



PHS wins Fish Bowl, page 18

# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula

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## Firefighters campaign for levy

By Ted Olinger, KP News

*Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of six stories on Fire District 16.*

Firefighters, commissioners and volunteers of Fire District 16 have been

campaigning for the upcoming levy lift vote, Proposition 1, which voters will decide Nov. 3. At town halls, homeowners association and fire commission meetings, the public has been seeking answers.

"You folks haven't put much information

out about the levy or budget cuts," said Key Pen resident Dave Grandier at the Oct. 13 Fire Commissioners meeting, echoing a sentiment heard at many meetings. "If I vote for Prop. 1, the current rate of collec-

(See LEVY, Page 22)



Photo by Danna Webster

Postmaster Steven Jorgensen began clean-up duties after a Dodge pickup rolled from the Shell station in Home, crossed the highway and hit the front of the Lakebay Post Office.

## Truck rolls, slams Lakebay Post Office

By Danna Webster, KPNews

*Editor's note: This story appeared on keypennews.com on Oct. 19.*

A white Dodge pick-up slammed into the front window of the Lakebay Post Office in Home late in the afternoon on Oct. 11. Lakebay Postmaster Steven Jorgensen thought the driver must have forgotten to set the brake when he pulled in for gasoline across the street at the Shell station. Jorgensen swept up glass and declined help from one postal carrier and her daughter who drove over when they heard the news.

At the same time, neighbors were phoning Shell employee, Wayne Cecchino, to offer help because they learned that Cecchino's 1984 Mazda pickup was damaged in the same accident. Cecchino reported that a full sized white Dodge pickup pulled in for gas at the station. When the driver got out, the truck began to roll. "He started to walk into the store," Cecchino said, "and when he walked into the store, the truck left."

The Dodge truck headed straight for Cecchino's Mazda pickup, which was parked between the station and the Home Store. It hit the Mazda's left rear wheel well causing the Mazda to spin around and plow through the Shell station split-rail fence. The Dodge careened off the Mazda, crossed the Key Pen Highway, and smashed into the front of the Lakebay post office building bursting the frame and siding, shattering the front window, and demolishing concrete flower pots.

Pierce County Sheriff's department reports the 1998 white Dodge pickup belongs to Rodney Burden of Lakebay. According to the report, the accident occurred about 3:30 p.m. on Sunday. Burden was traveling north on Key Peninsula Highway and pulled in to pump gas with the vehicle pointing north at a pump near the highway. As Burden walked toward the store, another patron yelled

(See CRASH, Page 26)

## Topping trees unhealthy

By Chuck Turley  
Special to the KP News

As trees prepare for the winter stages of their growth cycles, it's a good time to think about whether to trim trees on your property. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources has a big investment in trees, and so do you. To protect your investment, DNR cautions against 'topping' a tree. Topping is cutting major branches back to stubs, or removing more than half of the leafy crown of a tree.

Even if you live on a small lot, your trees probably add value to your property from 7 to 25 percent, say many arborists and insurance appraisers. 'Topping' can reduce a tree's visual appeal as well its value and health.

Topping stresses trees. Removing half or more of a tree's leaf-bearing branches temporarily starves the tree. The tree tries to make up for a sudden, large loss of leaves by sprouting shoots below each major cut. The tree becomes vulnerable to damaging insects and disease.

Topping causes decay. Whacking off branches indiscriminately leaves long stubs where branches once grew. These stubs are wounds that the tree cannot close, giving decay organisms a route into the remaining branches.

Topping is a hazard. When large parts of a tree are removed, the tree will grow new shoots as quickly as possible. These new shoots grow fast but are never as sturdy as the original branches. After a few years, these spindly sprouts grow longer but are still fragile and easily broken in the wind. The result is more danger to people, vehicles and structures than if the tree had been left alone.

Topping costs more in the long run. A topped tree will likely need pruning much sooner than if the job had been done correctly in the first place. The money you save by topping a tree is spent several times over on additional trimming.

For more information call 1-800-532-TREE or visit [\[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/UrbanForestry/Pages/rp\\_urb\]](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/UrbanForestry/Pages/rp_urb)

*Chuck Turley is a Washington State Department of Natural Resources forester.*

## Candidates square off

By Marsha Hart, KP News

The Key Peninsula Business Association and the Key Peninsula Community Council hosted a candidate forum at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Oct. 15. About 50 people listened to the four candidates running for Key Pen Parks Board of Commissioner positions, and three of the four candidates running for Fire District 16 Board of Commissioners. Jim Bosch was not in attendance.

Jonathan Bill moderated the event, and the audience submitted written questions throughout the forum, which he then categorized and chose for each group of candidates to answer.

Each candidate was given three minutes for an introduction of the issues and platform of their candidacy and later was given the chance to answer questions. Sylvia Tinio and Bill Trandum are running for position 2 on the Key Pen Parks Board of Commissioners. Tinio said she wants to see the parks utilized by all people, including elderly and handicapped people, with immediate improvements that are low-cost, such as trails. Trandum, who currently serves as a commissioner, emphasized the importance for continued fiscal responsibility. The potential for development of the recently acquired 360 property was questioned, and Trandum responded, "We don't want to put in a fair grounds, etc. because we don't want to be in a position where the state could take it. We won't be making any big improvements until we own it."



Photo courtesy of Chuck West

The morning after the candidate forum, campaign signs for Sheila Hunt and Claudia Jones were strewn, damaged along SR 302.

Ed Robison and Mike Hays are running for position 4, and Robison said he has donated about \$100,000 of design and engineering work for the parks, including the design of Home Park.

"We need to get active volunteers to develop the parks," he said. "We need to look at what makes the most sense at each location."

Hays is interested in land zoning and said he would personally like to see an

emphasis on developing the parks with water access. He said the current board has shown that they do with what they have and currently take about half of the taxes they could. "If I'm elected I'll be joining a winning team."

Sheila Hunt is running against Richard Hanna for position 4 on the fire commission board. Hunt was appointed to the position last year, and outlined what she has accomplished while on the board, including the implementation of a transparent department, open to the public for questions and information about the department.

Hanna insisted that the department needs drug testing and said his experience as a firefighter in Nebraska included drug testing. "Responsibility first" was his stance.

Claudia Jones is running for position 2 on the fire commission, and her opponent Jim Bosch was not present. Jones cited her experience as a volunteer firefighter, and emphasized the importance for the levy to pass. "The public will give 29 cents to the parks, but won't give 14 cents to public safety. Vote wisely," she said.

All of the candidates were given time for a closing statement. Parks board candidate Robison said, "I want to tell you a story."

He proceeded to recount an incident a few years ago on the Key Peninsula where he applied pressure to a girl's arm who was cut and bleeding while they waited about 45 minutes for the medic unit to arrive. "Is that an acceptable level of service?" he asked. "Vote yes on the fire levy."

### KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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# Electrical lines go underground

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Eventually, the Key Peninsula will have underground electrical lines, making power outages during winter windstorms less likely. Currently the area of South Vaughn Road is under construction for the project. Crews from Active Construction, a company contracted by Peninsula Light Company to do the digging and placing the conduit, are digging along South Vaughn Road. Once that work is finished the crews from Peninsula Light will pull more than 15,000 feet of cable through and later take out the overhead lines, said Steve Marvick, project engineer for Peninsula Light Company.

"This is part of the reliability program the board came up with eight or 10 years ago," Marvick said. "We concentrate on the worst lines first and get the biggest bang for your buck. South Vaughn Road always has problems when the wind blows so it is a prime candidate for it. It's a long process."

Once the work is completed, home-

owners have the option of changing to an underground service. This will be available in three to four months. The cost involved can be up to \$1,000, depending on the electrician the homeowner hires to do the work to convert the overhead meter to an underground meter base, he said.

"If you choose to stay overhead, then everything stays the same," he said. "If you choose to go underground, the light company will give you the conduit and line."

Even if a homeowner wants to wait a few years, until they can afford to have the conversion of the meter, Marvick said Pen Light will still provide the conduit.

"We prefer to have it happen during the job process, because it's cleaner. When we pull the pole, we can pull them all," he said.

Residents along S. Vaughn Road have been excited, he said, because it means there will be no direct tree exposure to the line.

"It takes outages out of the picture for them," he said.



Photo by Karrina Whitmarsh

Foreman Randy Hagen works with crewmembers in a trench to install an underground vault for the cables that will provide better storm protection for electrical customers.

Rouse Road is next on the list, he said, to go underground.

"We start at the source, the substation, and work out from there," he said.

## Enrollment open for federal meal assistance program

Staff Report

Eligible children and adults can benefit from a federal meal assistance program, and all eligible care centers and institutions are encouraged to participate.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program reimburses some costs associated with serving meals to children and qualifying adults. The program is administered by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's Child Nutritional Services section.

The following care centers and institutions may participate in the program:

Nonprofit, licensed, tax-exempt child-care institutions; for-profit childcare institutions in which at least 25 percent of children served are low income based on the centers licensed capacity or enrolled capacity, whichever is less; childcare centers that serve at-risk children; nonprofit homeless shelters that provide temporary residential facilities to children.

Some public nonprofit adult centers, or for-profit adult centers that receive compensation under Title XIX of the Social Security Act for at least 25 percent of their enrolled adults, also are eligible for CADFP reimbursement.

Meals are reimbursed at established rates based on family income of the children and adults served. Meals served to eligible homeless and at-risk children are reimbursed at the free rate. The federal funds help institutions offset some of the costs of providing well-balanced, nutritional meals and snacks to enrolled participants.

For information about income guidelines, or to enroll in the program, contact Carol Griffith, Child Nutritional Services at 360-725-6200, or email her at carol.griffith@k12.wa.us, or visit the Web site at k12.wa.us.

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PhilanthropIX® for sponsoring the 2009 Thanksgiving food baskets for all 300 families we are serving. PhilanthropIX® is a private enterprise created by a Key Peninsula resident for the purpose of developing projects that would benefit local communities and their participants. We are pleased to announce the upcoming launch of their first undertaking: *The Song For Food Project*™. Nearly a year in the making through independent efforts and private contributions, it is a music album containing a mix of original recordings and songs by a number of young and talented new West Coast artists. A large part

of the proceeds from local retail sales of the CD will be donated to our food bank. To learn more about the project and upcoming album release, visit

[www.song4food.com](http://www.song4food.com)



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# EDITORIAL

## Community is about sharing

November brings Thanksgiving and the traditions of family gathered around a table heaped with food. Some view this holiday as a way of giving thanks to their God, whom they believe blessed them with gifts throughout the year, and spend the day with loved ones and

**Marsha Hart**  
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



friends. Others look forward to Thanksgiving as a day of traditional foods and football on the television. Some clear the table, bring out the sale papers and plan their attack for the official first day of the Christmas shopping season.

In all of these scenarios, the assumption is that there is a home, with a refrigerator and cupboards filled with foods ready for preparation; that the

home is warm, heated by a furnace or fireplace, and that the people there are comfortable.

Though the economy has ripped some lives apart, there are families that have gone relatively unscathed.

Having more can be a blessing, when the more comes in the form of things we need or want. Some of our neighbors have been given more bills, more health problems, more loneliness, hurts and worries in the past year.

The season of thanks and giving is approaching. There are ways to share with Key Peninsula neighbors who have been plagued with more of the things that make life harder.

The Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank and Senior Center is in need of food to stock the shelves. Key Peninsula Lutheran Church accepts food donations for its food bank on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 3:30 p.m. each week, and Lakebay Community Church accepts food and clothing donations for its Harvest Share on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the parking lot. KP Veterans Institute helps our local veterans.

If everyone commits to giving what they can, even if it is time, the whole community thrives. Reach out and make Thanksgiving a great day for everyone on the Key Peninsula.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Intersection improvement needed

My wife and I became residents of the Key Peninsula 3 years ago. We do as much shopping on Key Peninsula as we can as well as using the medical facilities and banking available here.

Prior to retirement, I was a land use planner on both the city and county level for 33 years. I have participated in many thousands of hours of public meetings regarding growth and what effects it will have on a community. Many of those hours were a complete waste of time for everyone involved because many people making comments, although well meaning, had no understanding of the realities of dealing intelligently with population growth.

It is a fact that more growth will come to Key Peninsula. The Key Center area is presently dangerous for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. It is critical that the improvements to the intersection in Key Peninsula, and the frontage adjacent to the Peninsula Market, be as comprehensive as possible with the funds available.

*Dwight Hartman*

### Lid lift levy needed

A community without emergency services is no place to live!

I am a lifelong resident of the Key Peninsula and a 23-year volunteer with Fire District 16. As the last Volunteer Chief, I have experienced many kinds of emergencies in our community. It is comforting to know that my family and neighbors are only minutes away from professional help.

I have talked with my neighbors and we strongly agree that there is a serious problem with two of our commissioners. They have sullied the good reputation of our fire department. It is time for them to be replaced or step down.

If you can guarantee that your loved ones will never experience a medical emergency, never be involved in a life threatening accident, never have your home catch fire, then you don't need the fire service. However, the responsible thing to do is to support continued funding for a levy lid lift of \$.14 per \$1,000 of value and not gamble with life and property. This is not a new tax, but a replacement that has been reduced over time. It brings the rate to \$1.09 per \$1,000.

Feeling safe in our community requires us to support the fire district with our money and to choose commissioners with the best interest of the district at heart. Please vote for commissioners without a hidden agenda and YES for the lid lift

levy in the November election.

*Don Mills, Vaughn*

### R-71

In your October edition you ran an article by Rick Sorrels on the 2009 Ballot Issues. I found his comments on R-71 quite limiting and not very representative of the whole issue. As soon as he inserted the comments "like marriage" individual prejudices begin to surface. This law is about more than providing domestic partners (be it same sex or unmarried seniors) access to health care and benefits, child custody and support, hospital visitation rights, and insurance rights. For a more balanced look at what the law is really about please read the Oct. 4 Editorial in the Seattle Times.

Let's not feed on fear and misinformation - the Key Pen News owes its readers more than that.

*Thank you,  
Susan Quigley*

### Thank you to Cornucopia volunteers

The planning committee wants to thank EVERYONE who supported our recent Cornucopia Dinner Dance and Silent Auction, from the many volunteers who put the event together, to the the local food producers for the delicious ingredi-

ents, to the numerous and generous Silent Auction donors, to the 200 plus folks who attended. It was a wonderful success, and we are indebted to the incredible people who made the event possible through their combined efforts. At this point it is truly impossible to name everyone, but we must publicly thank the inimitable Silent Auction Team, especially Kristin Bottiger, Betty Kelly, Merrilee Kennedy and Barb Schoos, the strong, loyal and helpful Boy Scout Troop 220 and their fine adult leadership, and our fantastic, generous chef, Oliver Coldeen, and his truly amazing kitchen crew. We also thank Cathy and Kurt Gerhard and their wonderful neighbor, Trish, who worked diligently from the very early beginning of the day through the clean up at the very end of the night. We thank Julie Boardman and her kitchen elves who did all those dishes! And at the end of the night, we were so happy to see Dan and Joanna Baldwin, who took on clean up and made it happen. We are so grateful to the DOZENS of generous and willing neighbors and friends who helped with every aspect of this event and made it possible. Thank you all, you know who you are. Together, we have experienced the kind of true community event that is a signature of this Key Peninsula we all love. The overflowing cornucopia of community blessings includes each of you!

*On behalf of the Cornucopia Committee,  
Edie Morgan & Claudia Loy*

# Put a bright bow on your budget

Are you ready for the upcoming holidays? Although Nov. 27 is the traditional kick off of the holiday season, decorations of all kinds are already flooding the retail stores and catalogs of gift ideas are being delivered by the truckload to our mailboxes encouraging us to get in the "spending mood" earlier and earlier every year. That means you have to budget your holiday spending earlier too.

Here are some handy tips to help you with your holiday budget planning this year:

First, set up a holiday spending plan that will help you get through the holidays intact. List those people you wish to give a gift, the item you want to give them and the amount you plan to spend. Add up the total amount you plan to spend and be certain the amount is realistic. You may need to revise your holiday spending plan to make it affordable. Of course, stick to your spending plan!

Avoid using credit, especially if you cannot pay off the balance immediately.

## ANGELIQUE KNAPP

WRITING FOR CHANGE



As a general rule, if you cannot pay for it in cash then you really cannot afford the item. Before making any credit card purchases consider how much it will cost you.

Plan your shopping trips. Knowing where you are going and what you intend to buy when you get there will save you time, avoid traffic, conserve fuel, and leave more time for the things you would rather be doing during the holidays.

Do your research! If you know you want to buy a particular product, check the Internet to find out if anyone has it on sale. Find out when the retailers near you are having their largest sales. Check the paper for coupons that give a big

discount as well!

If you are hosting a holiday feast, turn it into a potluck. This way the financial and food preparation burden is lightened for the host and everyone can enjoy each person's favorite dishes.

If you find your budget really tight, focus more on spending time with family and friends. People don't usually remember what gifts they received, but they do remember time spent with family. Homemade goodies like cookies and fudge are always a good idea instead of traditional wrapped gifts. They can also be delivered early and be enjoyed throughout the holiday season.

In my home we keep our family gatherings during the holidays very casual. Rather than focusing on expensive gifts, we are all about comfort, being together, good food and of course, sharing a love for football.

Have a happy holiday season Key Peninsula!

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# Fire levy money, it's in a different pot

This fire levy thing sure is a big deal, isn't it? Wow. Everyone's got an opinion on the fire department. We vote on two commissioners and the fire levy. The past theatrical dramas and performance of the existing commissioners make that vote a pretty easy one for me. Some folks won't vote for the levy because of the commissioners. I don't get that, because if the levy's not approved, then the only people who lose are the ones waiting around for a first responder after a car crash, or watching their house burn down waiting for trained firefighters to arrive. But for some reason the levy is still this super-charged item. We see two signs: "Responsibility First! No New Taxes!" on the one hand and "Fire, Yes!" on the other. "Responsibility First!" Hmm. That sounds important. Is the district acting irresponsibly, then asking for more taxpayer money? This seems to tie back to the notion held by a few very

## KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



vocal people that our firefighters are drunk and fat. I mean, seriously, that seems to be what it's all about. One person allegedly had alcohol at a fire training conference someplace, and some personnel are said to be overweight. Let's suppose, just for a rip-roaring good time, that's it's all true. The individual was disciplined, and wasn't in an emergency situation with an actual patient in the first place. That's the tipper for me. A training conference with a fake patient ain't the same thing as an emergency situation with a real patient, plain and simple, and it's false to mislead people into thinking it is. So I crossed that one off. Instead, I look at the district's great record responding to

emergencies. That seems like the important part to me, and their drug and alcohol policy is the same as all fire departments. Now, the out of shape folks. I know the department is considering an exercise area as part of capital improvement spending, so with that and a little prodding from higher-ups, these folks can get in line with the department's physical fitness standard, which is the International Association of Fire Fighters' standard. Easy fix there. Then I hear people asking "why do we need the levy when they're spending \$200,000 to renovate the Key Center station?" But capital spending comes from a different pot of money, and you can't use money for capital projects to hire personnel or run operations. So that's not really applicable to the situation of the levy, which is money for operations only. After thinking about it, I have to ask: What's "responsible" about bringing up things that don't matter into a discussion that

directly impacts our safety on the Key? Answer? Nada!

The district has cut all it can, is clinging to its ability to respond now, and needs the funds to keep operating at its current state. In addition, programs are on the chopping block, like the one where firefighters go to schools and teach kids about water and fire safety or first aid. Another program that teaches babysitters how to respond to emergencies is also at risk. Why would we not want something as amazing as trained babysitters? Heck, sitters make money while parents find time to stay sane – a win/win for the nation! All this, for a 14-cent increase over the current rate. For the average home of \$300,000 here, that's an increase of \$66/year – less, obviously, if your house is worth less. For me, there's not much to argue about anymore. I'll be supporting our firefighters, and the lift lid levy.

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The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA) serves as a central meeting place for many of the non-profit organizations on the Key Peninsula. Community participation from any of these groups, and the general public living on the peninsula, is needed.

Next month on **November 13**, elections will be held by the KPCCA to select officers and general board members. Now is the time to help shape the future for one of the Peninsula's greatest assets.

*If you wish to serve as a KPCCA board member or officer or wish to work with the nominating committee to recruit new active members to run for a position on the civic center board, please contact Phil Breaux, chair, at 253 884 9172. Gull and get involved!*

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# KEY PEN PARKS



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## 2010 Budget Hearings

Key Pen Parks will hold the second of two public meetings to discuss the 2010 Budget as required by RCW 84.52.020. The meeting will be on Monday November 9. The meeting will take place at Volunteer Park Annex beginning at 7:30 pm

## Third Public Workshop on Master Plan for Volunteer Park

The final public workshop on a Master Plan for Volunteer Park is scheduled for Thursday October 19 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Key Center Fire Station. The purpose of the master plan is to gather the community's input on future improvements to Volunteer Park, as well as other park properties under the control of Key Pen Parks.

## Tour 360/Horseshoe Lake

Join Key Pen Parks commissioners and staff for a walking tour of the recently acquired 360 property on Saturday November 7 at 9 am. The property is located near HWY 302 and 144 (near Wauna Fire Station).

## Basketball Skills Clinics

Key Pen Parks is offering good 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 Pen Civic Center  
Day/Date: Saturdays, 1/16-2/27  
Fee: \$45

## New Disc Golf Course at Volunteer Park!

Did you know that you can play Disc Golf right here on the Key Peninsula? Visit Volunteer Park for a flying good time! Test your throwing and putting skills through different challenges and obstacles. Discs are available for rent here at the park office during business hours. Stop in for more information or to check out a disc.

## Bellevue Square Holiday Shopping

Get a jump on your holiday shopping! Join us for a day of shopping and people watching at one of the largest & finest shopping centers in the state with over 200 shops to choose from. Bring lunch money and enjoy a delicious meal in one of the many on-site restaurants.

Location: Vol. Park Parking Lot  
Day/Date: Wednesday, 11/18  
Time: 10:00-3:00pm  
Fee: \$30 + bring lunch money  
Min/Max: 5/7

## Winter-Weather Wonderland Day Camp Experience

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. Join us for an exciting day of Mad Science in the morning, games, crafts, & a movie to end your day. Make sure to bring your own lunch, snack will be provided. Dress for indoor and outdoor activities.

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

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

# Flu, pandemic or hysteria

H1N1 influenza 2009. Novel Influenza A. Swine flu. Whatever its name, it is all over the headlines. Some experts have proclaimed it a global epidemic, a pandemic.

All this hype bothers me. I'm relieved to know I'm not the only one. An urgent lawsuit was filed by Attorney Jim Turner in Washington D.C. to stop distribution of the swine flu vaccine in America.

On behalf of Dr. Gary Null and other New York licensed healthcare workers as plaintiffs, the suit claims the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) violated federal law by failure to prove scientifically that the H1N1 and three other swine flu vaccines are either safe or effective. The suit called for an injunction to prohibit mandatory vaccinations. At press time, I'm uncertain of the outcome of that suit.

Now the questions begin.

What is the motive of our government to mandate vaccinations?

Could it be the projected \$5 billion that the vaccine-makers stand to profit if 200 million Americans receive their product?

What makes this vaccine different than the 1976 version that paralyzed or killed hundreds of people?

The Monovalent Vaccine (and Fluvirin) package insert (vial and syringe leaflet text) lists the side effects, which include Guillain-Barre syndrome, vasculitis, paralysis, anaphylactic shock, and death. Are they serious?

Other side effects range from headache to chest pain, fever, cough, vomiting and diarrhea. Doesn't this sound like the flu?

In Feb. 2009 a 6-month old girl in Mexico was the first to be diagnosed. With several cases reported in Mexico, and one recognized in California by April, the United States declared a public health emergency. Was that declaration premature?

At the end of April, Mexican officials reported a single month total 2155 cases with severe pneumonia and 100 deaths. In June, Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a phase 6 pandemic, the highest level. By July 1,

H1N1 was said to be present in all states with an estimated 1 million infected. Hype?

In mid-July WHO reported almost 95,000 virologically confirmed cases, with 429 deaths, then made the decision to stop counting cases. Do you wonder why?

Late in July Chile reported the presence of H1N1 in turkeys, leading some to suggest this may mean the virus mixed with avian genes. Is this a real problem?

In August the President's Council of Advisors anticipated half of the US population may become infected with H1N1, requiring 1.8 million hospitalizations, and that up to 90,000 might die. More hype?

In September, the European Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) released its interim risk assessment of the Pandemic H1N1 2009. Of note is this excerpt from that document, "There are no reports of unusual transmission routes for this influenza compared with normal seasonal influenza viruses..." and "...at this stage, it cannot be predicted when the transmission will start in individual countries or how intense the peaks of transmission will be..." and "...There should be no special strain on the essential services outside the health sector..." Do the Europeans know something we don't?

The week of Sept. 7-12, deaths from pneumonia and influenza accounted for 6 percent of all US deaths—below the Epidemic Threshold of 6.3 percent. Is there a problem?

In early October, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta announced that 76 children had died from H1N1, and that cases were reported in 37 states. Their reports suggest that more than 600 have died worldwide, and that 900 have been hospitalized. Nowhere is an indication how many of these hospitalizations resulted from complications of a pre-existing condition like asthma or chronic heart or respiratory complications, or serious underlying health issues. The CDC has no exact count. Shouldn't they track this?

In late September, Washington State Secretary of Health Mary Selecky temporarily suspended limits on mercury (thimerosal) allowed in the vaccine for

(See FLU, Page 26)

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Words

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# Long time coming

By Marsha Hart, KP News

It's the first craft brewery in the area, and just in time for the dreary rainy season, 7 Seas Brewery opened its taproom Oct. 15, complete with a hand-crafted bar to go along with its hand-crafted beer. The intimate tasting room pub is cozy, with a bar that overlooks the brewery, so visitors can watch the brewers in action and take in the aroma of freshly brewed beer. The natural wood of the bar and the stools blends an added warmth and atmosphere to go with the conversation and beverage.

7 Seas Brewing, located beside the Inn at Gig Harbor, delivered its first sale July 9. Owners Travis Guterson, the brew master, and Mike Runion, the CEE or chief executive everything as he refers to himself, are dedicated to providing the ultimate proper pint.

In the 7 Seas taproom, beer connoisseurs will find Cutts NW dry hopped Amber Ale, British Pale Ale and Ballz Deep double IPA. A fourth beer is slated

for release in late November or early December.

Instead of a beer that is mostly fillers, watered down, and is designed to get you drunk, the two said a beer should be made from malted barley, water, yeast and hops. 7 Seas is starting small and keeping the focus on quality, they said.

"We've been approached (by distributors), but we want to make sure there is a face to the company, and that the beer is getting stored and distributed in the best possible conditions," Guterson said.

7 Seas is already on tap at local pubs and taverns, including Tides Tavern in Gig Harbor, the Hy Iu Hee Hee, and the Blazing Onion in uptown Gig Harbor.

The combination at first seems a bit unlikely. Guterson sports long braids, and a goatee; Runion is clean-shaven, has short blonde hair and is all about business.

And the two make a successful combination.

Guterson and Runion met while working at Silver City Brewing in Silverdale. Runion was interested in



Cutline: Travis Guterson and Mike Runion delivered the first order of 7 Seas Brewing hand-crafted beer this summer. The first craft brewery in Gig Harbor, 7 Seas now has a tap room at the brewery.

Photo by Scott Turner

breaking into the business, and Guterson was working as an assistant in the brewery. Runion had a couple of years at WSU. He studied entrepreneurship, he said.

"Our passions matched," Runion said. "We've been working on 7 Seas for 2 1/2 years."

When a microbrewery in Seattle went out of business, Runion and Guterson said they swooped in to buy the equipment. They set up a business in downtown Gig Harbor and were six weeks from opening when the building

burned. That was in January.

"We had put so much work in that place, and thanks to Mike getting on the ball with the insurance," Guterson said.

Though they lost everything except the stainless, the two immediately started rebuilding the business.

They moved to the location beside the Inn at Gig Harbor and both said it is a better location.

For more information on 7 Seas Brewing, visit [7seasbrewing.com](http://7seasbrewing.com), or call Runion at 253-686-3703, or Guterson at 206-851-5586.

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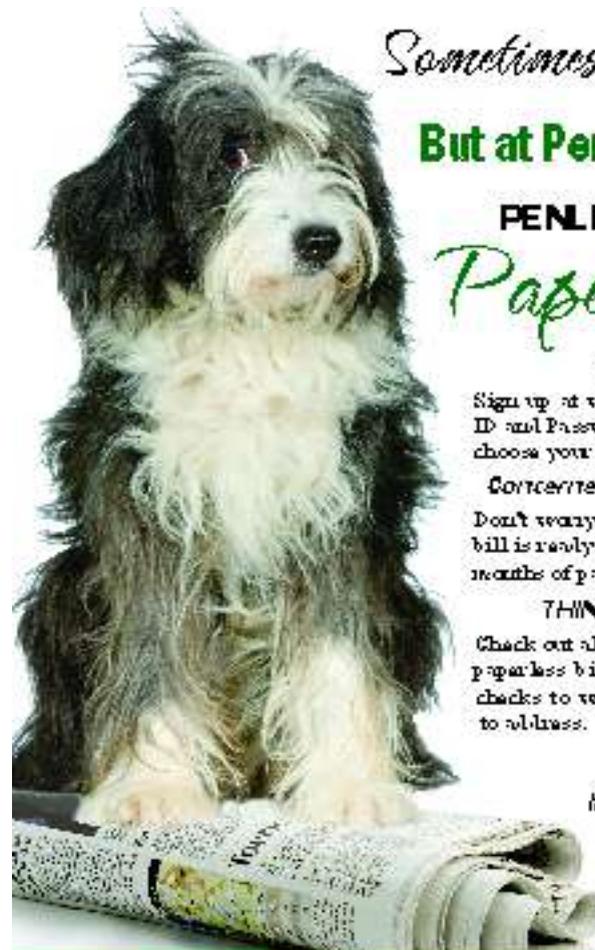
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# Local shops offer unique gifts for holidays

By Colleen Slater, KP news

“Shopping local” is easier than ever this year, with over 90 businesses located on the Key Peninsula and a variety of special events. Most businesses offer gift certificates if browsing these stores and events doesn't fill your list.

**KPCC Winter Warm-up**, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the KP Civic Center.

Booths include a variety of woodcrafts like birdhouses, whistles and pens, as well as jewelry, photos and artwork, Christmas decorations, quilts, candles, soaps, and books. The new KP News book, *Celebrate the Key Peninsula*, makes its debut and will be for sale. 884-3456

**Sunnycrest Nursery & Floral Holiday Open House** Nov. 21 – 22. Demonstrations by some of the artists featured in the gift shop are planned.

“Unique and local,” says owner Claudia Loy, noting the addition of artist Robin Peterson's felted hats, and some special metal angels from Turkey.

The gift shop carries items created by

KP artists, including jewelry, pottery, paintings, crafts, baskets, books, and more.

Mon – Sat, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. 884-3937

**KP Farmers Market** in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center Nov 21, noon to 2 p.m. Food appropriate for Thanksgiving or other holiday meals, but a few farmers with their own gift shops may have special items for sale.

Local farms to visit for specialty gifts include Barefoot Boys south of Key Center, 884-2293, Fairview Farms in Lakebay, 884-3107, and Lavender Park on Cramer Rd, just below Key Center, 884-3297.

**Winterfest**, the annual arts and crafts sales event at Peninsula High School that benefits the students, Nov. 28, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Nov. 29, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$3 entry. Three locations for 200 vendors, featuring several Key Peninsula artists, including Gary Anderson's pottery, Elaine Lefler's fiber baskets, and Deanna Russell's specialty dishes and décor.

There are many new vendors, including one who recycles treadle sewing machines into custom drawers and shelves.

Hand-crafted items, including soaps, lotions, candles, jewelry, embroidery and other needlework items, garden decorations and other moderately priced gift items. Some commercial food vendors also. Organizer Sandy Malich is looking for one or two more unique craft vendors. phswinterfest@gmail.com or 858-8674.

**Key Peninsula Lutheran Church Heart and Hand Holiday Bazaar** Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the church on the corner of Key Peninsula Highway and Lackey Road. Affordable, hand-crafted items to delight young and old, including teddy bears, quilts, Scandinavian baked goods, lefse, fresh evergreens, table décor, tree ornaments, linens, jewelry, aprons and more. A drawing for a child's butterfly quilt will be held, and a free Kid's Shoppe is available for children to select and wrap a gift for a parent. Proceeds benefit the Community Meals Program. 884-3312.

**SAVE Thrift Store Christmas Open House** Dec. 5, when all holiday items are out and decorations up. All proceeds go toward Peninsula High School scholarships. A newsletter with a monthly calendar listing special and regular bag sales can be emailed. Sign up in the store or call 857-2800. Mon. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Angel Guild** sets out special items collected all year for the holiday season. Beautiful glass globes, ornaments and decorations, including items for the yard, new lights, Christmas cards, gift wrap, old fashioned collectible décor, stuffed

animals and other neat toys for kids, Christmas tree stands, and holiday clothing, already showing up, are among the finds here.

Wed. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 884-9333.

**The Friends of the Key Peninsula Library** save all used donations of Christmas/Holiday books, CDs, DVDs/VHS tapes, records, audiotapes and magazines to put in the library lobby to sell in December. Hardbacks & DVDs are a dollar and the rest of the items are a quarter. Donations of any of the above are always welcome. The money raised is used to support the K/C Library and put on programs there.

Mon. – Wed., 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., Thurs., Fri, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sat., 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. 884-2242.

**Purdy Costless at Lake Kathryn** carries a wide variety of holiday items, including decorations, gift wrap, candles, holiday dishes, Key Peninsula T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and mugs, as well as a variety of books, toys, and other gift items. Jim Shore's knick-knacks and holiday collectibles are always a big seller, as well as Annalee ornaments. New this year is Marie Osmond's purse collection.

Santa will be there for photos on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sun., 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Two Crazy Cousins** emphasize nostalgia and collectibles, but they have a large variety of special items.

“We have lots of stuff for \$5 and under,” says co-owner Becky Olsen, “and a 50% off table.” Nostalgic signs, jewelry, specialty coffee and other local products, antiques, gift cards, and much more.

Wed. – Sat., 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun., 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The store will be Nov. 1-11 for remodeling. 884-3210.

**Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum** at the KP Civic Center sells local history books, maps, historical photos, post cards, and T-shirts and mugs with the KPHS logo. Memberships are also available as gift items.

Regular hours, Thurs. and Sat, 1-4 p.m., or by appointment. 884-3702.

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# Move over Wilbur, Piggy Sue saves the day

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Patty and Dan Cusick noticed their farm was losing chickens. In the past raccoons had been the culprit, but Patty said they saw no signs of raccoons.

Then on Oct. 12, Cusick was in the hay barn and turned to see a bobcat on the driveway of their home near Wright Bliss and Elgin Clifton Roads.

"I was fit to be tied," she said. "I come back in the front (of the house) and it walks past me again."

It wandered off and slept on the embankment near their home in the afternoon. Later that night they heard their pig, 10-year-old Piggy Sue, going crazy.

"We thought the pig was attacking one of the ducks," Cusick said, "but it was trying to bite at the bobcat and it ran out of the pen."

In the meantime, the family started trying to contact wildlife officials to have it trapped and taken back into the wild. Cusick said she was given the numbers of local trappers, which the family would have to pay to take the bobcat, and when she

contacted the one that had a working phone number was told the animal would be euthanized.

"That upset me and I was discouraged," she said. "I thought there was no way I could relocate an animal and have it destroyed."

Some of the neighbors also offered to put the animal down, but the family had not made a decision of what to do. Oct. 13 the bobcat was back, and the Cusick's looked out to see it with one of the chickens. They decided not to scare the cat in case they needed to trap it later. But it didn't take the chicken either, she said, just left it for dead. It injured a duck so badly it had to be put down also.

"The thought that she wasn't leaving, she was just hanging around, I thought it was kind of strange," Cusick said.

When the family returned from running an errand Oct. 14, Cusick said the kids saw that the goose was injured, but the bobcat was dead.

"I first thought someone came over and took care of it for us, but the pig would get really agitated and bite at it," she said. "The



Photo courtesy of Patty Cusick

Piggy Sue, the guard pig is 10 years old. She has been part of the Cusick family for nine years, and when no one else could figure out a way to get rid of a wild bobcat on the property, Piggy Sue stepped in.

only thing we could surmise is that the pig killed it because there is no other logical explanation, and the pig is the one that alarmed us that we were having problems."

In all, the farm lost about 30 chickens, two geese and three ducks, Cusick said. Piggy Sue has lived with the Cusick's for 9 years.

Sharon Hicks contributed to this story.



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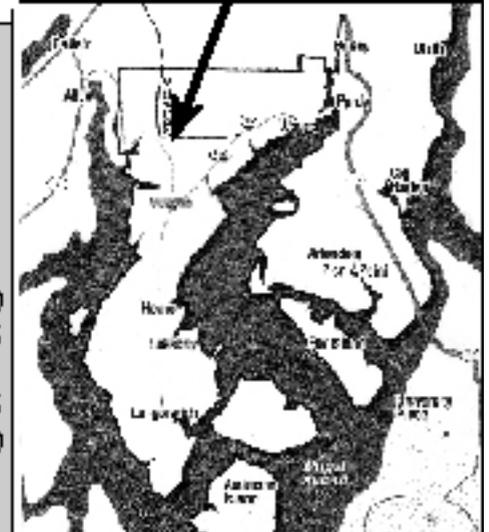
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# Youth group to host spaghetti feed

Sharon Hicks, KP News

The youth group at Lakebay Christian Assembly will be hosting its fourth annual spaghetti feed Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. To top off the evening there will be a pie auction along with a dozen home baked muffins to be delivered to the winner once a month. This is an all-you-can-eat event and adult tickets will be \$6 with children 12 and under \$4.

Justin and Faith Carr, assisted by Sarah and Bryan Hacker, are the leaders of this teenage youth group starting at age 13 through high school, meeting every Wednesday and Sunday evenings. The group currently consists of eight to 10 teens who get together where they can feel safe, have a sense of belonging and give back to society. They have been together for six years "with kids coming and going at all ages so it is a constant flow" said Sarah. Justin says "The proceeds from the spaghetti feed helps provide teens a place to hang out and be a part of something bigger than they are." It also helps fund a trip to Portland



Photo by Sharon Hicks, KP News

Justin and Faith Carr with the Lakebay Christian Assembly youth group.

in February for a three-day conference with Christian youth from all over.

One of the teens, Julia Olson says, "I get a sense of belonging and friendship and learn from God's word."

For this huge "feed" Sarah prepares sauce for 200 people, doing one batch the day before and the other the day of

the event taking her five to six hours each including the simmering. The feed will require 15 to 20 loaves of garlic bread, and gallons of salad will accompany the spaghetti.

Justin's goal is to plan a monthly BBQ, outing, etc. for this "wanting to learn and serve" group of Christian youth.

## Final caregiver classes

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The last two sessions of the free Caregiver University classes will be held on Nov. 5 and 12 in McColley Hall at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church (KPLC) starting at 10 a.m. The pilot program began on Oct. 8 with 16 in attendance. People who have not attended previous sessions are welcome to come to these final classes.

Donna Chapman, Elsie Vezzani and Myvanway Shirley, KP residents, have offered tips and resources for people who are or may some day be caregivers. These last class sessions deal with 1) Communication and Family Dynamics and 2) Finances, Directives and Leaving a Legacy.

Program Coordinator Patricia Witt, who returned to the area to be caregiver for family members, came up with the program and worked with the sponsors, Aging in Community Initiative of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation and Lutheran Services in America. Witt, a caregiver herself, recognizes the need of resources to assist in the challenges one faces.

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church is one of four participating congregations in the South Puget Sound area. The congregation-based program designed to reach out to the greater community is a program that fits well with KPLC, a church that provides several community services already.

A local Advisory Council, made up of LCS staff, representatives from participating congregations, Thrivent, Tacoma Lutheran Home, Parish Nurse Association, and other local agencies helps steer the program. Edie Morgan from The Mustard Seed Project serves on this council.

A goal of both the Aging in Place Initiative and The Mustard Seed Project is to help people stay safely in their homes and communities as they age. Another goal is to ensure that caregivers receive the support they need.

Chapman and Vezzani emphasize this is a pilot program, and if successful, can be expanded to other areas. Vezzani says one goal "is to renew (the information) every so often and eventually establish a (local) support group for caregivers."

For information, call Donna Chapman, 884-9992, or Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 884-3312. For additional information on Caregiver University, call Patricia Witt, 272-8433 or visit [www.lcsnw.org/tacoma/caregiveruniversity.html](http://www.lcsnw.org/tacoma/caregiveruniversity.html)

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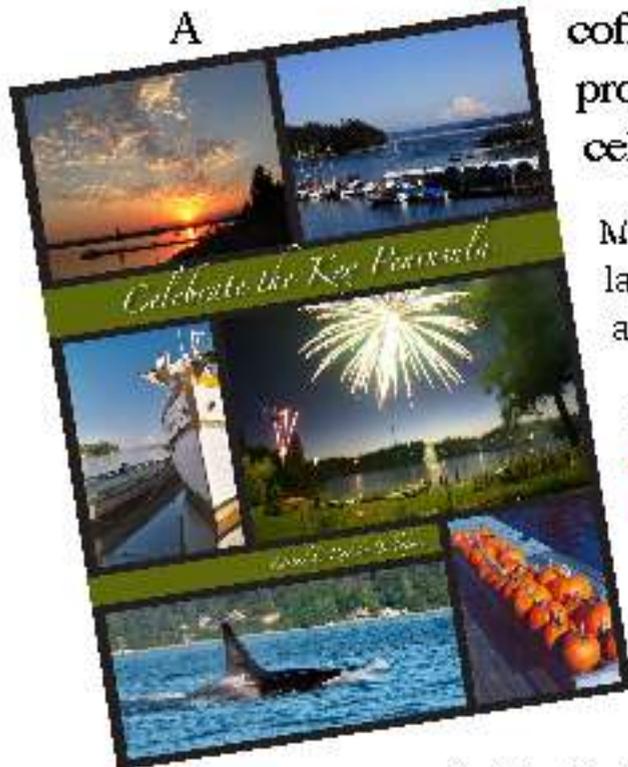
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To order the book, stop by the office located at 17010 S. Vaughn Road, Vaughn, call 884-4699 or download a mail-in order form at [www.keypennews.com/celebrate](http://www.keypennews.com/celebrate).

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# COMMUNITY WORKS

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

## Nov. 1 - Travel Club

The new KP Travel Club meets at 7 p.m. in the Brones Room, KC Library, with guest speakers Ron and Louise Talley, who have traveled to China many times and helped provide improvements to a special village there. This club has no officers or dues, just exchanges of information and special programs. 884-3937 or 884-4697

## Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30- Tolle group

Eckhart Tolle Silent Group meets from 2-4 p.m. at the Huppert residence in Lake Holiday. Contact Annmarie Huppert, 253-313-0147 or [A.E.Huppert@live.com](mailto:A.E.Huppert@live.com)

## Nov. 3-Voting today

Vote in the General Election today.

## Nov. 5- Fuchsia club meets

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

## Nov. 7-Coffee sampling

Learn about free trade coffees from different countries, distinguish their varying characteristics and enjoy carefully chosen paired pastries from 10 a.m.-noon in the community room of the Key Center Fire Station. This fundraiser, for Compassionate Travel Foundation, is presented by Joe Sanchez of Jake's Brew Company, a new coffee shop opening soon on the KP. Cost is \$20; space is limited. Register at 884-5241 or [info@compassionatetravelfoundation.org](mailto:info@compassionatetravelfoundation.org)

## Nov. 14-Chili and crafts

The Key Peninsula Civic Center will jump-start the holiday shopping season with the 2nd Annual Winter Warm-Up Craft Fair and Chili Cook-Off from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the civic center. The

event will feature handmade and one-of-a-kind local crafts and creations, a Kids' Crafts Corner sponsored by Two Waters Arts Alliance, entertainment, a giant raffle and chili cook-off. The kitchen will sell and serve chili, nachos, hotdogs, chilidogs and cornbread, as well as hot and cold beverages. All proceeds benefit the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For more information, call 884-3456 or [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org)

## Nov. 14- Tribal song and dance

The Friends of the Key Center Library and the Longbranch Improvement Club co-present a free program, "Kuteeyaa," a multigenerational group performing Tlingit, Tsimpshian, and Haida songs and dances, at 2 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club. The Aleut Children's Theater Players will perform a short tale, "How Raven Brought Fire," beforehand. Donations to the Key Peninsula Food Bank encouraged. 884-2242 or 884-9157

## Nov. 14 & 22-Scout food drive

Boy Scout Troop 220 does their annual food drive to benefit the Key Peninsula Food Bank. Empty grocery bags will be delivered to KP communities on Saturday, Nov. 14. Bags filled with donations will be collected on Sunday, Nov. 22. Other non-perishable donations can be dropped off at the weekly meetings at the KP Civic Center on Tuesdays in November from 6:30 - 8 pm. For general Scouting questions, contact John Odell, Scoutmaster, at 265-6205.

## Nov. 16 – Health and help

The United Way of Pierce County, the United States Census Bureau, the State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services and special guest Representative Larry Seaquist, give an important presentation from 6-8 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Learn about the health of our community in the current economic climate, how participating in the 2010

census can help our community, and how DSHS can help our individual families.

## Nov. 18- Shop in Bellevue

Key Pen Parks hosts a holiday shopping trip to Bellevue Square, with over 200 stores, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Meet at the Volunteer Park parking lot, bring \$30 for the transportation and some lunch money, and be ready for a good time. There is only room for 5-7 people, register early. [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com) or 884-9240

## Nov. 19-Community forum

The Mustard Seed Project's Third Thursday Community Forum will focus on 2010 Medicare Options 10 a.m.-noon at the Brones Room, Key Center Library. Medicare's annual Part D open enrollment begins Nov. 15-Dec. 31. Sandy Ruffo, R.N. and longtime volunteer for Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors will present. 884-9814 or [ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org](mailto:ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org)

## Lion's Club

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.

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](mailto:HMCMNP1000@centurytel.net) or [AmazingPatricia@comcast.net](mailto:AmazingPatricia@comcast.net).

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

KP Lions have scheduled a series of forums with community leaders:

Nov. 4 Dr. Sumner Schoenike, Project Access Pierce County; and Nov. 18 State Representative Larry Seaquist

## Nov. 20 – Free movie

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club invites the adult public to view "O Brother, Where Art Thou" at 10 a.m. at the Galaxy Theatre. The movie is free. Buy a beverage of choice after the movie and meet in the party room for a discussion and some friendship.

## Nov. 21-Eat local

The Key Peninsula Farmers Market is hosting a special opportunity to buy fresh locally grown food in the Whitmore Room of the KP Civic Center from 12-2 p.m. "Eat Local for Thanksgiving" is the theme with the goal of everyone having one local treat included in their Thanksgiving dinner. Fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables, pork, poultry, salmon, bread and more will be available. EBT/SNAP redemption is available. [www.kpfarmersmarket.org](http://www.kpfarmersmarket.org)

## 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. 884-3312.

## 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. Register early. 884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com)

# KP artist works on display in Gig Harbor

By Jerry Libstaff

Adria Hanson, a gifted and respected artist from the Key Peninsula, has experienced a fluctuation in events this past year. Her passage through major life changes has not stopped her creativity as she continues to delight her public.



**The Genuine  
ARTicle**

Hanson's work has the quality and appeal of the Italian masters. She says, "Portraits are my specialty." She paints in oil on canvas from both photographs and private sittings. She also presents landscapes in acrylic on canvas and has recently been drawn to work with watercolors.

A former gallery owner in Kansas, Hanson relocated to the Key Peninsula in 2004. She and her husband designed a studio here where she continues to produce amazing life like portraits and classical works. Her portraits have such a literal quality, one admirer said, "It's as though you're looking into the eyes of a person rather than a face on canvas."

Hanson also offers art instruction at her studio. She is extremely versed as an art teacher and worked at Harbor Montessori for four years. While there, she donated several pieces for auction as



Adria Hanson in her Key Peninsula home.

*Photo courtesy of Derek Hanson*

an extremely successful fundraiser for the school. She left the school as a result of one of her major changes; her daughter Sophia was born.

Last year her father joined her here on the Key Peninsula to be with her for the birth of her daughter. He secretly purchased some of her work to decorate his apartment. Shortly before the birth of Sophia, he passed away and Hanson

found the paintings during the aftermath. His unwavering support touched her heart.

When asked how she has sustained during this past year, she says, "Several times I put down the brush. A little voice inside questioned my future as an artist." She hesitated a moment, reflected and continued, "I felt like I was missing a part of myself when I stopped. I had no choice

but to get into my art again. It's a part of me."

Hanson's work was awarded 2nd place and Honorable Mention in juried shows at the Peninsula Art League. Her piece for "SalmonChanted Harbor," a salmon adorned with Native American art and framed with scenes of art history, drew a huge reward at auction. She has been included in exhibits throughout our region and has presented paintings to the Governor of Washington, Christine Gregoire and the Chief of the Choctaw Nation, Gregory Pyle. Hanson earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting from the University of Oklahoma and studied the masters throughout Europe and for a while, she trained in the Virgin Islands. Her paintings are currently on display at the Harbor Gallery in Gig Harbor. Hanson has recently been commissioned by Pacific Biometrics Research Institute to paint the founders of the company for corporate display.

Hanson and her husband have another arrival, literally on the horizon; they've purchased a 20-acre parcel on Key Peninsula and are building a home. Hanson plans to create a detached studio and offer artist's retreats, workshops and plein air painting opportunities.

To view Hanson's work, or to contact her for commission, visit her Web site at <http://www.thestudiogallery.us/>

## OFF THE KEY

### Nov. 7- Alzheimer's group

The Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group-Gig Harbor meets from 10- 11:30 a.m. at the Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way. The group provides a consistent and caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support from others who are also on a unique journey of providing care to a person with dementia. This free information and support group is for care partners, family members and friends of individuals with dementia. Contact

group facilitator Whitney Farr-Pilz at 206-229-1540.

### Nov. 7- Class offered

Carol Wissmann is offering "Profiting from Periodicals" from 9 a.m. to noon at the Gig Harbor campus of Tacoma Community College. Call Carol, 851-5101 or TCC, 253-460-2424 or BelleMann@hotmail.com

### Nov. 20-"Oliver"

"Oliver" will be performed on Fridays

and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. through Dec. 6. This crowd pleaser will be performed at the newly outfitted theater space located at 6615 38th Avenue Northwest in Gig Harbor. Tickets can be obtained on line at [www.encoretheater.org](http://www.encoretheater.org) or paid for by cash or check at the door prior to the performance. Reservations are recommended. Call 858-2282.

### Nov. 21- Fox Island bazaar

The Fox Island Holiday Gift Bazaar will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Nichols Community Center, 690 9th Avenue, Fox Island. Free admission and free parking provided. Lise, 253-549-2701 or [ficra\(at\)foxisland.net](mailto:ficra(at)foxisland.net)

## NOVEMBER PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Civic Center Board, Nov. 12, 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center
- KP Metro Parks, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, Nov. 10 & 24, 3 p.m. at meeting room, Key Center Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m.—business meeting
- Peninsula School District Board, Nov. 4, regular meeting; Nov. 18, study session meeting; both at 6 p.m. at district office

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## Outdoor Burning on the Key Peninsula

By Lt. Dale Heidal

Due to a recent change in state law requiring the phase-out of outdoor burning where reasonable alternatives for disposal are available, it was necessary for the Key Peninsula Fire Department to revise the regulations for outdoor burning in our communities. Though some of the regulations have changed, particularly regarding the burning of land clearing fires, residential burning is still allowed, as are recreational fires (campfires).

Land clearing fires are huge burn piles that are used for burning debris that was cleared for the purpose of construction and development. A residential fire is one that is used to burn yard debris, such as leaves and limbs, and can not be larger than ten feet in diameter. A residential burn pile up to four feet in diameter does not require a permit, whereas a pile four to ten feet in diameter does.

Many of the rules and practices remain unchanged, such as: burn barrels are illegal; all outdoor fires must be attended; non-combustible

clearances must be established as determined by the size of the fire; materials being burned must be of natural vegetation only; also water and equipment requirements may apply. These are just a few examples of the regulations. By state law all outdoor burning requires contact with the fire department to find out details about non-combustible clearances, burn ban status, permit information, as well as to inform the fire department of the intent to conduct outdoor burning.



Firefighters pose with 12 of their 2015 NASA 150th Anniversary City

## 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 our receptionist is out on maternity leave. We will be trying to fill the rolls as matches we can and we will post the expected hours on the front door. We apologize for the inconvenience.

## Winter Driving Tips

Winter is upon us and that means slippery roads. You can better your chances of avoiding an accident by taking a few precautions.



1st—Have your vehicle safety checked. Many shops will do it at little or no cost when they change your oil if you wash. They should check your antifreeze/coolant, lights, brakes and tires.

2nd—Be mentally ready. Don't drive impaired. If you have to a tired to drive, don't. Slow down if you the conditions are bad.

3rd—If you must use your cell phone, do so sparingly. Your attention needs to be on the road, especially when conditions are bad.

Key Peninsula roads are unforgiving with most having no shoulders and no place to go if you error.

## 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 Nov. 10th & 24th  
CPR/1st Aid Nov. 7th



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Dale Heidal

Dale joined the fire department as a volunteer in 1992, while he was working as a firefighter for the Navy. He was hired by us in Oct 1993. He grew up in Longbranch and had been the Karate instructor at the Civic Center for 11 years. He is a fifth degree black belt in Jashinyu Karate. Dale is married to Callie and they have three sons, Ben, Esau and Apollo.



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# Fishbowl 31: Seahawks crush Tides 38-7

By Ted Olinger, KP News

If only one could have floated on the scented air of that crisp fall evening now so distant, riding the smells of baking salmon and burning popcorn through clouds of green and blue hairspray. There were the last rays of sunlight streaming through the uprights at Roy Anderson Field. A big harvest moon pushed its way through the trees at the far end, where the scoreboard counted down time to kickoff. Below were the grandstands packed with parents, alumni, and children too small to join the thousands of barely dressed, desperately texting teenagers roaming the venue. The combusive, carnival atmosphere generated by those swarming students would've made Mardi Gras look like a Quaker's wake. Though every inch of their exposed skin was painted green and gold or blue and yellow, the young fans seemed not to fear or even notice the cold. They were warmed perhaps by the open stares of parents and teachers and principals



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Seahawks quarterback J.R. Grosshans completes a hand-off during Fishbowl 31.

gazing on their charges with ill-concealed admiration, and even envy. Yet all were connected by the same anxious fusion of hope and dread surrounding this game, a feeling intangible but real to anyone who remembers the incommunicable experience of

youth. Seeing all that, then one would know something about Fish Bowl 31.

Gig Harbor has won 17 Fish Bowls since the first game in 1979 and Peninsula 13, including nine straight wins in the 1990s. Gig Harbor won six of the last eight games this decade, including the last two years, shutting out Peninsula 33-0 in 2008. Pundits predicted a close game this year, only reluctantly allowing the Seahawks a small advantage because of a supposed desire for payback, not their 3-1 record. Left out of this equation was the fact that 3A South Puget Sound League Peninsula beat 4A Narrows League Olympia and South Kitsap in summer scrimmages, the same teams that later beat 4A NL Gig Harbor this season (2-2 pre-bowl).

There is also the matter of Peninsula's quarterback. J.R. Grosshans came into the game leading the 3A SPSL in passing and with 330 rushing yards for eight TDs on 27 attempts. That was more than his own Darrian Creamer (265/46 attempts), the best running back in the league.

Facing them was what KGHP game commentator Alex Benzegala called the Tides' "three headed monster": Barrett Schmidtke (QB), Troy Castle (WR), and Austin Seferian-Jenkins (LB/WR), one of the best wide receivers on the West Coast.

From the start, Grosshans had to claw his way up the field, sometimes connecting with a short diagonal blast that would knock a train off its track, but mostly outrunning the defense for little gain. He found Creamer for his first TD reception of the year. That was followed later by a three-point field goal from sophomore Cole Madden (WR). Tides QB Schmidtke threw a floater to Seferian-Jenkins in the second quarter that the 6'7" wide receiver pulled down for the Tides' single TD on a 14-yard reception. Schmidtke took a hard hit in the third quarter by Creamer and limped off the field, but came back to connect with Desmond Ary (WR) despite double coverage and a blitz. Schmidtke finally left the game on crutches, putting Troy Castle at QB for the first time this season. Castle threw simple and effective screen passes to Seferian-Jenkins in a relentless drive that brought the Tides to Peninsula's two yard line at the top of the fourth quarter, where they were stopped by a hard-hit fumble.

And then there was the 175-pound colossus, Seahawk Geoff Grant (WR/DB), whose performance turned even the righteous into pillars of salt. When he stepped onto the field, Grant had one TD in four games. At Fish Bowl, he scored twice, made a diving interception and recovered a fumble for two of four turnovers. Colossus.

Parsimonious observers attributed Peninsula's "rout" to Gig Harbor's mistakes, as if the Tides were not the quality team they are. The truth is simpler: mistakes were made because it was a tough game, not an easy one. Neither team posted the 60 or 90-yard runs they did in their wins the week before.

Ripping off his headset to storm the field in the final seconds of the game, after Peninsula scored its fifth TD, KGHP's Benzegala rightly said, "The Seahawks are making a statement here."

Peninsula will be graduating 23 of those Seahawks this spring, those seniors who finally won a Fish Bowl. We must let them go but keep our hairspray close and intone the sports fans' double-edged oath: "Wait till next year."



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# KPMS launches sixth year as NASA Explorer School

By Danna Webster, KPNews

A school-bus-yellow 1800 cc Honda Gold Wing pulled into a parking space at Key Peninsula Middle School about 8:00 a.m. on September 24. NASA astronaut Digger Carey and his wife, Cheryl, stashed their helmets and headed inside to salute the student body and faculty. Once again KPMS was being recognized for outstanding programs dedicated to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and most notably their sustained aerospace engagement as a NASA Explorer School.

In 2004, KPMS was honored as one of 50 schools nationwide selected for the NASA program. This year, KPMS was the first place runner-up for the National Middle School Association's "Teams that Make a Difference Award."

Carey got the full attention of students and staff with his opening remark admitting he never liked school. He told the audience, "I would be looking forward to this kind of activity (the assembly) as an opportunity to screw up and cause trouble," and confessed, "I failed ninth grade science class and had to go to summer school." The only thing he really liked was riding a motorcycle and, when he was 18, went to work to buy one. It was a long and interesting journey from his job as a typewriter repairman to becoming a pilot aboard the 2002 space shuttle Columbia with a mission to repair the Hubble Telescope.

Carey soon decided he'd rather be a fighter pilot than a typewriter repairman, but it seemed the door was closed on that

idea because a college degree was required and he didn't like school. His desire won out, and in the process, he discovered the wonders of physics, chemistry and biology. "These courses teach you the really, really cool things in life," he said. He told the students that a lot of times what the world has to offer is locked behind a closed door, but education has the key to that door. "An education heavy in math and science will give you the master key," he said.

Carey continued his education and earned a master's degree and all the keys he needed to become everything he dreamed to be. About 30 years later, he was part of a team sent to fix the Hubble space telescope which is an object three miles high in the sky, about the size of a school bus, traveling at 18,000 miles per hour. Carey narrated a video presentation of the adventure showing his dream come true.

The KPMS students also produced a video show introducing their work in the Explorer Program and sharing their dreams of becoming astronauts, aeronautical engineers, scientists and pilots.

State Superintendent of Schools, Randy Dorn, congratulated the KPMS students and staff on a program that has helped students realize that STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) might be part of their future. He said the KPMS program is needed in all schools across the state. Dorn said, "We took a giant leap with the moon landing. It is time to take another giant leap."

Carey assured the students that there is much work to do for future astronauts—first go back to the moon and then go on to Mars. And when a student asked if he had a dream of his own for one more space mission, he answered, "I'd like to ride an electronic motorcycle across Mars."

That same evening, Digger and Cheryl Carey rode their Honda Gold Wing to Uptown Gig Harbor where a district wide celebration of the NASA Explorer Program was held at the Galaxy Theater. For more information about the KPMS Explorer Program contact the science teacher who made it happen, Karen Borders, [bordersk@psd401.net](mailto:bordersk@psd401.net), 253.530.4257.



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## Looking to grow the arts and do some gift giving locally?

Look no further! Entering into our eighth year of arts programming on the Key Peninsula, Two Waters continues our service to the local community with public events, artists in schools and exhibition opportunities for local artists. We invite you to become a member but we would also like to expand on that idea to focus on an item of your choosing. Additionally, we will send the recipient a card before Christmas with local children's art, a bit about TWAA, our history as well as a note about the intended gift you have pre-selected.

Of course you are also welcome to gift yourself!

Please check the box beside the Two Waters effort you would like to contribute to, cut out this ad and mail to the address above or visit our website.

- \$20: one minute of joy for K.P. kids at a Tears of Joy Puppet Theater performance (Feb. 6th, 2010).
- \$35: one artist in one K.P. elementary or middle school classroom for one hour.
- \$50: first prize for the middle school student artist at the next Spring Fling (Mar. 6th, 2010).
- \$100: first prize for the high school artist at the next Spring Fling (March 6th, 2010).
- \$150: People's Choice Artist Award at Beyond the Borders (August, 2010)
- \$175: one artist in one K.P. elementary or middle school classroom for 5 hours of class time.
- \$20/25/50/100 (circle one): cost of annual membership for student/senior, individual/artist, family and patron.
- \$25/50/100/500 (circle one): contributions in varying amounts to support a scholarship fund for a PHS art student bound for college.
- \$400: one hour-long band performance at Beyond the Borders (August, 2010).

**Duplicate donations for one-time awards such as the People's Choice Award or a student artist award will be added to the scholarship fund for a Peninsula High School student college art scholarship.**



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## BRIEFS

### schools

#### Vaughn wins fitness award

Vaughn Elementary School won the Washington State Championship on Physical Fitness from the Presidential Council for the fourth year in a row. Vaughn had the highest percentage of Presidential Award winners with 50 students, or 15.1 percent of the student body. An awards ceremony will be held Nov. 25 at 11 a.m.

#### Free flu shots for students

Students in the Peninsula School District can receive free H1N1 flu vaccine. The service is provided through a grant. The district will provide the space and Franciscan Healthcare nurses will give the vaccine. Students can get the flu vaccine Nov. 18 at Peninsula High School from 2:15 to 5:15 p.m. Reports of absences due to flu like symptoms have increased recently in the district, according to district officials. The staff will focus on prevention strategies and parents are encouraged to keep ill students home.

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<p>Mark Christel Belfar 360.275.3666 lpl.com/mark.christel 24290 NE State St 3 Suite C Bellevue, WA LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC</p>	<p>Have you ever wondered who your financial advisor really works for, you or the firm? Our goal is your success as an investor. We work strictly for you. And we are backed by the strength and reliability of LPL Financial, the largest independent broker-dealer in the nation. We focus on one bottom line: yours.</p> <p>Please call to learn more and schedule a free consultation.</p> <p><b>LPL Financial</b> STOCKS • BONDS • MUTUAL FUNDS • IRAs</p>	<p>Todd Rosenbach Key Peninsula 253.884.4787 lpl.com/todd.rosenbach 5613 KPN Hwy. Suite B Key Center, WA LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC</p>

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“I’m running for this position because I care about where we all live”

**Michael Hays**

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## (From LEVY, Page 1)

tion goes from 86 cents per thousand to 1.09 per thousand. I'm voting for a 25 percent increase in the levy."

"As your property values go down, the collection rate goes up," said Commissioner Sheila Hunt. "With the property values, it's actually 180 million that we've decreased out here. That bumped our collection rate from 86 cents to 95 cents. So instead of the 22-cent increase you see on the ballot for this levy, it's going to be a 14-cent increase."

However, an increase is imminent for 2010, said commissioner Jim Bosch.

"Your rate per thousand is going up to 95 cents whether you like it or not next year [regardless of the levy]," Bosch said. "Your property taxes are going to go up nine cents and we won't get one penny more from you. So the increase we're asking for is 14 cents more per thousand dollars."

Grandier had more questions, and asked, "What services have you cut since the levy failed four years ago?"

"We have tried very hard not to cut services in the last four years," said Fire Chief Tom Lique. "We've cut internal programs, we've adjusted training budgets, we've adjusted the supplies we're buying, the money we're spending on facility maintenance." One recently hired temporary firefighter was let go and that position may remain vacant, said Lique.

"The projected deficit for 2010 is now \$151,000," said Lique. "With the levy, we'll see about \$341,000."

Bosch said, "If the levy should fail, we're going to have to face reality as a board and say there is a resulting cut in service. You can't keep balancing the budget by nitpicking here and there. We'll run one ambulance, minimum staff of three, if there's layoffs, so be it."

Lieutenant Eddie Swanson was the temporary firefighter/EMT hired for the now vacant position. "I was told there was the possibility that it wouldn't last six months if the levy didn't pass, but that there was also the possibility that if I did well they would extend to a permanent position. Again, if the levy passed last summer," said Swanson.

Swanson grew up on the Key, attended Evergreen Elementary, Key Peninsula Middle School, Peninsula High, and now lives in Lakebay with his wife. "I love it out here and I love the people and I love the community, and I'd love to work for the fire department full-time permanently but, you know."

The Fire Commissioners submitted a ballot measure last summer to lift the "lid" on levy collection for the fire department to \$1.09 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or 22 cents over the maximum 1 percent lid on annual increases allowed by law, which was then 87 cents per \$1,000. That lid lift vote failed in August.

The Pierce County Assessor's Office has since lowered property values on the Key Peninsula. To maintain the 1 percent annual increase, the county raised the tax assessment rate from 87 to 95 cents per \$1,000 in October. Because of that, the same lid lift levy asking for an increase to \$1.09 per \$1,000 now amounts to a 14-cent increase over what property owners would pay instead of 22 cents.

The rate of 95 cents per \$1,000 in value for a property worth \$200,000 equals \$190 a year, or 1 percent of the assessed value. If the levy is approved and the rate is raised to \$1.09 per \$1,000, the same \$200,000 property would owe \$218. That's \$28 more and 14.74 percent higher than \$190, but amounts to 1.1 percent of the assessed value.

## Longbranch Improvement Club

### November's the time for thanks.

#### Nov 14 The Alaska Kutsyaa Dancers

Multi-cultural dances present a nation and spectacular featuring traditional Tlingit dances expressing war, love, respect and laughter. Kutsyaa dancers include singing and jig, rattles, drum makers, weavers and beaders. Bring the family to this fun, free afternoon of true Northwest culture. 2 pm at LIC Clubhouse. Co-sponsored by Friends of Key Center Library and the US.

#### Nov 18 Monthly meeting

Member's dinner (potluck) 7 pm LIC general meeting. Bring a neighbor.

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#### Winter moorage

Limited space is available, first-come, first-served. Call Marina at 384-5137.

253 844-6022 for LIC information  
253 884-9157 for event info or tickets  
LIC Clubhouse at 7312 Key Pen Hwy S,  
5 miles south of the Home Bridge  
www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

Warm up to the holiday season at the...

# 2nd Annual Winter Warm-Up Crafts Fair & Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, November 14, 2009

10AM to 4PM

Key Peninsula Civic Center  
17010 S. Vaughn Rd. KPN in Vaughn

- \* Handmade and one-of-a-kind local crafts and creations
- \* Kids' Crafts Corner sponsored by Two Waters Arts Alliance
- \* Minter Creek Elementary Marimba Band & Chorus
- \* Chili Cook-Off with cash prizes

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253.884.3456

## Application for Chili Cook-Off Deadline Nov. 6

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ (Email required to be notified of next year's event)  
Type of Chili:  Beef  Chicken  Veggie  
Entry fee \$5 (to be pooled and awarded as prize money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place).

Judging will be at 12:00 p.m. Please bring chili to VFW Room in a crock pot to keep warm during judging. There may be two rounds, depending on the number of entries. You can expect 3-5 judges per round. There will be no public sampling of entries due to Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department regulations. Mail application and payment to: KPCCA, PO Box 82, Vaughn, WA 98394.

# Some kids not riding safe on KP

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor Fire Departments teamed up for a survey to check that children were properly secured in vehicles.

Each elementary school in the Peninsula district was included in the survey.

"Our survey found that 16.5 percent of kids were riding unsafely and illegally," said GHFD's Prevention Specialist Nanette Tatom. "Most parents were very appreciative of the information we provided and were simply not aware of the law.

"Our two departments have done a good job getting the message out about keeping kids rear-facing as infants. Although the slogan, '4 foot 9, boost them every time,' has also been well publicized, the age 13 part of the law has not."

Children under the age of 13 are required to ride in the back seat whenever it is practical to do so.

At each school, a flurry of bright orange reflective safety vests calling attention to fire and safety personnel was an indication of the seriousness with which the operation was conducted. As vehicles pulled up to the school, drivers were wide-eyed with, "what's goin' on here" looks on their faces.

"With the help of the Peninsula School District, its Parent Councils, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital's Center for Childhood Safety, the Gig Harbor Police and other volunteers," said Tatom, "we were able to go to all eight elementary schools and make the surveys."

The fire departments were able to report that PSD kids are riding safer than the national average.

"But," Tatom added, "we still have room for improvement. I would love to see 100 percent of kids riding safely in vehicles. One child injured or killed in a motor vehicle crash is one too many, especially when properly used car seats and properly worn seat belts can make the difference."

Among things not commonly known: Adults have a myelin (fat) layer to protect their brain and internal organs from injury - children do not. Adults have higher bone density and a more mature pelvic structure - which is better able to spread and withstand crash forces than a child's. Size is not the issue - even "adult-size" children do not have "adult-strong" bodies. Front passenger airbags can cause serious or fatal injuries to children. Even when there are no airbags, riding in the back seat reduces the risk of serious injury by 40 percent.

Seat belts are designed to fit adults. So remember, until kids are 4 feet 9 inches, boost them every time and in the back seat until they are 13 years old.

The cost of a ticket when your children are not properly restrained in the car is \$124.

For more information on how to protect your child in a car, call the Mary Bridge Car Seat Help Line at 253-403-1417 or Key Peninsula Fire & Medic One at 253-884-2222.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News  
FD 16 and Gig Harbor Fire surveyed PSD schools to gather data on car seat safety.

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**26** -happy thanksgiving-

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**GIG HARBOR** \$349,000  
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**SPANAWAY** \$210,000  
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**KEY PENINSULA NORTH** \$46,500  
 Nice area with paved street, close in & near Hwy 16, shopping & schools. Bordered with tall fir makes this property the perfect place for you to build your dream home. Water is already on the property & electric in the street.  
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### PSD Equips Buses with Digital Surveillance Systems

In the near future, all Peninsula School District's buses will be equipped with onboard digital surveillance cameras, which will replace outdated VHS and 8-mm systems. Six buses have already been outfitted with the state-of-the-art technology thanks to the voter-approved levy funding.

"The camera system is for the safety of the drivers, students and the citizens—it's a good tool for the drivers and the district," says Craig Sherman, Transportation Operations Coordinator. "It's something that needs to be on the bus, considering today's environment."

The system uses a digital time stamp and can be reviewed later in case of incidents on the bus. In case of an incident, the driver can cue the tape by pushing a button, so it can be easily reviewed later. "The time code is embedded into the system so you can't manipulate the time stamp," says shop foreman Joel Schroeder.

The camera's feed has sharp, color images as well as audio, and has multiple channels that can view both the back and the front of the bus, with separate microphones for each feed.



*PSD technician Joni Degille uses a laptop to perform diagnostics on a newly installed digital surveillance system on a bus. One of five cameras is visible at the very top center.*

Thanks to the recently approved levy the District will be able to use levy funds for cameras as well as new buses. Transportation Director Annie Bell says the goal is to outfit all of the district's 80-some buses with the systems, and all new buses will arrive already equipped.

Currently the district has three full size and four half size buses on order, to be delivered by the end of the year. This will allow for the replacement of two 1980s buses, among others. "Our fleet is getting newer, thanks to the levy dollars and state transportation funding," Bell says.

### Free H1N1 Flu Immunization Clinic

A free immunization clinic will be offered to students to receive H1N1 flu vaccine on November 18, 2009 Peninsula High School 12:15 - 5:15 p.m. This service is provided to students in the Peninsula School District through a grant. The District will provide the space and Franciscan Healthcare nurses will administer the vaccine.

### Community Drug and Alcohol Forums

We will continue collaborative efforts with community partners on issues that affect the health and safety of our students. We are once again sponsoring a Community Drug and Alcohol Forum to be held on Tuesday November 10 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Peninsula High School auditorium. This is an educational opportunity for all to learn how we can help our students and make our community stronger.

### Minimum Requirements for High School Math Credits have Changed!

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, in conjunction with the State Board of Education has revised the minimum number of high school credits a student needs to earn in order to graduate on time. Students who enter ninth grade on or after July 1, 2009 are required to earn three high school math credits that align with the standards developed and revised by the state. The recommended sequence is for students to take Algebra I, Geometry and then Algebra II. A student may elect to take a course other than Algebra II if deemed necessary with input from the student, parents and counselors. Only two credits of high school were required before this revision was made.

### November Events

- 10 Community Drug and Alcohol Forum 6:30-8 p.m. Peninsula High School Auditorium. This is an educational opportunity for all to learn how we can help our students and make our community stronger.
- 11 Veterans' Day—no school
- 12 School Board Regular meeting 6 p.m. at Henderson Bay High School
- 17 District Band Fest (all high school and middle school bands) 7:30-9 p.m. Chapel Hill
- 18 Free H1N1 Flu Immunization Clinic for Peninsula School District students 2:30-5:15 p.m. at Peninsula High School
- 19-25 Middle School and Elementary School conferences: early dismissal for MS 11 a.m. and ES 12 noon.
- 26-27 Thanksgiving—no school
- 27 PHS Marching Band in the Seattle Macy's Day Parade

### Emergency Closures

Soon the fall/winter storm season will be upon us, and we have prepared information in the school calendar that was mailed home to students to assist parents/guardians with Peninsula School District's procedures and expectations during inclement weather and school closures. Please use your calendar as a useful reference and a guideline to help you understand how weather decisions are made. This information is also available on the District's website at [www.psd401.net](http://www.psd401.net)

# OBITUARY

## KUPKA

Elmer E. Kupka, age 85 of Lakebay passed away Sept. 27 at Tacoma General Hospital after a battle with multiple illnesses.

Elmer was born Feb. 15, 1924 in Libby, Mont. to John and Hattie Kupka, a few years later moving to Vaughn where he was raised.



KUPKA

After graduation from Vaughn Union High School he found the U.S. Naval Service in June 1943. While in the service he was awarded with the American Area Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific

Campaign Medal and WWII Victory Medal.

In 1946 he moved to the Lakebay area. Elmer retired in 1981 after working 25 years as a custodian and bus driver at Evergreen Elementary School. After retirement he and Muriel enjoyed many years in the summertime going to Omak to pick baby's breath. They made many beautiful bouquets. He also liked to go to their lot at Ocean Shores, as he loved the beach.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Muriel, his grandson Timothy, two brothers Merle and John, and two sisters Alvera and Ruby.

He is survived by his three children Larry of Lakebay, Don of Fife and Diane of Bremerton, grandchildren Scott, Shawn and Misty, and two sisters Beatrice and Odie.

Graveside services and interment will be held at Nov. 14 at 1 p.m. at the Longbranch Cemetery.

(From FLU, Page 7)

pregnant women and children under 3 years of age. This suspension of Washington law is allowed when there is a shortage of vaccine or during a disease outbreak.

Isn't mercury a heavy metal?

By mid-October the first doses of H1N1 nasal spray vaccine began to arrive in Washington State, with the injectable vaccines scheduled for delivery later.

VAERS is the Vaccine Adverse Reporting System. VAERS website is: www.vaers.hhs.gov Toll free: 1-800-822-7967.

(From CRASH, Page 1)

that his truck was rolling. He looked back and saw his truck roll backwards, hit Cecchino's Mazda pickup and continue to roll across the highway, over the planter in front of the post office and strike the front side of the post office. Burden's vehicle was unoccupied. There was no arrest and both of the vehicles involved were driven away from the scene.

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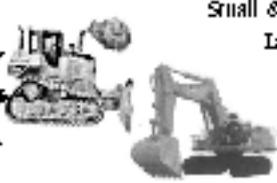
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# Out & About

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



*Photos courtesy of Glen Ehrhardt*

View from Cliff Avenue in Longbranch of morning break over the Sound.

Excavation of the Vaughn Bridge (circa 1966) began Aug. 10 and closed a portion of South Vaughn Road. From the four-way stop at the Vaughn intersection near the Civic Center, traffic must detour over two miles, onto 92nd Street, to access Lackey and Crescent Roads.

*Photo by Danna Webster*



*Photo by Karina Whitmarsh*

Sean Whittemore and Stephen Wolverton collect funds at Key Center as a part of FD-16's Northwest Burn Foundation Annual "Give Burns the Boot" campaign."



*Photo by Karina Whitmarsh*

Diana Nole stands waits in line to see a documentary film called "Dive," one of the many films shown at the Galaxy Theatre, Uptown in Gig Harbor for the Gig Harbor Film Festival.



Students show their school spirit during Fishbowl 31.

*Photo courtesy of Mindi LaRose*