



Wrestling, page 19

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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County may log Olson Drive



Photo by Ted Olinger, KP News

Trees marked for possible removal
along Olson Drive.

More than 30 trees lining the embankment along Olson Drive KPN have been marked with blue spray paint for possible removal by the Pierce County Public Works and Utilities Department. The contract for the work will be awarded by early spring and paid for with a federal grant.

"Pierce County received a \$400,000 safety grant and we have a portion allocated to improve the roadside along rural, two lane county roads," said Marlene Ford of the Traffic Engineering Department of Pierce County Public Works and Utilities. "We're going through the process right now of doing a right of way assessment, and the fastest, easiest way for us to do it was to first mark them in the field and then send our survey crew out to determine whether they're in the county right of way or not."

Suspect trees have been marked with blue spray paint because of their proximity and possible danger to the road. Some of the largest marked trees along Olson are 3-to 5-feet in diameter, making them older than the road they line.

"The maples are just beautiful and people enjoy the tree-lined street," said Joyce Niemann, who lives on the hill above Olson Drive.

"Both these roads come out of property my grandfather homesteaded," said Niemann, referring to Olson Drive KPN and the intersecting 92nd Street KPN, where trees have also been marked. Niemann is the granddaughter of Andrew Olson, who homesteaded 140 acres

(See **TREES**, Page 21)

Icy Marina

Some ducks swim in the cold water as a seagull and other ducks walk along the ice at Lakebay Marina.



Photo by Faith
Rhodes, Special
to the KP News

Reduced aid, expense for KP residents

By Ted Olinger, KP News

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

As FD 16 cuts expenses after another failed levy, the result will likely be an increase in expenses for KP residents who require medical aid. Other districts that help with response charge patients for transport.

The Key Peninsula Fire Department will run only one ambulance on some shifts in 2010 to reduce costs. A new staffing policy was adopted as planned by the Fire Commissioners at the Dec. 22 meeting.

"Changing our shift staffing level is a major change to the way we do business here in the department," said Fire Chief Tom Lique, explaining the new policy at the Dec. 8 commissioners' meeting.

The department currently runs two medic units 24 hours a day. The minimum requirement is four career personnel. If one of the four is not available to work due to illness, injury or vacation, off duty personnel are called to fill in and paid overtime.

The new policy changes that.

"The shifts have agreed to schedule

themselves to a minimum of four [career] people on every day, with a callback minimum of three. So, just because one person calls in sick, it doesn't automatically require a callback [overtime] shift," said Lique.

"With only three on, two go on the ambulance call — a paramedic and a driver — then only one person is left in the district," said Lique. "That will be a paid officer so that they can supervise all the logistics necessary if they have to go on another call, or bring in another agency, or fight a fire in the absence of having their own response crew," said Lique.

Under the new policy, if a shift is down to three, "the officer would have to respond alone [to a second aid call] and hope they get supported by a volunteer or off duty personnel. If they don't get an off duty response or a volunteer, they can't transport, ... [they] would have to rely on somebody else," said Lique.

Even with two medic units, this has already been happening.

Key Pen residents get a free ambulance ride right now, "if they're transported by us," said Christina Bosch, Administrative Manager for FD 16.

"We did have an incident during the fire the day before Thanksgiving [Nov.

25]. It was a medical aid and Mason County transported, and that patient got billed. [The family is] obviously quite upset because they're getting billed for an incident that we should've been there for," said Bosch.

"I can see that's going to start happening more and that's going to be very frustrating for our taxpayers because they voted for that EMS levy, 10 years ago, but when we can only guarantee one ambulance at a time, that's a price everyone has to pay, sadly enough," said Bosch.

The EMS levy Key Pen voters approved nearly 10 years ago doesn't cover all of the department's EMS expenses. Money for fire suppression had supplemented EMS, but that has dried up after four fire levy losses in as many years. The EMS levy is due for renewal by voters next year.

Fire Chief Lique, Division Chief Paul Bosch, and Battalion Chiefs Riegle and Robert Bosch are also paramedics and count toward minimum staffing for the medic units. Cutting the minimum to three may require them to respond more often than they do already to fill in for a missing fourth staff member.

"I monitor the traffic so I know when both ambulances have left," said Chief



Photo by Ted Olinger, KP News

As FD 16 cuts back and tries to make ends meet with less revenue, some equipment is being sold.

Lique. "I turn my portable radio on and modify my plans so I'm not leaving the district when we don't have any career people left. We'll all monitor the traffic more closely when we're at three, the division chiefs and myself," said Lique.

Response to Key Peninsula Crime

By Marsha Hart, KP News

On a cold Dec. 10 night, about 30 people came out to Camp Easter Seal for a meeting to discuss crimes along South Vaughn Road and the vicinity.

Information about prevention and current crime statistics for the Key

Peninsula were prepared and distributed by Lt. Rusty Wilder and deputy Jake Kreis of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, as well as Emily Watson, the community service officer.

"I'm here because I care what happens out here," said Wilder.

Pointing to the statistics, Wilder said

the number of crimes reported in the area is down, but he acknowledged that would not be a comfort to those who have been victimized.

Year-to-date numbers show that property crimes are down, with 333 reported.

(See **CRIME**, Page 22)

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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.

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Key Pen federal dollars determined by census count

By Danna Webster, KPNews

Last November, the Civic Center hosted representatives of the United States Census Bureau. The representatives were part of a road show program that is traveling the state introducing the importance of the 2010 census.

Along with the Census representatives were people from The United Way of Pierce County and the State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services. A primary objective of this program was to explain how participating in the upcoming Census can result in helping such programs as DSHS, and many other human services organizations serve our community.

Lilah Gael, a Census Bureau specialist from the Seattle region, explained the finances in an email interview.

Washington State receives about \$1,400 per person per year for 10 years from the federal budget that funds infrastructure, schools, hospitals, programs and services.

"If one person is missed, the community in which that person lives loses

\$14,000. If a family of four is missed, the community in which that family lives loses \$54,000," she said.

Numerous human services organizations are dependent on accurate Census data.

"By participating in the decennial Census, in addition to ensuring [that] residents of the Key Peninsula have adequate legislative representation, an accurate count ensures that communities get their fair share of federal funding," she wrote.

On Jan. 15, the Key Peninsula Business Association will host another presentation by the Census Bureau and their partnerships, which will outline the political and financial importance of being counted. The public is invited to join this noontime lunch meeting at El Sombrero Restaurant in Key Center.

In addition to generating federal monies, the census offers new job opportunities. The reader sign at Nimrick's in Key Center says census jobs pay \$17.50 per hour. Information about applying for the jobs is available by calling 1-800-861-2010.

In addition to generating federal monies, the census offers new job opportunities. The reader sign at Nimrick's in Key Center says census jobs pay \$17.50 per hour.

In March, the 2010 census forms will be mailed or delivered to your primary residence address. April 1 is National Census Day and the day the forms should be mailed back. Households that did not return forms will be visited by census takers from April through July.

By law, the Census Bureau delivers census information for apportionment to the President, December 2010. To preview the census form and get updated information visit www.2010census.gov.

Term limits open seat on Pierce County Council

Due to term limits, Terry Lee will not be running for Pierce County Council District 7 in 2010. PenMet Parks Commissioner Todd Iverson has declared his intention to run for the seat that will be vacated by Lee.

Iverson is a longshoreman at the Port of Tacoma and graduate of the University of Portland and Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma. He resides in Gig Harbor with his wife and son and has served on the PenMet Parks Board since 2008. Council District 7 includes the Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor, Fox Island, University Place, Fircrest and parts of Tacoma.

Food safety program cut

Due to budget cuts, the Washington State University Pierce County Food Safety Advisor program ended Dec. 31.

The program trained volunteers in food preservation and safety, and answered questions via a Food Safety Hotline. These volunteers trained through the program trained others in food safety and handling, and handled telephone questions from Pierce County and the entire U.S. five days a week.

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EDITORIAL

Vaccination, good hygiene protection for H1N1

From Tacoma- Pierce County Health Department, Special to KP News

This year "Tis the Season" has another important meaning. The approaching holidays happen to be situated in what many health officials say is the lull between the second and third H1N1 swine flu surges. So it's time for those who haven't been vaccinated for H1N1 flu to do so.

Take the word of Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy, Tacoma City Manager Eric Anderson and Tacoma-Pierce County Director of Health Dr. Anthony Chen. Follow the lead of Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste and other leaders.

Flu shots weren't a priority for McCarthy until she became county executive and a Tacoma-Pierce County Health Board member at the beginning of this year. "I've come to appreciate the role that every individual plays in public

health. It's important that I not only protect myself but also the people around me. I encourage everyone to heed the experts' advice, get vaccinated and follow the personal hygiene tips," she said.

Chen, whose department is directing Pierce County's H1N1 prevention efforts, said, "The flu shot is the most effective way to protect ourselves, our families and our community from the flu, whether it is seasonal flu or swine flu. It keeps us from getting sick and stops the spread of illness. Of course, as the director of health, it's important that I do what I preach. I wash my hands a lot, cover my cough, and stay home when I get sick."

Chief Batiste made arrangements to be vaccinated shortly after restrictions were lifted and H1N1 was made available to anyone 6 months and older who wanted it. "Based on the health information concerning H1N1 that's been provided by federal, state and local health experts, I felt it was important to be proactive in getting the shot to guard against possible illness," he said.

- Washington State Patrol Capt. Jeffrey DeVere, Tacoma Detachment commander: "We should take H1N1 seriously not only for ourselves and our families, but for those around us. As

neighbors and fellow citizens we should consider vaccination and other safety precautions to reduce this potentially tragic flu from spreading. I would estimate that most of us comes in contact with more folks than we realize. I am very worried about our troopers as they contact the public and hope that everyone takes appropriate safety measures to include vaccination to squelch this flu."

H1N1 by the numbers:

- Deaths: Pierce County, 11; Washington State, 65; U.S., 10,000.

- Hospitalizations: Pierce County, 150; Washington State, 1,325.

- Ill: Pierce County, 120,000; U.S., 50 million.

How to prevent H1N1 flu:

- Vaccination
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze (or cough/sneeze into your elbow).
- Clean routinely frequently touched surfaces such as shared phones and keyboards.

To find out more, go to tpchd.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Health care reform needed

We write today with concern over the current state of health care for children in our country. There are currently over 9 million children without health insurance at this time. These children go without the necessary care they need to be healthy and successful children. When children are without health care their social, emotional, and physical development, as well as their education are all affected. Infants who do not have regular health care are not receiving the immunizations that keep them safe from childhood illnesses and diseases and do not achieve their developmental milestones in a timely manner. The new health care reform being promoted by President Obama would ensure that all children would have affordable health care insurance in the United States. Citizens need to contact their State Senators and advocate for the passage of the health care reform bill.

*Gracia Hahn
Jennifer Gaddis, Melody DaCorsi
Longbranch*

Nervous novice has first massage

Last year my wife got me a gift certificate to a local massage therapy place for a birthday present. I'd never had a professional massage before and work a lot so the thing sat tacked up behind my computer for a year. This year on my birthday I decided to force myself to take the day off and go in to get a massage. While I wanted the one-hour massage, I was a little leery of going for the first time. I was pretty sure I wanted a female therapist, so I was wondering what I'd do if I walked in and got paired up with a burly, cigar smoking guy named Gunther. Should I just go with it? Or, would I mumble something about really wanting a woman therapist? Then what? What do you do when you meet your massage therapist for the first time? When you get your hair cut you just sort of sit down. But now, it's like, "Hi, I'm about to ask you to

KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



rub your hands all over me, nice to meet you."

I'm thinking, do I shake hands? And then once you get in there, do you leave some clothes on or have a towel, or just lie there naked? How's that work? Will I pass out cold and drool all over the table? As I parked, I also realized I'd forgotten to ask my two therapist friends what a good tip is for this sort of thing, because I was going in with a gift certificate, which, as I learned being a bartender and waiter, is a near sure sign of getting a bad tip. So I didn't want them to think "the

hick with the gift certificate" was a bad tipper if I didn't get it right. At this point I just wanted to get in there and get it over with so I'd know how it all worked.

Luckily, it seems the folks at spas understand that newbies are a bit cautious coming in for the first time. I met my massage therapist, who fortunately for me was female, calm, and professional. We shook hands. She led me back to the rooms, which is like going from a barber shop or a store into a dimly-lit, incense-laden, ultra-comfortable, dreamlike chamber in the span of three seconds, which is a bit odd, but in a good way. My therapist asked a series of questions like "When was your last massage," and "What kind of massage would you like." The latter question threw me so I'm like, "How 'bout The Sampler so I can figure out the best one?" (To which I'm sure she

thought "What a RUBE.") She said I could dress to "my level of comfort," meaning undergarments or nothing, so it was nice to know I had that flexibility. I'd hate to take off my clothes and then have someone come in and say, "Uh, no, sir, that's not how we do that...ya FREAK."

So by the time I'm finally on the table and comfortable, I feel 90 percent better from just passing through the Massage Initiation Procedure. But it only got better from there. She worked hands, arms, shoulders, feet, legs, back, face, head separately, applied heat, and worked muscles for an hour while new age music kept my brain from thinking about anything except the release of tension and toxins from my muscles. Relaxation started in my back and shoulders and

(See KEVIN, Page 21)

Money scripts and how they affect you

Money doesn't exist in a vacuum. Whether we're earning, borrowing or spending money, every time we touch it we operate from a deeply ingrained set of beliefs. We learned these money behaviors from our parents and the society in which we were raised, and we perpetuate them in our actions today.

This set of ingrained beliefs, attitudes and actions is called your "money script."

Money scripts are powerful behavioral patterns that create our current financial habits, especially ones we wish we could change: overspending; inability to save; credit card debt; undervaluing our work; under-earning; inability to pass up a "good deal;" or deep ambivalence about an inheritance. Even having a lot of money doesn't exempt one. Our money scripts lead us to actions, which cause us to suffer from worry, frustration, or despair.

Stomach-churning emotions are

Heather Bigger IT MAKES CENTS



common to anyone trapped by self-defeating money behavior. Our deepest desire is to gain control of our financial lives. Yet very few of us have spent much time examining our money scripts. Quite often, we're unaware that they even exist. Becoming aware of our behavior patterns around money is the first step towards healing our relationship with it.

Realize that being good with money has nothing to do with your IQ, educational level or even financial training. Money difficulties affect people from all walks of life, at all economic levels. While it's important to learn and use money management tools, it is equally important

that you address the emotional roots of behavior surrounding money.

For many people, self-defeating money behavior stems most often from unmet childhood needs. Money becomes an issue not only because of its tangible value but also because of what it symbolizes.

Here are some typical money scripts. Which, if any, sound familiar to you?

More money will make things better.

Money is the root of all evil.

There will never be enough money.

You can't trust anyone with your money.

People only want you for your money.

The more money you have the happier you will be.

Money doesn't grow on trees.

It's not nice to talk about money.

You can never be happy if you are poor.

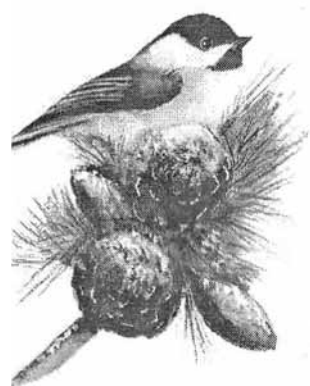
Realize that all these statements are scripts based upon judgments others

made about money and passed on to you. They're not "ultimate truth;" they're an interpretation of past circumstances. If these beliefs no longer serve you, you need not remain loyal to them.

It's important to discover and address your personal money scripts because when your conscious intentions are at odds with your unconscious motivations, you'll never feel quite right about money. By taking time to consider the childhood lessons you learned about money and then connect those lessons to your current behavior, you will gain a new level of understanding. This alone will help you change your self-defeating financial behaviors and take smart, conscious actions that will lead you to experience peace and balance about money.

Heather Bigger is a money coach and can be reached at 253-509-0283 or heather@biggermoneytips.com

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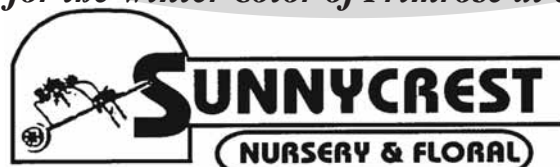
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FD-16 STATS

November 15 - December
Total calls: 159

EMS: 114

Fire/Service: 40

Other: 9

Unless otherwise indicated, all responses are by Key Peninsula FD 16

Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

Nov 24

A 6-year-old Wauna boy was evaluated by fire Medics for flu like symptoms. A physician was consulted and the child was found to be in no immediate danger and no need for transport.

Nov 25

Key Peninsula Firefighters fought to save a Jackson Lake area mobile home that was ravaged by fire and was deemed a complete loss. In the marathon 5-hour fire fight firefighters were faced with untenable environments and collapsing floors. Firefighters were able to recover many of the homeowner's pictures, however two cats are still missing and presumed dead.

Nov 26

Firefighters responded to a Longbranch resident for an 80-year-old Tacoma woman with difficulty breathing. Medics gave the patient a breathing treatment, took vitals, checked heart rate and rhythm, and transported to a Gig Harbor facility.

Nov 28

A barn fire in the 700 block of KPHN was brought under control quickly but took much longer to extinguish fully because of the large amount of items stored inside. The fire that was reported about 8 a.m. was the beginning of a busy day for firefighters/medics who responded from the fire scene to two separate medical aid calls including that of a 40-year-old Minter area woman who passed away unexpectedly.

(See **FIRE**, Page 22)



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 **Key Peninsula Civic Center**

Shifting Gears

By Irene Torres, KP News

Henderson Bay Products may be one of Key Peninsula's best-kept secrets.

General Manager, Riley Hopkins, relocated the machine shop from the Rosedale area to Key Center three years ago. Since then, a few machinists have been busy in the 20,000 square foot building. They manufacture parts, many of which are shipped to the aerospace industry. Running a crew of 10 people, Hopkins supplies parts to Boeing and several other major companies.

Historically, Hopkins was the largest customer of Henderson Bay Products. Thirty-five years ago, he invented a machine to print four colors of screen-printing on T-shirts.

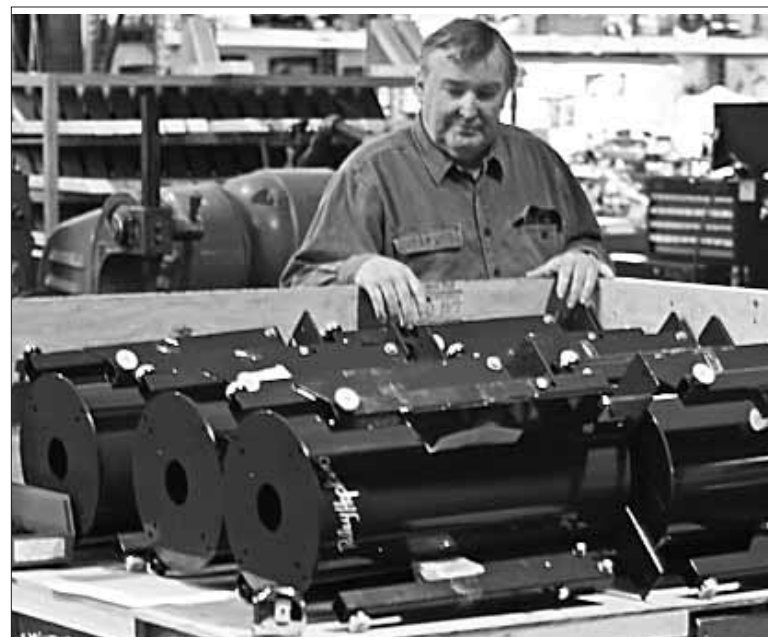
Since 1979, Riley Hopkins Productions Limited has been one of the top companies selling screen-printing machinery in Japan. He describes his design as "simple, indestructible machines that don't wear out and don't break. We have purposely not obsoleted my machine, bucking the

point of view of every expert (who advises to the contrary). It has turned out to be the right decision."

His company makes and sells 15 to 18 machines a week, priced from \$395 to \$10,000. Worldwide, 20,000 customers use Hopkins' screen-printing equipment. He works with dealers in Japan and Germany; and a dealer in Taiwan is working to open markets in Southeast Asia, Pakistan, India, the Middle East and the east coast of Africa, he said. Hopkins is interested in those areas because of the inks that are manufactured there, used in conjunction with the machines.

Hopkins said he has taken in a number of entry-level workers and trained them in welding, machining, component and machinery assembly.

"I'm a big advocate of education. We have a number of people obtaining their GEDs," Hopkins said. "A lot of them dropped out of high school and just don't realize the level of their talent or ability. We've made accommodations



Riley Hopkins moved his manufacturing company to the Key Peninsula. Henderson Bay Products supplies parts and machinery to businesses around the world.

Photo by Jim Bellamy, Special to the KP News

in the work schedule to allow that to happen. A couple are almost finished with their program, and one has already graduated. We're very happy to see that," he said.

Hopkins and his wife, Valerie, have taken it on themselves to "help people realize how good they are, how good they can be, and how important they are to us, so they can learn more and do more."

He manages a somewhat diverse workforce. One machine operator is a woman. "Our head machinist is very talented, and deaf. (To communicate) we write a lot," Hopkins said. "We try to encourage teamwork, working together, and cross-training. Each person can do a number of jobs," he said. "We are big fans of Peninsula High School's shop teacher, Doug Moreley. A number of his students either have, or are, working here. The skills he's taught them are invaluable to us. He's a national treasure in our eyes."

Hopkins grew up in Japan with an aeronautical engineer father and an architect mother. He said his parents provided an excellent tutelage for design concepts and point of view. "My dad taught me the value of simplistic solutions, that things should be as easy as possible to make and maintain," he said. The family moved to Poulsbo where he attended North Kitsap High School, then Olympic College before attending machine school with the US Navy. Hopkins was a weekly cartoonist for 38 Northwest newspapers for a number of years. He worked in advertising and marketing, and was the art director for an advertising agency in

Seattle. While at a similar position in San Francisco, he had his first opportunity to drive a Formula race car, which became his hobby.

Hopkins was involved in Formula One car racing for many years. "We won the Formula Atlantic National Championship and a number of professional races." He designed and built Formula cars. His wife was also a racer. "That's how we met," he said. Hopkins said, "She understands the competitive nature of racing and business. She does the majority of the purchasing supplies and equipment. She handles the majority of sales for the screen printing machines."

Hopkins was a driving force behind the Tacoma Grand Prix. More recently, he has been doing design work for Terry Cook for Deco Rides.com a New Jersey specialty car company.

"I consider myself a professional bumblebee. The bumblebee doesn't realize it's not supposed to be able to fly. I ask interesting questions and find interesting solutions." He added, "You can do anything you want if you're weird enough, and broke enough."

He said he was impressed by Francis Ford Coppola, the movie director who used his lack of resources as motivation with "maximum creativity, minimum budget, and maximum impact." He said, "In San Francisco, the support networks were there to succeed, but there was absolutely no support for failure."

Preferring to focus on the human factor rather than the financial aspect of his company, Hopkins said, "We do okay."



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Polar Plunge in Allyn

By Kelly Maxfield, KP News

It's a scene that has played out for 15 years in Allyn, one that makes onlookers confused and delighted. The Polar Bear Plunge will be Jan. 23 this year, at 8:30 a.m. at the Port of Allyn Waterfront Park.

The brave jumpers will be set to hit the icy waters of Case Inlet at 9 a.m.

The Polar Plunge was started in 1996 by a group of local residents who decided to raise funds for a Boys & Girls Club in the west sound. Over the years the event has donated a substantial chunk of change to support the youth of North Mason communities. Polar Plungers gather pledges from local businesses and community members who then turn out to watch their sponsored plungers take the dive. Local business partners sponsor the event as well by providing money, goods and services. Last year about twenty six plungers took the cold dip into Case Inlet on a cold January Saturday. The ages of the icy dippers range from 8 to 85.

Regardless of age, all the plungers are young at heart and willing to brave the

elements for the club.

Boys & Girls Club Director Katie Smith began working at the North Mason Branch in September 2009 but has been employed with the organization since 2003.

"We are hoping to raise \$6,000 for the center this year, maybe more. The community does an outstanding job of supporting our youth" Smith said. The monies raised are specifically earmarked for the North Mason Teen Center and the After School Program.

The Teen Center serves middle and high school aged students and is located on Campus Drive in Belfair. Programs for teens frequenting the center include the Scholarship Club, Girl Talk, Late Nights, Guitar Club, and the Homework Club, which partners with Hawkins Middle School in Belfair.

The After School Program, housed at Sand Hill Elementary in Belfair, serves elementary aged students. The younger set can experience Arts & Crafts, Social Recreation, and Healthy Habits, which focuses on smart food choices and cooking. The popular Power Hour is time

set aside for homework.

The Boys & Girls Club focuses on offering a diversified program in six key development areas; character and leadership, education and career, health and life skills, the Arts, Recreation and Technology. Their mission statement says it best, "To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. All kids are capable of success, no exceptions."

On Jan. 26 there will be a bonfire to warm those brave enough to take the leap and you're bound to spot several propane heaters to subsidize the warmth from the fire. The North Mason Lions Club will provide hot beverages and pastries. Music will be provided by The Backwoods Windjammers, a local swing band led by Hawkins Middle School music teacher Stan Yantis. The group is a local favorite and is always ready to lend a helping hand to raise money for youth programs. Stop by and enjoy the festivities while lending your support to a worthy cause.

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Boys & Girls Club Makes Good Neighbors

The Jim and Carolyn Milgard Family HOPE Center, which houses the Cheney Family Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, opened earlier this year around the corner from Henderson Bay High School—and both the school and the entire school district have been enjoying a new partnership with the club.

Peninsula School District students of all levels are engaged in afterschool activities at the new facility, thanks to the school-bus transportation provided by the Boys & Girls Club.

The elementary age program includes homework help and structured activities provided on a rotating schedule, including gym, arts and computer time. The homework time, called Power Hour, is incentive-based and utilizes mentors from the community.

“We coordinate with the schools and talk with the teachers so we can really focus on helping each child,” said Jo Ann Maxwell, the center’s director.

Students from the middle and high schools have their own activities at a teen center, and all programs are divided into four total age categories for children 6 to 18 years old. The club serves nearly 200 kids, with



Elementary-age children are enjoying snacks upon arriving at the club, before launching into a variety of after school activities. Center director Jo Ann Maxwell says the Peninsula School District teachers, counselors and principals are the center’s “biggest cheerleaders” in getting the word out to families. “They’re really wonderful in promoting our programs, we appreciate their support,” she says.

the majority of them from the school district.

“Our partnership with the Boys & Girls Club furthers our goal to educate the whole student in character, creativity and fitness,” says PSD Assistant Superintendent Shannon Wiggs.

The HOPE Center makes its gymnasium available at no charge for Henderson Bay High, located next door, to use for physical education activities that were previously not available to the school.

“We knew that Henderson Bay didn’t have a gym and we wanted to serve their needs,” Maxwell says. “Our philosophy is that we are all here to serve the kids’ needs and we want to be a good partner with the school district.”

The center hopes to utilize the high school’s teaching kitchen later in the year for classes.

“We are fortunate to have such a facility with a kind and generous staff as our next door neighbor,” says HBHS Principal Daniel Gregory.

First of Four Superintendent Forums to be Held January 21, 2010

As part of its outreach effort to staff, parents and community members, the Peninsula School District will sponsor four Superintendent Forums open to the community, the first meeting to be held January 21, 2010, at Goodman Middle School. These sessions will be unstructured and will allow community members to raise issues and ask questions pertinent to the Peninsula School District. The meetings will be held at school sites to afford community members the opportunity to visit their neighborhood schools and better understand their school system.

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

January 21, 2010	Goodman Middle School
March 15, 2010	Harbor Ridge Middle School
May 4, 2010	Key Peninsula Middle School
June 1, 2010	Kopachuck Middle School

Did you know...

Key Peninsula Middle School photography is on display in the Gig Harbor City Hall building. Twenty-eight, incredible, framed KPMS photographs are available for viewing until January 27. A permanent display is in the Gig Harbor Multicare building and St. Anthony’s Hospital, as well.

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 6:30 p.m. District Office
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed—no school
- 21 Superintendent’s Forum 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Goodman Middle School: staff, parents and community members are welcome to raise issues and ask questions pertinent to the school district.
- 28 School Board Study Session 6 p.m. District Office

Budget Information

You can follow the latest information regarding our budget, staffing and enrollment on Twitter. We will be providing periodic updates about our finances and support operations. To read the comments or to become a “follower” go to <http://twitter.com/PSDFINANCE>.

At A Glance

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

Training for Special Winter Olympics

By Kelly Maxfield, KP News

Laughter, bouncing balls, running feet and verbal banter among friends could be heard in the gym of Goodman Middle School during the weekly basketball practice of The Harbor Dream Team.

Program coordinator Cheri Floyd makes this happen on a weekly basis with the help of a large group of volunteers and parents. The players range in age from 11 to nearly 50. The group meets once a week at the Goodman gym for two hours to learn basketball skills and teamwork.

The first three practices are dedicated to skills and testing to see where the players will shine and reach a new level of achievement, Floyd said. Players learn dribbling, passing, and shooting as they rotate skills stations around the gym. They are then divided into three teams and a skills squad that work to qualify for the Special Olympic Winter Games.

As volunteer and caregiver Peggy Atkinson says, "No one is turned down. There is a place for all skill levels and all players."

Their first challenge will be the qualifying tournament in Bremerton Feb. 20. If the teams or skills squad qualify, they will play in the Special Olympic Winter Games in Wenatchee March 5-7, 2010.

Cheri Floyd and her husband Steve became involved in Special Olympics about 12 years ago when their daughters, Elizabeth and Missy, befriended Casey McBride and began attending her softball games, Floyd said.

This was the beginning of a relationship with the local special needs community that has withstood the test of time.

"Once people volunteer for the

“

These players really know how to keep life simple and enjoy the important things.

— Peggy Atkinson, caregiver

”

program, they keep coming back," said Floyd. "In fact, both Elizabeth and Missy are majoring in special needs professions in college. Their involvement in volunteer work has led them toward their chosen careers." Peninsula School District educators Karen Larsen and Thom Worlund helped start the program in the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula area about 12 years ago.

Sports include softball in the summer, swimming and soccer in the spring and basketball during the winter months. This is the second year for the basketball program and volunteers are working to raise money for team uniforms. Last year's highlight of the basketball season was the end of the year scrimmage held against the Gig Harbor High School boy's basketball team organized by John Medak. Organizers are hoping the game will take place again this year.

"The players are full of heart, just listen to the organized happy sounds in this gym," said Atkinson. "These players really know how to keep life simple and enjoy the important things."



Photo by Ed Johnson

Bianca Edison and Roy Bowen practice passing during the Harbor Dream Team basketball practice in December. The team is practicing for the Winter Special Olympics.

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BRIEFS

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Pierce County Library Board adopts budget

TACOMA - At its December meeting the Pierce County Library System's Board of Trustees adopted the Library's 2010 \$28.6 million operating budget, with taxpayers at the center of the decisions. The budget addressed a \$1.5 million shortfall which resulted from the library's revenues not keeping up with the costs to run the library, because of reduced values on assessed properties and a drop in construction of new buildings throughout the county.

Approximately 97 percent of the library's funding comes from taxes on houses, commercial buildings and other property. The reductions are mostly behind-the-scenes changes and the Board is confident customers will still receive outstanding quality service from the Library System.

The board did not exercise its legal authority to collect 1 percent more in tax revenue than it did in 2009, thus reducing

costs to taxpayers. Under state law, for taxing districts with populations of more than 10,000, the property tax limit is the lesser of 101 percent or 100 percent plus inflation.

"We carefully weighed the reductions in our budget to ensure the library continues to serve customers and taxpayers," said Eugene Matsusaka, chair of the Library Board. "We strove to balance the economic challenges in our communities while maintaining staff jobs."

With the majority of the library's budget comprised of staff, the significant reductions were to staff. The library eliminated 24 positions, mostly in supervisory roles. In all, the library laid off nine people. The library also converted 31 positions to lower pay and responsibility, to make a clear delineation between processing materials and direct service to customers.

Guiding principles for the 2010 budget included:

- * Making decisions in the best interest of the communities and taxpayers.

- * Preserving promises from a re-authorized levy voters passed in 2006 which added hours in libraries; offered more books, movies, audiobooks and other materials; increased services to help prepare children to read and with home-

work; and improved customer and technology services.

- * Providing up-to-date and future-oriented services.

- * Developing and supporting technology.

"In developing our budget we created a long-term plan that is strategic, flexible and sustainable, and is in the best interest of taxpayers," said Neel Parikh, executive director of the Library. "We made decisions for the long-term interest of the taxpayer, who pays the bill for library services."

Christmas tree recycling sites

Pierce County residents can recycle their Christmas trees through the Public Works and Utilities department, various cities and towns, and county-contracted private solid waste and recycling companies.

All trees collected through the self-haul and curbside yard waste programs are composted into a soil amendment that is popular with home and commercial gardeners. Treecycling helps save valuable landfill space, while the compost created enhances soil quality, saves water and reduces reliance on chemical fertilizers.

Pierce County residents who subscribe to yard waste collection

service can "treecycle" their unflocked Christmas tree curbside. Other residents can recycle trees free of charge at designated locations. Flocked trees cannot be recycled and must be disposed of as garbage.

To recycle a tree in Pierce County, remove the tree stand, tinsel, decorations, garland, nails and staples.

To recycle curbside, cut the tree into 4-foot lengths or smaller and place loosely inside the yard waste container. If it doesn't all fit, dispose of the pieces over several weeks on regularly scheduled yard waste pick-up days.

Self-haulers can take their tree to any of the following locations.

- * Key Center residential waste drop box, 5900 block Key Peninsula Highway between Key Center and Home, Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

- * Purdy transfer station, 14515 54th Avenue NW north of Gig Harbor, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., seven days a week.

All facilities are closed on Christmas and New Year's days.

For additional drop-off sites, call the Public Works and Utilities 24-hour solid waste information line at 253-798-4115, or go to www.piercecountywa.org/treecycle.

Longbranch Improvement Club

Start the new year at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

Jan 20 Monthly meeting

Come and join the best game in town; the Longbranch Improvement Club is open to all. Membership starts at just \$20 per year and you'll enjoy sharing our goal of improving our community. Meet your friends and neighbors at the Clubhouse, potluck dessert buffet starts at 7 pm.

Feb 16 Feast or Famine

A Mardi Gras event to benefit KPCS Food Bank, sponsored by the LIC, KPCS, KP Family Resource Center and the Home Port Restaurant. 6:30 to 8:30 pm, \$25 tickets at sponsors, Sunnycrest Nursery or call 884-9157 before Feb. 8

Winter moorage

Limited space is available, discount rates. Call Marina at 884-5137.

253 884-6022 for LIC information
253 884-9157 for event info or tickets
LIC Clubhouse at 4312 Key Pen Hwy S,
5 miles south of the Home Bridge
www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

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COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25- Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at the Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. each Monday. It will be at Peninsula Light on Jan. 12 from 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and at the YMCA on Jan. 26 from 4-6:30 p.m. See the website calendar for other locations and times.

Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26- Story time

Story time for babies is held on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Babies must be accompanied by a caregiver. 884-2242

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27- Family story time

Story time for families is held on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver. 884-2242

Jan. 8-Hip-hop deadline

Today is the deadline to pre-register for Key Pen Parks Hip-Hop classes. Students ages 8-14 can learn to hip hop while improving their endurance and flexibility on Tuesdays, Jan. 12-Feb. 16, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. The class will be cancelled if enrollment is not met by Jan. 8. Pre-register with Chad, 884-9240 or Chad@keypenparks.com. See ad for details.

Jan. 11-Tumbling class deadline

This is the last day to pre-register for Key Pen Parks Tumbling 101. Students ages 5-12 will learn tumbling skills on Thursdays, Jan. 14-Feb. 18, 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 in enrollment is not met by Jan. 11. Pre-register with Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com. See ad for details.

Jan. 12 - Teen advisory

The new library teen advisory group will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-2242

Jan. 13-Youth basketball deadline

This is the last day to pre-register for the Key Pen Parks 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. Clinics are on Saturdays from Jan. 16 to Feb. 27 and cost \$45/student. Call for times for each age group. (Classes will be combined or canceled if the minimum of 10/group is not met.) 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

Jan. 14 - Nepal Adventure

The Friends of the Key Center Library present a free lecture, "Counting Crocs in Nepal," at the Key Center Library at 7 p.m. Fisheries biologist and ecologist Domoni Glass shares her adventures traveling to Nepal to count the endangered gharial crocodiles. Donations to the Key Peninsula Food Bank encouraged. 884-2242

Jan. 14- Scrumptious soups deadline

Today is the deadline to pre-register for Key Pen Parks "Scrumptious Soups" held on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at the Volunteer Park Concession Building from 6-8 p.m. for ages 14 and over. Looking to stretch your dollars? Learn to make two different soups by Ravansara's own Joe Rudolph. Make the best chicken broth from a whole chicken using the freshest vegetables and spices and a country style potato leek for those cold winter evenings. Recipes will be provided to take home. Fee is \$12. Class will be canceled if the minimum of 5 is not met. 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

Jan. 18-Fitness class

Adults may get fit and be healthy and maybe lose weight with fitness enthusiast Kim Sutherin as she guides you through a progressive walking program at 360 Park, a new addition to the park district. Kim will hold free "Kickin' It Off on the Key" classes from 8-9 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (rain or shine) from Jan. 18-April 30 at the park located at SR 302 and 144th Street. The goal is to be able to walk 2.5 miles briskly and with ease. Contact Chad, 884-9240 or Chad@keypenparks.com

Jan. 21- Community forum

The Mustard Seed Project's Third Thursday Community Forum from 10-12 a.m. at the Key Center Library will focus on senior transportation on the Key Peninsula. Amanda, Walston, the new community-based transportation coordinator will discuss creative approaches to the transportation needs of Key Peninsula seniors. All are welcome to share ideas for enhancing senior transportation in the area. Current and potential volunteer drivers are especially encouraged to attend. 884-9814

Jan. 30-Baseball sign ups

Key Peninsula Little League will hold sign ups from 1-5 p.m. at Volunteer Park. Additional sign ups will be on Feb. 3 from 6-8 p.m. and Feb. 6 from 1-5 p.m. Penny, 253-722-4883

Jan. 31-Open house held

WayPoint Church celebrates their new facility with a worship-based open house beginning at 4 p.m. The church is at 12713 134th Ave, just off Elgin-Clifton Rd. Regular Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. The church's new phone number is 853-7878.

Jan. 31-Winter concert

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra will perform its annual free Winter Concert

at 3 p.m. at Peninsula High School. Four orchestras, from beginning to advanced, will perform. Contact Paula, 534-5384 or jharborpyo.org.

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. 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.

Feb. 15-19-Art camp

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

limited to 20. Chad, 884-9240 or Chad@keypenparks.com

Feb. 16- Feast or Famine

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

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-Lakebay writers

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

JANUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Lions Club, Jan 6. & 20, 6 p.m. social, 6:35 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting, KP Civic Center
- KP Metro Parks, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, Jan. 12 & 26, 3 p.m. at meeting room, Key Center Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m.-business meeting, KC Fire Station
- KP Civic Center Board, Jan. 14, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room
- Peninsula School District Board, Jan. 14, regular meeting; Jan. 28, study session meeting, both at 6 p.m. at district office.

NOW is the time to nominate

NOW is the time to nominate candidates for Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year.

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 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: 853-2721 or 884-3319.

OFF THE KEY

Jan. 12- 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.

Jan. 15-Free movie

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club presents "The Kite Runner" at 10 a.m. at the Galaxy Theatre in Gig Harbor. The movie will be followed by coffee in the

party room. 238-6490

Jan. 23-24- Women's conference

The Steppin' Up Women's Conference is held at the Best Western Wesley Inn. All proceeds go to the Homestead at Alder Cove, a local home for foster children. Online registration is available at www.wesleyinn.com, or by phone at 1-888-462-0002.

Jan. 29-Play opens

The Encore! Theater Company opens "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," The play will run on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Valentine's Day. Tickets are \$18/adults, \$14/seniors, military & teens, \$10/children 7-12. Call 858-2282 for reservations or buy online at www.encoretheater.org.

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FROM PIONEER STOCK

SHARING HER GRANDFATHER'S DREAM



Photo courtesy of Lauren Littleton

Littleton, right, and her sister Heidi on an early visit to their grandparents' home.

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Lauren Littleton lives in her grandfather's dream home on Rocky Bay.

Littleton spent many summer and holiday times in her growing up years on the property her grandfather, Bob Prichard, bought in 1960.

Prichard, born in Seattle "a week before the sinking of the Titanic," moved many times before age 6, but the family finally settled in Bremerton.

His wife Alda moved to Bremerton from Ohio as a child, but they didn't meet until many years later.

Prichard skipped fifth grade, and because of that, was able to take an apprentice exam at the Navy Yard his senior year of high school. He chose patternmaker as his trade of choice because it had an arty sound and boat builder because he liked to build things. Patternmaking became his trade for over 50 years.

He worked at the Navy Yard, but also in California and Seattle, had a farm near Centralia, and had jobs in Tacoma, where he eventually had his own shop.

Both Prichards became scout leaders, and always enjoyed having their children's friends and other young people in their home. They became involved with Young Life in 1955.

They spent time at Young Life in Malibu in BC, and later, made several trips to work

at Fellowship House in Washington, DC and The Cedars in Arlington, Virginia, both Christian facilities.

The Prichards looked at waterfront property around Longbranch, where son Denny and wife now live, but purchased 4 ½ acres farther north with a view of the Olympics.

Prichard's dream was to build a retirement home there, although his wife rather hoped it would stay a summer place with a trailer and cabana.

They moved into their new home in 1972, but Prichard realized Alda wasn't happy there so far away from her friends and city life she knew.

He found property in their old neighborhood on Memory Lane in University Place, and planned to build a home there. When Alda discovered he was willing to give up his dream home for her, she decided to stay. Their home church sent them to be "missionaries to Vaughn." They joined the Vaughn Community Church, where Prichard helped with the remodeling project.

After retirement, the pattern shop provided enough funds to pay for travels to Europe, Asia, Australia and a biking trip through the British Isles.

They bought a motor home, traveled up the Alcan Highway to Alaska, and to Nova Scotia and back across the southern US.

(See HISTORY, Page 21)

KEY PEN PARKS



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Last Chance to sign up for **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

Age: 4-8
Location: Key Peninsula Civic Ctr.
Fee: \$45
Min/Max: 10/30 per age group

Last Chance to sign up for **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!

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

Last Chance to sign up for **Tumbling 101**

In this fun tumbling class students will learn tumbling skills such as rolls, cartwheels, hand & headstands, etc. Tumbling helps develop motor skills, flexibility and coordination.

Age: 5-12
Location: Whitmore Rm, Civic Ctr
Day/Date: Thursdays 1/14-2/18
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Min/Max: 6/15

Last chance to sign up for **Scrumptious Soups**

Come & learn to make two different soups by Ravansara's own Joe Rudolph! You will make the best chicken broth from a whole chicken using the freshest vegetables and spices & a country style potato leek for those cold winter evenings. Recipes will be provided to take home.

Age: 14 +
Day/Date: Wed. Jan. 20th

Location: Vol. Park Concess. Bld
Time: 6-8 pm
Class Fee: \$12
Food Fee: \$5 (pd. to Instructor day of)
Min/Max: 5/20

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Where: 360 Park SR 302 at 144th St Gig Harbor
When: Jan 18th-April 30th Mon, Wed, & Fri
Age: Adult +
Time: 8:00-9:00 am
Cost: Free

Presented by **Two Waters Art Alliance & Key PenParks** **Sticks & Stones Art Camp**

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

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

Instructor: Key Pen native Roshni Robert lives & works in her studio in Home where she works mostly w/nature based watercolor. Roshni recently spent time in Iceland at the NES Artist Residency. She's looking forward to providing nature based art to our youth on the Peninsula.

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Weaving of tales and bears

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Minter Elementary third graders have been studying Native Americans. Susan Stone's and Margaret Sathers' classes divided into various "tribes" by table, such as Plains Indians, California Mountain Indians, etc. Students in both third grade classes gathered to learn about native weaving with a colorful hands-on project.

Sheila Wray, who visited fourth graders at Evergreen Elementary last month and demonstrated traditional basket weaving, gave a different presentation at Minter. The students learned a basic weaving technique to make a specific design, a bear. They started with a sticky background and strips of green and blue construction paper. Each child had an individual card showing a finished example to copy.

Wray used an overhead projector to demonstrate each step.

"Under one, over four, under two, over two, under one," she said at one point, although some steps were easier – "under two, over seven, under one."

Some students grasped the principle of studying the picture and counting squares, and moved ahead at their



Calvin Losh, first one to finish the weaving, shows his project.

Photo by Colleen Slater

own speed.

Both teachers and other helpers assisted those who felt challenged. Mrs. Stone said she thought it was harder for her than her students.

Students who completed their own project helped others.

During the process of their weaving, Wray interspersed a Tlingit legend about bears.

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“Gingerbread Kid Revue” at Vaughn Elementary school



Photo by Richard Tiegs, Special to the KP News

Dec. 16. The kindergarten classes dressed as miniature gingerbread cookies and had a fun filled time of singing and dancing for family and friends.

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PHS students 'make cents' for Lakewood officers

By Sarah Tysdal
Special to KP News

Gig Harbor- Peninsula High School students are stepping up to the plate to help out the families of the four Lakewood Police officers who were killed on Sunday, Nov. 29. A coin drive has collected close to \$400 that will be donated to the fallen officers' families.

As part of the "Just Make Cents" program, collection cans were placed throughout the school in classrooms, lunch check out lines and the office. At lunch times, four bottles - labeled for each class - collected coins as part of a school competition.

"The driver is the competition," said Mary Lyssand, Peninsula leadership instructor. "But what surprises me is how the kids are mostly concerned with just helping, not winning something. And that really puts a smile on my face."

After donating, students were encouraged to sign a poster, writing helpful and caring words for the officers' families.

On Tuesday, Dec. 8, a memorial service was held for officers Mark Renninger, Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold and Greg Richards. Funds will be earmarked for the nine children of the fallen officers.

Lyssand, a psychology and leadership teacher at Peninsula, attended the memorial service.

"After listening to the officers' children tell their stories about their parents and what they missed most about them, it really touched my heart and put a face on why we were doing this drive," said Lyssand.

The class competition finished on Dec. 16. For additional information, contact Lyssand at 253-278-9497.

Sarah Tysdal is a Peninsula High School student.

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Announcing a **CALL TO ARTISTS** for Spring Fling artwork. See e-newsletter on TWAA website for details.

Also, a **CALL TO ARTISTS** for **student artwork display**. Middle school and high school only. Must be K.P. resident.

PHS & HBHS students contact your **art teachers**.

Home schooled and private schooled students contact Merrilee Kennedy. Applications and details can be found on e-newsletter on TWAA website at www.twowaters.org.

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KPMS Wrestlers Clinch Perfect Season

By Ted Olinger, KP News

The Key Peninsula Middle School wrestling team capped their undefeated season by winning first place at the district tournament Dec. 12 at the Peninsula High School gym.

Wrestlers from four area middle schools faced everyone in their weight class in as many as three matches of three rounds, each round lasting up to 90 seconds. Wrestlers win by decision or by pinning their opponents, and earn points for takedowns, escapes and holds that count toward their team's total.

The 17 wrestlers from KPMS earned 284 points, decisively out-stripping Harbor Heights (233), Goodman (205) and Kopachuck (155).

Four KPMS wrestlers swept their matches to win first place in their weight class: Brandon Hicks (145 lbs, 3-0), Jordan Tollman (137 lbs, 3-0), Tadd Rustad (125 lbs, 3-0), and William Lester (90 lbs, 3-0).

"Our 6-0 season is basically validated," said KPMS Coach Zach Martin. "It wasn't a fluke. It shows that this team worked really hard. This team hasn't gone undefeated since I graduated from KPMS in '02."

This is 20-year-old Martin's first year coaching at KPMS. He has been an assistant coach at PHS for three years and also coaches in the local Peninsula Youth Wrestling program. Coach Rich Goddard assists Martin at KPMS.

Eighth grade Cougar Jordan Tollman is in his second year of wrestling and first season at KPMS, and came to the tournament 5-1 on the season.

After his first match, he was 6-1. "I just pinned the guy who beat me last time,"

said Tollman. He was attracted to wrestling because, "It's a great way to stay in shape and I like to hurt people."

One of his opponents was Goodman Middle School eighth grader Briana Butler, one of two girls in the district and the only one wrestling in the tournament. "I haven't won anything at the meets," she said, "but I've pinned some of the dudes on my team."

Butler's goal for the tournament was to last all three rounds in each match.

"I just want to see what my capacity is, see what I can do," she said.

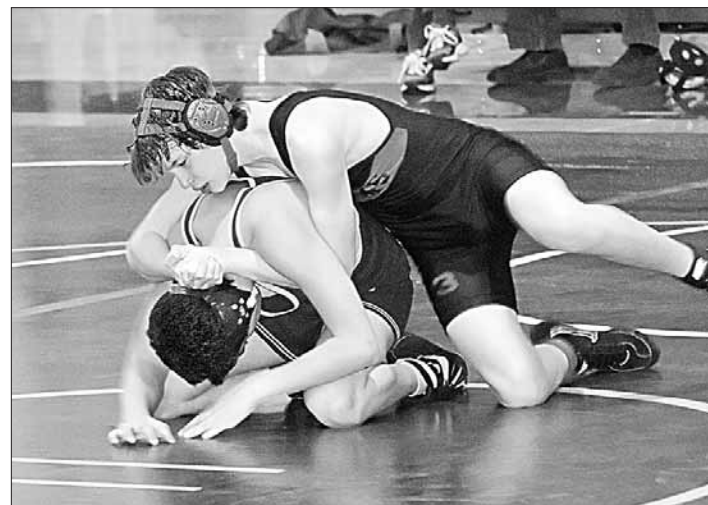
Butler nearly won her first match, but lost the next two on cradle holds, where she was wrapped and lifted entirely off the mat by opponents.

Collegiate style wrestling is demanding. Wrestlers try to hurl each other to the mat, twisting and grabbing, peeling off clamped hands. Muscles bristle with exertion and faces contort with purpose. That emotional intensity can make losing a match harder to take than getting hurt.

"We had a couple guys that fell short of where we thought they were gonna be," said Miller. "One guy lost by one point, and that was real tough because he pinned [his opponent] last time. But he's got another year though."

The Cougars' perfect season this year is "because of the new coach," said KPMS eighth grade student body president David Thornborough from the stands, referring to Miller. "A lot of kids couldn't be on teams this year," he said, due to school district budget cuts that halved the athletics program at KPMS. "It's okay. They get over it," said Thornborough, "But winning's good."

"I feel like this season is going to be a real turning point, showing that we have



KPMS wrestler Brandon Hicks, 3-0 at the tournament, taking first place in his weight class (145 lbs).

Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

a successful program," said Miller. "The middle school guys are done now. Hopefully, we can get more kids into the [Peninsula Youth Wrestling] program afterwards. It would be really nice to see some of our seventh graders there, and more fifth and sixth graders."


Miller is also an assistant coach at PHS. "We're in the toughest league in the state. The new coach, Ron Powers, is

committed to the long term responsibility that it's going to take to build the program," said Miller.

"One of the toughest things is trying to get kids out of middle school to wrestle in high school. Maybe 50 percent make the transition. It's a lot tougher, it's a lot rougher, it's a big time commitment and not everybody is ready for that. But that's what we're working toward," said Miller.

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OBITUARIES

Robert Clinton Teasdale Buckell

Robert Clinton Teasdale Buckell, "Buck", passed away on Dec. 12, 2009. He was born to D'Arcy and Edna Buckell Feb. 15, 1926 in Gig Harbor, Wash. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and three brothers, wife Bobbie (Barrett) and friend Marion Niemann. Buck graduated from Vaughn High School and attended the College of Puget Sound. He served our country in World War II, stationed in the Philippine Islands. Buck loved sports. He played baseball, basketball, football and later on, golf. He had tryouts with the Seattle Rainiers as a pitcher out of high school, but was then drafted by the Army and had to go off to war. Upon his return to the states, he played baseball for the 6th Army in



BUCKELL

California and at CPS (University of Puget Sound). When his playing days slowed down, he enjoyed coaching his sons and grandsons and high school and youth baseball teams for many years. He loved to entertain and spend time with family and friends hosting cookouts and taking everyone fishing. He attended the games, plays, concerts and many other activities that his children and grandchildren participated in. During this past year, he became an inspiration to everyone who came in contact with him due to his desire to take his health challenges head on with a "no give up" attitude. His ability to fight the fight was amazing. Buck will be greatly missed by family and friends. Buck is survived by his daughter Terry (Gregg) Moore, sons Randy (Cindy) Buckell, Bruce (Pam) Buckell; grandchildren Scott, Todd, Shawn (Angela) Moore, and Collin and Danielle Buckell; and five great grandchildren, Hannah, D'Arcy, Seth, Tina and David Moore; and niece Bernie (Hansen) Abshire. A service was held at the Haven of Rest Chapel on Friday Dec. 18. Donations may be made to the Alzheimers Association or the charity of your choice. Online condolences at www.havenrest.com

Betty Kathleen (Hahn) Ostoyich

4-30-63 to 11-28-09

Betty was a life long resident of the Olalla/Gig Harbor area

She is survived by her parents Raymond (Mark) and Shirley Belle Hahn of Kittitas Wa., her husband Michael Ostoyich, 3 children- Antone, Natasha and Micalah all of Gig Harbor and her brother Mark Stanley Hahn of Kittitas, Wash.

Betty was a South Kitsap graduate and had a passion for music and life

Betty was the owner /operator of Teddy Bear Day Care in Gig Harbor for the past 24 years.

You touched a lot of lives and will be dearly missed.



OSTOYICH

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(From **TREES**, Page 1)

between Vaughn and Glencove in the 1880s. Much of that land has become Key Center, though she and other descendants still live on tracts of the original claim.

"My Grandfather Andrew donated the land that goes up 92nd past his property. My father, I don't know if he donated or got paid part for the relocated Vaughn-Glencove Road, that's what they called it, about in 1921 or '22," Niemann said, referring to what became Olson Drive.

"It kind of surprised me," said Charles Niemann, her son, who lives in the valley below Olson. "Seems to me if they wanted to improve the safety on that road they could put up a guard rail."

Olson Drive has a local reputation as a dangerous road due to its slope, sharp curve, and large trees lining the steep embankment, though Key Pen Fire Division Chief Guy Allen said, "I can't remember a single fatality there in the last 10 years."

About 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 15, a pickup truck smashed into a utility pole at the curve on Olson, knocking it down

before going over the embankment. The driver reportedly "got a ride home at O'Callahan's without speaking to firefighters or police," according to Allen.

"Our main thing is, if they're gonna cut our trees, we want them," said Joyce Niemann.

"If the trees are cut down, we would first ask the property owner if they want them," said Ford. "If the property owner doesn't want those trees, then they would more than likely become the contractor's responsibility to dispose of however he sees fit."

"I'm sure there's overhead wiring that might be in the area that will constrain how the contractor falls the trees, so he might have to take them down in chunks," said Ford. "We don't see them as marketable timber."

"When we determine which groups we are going to be taking and are in the county right of way, any group that we won't be taking will have the blue marks removed," said Ford. "Property owners will be getting a letter about the project, but if people have questions they can contact me."

Marlene Ford can be reached at 253-798-7250.

(From **KEVIN**, Page 4)

slowly worked its way throughout my whole being. My face felt like it was made out of clay while she worked it through a warm, damp cloth. The hour flew by like 10 minutes, and I was horrified to hear her say she was done and that I could lie there for a minute before getting dressed and heading out to the front. I felt like saying "No....no...NOOOOOOOO!" but instead just said "Okay." She handed me a glass of water and said it would help

recover from all the toxins released in my body, and I drank it, left a tip, and drove home. My muscles felt great and tingled for almost 4 hours, and I spent most of that time figuring out how I could budget money to go each month, which, sadly, I cannot.

So, I highly recommend one for you. Christmas is over, but the winter's here, and it's a good time to treat yourself or a loved one to a massage if you can swing it. There are plenty of local spas around to choose from.

(From **HISTORY**, Page 14)

Meanwhile, granddaughter Lauren, encouraged by her grandfather to get out and see the world, lived in Germany, Ireland, Australia and Mexico as a young adult.

She spent "three years, on and off," in Australia, including working on a cattle boat and on the Great Barrier Reef.

She worked in the film industry and met Paul Littleton, who was in advertising, in Mexico.

Lauren planned to return to Sydney, Australia to stay. Paul convinced her to not use her return ticket, but stay in Mexico.

During the two years they both worked on the movie "Titanic," they became acquainted, engaged and married.

The Littletons lived in Los Angeles and made trips to Eugene, Ore. to visit her folks, and to Vaughn to see her grandparents.

Lauren wanted to buy retirement property in the Northwest, thinking of Portland. A Fortune magazine list of the top 100 places to work in the Northwest included the Russell Foundation in Gig Harbor, so they visited and fell in love with that area.

Her grandfather suggested she buy their home, so they did. Lauren eventually installed caregivers downstairs for her grandparents, who died in 2006 at 87 and 94.

Littletons, including their two sons, moved in more than a year ago.

Lauren didn't want to call their home her grandparents' place; son Nolan solved that problem - he called it the Water House.

Lauren enjoys being a mom right now, and Paul works from his home office.

They love their view, the beach, the trees, and Lauren is surrounded by wonderful memories of lifelong visits to this special place her grandfather picked out.

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(From **CRIME**, Page 2)

The number for 2008 was 417.

"Twenty percent cause 80 percent of the problem," he said. "My focus will be on individuals we know are causing the problems."

For a while heavy equipment was being stolen, now, Wilder said it is boat motors, firearms, and things they can quickly pawn.

Several factors could be the root of recent thefts in the area, he said, including some early releases. Two other contributing factors include foreclosed homes and the high unemployment rate, he said.

Wilder encouraged the crowd, saying that organizing and sharing information with each other and the department, can deter the crimes.

One example was a black truck that had been spotted in the area. A couple of people called to report it, and as Watson talked about the truck others piped up and said they had also seen a black truck. She implored the residents to take down the plate number of any suspicious vehicle, and call the department with the information.

With 144 square miles to cover, Wilder admitted it is impossible for his deputies to be everywhere all the time. But the Key Peninsula is a tight community, and it's a place where people can spot something easily that seems suspicious, he said.

It's when nothing seems suspicious that things get tricky, and it isn't always easy to catch the thief, he said.

"They've either been here an extended period of time, or they live with us,

“

Twenty percent cause 80 percent of the problem. My focus will be on individuals we know are causing the problems.

— Lt. Rusty Wilder

”

Crime prevention tips

From Pierce County Sheriff's Neighborhood Patrol Deputy Jake Kreis

Write down everything you own, with serial numbers. You can also take photos of each item and a close up of the serial number, save it to a computer disc and keep it in a safe place.

Replace the screws that hold your door with screws that are 2 inches longer.

Use infrared cameras outside your home

Put up a No Trespassing sign. The responding officer can arrest someone for trespassing if there is a sign on your property.

Install an alarm system

Become part of a Neighborhood Watch

because they can be here and not look suspicious," he said.

Kreis, who has been with the department for 15 years and lives in Longbranch, said he has a personal stake in what happens on the Key Peninsula.

As the Neighborhood Patrol Deputy, he said he handles everything in the community, such as noise problems, and he tracks all of the sex offenders living on the Key Peninsula.

All in attendance were encouraged to provide contact information, including email addresses to be part of a Neighborhood Watch. Gene Armstrong said it will keep everyone informed and connected.

While it is an important step in deterring crimes, Kreis said the most important step is informing the department.

"Call us," he said "If you don't call us we don't know."

Current president of Citizens Against Crime, Mike Baum, was in attendance and said the group is active and developing a Web site where messages can be posted, and those will be sent to Baum's cell phone.

(From **FIRE**, Page 6)**Nov 29**

Paramedics responded to a Longbranch female in her 40's suffering from shortness of breath. The patient's home medication was not relieving her symptoms so she was treated and transported for further evaluation.

Nov 30

Firefighters responded to a rear-end collision in the 8900 block of Key Peninsula Highway during the evening rush hour. Traffic was slowed for some time but no one was injured.

A 30-year-old woman was found along side the road by firefighters after she became nauseous and her partner stopped the vehicle for her. Once outside the vehicle she was too weak to stand and fell to the ground where firefighters found her. She was transported to a Tacoma Hospital.

Dec 1

Firefighters responded to the Home area for an automatic fire alarm. They arrived at the residence to find no smoke visible but an audible alarm sounding outside the residence. Workers at the house were able to contact the owner and find out the system had many malfunctions. Firefighters then verified there was no fire and reset the system.

Dec 2

An elderly man pulled out from 140th Ave KPN onto SR302 in front of a motorist who was unable to stop. The approaching Ford Explorer collided with the elderly man's car and rolled off the highway. Firefighters extricated the 21-year-old man using the Jaws of Life and transported him to a Tacoma Trauma center.

Dec 3

Fire Department responded to a patient that passed out onto a hard floor while standing on a step. The patient

was evaluated and found to have no injuries or medical history. After a doctor was called the patient was left in the care of family.

Dec 4

A 48-year-old man from Jackson Lake was seen by Medics for abdominal pain. He was treated and transported to a local hospital for further treatment.

Dec 5

Firefighters rescued a 1-year-old child from a locked running vehicle in Lake of the Woods development. A Boarder Collie, also in the vehicle had locked the doors when it pawed at the door, stepping on the automatic locking button.

Dec 6

A reported barn fire was found to be a straw storage building near Carney Lake. The fire was quickly extinguished with damage limited to the building and dirt bike. Cause was still undetermined.

Dec 13

For the fourth time in one week firefighters and medics were called to a home in the Vaughn area for a 39-year-old man with psychological problems. He stated that he had not been taking his medications and the TV was talking to him. He was transported at his request to a local hospital.

Dec 14

The wood stove of a Palmer Lake resident got so hot that it broke the heat resistant glass out of the door. The resident called firefighters who extinguished the fire in the stove.

Dec 15

Firefighters responded to the report of a power pole in the roadway on Olson Drive KPN. Upon arrival firefighters investigated to find that a pick-up truck had gone over the embankment after striking the pole. The vehicle was found to be abandoned, and several reports place the elusive driver to a Longbranch residence.

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Warm and very cold. The old barn at Home Bridge in its splendor.
Photos by Ron Cameron, Special to the KP News



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News
Travis Wheeler, Andrew Alegrete and Calvin Losh sell Christmas trees at the Harvest Time Country Store in Wauna in December. Proceeds from the tree sale will help pay their way to Snow Camp in January.



Photo by Harvey Hicks, Special to the KP News
An early morning full moon hangs over the Olympic Mountain Range.



Fresh snow covers the mountains at Rocky Point. *Photo by Jim Bellamy, Special to the KP News*