgs @ 3 pm	Dec. 8th & 22th
CPR/1st Aid	Dec. 5th
Christmas Tree Lighting @ 4 pm	Dec. 6th

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Wolverton Brothers

Saul and Stephen got the fever to serve from their dad, Hal, who is our C-shift Battalion Chief. Saul was first to join our ranks and is now a Volunteer Lieutenant. He works at St Anthony's in the emergency department and is the proud father of a new baby girl. Stephen graduated from Peninsula High last year and then went on to finish our Volunteer firefighter academy this summer. Together these two have been a great boost to our team.



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Buying Meat Locally

The holidays are here and we're all going to eat a bunch of meat. The topic of "meat" is one of those subtly - and overtly - political ones. On the one side you have All-American, Flag-Toting, Rifle-Slinging, Red-Meat Gorging Patriots; on the other side you have quivering, sickly, pale, tree-hugging, PETA-supporting, hippie vegetarians. Like all such "discussions," those two extremes are not only the least popular but they also distort the topic so much that any reasonable discussion is nearly impossible. Most of us, naturally, fall somewhere in between, and most of us can see some value in each side of the argument. That's because humans are omnivores, which means we'll pretty much eat anything that tastes good and doesn't poison us. But, we also like animals. I'm not giving up meat in my lifetime, at least not willingly. I'm a science nut, and I know I'm designed to eat a moderate amount of meat. But the negative trends developing against massive, full-scale industrial production of meat products are mounting up.

KEVIN REED
HERE'S SOMETHING



There are all kinds of arguments raging about how much fresh water and gasoline go into raising beef, and how much land is being deforested to support beef production. There is mounting evidence of the polluting aspects of large-scale chicken and pig farming that can change the makeup of large estuaries and ecosystems. We know they inject these animals with all sorts of hormones and antibiotics, and that living conditions are not only uncomfortable for chickens and pigs in particular, but also ripe for the spread of disease that, like H1N1, can easily jump into the human population via a quick mutation. And farmers get pushed to maximize production and minimize their per-unit price. But, like many of us, I've tended to read about that stuff, and think

"Wow, that sounds important," while I keep buying meat from large chain stores and wherever else and go about my business.

Recently, however, I've learned more about how meat is processed when it goes to these huge slaughterhouses, and more importantly, how that processing directly impacts the food that we all buy and eat. In a nutshell, there are sanitation issues, and there are animal treatment issues. As far as animal treatment goes, there are many disturbing trends, but I can summarize with only one: Most people can agree that a quick kill of an animal is acceptable, but the problem is that as production has rapidly increased in recent years, animal suffering has also increased because the lines go so fast. It's not uncommon for animals to stay alive and alert nine minutes into the butchering process. I'll spare you the details here, but if you think about it, that's about nine minutes too long. But leave animal suffering out of the whole thing. The other big problem in these plants is sanitation. How often do you read about E. Coli bacteria outbreaks and subsequent recalls? While some can be attributed to the occasional dirty restaurant, storage

freezer, or truck, most go directly back to a blatant and mind-boggling lack of sanitation in large scale slaughterhouses, which is why the FDA tells you to cook your meat for 27 hours at 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit or you might get sick. But, like I said, I'm an omnivore and I'm not an animal rights activist, at least not the psychotic kind. I do, however, think animals should be killed quickly and processed professionally, in a sanitary facility, which is not much to ask, really. But, we're not allowed to visit slaughterhouses, and the chance of any of them changing their ways voluntarily is just about zero.

Which gets me to buying meat locally. I want to buy all my meat from local Key area and Washington farmers, assuming they treat and process their animals professionally. If you're an old pro at this, or are a local meat-producing farmer, or if you know something about the opportunities to buy meat from local farmers here, as well as pros/cons from any perspective on the topic, please contact me or let me know who to talk to so I can learn more. And for the rest of you, I'll report out to you on what I find and how it works.

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Historic Gathering at Sipple Boat house

By Cliff Bartells and Richard Hildahl,
Special to the KP News

Morning drizzle disappeared, with the fog yielding a warm, bright and fragrant evening to welcome about two dozen Key Peninsula history buffs gathered for elucidation by Jean Cammon Findlay and Robin Paterson, authors of "The Mosquito Fleet" of the South Puget Sound. This special event was a continuation of the Longbranch Improvement Club's celebration of operating the Longbranch Marina. The venue for their presentation was the century old Sipple Boat Shop which, as nautical visitors know, reaches out in nostalgic stateliness from the east Filucy Bay shoreline opposite and North of the Longbranch Wharf. Inside, a salt breeze and brilliant sun streamed onto the table of home crafted appetizers and a bucket of chilled wines resting under the wooden wheels of an old hauling winch. A high tide lapped pleasantly inches below. The atmosphere embraced the topic. An informal schedule accommodated the pleasures of leisurely conversation where guests and honorees mingled, sharing old stories with new discoveries.

The Evening at the Sipple Boat House began with a reception where participants met one another and greeted the evening's dignitaries: Ann Craven, scion of the Lorenz boating family, Betsy Sommerville, early resident of the nearby Mahncke home and daughter of a World War II Naval legend, and Cliff Bartells, whose clear memories of life on Filucy Bay with pioneer grandparents William and Anna Sipple reach practically to his 1908 birth date. During introductions, Steffanie and Colter Mott described their 22-year stewardship of the Sipple



Sipple Boat Shop, a century old building, was the venue for the Longbranch Improvement Club's continued celebration of the Longbranch Marina.

Photo courtesy of
Richard Hildahl

home and pointed out features of the shop and property.

Robin Paterson and Jean Cammon Findlay, accompanied by ancient images of long disappeared vessels, introduced the historical context of Puget Sound marine transportation system critical to the early development of the Key Peninsula. Their impressive presentations demonstrated the deep research, rare photographs and detailed knowledge with which the authors managed to identify many obscure launches and ships, describe their construction, colorful stories and curious endings. Findlay highlighted select local boats, breathing life into the evocative images on screen. Her familiarity with the topic was illustrated by humorous and detailed observations about the ownership, operation and incidents associated with each boat.

After the presentations, the chairs were arranged in a circle to promote open discussion by authors and guests. To everyone's delight, each honoree shared

stories of themselves and early Key Peninsula life. Sommerville recalled living through the attack at Pearl Harbor. Her father, Captain Kelly, was stationed on the Arizona but at home at the time of the attack. He went on to prepare the bombardment plans for one of the Pacific fleets in support of the island invasions.

Craven, the daughter of Gilbert Lorenz, recounted her family's role in constructing and operating many of the Mosquito Fleet ships and dramatically recounted a collision between Grandfather Lorenz and a Foss tug.

Bartells gave an animated demonstration of the awkward procedures for starting the shop engine, humorously recounted rowing the McDermotts home to Far Away, and by concise vignette brought listeners into living anecdotes of our earliest residents. His chuckling recollection of boyhood on Filucy Bay, of old Longbranch people and events of the teens and twenties evoked the ghosts left among us from that earlier fog. Bartells had come from Seattle, bringing Grandpa Sipple's violin, a product of the very shop in which we sat, and would be staying the night. Asked when last he slept at his grandparents' house, he thought for a moment, then confidently replied, "That would be 1930." His next visit home is planned for spring.

It was a very special evening that celebrated the rich history of our community.

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Free flu shots for PSD students

Staff Report

Some 20 students were turned away when the last of the H1N1 Swine flu vaccine was given Oct. 28 at Key Peninsula Middle School.

Vaccinations for the H1N1 swine flu virus were administered at a free clinic at KPMS the afternoon of Oct. 28. Franciscan Health System nurses administered 583 doses of vaccine through nasal spray or injection, said Gale Robinette, media relations manager for the Franciscan Health System.

Peninsula School Board Vice President Jill Uddenberg addressed students and families waiting in a line that snaked through the building outside and around the gymnasium: "We don't want anyone waiting who's not going to be served," she said. Uddenberg read the eligibility criteria, stressing that "I was told" there were "about 600 doses" available.

Though aimed at Peninsula School District students, those eligible for the vaccines included anyone between the ages of 6 months and 24 years, pregnant women, or caregivers of children younger than 6 months.

Peninsula School District Superintendent Terry Bouck surveyed the line, counting how many eligible people were waiting.

About 20 students were turned away when the last dose was given, though



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Peninsula High School student, Lennon Chalk, gets an H1N1 inoculation injection from RN Mary Yerxa of St. Joseph Hospital in Tacoma.

Bouck promised those who people spots at the front of the line at the next free clinic scheduled for Nov. 18 at Peninsula High School.

Approximately 560 doses were administered at the PHS clinic between 4 and

6:45 p.m.

The clinics were funded by a grant from the Franciscan Health System, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, and a Group Health Foundation Rural School Health Grant.

Plans for senior housing moves ahead

By Virginia Thompson
 Special to KP News

There was standing room only at the second Forum on Housing for Seniors presented by the Mustard Seed Project on Oct. 22.

Additional housing that will allow seniors to live out their lives on the Key Peninsula is a goal of Edie Morgan, founder and director of the Mustard Seed Project. The first step toward that goal is a feasibility study. Morgan introduced a consultant, Terry Sult, who specializes in such projects. Sult's firm, Chi Partners, has worked with similar projects in various communities throughout the United States.

The study will take approximately four months to conduct, at a cost of \$30,000, and will have three parts: first, a vision and concept statement for "a small scale, state of the arts affordable senior residence with services in Key Center; second, a market study that includes the number and types of units, the income levels to be served, and the services and amenities to be provided; and third, a financial study that would cover development costs, revenue and expense projections, and sources of funding.

Morgan explained that \$10,000 of the necessary funding has already been raised and she praised the Mustard Seed board, which has supported and worked

diligently with her.

Sult, who has had experience with many communities, feels that the Key Peninsula is ready to take this step toward a senior housing project.

Other business at the meeting included a gift presentation to Morgan of \$3,000 in appreciation by the Mustard Seed board for her support and leadership; and a raffle ticket drawing for a beautiful reversible quilt, the work of local quilters. The winner was Sally Slater of Federal Way, a long time friend and supporter for Mustard Seed quilters.

Virginia Thompson is a Mustard Seed Volunteer since 2006.

COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Dec. 3- Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at Peninsula High School from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 & 13-Play presented

"A Christmas Carol" written by Charles Dickens will be performed by the Peninsula High School drama class on weekends in the Milton S. Boyd Auditorium at Peninsula High. Performances are at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 for seniors, students w/ASB, military and kids under 12; other tickets are \$7. Contact Jonathan Bill, 530-4450 for more information.

Dec. 5-Holiday bazaar

The Heart and Hand Holiday Bazaar will be from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. This event offers affordable hand-crafted items, including quilts, teddy bears, Scandinavian baked goods, fresh evergreens, lefse, table and tree décor, jewelry, etc. There is a drawing for a child's butterfly quilt and a free "Kids' Shoppe" for children to select and wrap a gift for a parent. Proceeds benefit the Community Meals Program. 884-3312

Dec. 5 - Santa

Santa makes an appearance at Purdy Cost Less in Lake Kathryn Village for photos with the kids from 12-3 p.m. 857-7944

Dec. 5-Gingerbread houses

Children, accompanied by an adult, may build a free gingerbread house at the Key Center Library at 1 p.m. Children must pre-register at 884-2242

Dec. 6- Tree lighting

The lighting of the Christmas Tree and accompanying festivities will begin at 4 p.m. at the Key Corral in Key Center.

Dec. 7 - Travel Club

Jeff Harris will present a program on his trips to Peru at the KP Travel Club meeting at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-3937 or 884-4697

Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 – Bloodmobile visits

The bloodmobile will be at the Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Dec. 10-Holiday concert

The Friends of the Key Center Library present Philip and Pam Boulding, founders of the Magical Strings, in a free holiday concert of Celtic music at 7 p.m. at McColley Hall at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Donations to the Key Peninsula Food Bank are encouraged. The church is located at 4213 Lackey Road KPN in Lakebay. 884-2242

Dec. 12-Lyme group

The Kitsap Lyme Support Group meets from 3-5 p. m. at the Key Center Library. Discuss positive ways to deal with the hardest days of Lyme and co-infections. Those who are suffering chronically from other diseases (MS, CFS, etc.) and are looking for some company and support are welcome. Contact Anna Hart, 307-4637 or LorraineHart@gmail.com

Dec. 12-Lions club

The public is invited to hear guest speaker Laurie Walden, from Communities in Schools, at the Key Peninsula Lions Club meeting at 7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. 853-2721 or keypeninsulawa.lionwap.org

Dec. 13-Key Singers perform

The Key Singers will perform at 3 p.m. at McColley Hall (KP Lutheran Church). The event is free. Donations to the local food bank are greatly appreciated.

Dec. 20-Kids 'n' Christmas

Girl Scout troops offer crafts for kids (from Evergreen Elementary) to make from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Santa is scheduled to make an appearance.

Dec. 21-Day camp

Key Pen Parks is hosting Last Minute Shopping Day Camp for children ages 6-12 for \$45/child. The camp will be held in the Key Center Fire Station Community Room from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mad Science will present a Winter Weather Wonderland session from 9 a.m.-noon, which will include mini-tornadoes, clouds, rainbows, and instant snow. There is a minimum of 12 and maximum of 20 participants, so register early. 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

Jan. 12-Hip hop class

Students ages 8-14 can learn to hip hop while improving their endurance and flexibility on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. Cost is \$49 for 6 weeks of classes of between 6 and 15 kids. The class will be cancelled if enrollment is not met by Jan. 8. Pre-register with Chad, 884-9240 or Chad@keypenparks.com

Jan. 14-Tumbling class

Students ages 5-12 will learn tumbling skills on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. Six weeks of classes for 6-15 kids costs \$49. Students will need to wear sweat pants, tights and gym shoes. Class will be cancelled if enrollment is not met by Jan. 11. Pre-register with Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

Jan. 16-Basketball clinics

Key Pen Parks is offering coed basketball skills clinics for youth in pre-k through 3rd grade. Classes, by grade level, are held on Saturdays and cost \$45 for 7 weeks. Parent involvement is required. Classes will be cancelled or combined if enrollment is not met. For

more information and pre-registration, contact Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

Jan. 31-Contest deadline

Young musicians, ages 6 to 18, are invited to vie for a \$1,000 scholarship and a chance to perform on stage at Benaroya Hall. The competition is open to non-professional acoustic instrumentalists, vocalists, or ensembles of up to six people. The entry submission is an audition recording, including YouTube clips up to 5 minutes long, and an entry form due by Jan. 31, 2010. Official contest rules and entry forms are online at www.king.org.

The judging has several stages including a judging panel for semi-finalists and public voting for the top ten. The grand prize is awarded by 98.1 Classical KING FM during the Ten Grands Young Artist Awards and concert on May 21, 2010. Contest winners will receive various prizes from KING FM, ranging from tickets to the Seattle Symphony and Seattle Opera to back stage meetings with major artists and CDs from KING FM and ArkivMusic.

The competition is presented in collaboration with Ten Grands Seattle and The Snowman Foundation (www.thesnowmanfoundation.org) which is a non-profit charity to give the gift of music to children. The Snowman Foundation awarded 12 Puget Sound-area grants after the Ten Grands concert in 2009.

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

Saturdays-Writers meet

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

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.

DECEMBER PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Lions Club, Dec. 2 & 16, 6 p.m. social, 6:35 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting at KP Civic Center
- Peninsula School District Board, Dec. 10, regular meeting; at district office
- KP Metro Parks, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, Dec. 8 & 22, 3 p.m. at meeting room, Key Center Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m. – business meeting



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KP Community Council elects new board

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

In early November, the Key Peninsula Community Council held the election for its Board of Directors for the upcoming year. Jonathan Bill, Peninsula High School history teacher and drama coach, was elected president. Mike Baum accepted the position of vice president, Cinda Baldwin is the incoming secretary, and Michael Razmek became the new treasurer. The election meeting was held at the Road House Restaurant in Key Center.

“I found it quite amusing watching my former history teacher, Jonathan Bill take on the presidency of the KPCC.”

-Shanice Hrouda

Also attending were president of the Key Peninsula Youth Council Shanice Hrouda and its vice president Ian P. McKnight. They helped collect and count secret ballots for the KPCC election. They also sold holiday boxes of Almond Roca to bolster the youth organization's treasury.

Hrouda said, “I found it quite amusing watching my former history teacher,



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Key Peninsula Community Council out-going president Danna Webster hands the organization's gavel to incoming president Jonathan Bill. Cinda Baldwin, incoming secretary, incoming treasurer Michael Razmek, and incoming vice president Mike Baum look on.

Jonathan Bill take on the presidency of the KPCC. As a committee of the council, we head our meetings in almost the same fashion, but there is more room for fun, and I have a smaller gavel. We just held our main recruitment meeting for new

members, and five people showed up who showed good commitment, I hope to double the council this year.”

The youth council has passed a motion to donate either money or food to the KP food bank.

OFF THE KEY

Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, & 13-Play presented

“A Christmas Story,” written by Phillip Grecian, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 3 p.m. on Sundays at the Paradise Theatre in Gig Harbor. Call 851-PLAY for ticket information or www.paradisetheatre.org.

Dec. 5-6, 12-13, 19-23- Santa

Santa visits Uptown in Gig Harbor on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sundays from noon-4 p.m. 851-4557

Dec. 8- MS group

The Gig Harbor Multiple Sclerosis Self-help Group meets from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Education Building, room 101, at the Harbor Covenant Church, 5601 Gustafson Drive NW, Gig Harbor.

Contact Judy, 225-0875 or Spruce, 851-3165

Dec. 12- HarborFest

The Altrusa Foundation sponsors the “Harborfest Holiday Tour of Homes” from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ticket holders pick up programs and maps at the Inn at Gig Harbor. Tickets are \$20 in advance at JL Scott, Kitsap CU, Waters Edge Gallery,

GH Chamber of Commerce, GH Altrusa or Kiwanis. Tickets are \$25 at door. Groups of 10 or more may purchase tickets at reduced price. 858-0088

Dec. 12 Symphony concert

The Gig Harbor Peninsula Symphony Orchestra will host a Christmas Holiday concert from 7-9 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church. Donations accepted. Louie, 238-6035

Dec. 18, 19, & 20- “Pinocchio”

“Pinocchio” will be presented at 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 3 p.m. on Sundays at the Paradise Theatre in Gig Harbor. Call 851-PLAY for ticket information.

Parenting support group fosters friendship, community

By Karen Lovett, KP News

A parent support group meets every Tuesday from 10a.m. to noon at the Children's Home Society in the basement of the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.

Parents with children aging from infants to the age of 18 can get ideas and offer suggestions about such issues as potty training, picky eaters, homework, coordinating two-parent issues, or pediatricians.

This group does not deal with major problems or issues, but rather provides a secure confidential environment where parents can come together and discuss concerns or challenges honestly and respectfully. Feedback and the natural networking focus support for the parents.

Jud Morris is the Program Manager of the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center. He is co-facilitator of the group along with Stephanie Dixon, a second-year social work graduate student at the University of Washington. A foster parent herself, Dixon brings an experienced connection to the group.

Morris said he started the group in

2008, and the original primary focus was on how successful foster or adoptive children integrated into the family, and the transition of child-related developmental issues in that process.

Parents in the group wanted it to be open to all parents or grandparents raising children.

The group provides parents time to focus on themselves and develop support in the community. Weekly projects such as scrap booking – family photos, or making Christmas cards provide a welcome break for parents to concentrate on themselves.

Each week, a new healthy, easy to make snack idea is presented such as frozen bananas rolled in yogurt or nuts, and pretzels dipped in ranch dressing. Occasional potlucks provide an opportunity to share recipes and cooking ideas.

Friendships have developed between participants. Families work together to exchange daycare, car-pool, and trade clothes or toys.

Participation is free, however it is only open to adults, and no childcare is available on site. Pre-registration is required.

For more information call 884-5433.

LIC hosts Orthopedic Guild fundraiser

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

A comfortably decorated Longbranch Improvement Club was the scene of the annual Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild's fundraiser supporting Mary Bridge Children's Hospital last month. Despite thunderstorms and crashing downpours, the event was very well attended and a good time was had by all.

Gentle sounds of seasonally special music from Pat Constantino, flute, and Joyce Fischlin, keyboard, wafted over the comfortably crowded assemblage of supporters.

Guild members take their mission seri-

ously. Member Mona Margolis provided 32 cases of jars of homemade jams and jellies she prepared for the annual fundraiser.

Member Joyce Tovey remarked that the Guild, with its relatively small active membership of 21, "annually provides financial support for Mary Bridge. Last year we contributed \$8,000 to the cause."

The Guild holds monthly meetings at the homes of its members.

For information on membership or how to help the Guild fulfill its mission or to make tax deductible contributions to the cause, call member Rosie Rosenbach on 884-3665.

KEY PEN PARKS



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

BASKETBALL SKILLS CLINIC

Key Pen Parks is offering coed Basketball Skills Clinics for youth in Pre-Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Program focus is on basketball skill development (dribbling, passing, and shooting). Parent involvement is required. Scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all participants.

Age: 3-8
Location: Key Peninsula Civic Center
Day/Date: Saturdays, 1/16-2/27

Sess #1	9:00-9:50am	(ages 7-8)
Sess #2	10:00-10:50am	(ages 6-7)
Sess #3	11:00-11:50am	(ages 5-6)
Sess #4	12:00-12:50pm	(ages 3-4)

Fee: \$45
Min/Max: 10/30

Note: Classes will be canceled or combined if minimum registration is not met by January 13th. Pre-registration is required

RECREATION HIP HOP

In this fun dance class students will learn the very popular style of dance for boys & girls. Students will improve endurance & flexibility while they learn the latest dance moves to upbeat music! (No Special Dress Required).

Age: 8-14
Location: Whitmore Rm, Civic Center
Day/Date: Tuesday Session #1:
1/12-2/16
Time: 4:30-5:30 pm
Fee: \$49
Min/Max: 6/15

Note: Class will be canceled if minimum is not met by January 8th

Last Minute Shopping Day Camp

If you're looking to have a good time with your friends, make new ones, and be in a safe environment Key Pen Parks Last Minute Shopping Day Camp is for you! Join us for an exciting day of Mad Science in the morning, games, crafts, & movie to end your day. Be sure to bring your own lunch, snack will be provided. Dress for indoor & outdoor activities.


9-12 Mad Science Presents: Winter-Weather Wonderland

What is wet, cold, warm, or gaseous? Water! Discover the secrets of weather as we explore the mysterious properties of water. We will create mini tornadoes, clouds, rainbows, and instant snow in a fun-filled, hands-on exploration of one of the most abundant substances on Earth.

Age: 6-12
Location: Key Center Fire Station Community Room
Day/Date: Monday, December 21st
Time: 9-4:00 pm
Fee: \$45
Min/Max: 12/20

Note: Camp will be cancelled if minimum is not met by December 17th

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



BRIEFS

news

Safe Sitter class in Gig Harbor

Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One is offering two Safe Sitter classes for middle school students 11 – 13 years old during the December school break. Cost is \$25 and the program will be Dec. 21-23, and Dec. 28-30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fire Department Headquarters on Bujacich Road. Students must attend all three days to receive their completion card.

A certified professional teaches all medical information, and students get hands-on practice in basic lifesaving techniques so they are prepared to act in a crisis.

Students must pass a rigorous practical and written test to show that they have mastered key concepts and have skills necessary to handle an emergency.

For more information call Nanette Tatom at 853-2114 or visit piercefire.org/PCFD5.

Nominees sought

The Key Peninsula Lions Club, which has sponsored the Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Annual Awards dinner since 1984 will again host the event for the 26th time this year at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn, WA, in March 2010. The program is dedicated to the merits of volunteerism.

Please submit the names, telephone numbers and (optional) mailing addresses of your nominee(s) as early as possible. Nominees may be of any age, should be residents of, work on, or own property on the Key Peninsula. Persons nominated should be considered for having rendered volunteer service on behalf of the Key Peninsula community whether for a single outstanding contribution or for sustained contributions over many years. No member of the Lions Club may be nominated.

Lions' president, George Robison reports that as of this date, only one nomination has been received.

Send nominees' names, telephone numbers, (mailing addresses), and a brief description of why you feel they deserve to be recognized to KP Lions, PO Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394, or via email to

HMcMNP1000@centurytel.net or AmazingPatricia@comcast.net.

For information, call: 253-853-2721 or 253-884-3319.

Park enhancement grants available to local groups

Key Pen Parks is accepting applications for the 2010 Park Enhancement Grant Program from Dec. 1 through Feb. 1, 2010. Community groups must match the Park District's contribution with volunteer time, in-kind donations of goods and services, and /or financial contributions. The program was established to help community groups improve park and recreation opportunities through smaller projects on the Key Peninsula. In the past, successful applicants have included: Children's Home Society for Summer Fun, Key Peninsula Community Services for SAIL program, Beyond the Borders Art and Music Festival, and the Key Peninsula Civic Center for tennis court resurfacing.

Mustard Seed Project accepting financial support

Those who would like to donate to The Mustard Seed Project to support its

work or the senior housing project feasibility study can choose from a variety of opportunities.

Donations can be given through the United Way, a program that allows a tax-free donation with IRA funds, by purchasing jars of mustard as gifts for the holidays, or by collecting Peninsula Market receipts. The Mustard Seed Project receives a 1 percent return for the receipt amount. Monetary donations are also accepted. The Mustard Seed Project needs \$20,000 to complete the feasibility study and take the next step to local affordable assisted living.

Flu vaccine target groups revised

As of Nov. 25, the number of hospitalizations in Pierce County due to H1N1 confirmed cases is 140 and 10 deaths have been reported since May 1. Three schools in Pierce County have had 10 percent or higher absenteeism due to this strain of flu, and more than 23,193 doses of H1N1 vaccine were received by the Pierce County Health Department so far. All of those doses have been allocated.

A change in the target group receiving the vaccine was implemented Nov. 18. These target groups are subsets of the initial Center for Disease Control's target groups: Pregnant women, people who live with or provide care for infants less than 6 months of age, health care and emergency medical services personnel who have direct contact with patients and infectious material, children age 6 months through 4 years of age, children and adolescents 5 through 18 who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

For information on H1N1 vaccine for children call Franciscan Health at 426-6938, Mary Bridge at 403-1767 or Multicare Mobile Health Services at 697-4010.

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253 884-8022 for LIC information
253 884-9157 for event info or tickets
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LAKE OF THE WOODS \$199,990
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 Dottie Mazza & Liz Gefre
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PALMER LAKE \$215,000
 Beautiful proff fronto chalet home in Palmer Lake with great architecture. The home has been completely remodeled with new carpets & fresh paint. The ceiling has treated beams, lg dormer windows to add light to the room. Located in a family community with private lake access.
 Kathleen Rivers
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Students learn Native American weaving

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Evergreen Elementary 4th graders learned a basic weaving technique used by Northwest Coastal Native Americans, as well as some of the cultural differences between these people and tribes in other areas.

Sheila Wray of Tacoma, who teaches various weaving techniques and basket making, presented a program to the students using a book about cedar, photographs, baskets, and items they could handle.

Wray, who said Minnie-ha-ha was her Campfire Girl name from childhood, told about Northwest natives living in cedar longhouses rather than teepees, and wearing waterproof cedar bark hats rather than big headdresses.

"The story of the North Coastal Indians is really the story of cedar," she said.

As she read from the book and commented on photos, the students passed around a miniature cedar paddle each time they heard the word cedar.



Photo by Colleen Slater

Students got a hands-on experience of weaving during the Northwest Coastal Native American presentation at Evergreen Elementary School.

Wray talked about weaving with cedar bark and various grasses, and how they obtained varied colors for their projects.

Her stories told of building the longhouses without using nails or many tools, cooking in boxes and baskets soaked in bear grease, cutting planks without saws, and the many uses of cedar.

Some of the children experienced tearing cedar bark into thin strips, and watched the process of weaving before they each received their own pre-started pieces of paper strips.

Several students in teacher Jodi McDougall's class claimed native heritage. Halee showed Wray a cedar rose on a woven heart her Stillaguamish grandmother made.

Keaton, of Hopi descent, said of the weaving, "It's cool! And very fun."

"It's really fun," agreed Stasi, then added, "It's complicated, too."

No students reached completion of a headband in the allowed class time, but Wray, who wore a headband and rose made of cedar strips, told them they could also learn to do a rose from a Youtube video titled ribbon rose.

Wray, not a Native American, has worked and experimented with various weaving techniques and materials for 20 years, and teaches classes. Her website is beyondthebasicbasket.com

KP artists Jan Buday and Voski Sprague worked with students in both McDougall's and Jennifer Martin's classrooms.

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Service Contracts

The Longbranch Improvement Club is accepting proposals for three contracted services for 2010: janitorial services, building rental agent and marina dockmaster.

Email liccontracts@gmail.com for contract requirements. Proposals must be received by December 15, 2009. Mail to LIC, P.O. Box 111, Lakebay WA 98349.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Brittany Johnson as "the Rose Seller," Kasey Dickason playing "Dodger," Anne Milner of "Fagin's gang," and Ben Aguilar as "Oliver" with Phillip Olsen as "Noah Claypole," Valerie Jolibois as "Nancy," and Dana Michalski as "Bet" flood the stage with their antics.

Encore! stages 'Oliver!'

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Encore! Theatre is producing a favorite musical, "Oliver," Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2 pm through December 6 with a special Saturday matinee at 2 pm on Dec. 5.

Costuming is reminiscent of the original Broadway "Oliver!" or the squalor of London's slums in the opening scenes of "My Fair Lady." Considering that the stage at Encore! is miniscule compared to those of New York or Hollywood, it's stage setting is extremely well done. So much so, you feel it's far larger than it in fact is.

With Encore!'s thespians, you'll swear you're amongst Dickensian Londoners when you hear them.

The best part is the enthusiasm of cast members who hail from both the Key and Gig Harbor Peninsulas and even Tacoma, particularly the ubiquitous kids. They "know" they are Fagan, or Oliver, or Dodger or They're only pretending to be acting.

Based on the Dickens novel "Oliver Twist," the show tells the tale of the pitiful orphan boy who by innocently asking for more gruel is thrust into the unforgiving streets of London in the 1800s. Through a series of misadventures dealing with a plethora of eccentric characters including Mrs. Corney, Bumble the Beadle, the Sowerberrys, the Artful Dodger and the duplicitous Fagin, Oliver meets Mr. Brownlow and comes to live happily free of strife.

The show is appropriate for all ages

with outstanding musical numbers such as "Food, Glorious Food," "Where is Love," "As Long As He Needs Me," "Be Back Soon," and more. A winner of three Tony Awards, the show was written by Lionel Bart.

Tickets can be obtained on line at www.encoretheater.org or paid for in cash or check at the door 45 minutes prior to curtain time. Reservations are recommended by calling 858-2282.

Boasts Encore! director Kathleen McGilliard, "The crowd pleaser will be performed at our newly outfitted Encore! Theater space just in time for the holidays."

Attendees are encouraged to help those in need during the holidays; food and toy donations will be gratefully accepted.

Encore! Is located at 6615 38th Avenue Northwest, Gig Harbor, Washington.

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prior to December 11th.)

Contact Lori at
253-884-4412 or
lorigaon@aol.com

A Christmas Carol



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Peninsula High School juniors, Jenice Carey, playing a guest, and Alex Donahou as "Fred" chat with two other guests, senior Ashlee Lehnert and freshman, Alexa McConville during dress rehearsal for the Drama Department's production of, "A Christmas Carol."

Open House

Join us for a New Look at
Key Peninsula Community Services!

Date: Friday, December 11th
Time: 4:00-7:00 pm

Please join us to celebrate our remodel
of the Senior Center and Food Bank!

Thanks to the many individuals and organizations that are doing food drives for us... P.S.D. Bus Drivers, Boy Scout Troop 220, National Wildlife Turkey Federation, and KP Middle School (go Cougars)!

Special Thanks to:

Gaye Nelson,
Sharon & Lilly
West

for being our
Volunteers of the Month
for September and
October. We appreciate
you very much!



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

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Sports announcer calls KP home

By Ted Olinger, KP News

When the cavernous space around the boxing ring goes dark, the milling crowd of fight fans, family, and supporters gets loud. The pumping music they've been talking over is cut off, the flashy videos racing across giant screens go blank. A spotlight hits the ring to reveal a young, clean-cut man in a suit and tie deftly stepping through the ropes. He puts a microphone to his mouth and suddenly, "L-A-D-I-E-S AND G-E-N-T-L-E-M-E-N," booms through the auditorium, the words deep and precise and enunciated as carefully as if the speaker had crafted them himself.

"WELCOME TO THE BATTLE OF THE BOAT!" he says. Then, after introducing the ring officials, the speaker closes with, "And now, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS," words he really did craft himself.

That is the life Shanon Klink lives when he's not working on his tomatoes at home at Palmer Lake or at his day job with an ad agency in Gig Harbor.

Shanon and his wife, Kellyanne, moved out to the Key in the summer of 2006. "We looked everywhere," said Klink. "When we got past the apple sign [at Key Pen Highway and Lackey Road], we looked at each other and said, 'There's no way we're moving out here.' It was way too far away."

"Then we bought the first house we went to in Palmer Lake," said Klink. "Now, when I turn off 16 on to the Purdy Spit, I feel like I'm home."

But Klink has kept at his second career as ring announcer at the Emerald Queen Casino, introducing both boxing and mixed martial arts events for the last year and a half, though he got his start earlier.

"My brother-in-law is a professional mixed martial artist — Dennis "Superman" Hallman — one of the biggest names to come out of Washington," said Klink. "He needed somebody to do the ring announcing at one of the small shows one time and he thought I could do it. Then XCC {Extreme Cage Combat} started doing bigger shows, and they put me in a tux and stuck me in there. I didn't know what I was doing," said Klink, but he did know he needed a tag line.

"Dennis thought of 'Let's get down to business' about an hour before the



Photo courtesy of Shanon Klink

KP resident Shanon Klink is a ring announcer for Emerald Queen Casino and will introduce CageSport Mixed Martial Arts on Dec. 5 and the Battle of the Boat 79 on Jan. 9.

show. We laughed at it, but now I say it at every show," said Klink.

But Klink had a knack for the job. "Fight Promoter Brian Halquist gave me a shot at doing the inaugural MMA show at Emerald Queen Casino in June, 2008. After I announced the first fight he said 'I want you to do all my shows.'"

Klink credits his midwest childhood for his success as a live sports announcer.

"I grew up watching Cubs games, sitting on my grampa's lap, and listening to Harry Caray on WGN." Klink also sometimes announces for the Tacoma Rainiers.

"Ultimately, I just want more time at home on the Key with my garden and my wife and little boy," Klink said. "I took second place in the Chili Cook-Off last November. I think it was a touch hot. I'll be improving on that this year," he said.

And about that name? "'Klink' is German. Very. 'Shanon' is just a name my parents thought was cool back in the '70s and they decided to spell it weird," said Klink.

More about Shanon (one N) Klink's background can be found on his website: www.shanonklink.com. He will be introducing CageSport MMA Dec. 5 and the Jan. 9 Battle at the Boat 79, with George Foreman, both at EQC.

YMCA offers 6th grade program to KPMS

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Each Tuesday students from Key Peninsula Middle School can take a bus to the YMCA, where they get a snack, physical activity, and specified time for homework and skill development from 3:15 to 5:30 p.m.

It is all part of a program to provide 6th grade students with the opportunity to have structured physical activity, said Travis Lensing, youth and teen director at the Gig Harbor YMCA.

On Thursdays, there is a program on site at KPMS.

Bus transportation to the YMCA is provided by the school district, and students are picked up at the YMCA by their parents, Lensing said.

The students who participate on-site at their schools check in at 2:50 p.m. and take an intramural bus home at 4:30 p.m. The school district provides a bus to take those students home, said Travis Lensing, youth and teen director at the Gig Harbor YMCA.

"The main focus is on physical activity, but I like to leave it up to the kids what they want for the upcoming week," he said. "We have tag games, relay races, health and fitness trivia, and at YMCA they have a good chunk of time on their own. We set them up and acquaint them with exercise machines, circuit training, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays they partner with a teen fitness class and meet other kids from different schools."

Other activities include using the rock climbing wall, and swimming.

"At the end of each session, we allow time for study time," Lensing said. "We have a tutor from Gig Harbor High School to tutor and we have staff, so there are three in there helping in the homework process."

The program is specifically designed for sixth grade students, because the opportunity for after school sports is not offered until seventh grade, he said.

"There is record high obesity and we want to do what we can to abolish it," Lensing said.

A fee of \$20 a month covers the cost of transportation and the snack, said Lensing.

There is a cap of 30 students at each

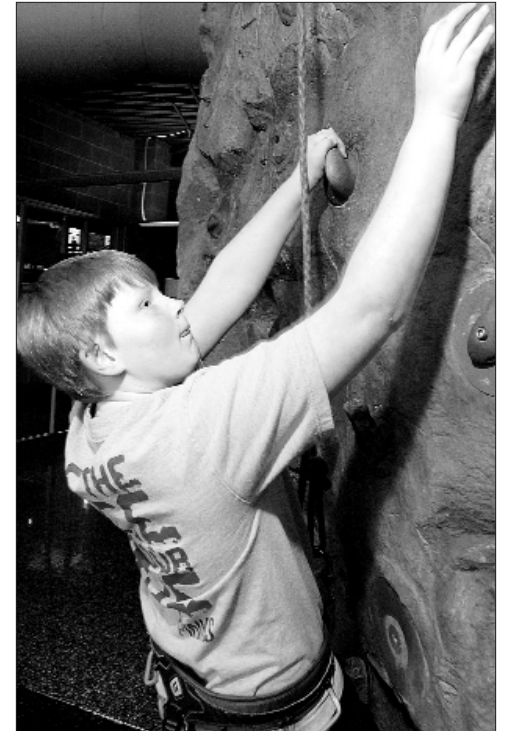


Photo by Scott Turner, special to KP News

Jacob Osborn, 11, from Key Peninsula Middle School, spent some time on the YMCA (stunt) rock wall, during a recent after-school outing.

school due to space limitations, he said, however none of the schools have reached that limit yet.

Interested students or parents may pick up a registration form at their school's office or visit ymcapkc.org.

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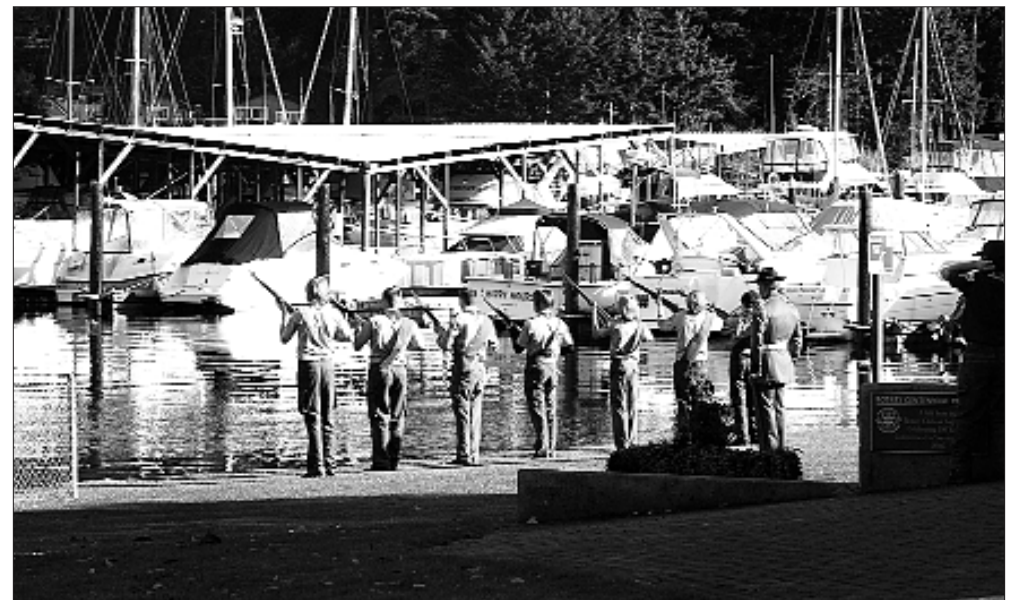
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Veterans honored on Key Peninsula



Vaughn Elementary 5th grader Riley Chalk receives a certificate and \$50 check from members of the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute for his winning essay on "What Patriotism Means to Me."

Photos by Hugh McMillan, KP News



Members of the Elks Club-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 282, made up of Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula boys, fire a 21 gun salute on Veterans' Day.



Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts at Vaughn Elementary present the colors at the school's Veterans' Day ceremony.

KPMS' Cindy Knisely wins Golden Apple

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Key Peninsula Middle School teacher Cindy L. Knisely, proudly but modestly received the Stanley O. McNaughton Golden Apple Award in the school's library Wednesday, November 18. Dr. Jim Menzies, senior education representative of PEMCO Insurance, and Richard R. Rock of School Employees Credit Union of

Washington, both of whose organizations are affiliated with KCTS, Channel 9, from whom the award originates, made the presentation.

As a NASA Explorer School, KPMS promotes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning. Knisely, a language arts teacher, teaches these subjects and serves as a member of the school's NASA Teacher Team and as NASA

Explorer School outreach coordinator.

She designed and teaches a popular elective called "Mission Specialist" in which students learn about subjects from robotics to rocketry and coordinates NASA family nights and accompanies students on trips across the country to learn alongside real scientists.

Knisely and other Golden Apple winners will be honored in ceremonies January 15

in Seattle. The winners will also be featured in a broadcast on public television stations statewide in February.

The award, sponsored by KCTS Channel 9 TV and funded by PEMCO Insurance and the School Employees Credit Union of Washington, is one more example of the exemplary performance of our Peninsula Schools.

For further information, contact Key Peninsula Middle School, 5510 Key Peninsula Hwy. KPN, Lakebay, WA 98349, (253) 530-4200.

OBITUARIES

Remembering Henry "Hank" Ramsdell

A Korean War Veteran of the US Army

Henry Ramsdell, a life long Key Peninsula resident, was inducted at Fort Lawton, Wash. and from there he served at Fort Riley, Kan., Camp Drake, Aleutians Islands, Ala., and Toyko, Japan. While Henry was originally attached to

the Tropical Lighting Division out of Hawaii, he never made it over to the Hawaii mainland. He was then attached to the 2nd Division, 24th Infantry and shipped to Yokohama, Japan, and from there destined for Inchon, Korea.

Henry 'Hank' Ramsdell was also one of many "Klingers of Korea" for his wheeling and dealing prowess. Hank was the 'scrounger' of his company. Whenever there was a need, he was sent out to procure what ever it was. One



RAMSDELL

night the stove ran out of heating oil. By morning a 50 gallon drum of heating oil was miraculously in the camp.

Upon the completion of his tour of duty, Henry departed through Pusan, Korean, and Sasabo, Japan returning to Ft. Lawton, Wash. He arrived July 4 at Ft. Lewis and was so eager to get back home, hitchhiked all the way back to Longbranch. Henry went to work for the Great Northern Railroad in Havre, Mont. where he married and began the journey of having and raising eight children. But he decided it was too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter in Havre and chose to move the new

family back to the Pacific Northwest. He came home and worked at American Lake Veterans Hospital retiring after 25 years of service. Henry has served on the board of the Key Peninsula Community Services and was an active member of the KPVI Veterans.

Hank is survived by his loving wife Alberta, Brothers Dale and Fred; children Kathy, Mike, Charlene, Patty, Lori; stepsons Michael, Brad, Jerry; 8 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren and his loving cat, Socks. A memorial was held on Sept. 26, 2009, at Penrose State Park. Henry Ramsdell will be laid to rest at Lakebay Cemetery.

(From LEVY, Page 2)

Island or that we've got money for the generator. The problem is we don't have money for either."

"When you're trying to balance a 2010 budget by taking \$120,000 plus out of the construction fund just to keep people employed, what we're doing is spending ourselves into insolvency," said Commissioner Bosch. "How much money do you want to keep taking out of your reserve account before you finally wake up to what the voters said and say listen, the people have told us 'live within your means. Make the cuts that are necessary.'"

Commissioner Bosch will step down in January after 12 years on the board, having lost his bid for reelection in the Nov. 3 race to fire department volunteer Claudia Jones.

Volunteer Lt. Anne Nesbit, who campaigned for the levy, said firefighters have a different take on the continuing levy losses. "The guys are really disappointed, and volunteers too," said Nesbit. "They're still going to come to work and

do the best they can every day, but the sentiment is, 'How come the community doesn't support me?'"

"I figured it was going to fail," said Yanity, who led the 'no' campaign.

"Until the union is willing to step forward and accept meaningful physical fitness and drug testing, they're never going to pass a levy."

"We're battling this public relations nightmare against an accusation that is unproved and unfounded," said Battalion Chief Bosch. "The reason Yanity gets his message out there is the media prints it. He doesn't have to prove anything."

"Now Yanity is saying we're punishing the people by reducing staff or closing stations," said Bosch, "But every time they fail a levy...we keep digging a little deeper, and pretty soon there's nothing left."

"People say there's conflict, there's problems [in the department]. But there's never once been an issue that wasn't resolved at the commission level consistently by a 2-1 or now 4-1 vote. The one thing that's true is that there is only one guy that continually votes against the fire department," said Bosch.

(From CRIME, Page 1)

and the eight families in the PCNET were trained through the Department of Emergency Management in Pierce County. It seemed the best way to organize a meeting, said Judy Mills who is the organizer.

"We will discuss recent burglaries and suggestions for how to protect our homes and properties," Mills said. "Though this is not an emergency, it still affects all of us in the neighborhood."

Emails have been sent out to residents and organizations, she said. Mills said the intention is to get as many people to the meeting as possible.

Pierce County Sheriff's Department personnel will also be at the meeting to answer questions and give tips, Mills said.

"The way the emails are flying back and forth it looks like it (the meeting) will grow," she said. "You can only take so much. It's time to take back our neighborhood."



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School District's long-range plan looks ahead 30 years

Peninsula School District is drafting a facilities plan that will address the district's needs for the next three decades. The plan is the result of work over the last few years by a facilities task force that included both district staff and community members. "The facilities task force looked at our facilities needs in Gig Harbor and on the Key Peninsula," says PSD Deputy Superintendent Chuck Guzzetta. "The school board then tasked the superintendent to come up with a 30-year plan."

The district has been working with an architect and engineers as well as in-house departments like technology to create a broad view of its future needs. The plan will include factors such as enrollment projections and studies of electrical and other

systems in the buildings. The plan, which will take in consideration remodeling, replacement and new facility needs, will be presented to the board of directors in the next few months. "Preliminary findings show the need for some facilities to be repaired as well as technology upgrades," Guzzetta said. The plan will also include cost estimates as well as a finance proposal.

The school district completed a long list of capital improvements in the last few years thanks to a voter-approved 2003 bond. The \$45 million bond paid for a major remodel of Purdy Elementary construction of Harbor Ridge Middle School and renovations of the Peninsula High School library as well as smaller projects such as parking lot improvements, HVAC system upgrades and energy updates.



Harbor Ridge Middle School was among the district's last wave of major capital improvements, which were financed by a voter-approved bond.

Fast Facts

- There are 56 National Board Certified teachers in the district with 17 currently going through the process.
- 4-Day All-Day Kindergarten is standard at all of our elementary schools at no fee.
- Our students have performed consistently above the state averages on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in reading, writing and mathematics at all grade levels.
- Our SAT scores in reading and mathematics are consistently higher than national averages.
- 73% of our teachers have a master's degree or higher. We currently have eight teachers/PEA members who hold doctorate degrees.

"We're looking at a new long-range cycle that will address all our facilities needs over the next 30 years, including our fields and our support facilities."

Safety

A safe learning environment for all students and staff is the utmost priority of the Peninsula School District. The SafeSchools LifeLine is a completely anonymous, toll-free tip line students, parents and community members can access any time they need to alert school administration about a potential crisis. When you call 1-866-LIVE-TIP: You will be asked to enter your district code of 162. You will always speak to a live operator who is trained to take immediate action. You will also have the option of calling 911 directly. All callers are assigned a code, allowing them to call back and check on the status of their issue.

December Events

- 10 School Board Regular meeting
6 p.m. at District Office; Key Peninsula Middle School ASB student presentations.
Vaughn Elementary School music program: Country Hoedown 7-8 p.m.
- 16 Peninsula High School band winter concert "Bells" 7:30-9 p.m.
- 21-1 Winter Break—no school

January Events

- 9 Purdy Elementary School's annual chess tournament 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 11 Key Peninsula Middle School beginning band concert 7:30-8:15 p.m.
- 12 Key Peninsula Middle School intermediate, advanced and jazz bands concert 7:30-8:15 p.m.
- 14 School Board Retreat 4-6 p.m.
District Office
School Board Regular meeting 6 p.m. District Office
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed—no school
- 28 School Board Study Session 6 p.m. District Office

Emergency Closures

The fall/winter storm season is upon us, and we have prepared information in the school calendar that was mailed home to students in August. Please use your calendar as a useful reference to help you understand how weather decisions are made. This information is also available under "Helpful Links" on the District's website at www.psd401.net.

Former high school building now 78

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The December 1931 issue of *The Tattler*, the monthly newspaper of Vaughn Union High School, tells of the completion of the new school building that now houses the historical museum, offices of the Civic Center and Key Pen News, VFW room and the caretaker's living quarters.

Editor-in-chief Herbert Worden's words on the mimeographed page record the story.

"A beautiful red brick building against a background of green trees and blue skies. Such is the appearance of the first unit of the new school, which will be formally opened on December 15. There are four large classrooms in which Home Economics, General Science, Typing and Agriculture will be taught. The Home Economics department is perhaps the luckiest of all for it will have two rooms, cabinets, a gas stove and a range, sinks, and a washroom. The need for a new school has been especially emphasized during the past years since the high school has grown considerably. The new school is appreciated by the Students of Vaughn High, and they are especially indebted to the persons who made possible this new building.

The program has not been entirely decided but it is known that there will



Photo courtesy of KP Historical Society

The Key Peninsula History Museum, which was the high school, now houses a copy of the Vaughn Union High School newspaper from 1931 announcing completion of the new building.

be two minute talks given by graduates of the high school from as far back as 1912. There will be other speakers including Mrs. Bean former State Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Swanson, county superintendent, and

Mr. sovereign of Puyallup who recently gave a talk at the school will show some slides. The school orchestra will also perform and there may be a talk on the History of the School by Mrs. Minnie van Slyke."

(From RICK, Page 6)

ambulances last year) force replacement at an exorbitant cost.

9) It is not cost effective or responsible to abandon Herron Island by permanently removing equipment when the island is not accessible to mainland equipment during low tide.

10) A union contract is unworkable when the managers (chiefs and lieutenants) who make the operational decisions are union members. unions only work when there are two sides, union workers AND management (who are not union members).

11) The volunteer program needs to be revitalized. Volunteers may well prove the difference between life and death for FD16.

Tough decisions need to be made. Only time will tell whether our current commissioners are up to the task. This might be a golden opportunity for the commissioners to redeem themselves to their constituents through some brilliant actions.



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Photo courtesy of Matthew Struthers

November sunset on Jackson Lake.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Danna Webster, an organizer of the celebration party for the publishing of "Celebrate the Key Peninsula," congratulates the two who were the driving force who brought the publication to a successful conclusion, Mindi LaRose and Rodika Tollefson.

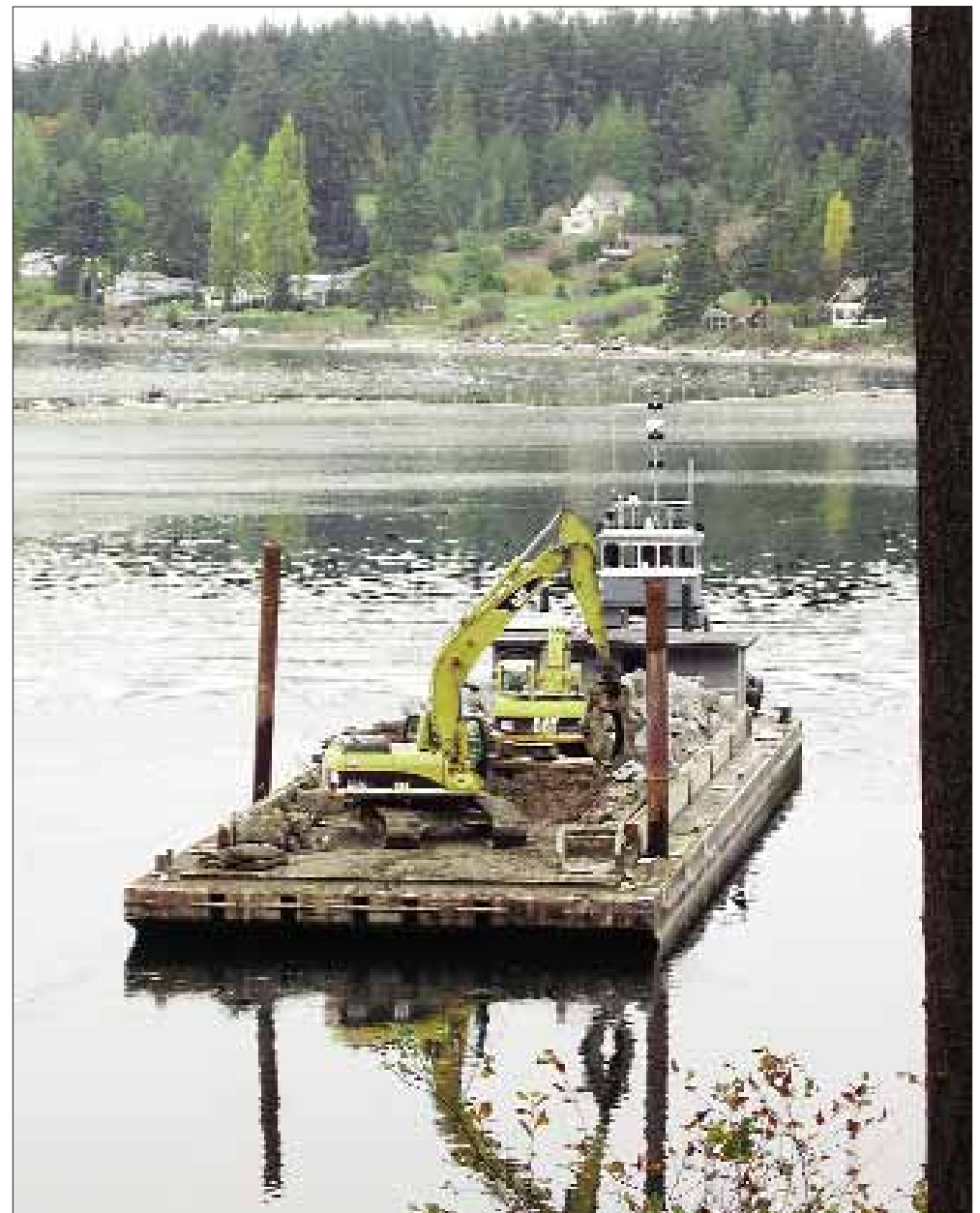


Photo by Frank Slater, KP News

A barge used for working on a bulkhead in Vaughn Bay heads out.



Photo by Ron Cameron, Special to the KP News

Overnight visitors dock at Penrose Park dock by Lakebay Marina.