



# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



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## INSIDE & ONLINE

MAY 2009

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**KP woman brings  
acclaimed Christian band  
to GH for benefit concert**

Also online

- ▶ Burley Lagoon threatened
- ▶ PSD looks to public for budget advice



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## KP teen wins Gig Harbor Kiwanis Star Search

By Marsha Hart, KP News

She had practiced the song with her voice coach many times, and she felt ready. There were 145 people waiting to be entertained, and each contestant brought a different style and talent to the stage of The Fraternal Order of Eagles in Gig Harbor during the first Gig Harbor Kiwanis Star Search April 18.

Faith Higgins, the only hopeful from the Key Peninsula, wowed the judges and the crowd with her talent and walked away with a \$500 prize.

As Higgins waited in the green room for her turn in front of the three judges, the 18-year-old Peninsula High School senior talked about how talented the other contestants were.

"Krista is so great," she said of Krista Curry, who will graduate this year from Tacoma School of the Arts.

Higgins waited. She was eighth of the 10 acts to perform.

"I'm going to sing 'At Last,' by Etta James," she said. "I really like it."

Tall, confident, yet a bit demure, Higgins surprised the crowd as she belted

out the first notes of the song in beautiful rendition of "At Last."

Back in the green room she said she thought she did well, and got some compliments on her way down the hallway, but knew the others were very good as well. She was nervous.

Higgins has taken opera voice lessons with Christina Kowalski Holien for three years. She has been in several musicals, and said she wants to make music her career. She won Best Supporting Actress last year at the 5th Avenue High School Musical Theatre Awards, and was nominated as Student of Distinction in drama and fine arts this year. She is starring as Ruth Sherwood in Peninsula's production of the Tony Award winning show, "Wonderful Town."

The three judges boasted resumes to challenge anyone's questions of whether they were qualified to fill the seats.

Key Peninsula resident and actor William Michael Paul was one of the judges. He has been in films such as "What Just Happened," with Robert De Niro and

(See WINNER, Page 15)



Faith Higgins sings "At Last," by Etta James during the Gig Harbor Kiwanis Star Search. The Key Peninsula teenager took first prize. *Photos by Marsha Hart, KP News*

## Wauna curves get funding for rebuild

Weary business owners, residents hope the improvements will be made to this stretch of SR302

By Sarah Kehoe  
Special to Key Peninsula News

Gig Harbor resident Sven Lovstrom sighed with relief when he heard that the State Senate is set to restore project funding for interim improvements in Purdy and the Wauna curves.

Lovstrom is weary of the frequent accidents that affect his customers.

"I know that at least three of my customers have been hit there," said Lovstrom, owner of Hollywood Pet Grooming and Boarding Facility. "I've landed into the ditch a couple times myself."

The senate set aside \$8 million in its 2009-11 and 2011-13 transportation budgets during a meeting on March 30 for the re-building of roads along the

high accident corridor.

"The roads along the Wauna curves have been a disaster for years and we keep hearing the roads are going to be re-built," he said. "We've all been wondering when it will actually happen."

Funding for this project has been cut in the governor's budget proposal for many

(See SR302, Page 15)

# KP, smokers burned by tobacco tax

By PJ Kezele, KP News

Local smokers and merchants are gasping for air as the largest tax increase on cigarettes in history went into effect on April 1. On Feb. 4, President Obama signed a law raising the federal excise tax on cigarettes from 39 cents to \$1.01, a 62-cent increase. The major tobacco companies, such as R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris, began raising their prices to wholesalers in March, including an additional increase beyond the tax to compensate for a projected loss in smokers.

Obama signed the law to finance the expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. One unidentified woman at the KP Smoke Shop remarked about whether she should quit smoking, "What's going to happen to all those children if I stop smoking?" she said. "How will they get healthcare?"

While smokers ultimately feel the heat when the prices of tobacco products go up, at least one local merchant feels like the patrons blame the retailers.

"They are taking it out on me as if I'm making the money," Eunice Ko, owner of KP Smoke Shop, said. "This really hits lower income people. This increase in tax on these people is very cruel. They say the government doesn't really care about their health, they just want more money."

Many smokers also agree that the new tax disproportionately affects the poor, who are more likely to smoke than the rich.

"It's absolutely ridiculous," Danny Cash of Vaughn said. "Once again, rich people are trying to get rich off us poor people."

Based on a Gallup survey conducted



Danny Cash of Vaughn laments over the increase in the price for cigarettes, while shopping at the local KP Smoke Shop.

Photo by  
PJ Kezele

last year that interviewed more than 350,000 U.S. adults aged 18 and older, the 62-cent increase in federal cigarette taxes is nearly three times as likely to affect low-income Americans as it is to affect high-income Americans. That's because 34 percent of the lowest-income Americans smoke, compared with only 13 percent of those earning \$90,000 or more per year.

While the media has paid more attention to the increase in cigarette tax, the price for tobacco products, including roll-your-own, has more than doubled.

According to Ko, for loose tobacco that was previously \$18 to \$23 per can, she must now charge \$45 to \$70 to cover costs.

"For the people who buy packs, the price went up about a buck," John Gleason, a "roll-your-own" patron of KP Smoke Shop, said. "For people who can't

afford the packs and need to roll their own, the price doubled."

While health officials and tobacco companies have speculated about how the increase will affect the number of smokers, Ko said she has already seen purchases of all tobacco products decrease by about half since the price increase. "They are either stopping smoking or cutting down a lot."

However, Peninsula Market Operations Manager Kip Bonds has yet to feel the impact. "There has been no noticeable change in tobacco sales up or down," Bond said. "It is a little too soon to get an average yet. I wasn't sure what it would do to the overall volume of tobacco sales at our stores, but for now it's stable. We are keeping our retails as low as possible for our customers and looking into expanding our lower price brand selection."

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

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## Peninsula Market plans new store

By Rick Sorrels  
Special to the KP News

Construction of a new store for Peninsula Market in Key Center is expected to start sometime this summer. The new store will be located immediately to the south of the existing store, backing up against the strip mall known as the Key Center Corral. A second story will contain store offices and an employee break room.

Don Stoltz represents Key Center Properties LLC, the owner of the Key Center commercial store site. Joel Kessel, a principal in Summit Design Group in Lakewood is handling the design work and preliminaries. An unnamed contractor is already committed for the construction.

The Key Peninsula Advisory Commission reviewed and approved a variance request on April 15. At that hearing, Kessel stated that, "We wanted to meet the future needs of the community, and also maximize the owner's best economical use of the property in order to make the tremendous investment worthwhile for all concerned."

Making the project happen has been challenging, and the construction date is still uncertain.

"This project has been a series of obstacles one after another," Stoltz said. "With the latest being the county wanting us to pay for the left turn lane soon to be constructed at the intersection in Key Center."

"The KPAC meeting revealed even more potential problems that must be overcome. With continuing problems, it is just too early to forecast a more specific starting date."

Plans call for the construction of a

16,655-square-foot grocery store to replace the existing store which is 9,295-square-feet. The current store will continue to operate during construction.

Once construction is completed, the old store will be demolished. The existing 840-square-foot delicatessen structure will be demolished, with a second 4,990 square foot commercial retail shell building constructed that will accommodate approximately three future tenants and a drive-through facility. Specific tenants have not yet been identified.

With the current economy, and many looking for jobs, Stoltz said local residents have already been asking about job openings with the construction project, and Stoltz said he refers those inquiries to the contractor.

Specifics about the new store are not set yet, Stoltz said. "We need to concentrate on getting the store built first," he said.

The Key Center grocery is part of a 4-store chain, with additional stores located at Lake Kathryn Village in Wauna, and stores in Vashon, and Tacoma. No changes have been announced for the Lake Kathryn store.

## Friends of the library

By Jeanette Brown  
Special to KP News

Friends of the Library will hold elections for vice president and secretary at the annual meeting on May 7 at 6 p.m. at the Key Center Library.

Anyone interested in supporting the library is encouraged to attend, said Chris Fitzgerald, president of Friends of the Library.

"We hope to see more people become involved," Fitzgerald said. "We always have a good time and we're looking to expand the activities we offer."

There will be a potluck dinner, and guest speaker Georgia Lomax, deputy director of the Pierce County Library System, will provide an update on the 2030 project and what is currently happening with the facility master plan.

Refreshments will be served at the annual meeting, and members and guests can learn more about the upcoming event - Opera 101 that Friends of the Library is bringing to the Key Center Library on May 14 at 7 p.m.

Membership for Friends of the Library

is \$5 per year, Fitzgerald said, and there are currently 67 active members.

"We would like more input for what programs are most well received, and we encourage more people to be involved with program activities and what we will offer next season," she said.

The final program of this season will be Opera 101, she said.

If you have ever been curious about the flamboyant musical art form of Opera this is a great way to learn more about the subject. Community members are invited to join veteran Seattle area opera lecturer, Norm Hollinghead as he explores the many ways in which opera can excite music lovers of all kinds.

Gorgeous voices, beautiful melodies, brilliant composers, larger-than-life personalities, exotic settings, dazzling productions, and hilarious stories about "opera gone wrong" are just a few of the ways in which opera exerts its magical attraction.

This lecture is appropriate for opera beginners as well as veteran opera-goers. For more information call (253) 884-2242 or drop by at the annual meeting and become a Friend of the Library.



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# Road improvements slated for Key Peninsula

**K**ey Peninsula residents have known for a long time what state officials are telling us -the Wauna curves are a dangerous stretch of SR 302. This year alone there have been numerous accidents on the curves, causing traffic delays and wreaking havoc on the lives of those involved in the accidents.

The senate has set aside \$8 million in its 2009-11 and 2011-13 transportation budgets to re-build the curves in order to improve the road and make it safer for motorists. The improvements have been a long time coming, and while there may be differing opinions on how to go about improving the SR 302 corridor, no one can argue that the road is just fine the way it is.

While this is not a permanent solution

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



to the entire stretch of roadway, any improvement to the Wauna curves will be a step forward to making travel through that area easier for residents and visitors.

There is no doubt the construction project to improve the Wauna curves will disrupt the lives of those who live here and have businesses that operate close to the construction site. Though the exact date is unknown for construction to begin on this project, it will happen sometime in the next couple of years according to state officials.

Patience will be a requirement. This is not the only project slated for the Key Peninsula. We will endure construction to improve the Vaughn Bridge and the Key Center intersection with a possible traffic light.

This proposed traffic signal has some residents concerned, and a public forum has been scheduled this month to discuss the pros and cons of that project.

Though the studies have been completed, the funds are there and it is obvious the intersection is dangerous and needs some type of solution; the concern is that a true traffic light could possibly cause a safety problem.

Some believe installation of the light would go against the intent of the community plan, though public works officials state the improvements are

designed to be consistent with the Key Peninsula Community Plan.

Turning from Olson Drive or Cramer Road onto Key Peninsula Highway is dangerous and making left turns from Key Peninsula Highway at that intersection can be almost impossible at certain times of day.

Pedestrians are obviously at risk when walking along the Key Peninsula Highway, or trying to cross it, with no sidewalk or crosswalk at the intersection. Plans include widening the road, adding north and south bound left-turn lanes, installing sidewalks, and paved shoulders, improving the storm drain system, and installation of the traffic light.

You can voice your opinion on May 13 at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Fire Department headquarters in Key Center.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Reality of Burley Lagoon and SR 302

I couldn't help but find humor in Jim Shirk's letter to the editor about "keeping it real" where SR302 alternatives are concerned. He goes to great lengths to dismiss or misconstrue comments made by John Doucett.

First, a simple web search of grey whales in Burley Lagoon finds a Fish and Wildlife listing of a juvenile gray whale observed feeding for several hours in Burley Lagoon on the weekend of May 26, 2007. Personally, I can recall driving across the spit on a Wednesday afternoon in 2004 when I noticed dozens of parked vehicles, all to observe a pod of grey whales.

He went further and stated that he hadn't "seen seals or too many salmon". Seals are observed feeding in the lagoon with great regularity, almost daily in spring and summer months. Last year, residents witnessed the death of a seal that had been caught in fishing nets. These fishing nets are used by local tribes to catch thousands upon thousands of

salmon annually just outside the lagoon. Further, it is my understanding that the oyster company is vehemently opposed to any bridge option.

The reality is that when compared to other alternatives, a bridge will be costly to construct (tolls?), difficult to maintain and expand, have dangerously ELEVATED grades and is environmentally irresponsible. Frankly an I-90 style, high rise bridge simply does not make sense for our rural community or our pocket books. That's keeping it real.

*Murray Payne*  
*Burley Lagoon Coalition*

### Thanks to volunteers

As we come near completion of the public meeting room at the Key Center Fire Station I feel it fitting to extend our appreciation. We have had so many skilled people from the community step forward to volunteer their time with the project. Like so many things on the Key Peninsula this became a community effort.

Two of our most recent helpers, Mike Cummins and Bill Wood demonstrated their professionalism with our sheet metal needs. Along that same time came Paul Till who assisted with installation of our media screen.

From our own ranks several of our

volunteer firefighters donated skills to the project including Gerry Eckardt, Claudia Jones, Jerry Kozak. Volunteer Firefighter Jerry Marsh was great at getting our radios, phones and computer equipment installed. Among the career firefighters we had Tony Carr and Tim Davis helping with several projects. Firefighter Robert Fisher installed the floor products and did a fantastic job.

Others members of the community who stepped forward were Dillon Pedersen and Hans Henriksen.

And a special thank you to Ed Robison for the donation of his engineering skills.

The final product of our efforts is a high quality facility for the community that we can all be proud to have had a part in. Thank you for helping us to serve you better.

*Chuck West*  
*Division Chief, KP Fire*

### Whales frequent KP waters, and Wauna curves are hazard

In Reference to a letter "Keep it real on SR 302 plans" in which Jim Shirk found the need to question remarks made by John Doucett in a previous letter to the editor.

There have been numerous times that whales have visited Henderson bay. I

myself have witnessed this on several occasions. One was on Wed, April 5th 1995 when SEVEN (7) grey whales visited the bay and put on a nice spectacle. Another was May 26, 2007 in which a Juvenile Grey whale hung out under the Purdy bridge and actually went into the Lagoon to feed for about 2 hours. These events are well documented and can easily be found online. Even last summer a whale cruised around in Henderson bay to the delight of watchers on the shore.

There have been numerous other visits by various whales over the years, some staying a day and some for a week.

I wonder if you've ever noticed the fishermen on the shore by the bridge fishing? Fishing for what? I'll tell you, the salmon which frequent the bay to head up Burley creek. Sometimes the fishing is foiled by the large groups of seals which frequent the bay, dining on the returning salmon.

One last thing, how can anyone miss the multitude of vehicles sliding off the road into the ditches of the Wauna curve every time it snows? I can't tell you how many (hundreds) of times we've had to wait for the stuck or crashed vehicles on that curve (hill) when the roads get slick and/or snowy.

*Dave Wiltfong*

# The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Important information you should know

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law in February.

Through the ARRA, Pierce County will distribute \$3.3 million of economic stimulus grants for training opportunities, financial assistance and employment services to low-income adults and dislocated workers through WorkSource. Training for low-income adults range from basic education to a variety of training programs, including: on the job training, classroom education, occupational skills, private sector training programs, entrepreneurship, job-readiness, a combination of workplace training and customized training. Eligible adults include those receiving public assistance, low-income veterans and their spouses, low-income foster families, homeless individuals and other families who meet the income criteria. Dislocated (laid off) workers qualify for skill assessments and personal-

ized employment and training services.

No action is necessary; the payment should be automatically received by the end of May 2009 via the same means that the normal benefit is received - check or direct deposit. If you do not receive the payment by June 4, 2009 contact the Social Security Administration.

Through the ARRA, the Department of Veterans Affairs will also make an automatic one-time tax-free payment of \$250 to eligible Veterans and survivors. These payments will be issued as early as June 2009. The VA will use its existing payment records to determine eligibility for the \$250 payment.

The Making Work Pay tax credit is the tax reduction centerpiece of ARRA and aims to help middle class families being squeezed by rising costs and stagnating wages. For

2009 and 2010, it provides a refundable tax credit of 6.2 percent of earned income up to \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for married taxpayers beginning April 1st. Families should see at least \$65 per month increase in their take home pay.

The Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan is aimed at families who make their monthly payments and fulfill their obligations who have seen their property values fall, and are now unable to refinance at lower mortgage rates to stay in their homes. The plan will help those at risk of default despite being current on their mortgage payments through loan modifications. If you or someone you know is in or about to be in trouble with a mortgage payment contact a Housing Counselor at the Pierce County Housing Authority or Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for more information and assistance.

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act increases opportunities for all ages to provide volunteer service through AmeriCorps. It provides 6th-12th graders \$500 education awards through the Semester of Service

Program. The Act also improves service options to those 55 and older who perform at least 350 hours of service to receive a \$1,000 education award that is transferrable to a child or grandchild.

A word of caution: there are many agencies out there trying to get ANY money they can from cash strapped people. Do not ever pay for this type of information or help - it is all free from the right source.

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# Hats off to the Key Peninsula firefighters

A couple months ago I took my 3-year-old son up to the firehouse in Key Center to join his preschool class for a bicycle helmet fitting session.

The helmets hadn't arrived yet, so instead we took a general introductory class and a short tour of the firehouse.

We got there a tad late to find a small room packed with parents and squirmy preschoolers, staring up at a tall apparition talking to them through full firefighter gear, including the helmet and respirator mask, like a friendly Darth Vader saying something like, "If you see someone that looks like me during an emergency, don't be afraid."

After maybe 10 minutes the murmur levels in the room started to rise, and motion throughout increased. Any time you get a bunch of preschoolers in a room for more than 10 minutes, it sounds like you're sitting in an emergency room waiting area at 3 a.m., or you

## KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



know, like you're hiding in an English bomb shelter during World War II (okay I'm exaggerating a bit – but not much). Wailing, whining, laughing, and small bits of shouting, while parents try to "shoosh" or calm down, or divert, redirect, or just get their child's attention while still others remained riveted to the fireman's every move and word.

Mercifully, it was soon time to head downstairs to see the fire trucks. We watched a stream of adults and little people come out of the classroom and file downstairs, into the garage area where some of the trucks were.

Our fireman guide patiently went through the main pieces of equipment

associated with each fire engine, holding rapt attention of the older preschoolers and a few adults, while the younger ones played with a parent's ear, wandered off into a corner, or had to go potty.

Then, a flash of excitement when the kids were allowed to enter one side of the engine cab, walk through, and exit out the other side of the cab. After that, a brief description of the jet-skis the department uses for water rescue before we all filed outside to see another engine set up for further inspections and explanations.

Then – another burst of excitement! First the kids got to take a cool class photo in front of the fire engine, and then they could enter the cab and get a solo shot, one at a time. So they form a neat line on either side, and a helpful firefighter loads each child up into the cab while an adult or teacher snaps a photo.

Finally, we all file back upstairs to the classroom where the kids get to pick up

their firefighter badges, plastic fire hat, and a packet of educational and play materials.

The older preschoolers stop for a last-chance-talk with a firefighter on the way out, others try on their hats and badges. But the thing is, what a great effort by the Key Peninsula firefighters.

They don't have to do stuff like this, and their time is limited just like everyone's. Setting up a tour and talk to kids that are 3, 4, and 5 years old will make lasting impressions on them, even those that were inspecting the cement floor, a truck tire, or someone's kneecap during critical procedural or equipment instruction segments.

So, my hat's off to the Key Peninsula firefighters, and to the Vaughn preschool teachers who set the whole thing up. You guys are all doing great work and it's appreciated. (And since thar ain't no grades in pre-school, you know I really mean it!)

*The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on this page and present these views for public information only.*



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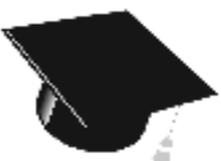
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SQUAMISH ISLAND TRIBE'S NOTICE OF SHELLFISH SURVEYS ON JOUQUATE TIDELANDS  
EXPOSING POSITIONS OF VAUGHN BAY BETWEEN MAY 8 AND AUGUST 31, 2009**

The Squamish Island Tribe is hereby notifying the public, including adjacent landowners, of its beginning of shellfish harvesting on the following tidelands along Vaughn Bay: (1) the commercial shellfish harvesting (1) tidelands along Vaughn Bay's north shoreline and including Little Adventure on Little Hill Road, and (2) tidelands along Vaughn Bay's north shoreline and including Ocean's Thrift Community center on 18th Avenue. The Tribe will conduct the surveys in accordance with the state of Washington, C.F.R. 92A, subchapter 09-01. The surveys will begin May 8, 2009, and conclude by August 31, 2009. The surveys, which determine the status of shellfish harvesting, shall be conducted on the north side of Vaughn Bay, and will usually be conducted during daylight hours. The surveys will usually be conducted during daylight hours. The surveys will usually be conducted during daylight hours. The surveys will usually be conducted during daylight hours.

The information, or information, is not to be used for commercial purposes.

For more information, Shellfish Biology, Squamish Island Tribe:  
2932 SE Old Olympic Hwy., Shelton, WA 98584  
(360) 432-3811 (phone) (360) 426-9771 (fax) or  
sqtribe@sqtribe.com



# Key Pen residents speak out about property taxes

By Danna Webster, KP News

Over two dozen residents attended a forum to discuss Key Peninsula property taxes at the Key Peninsula Civic Center April 20. The forum was organized by Dan Scott of Vaughn and David Mikelsen of Longbranch. Councilman Terry Lee sat with Scott and Mikelsen and invited the audience to voice their concerns and ask their questions. Lee responded to all questions, gave an overview of the financial status of the county council, and advised residents to continue their efforts to influence property tax assessment by bringing state representatives, Sen. Derek Kilmer, Rep. Jan Angel, and Rep. Larry Seaquist to the next forum on the subject.

"This is a top down problem," Lee said as he explained that taxes are established by Washington state government policy. "Tell them we need property tax relief."

Lee expressed confidence in the "incredibly innovative" abilities of Kilmer, which might serve to get the state to examine and reconsider current policy.

Councilman Lee provided a thorough presentation of the budget cuts the state and county governments are experiencing. Members of the audience expressed their appreciation for his informative discussion. However, a resident of the Elgin-Clifton area, Loretta Candioglos, told Lee, "We can't support your budget when we can't pay our budget," she said describing the plight of fixed income residents. "It doesn't work, the money runs out."

Dennis Mickey of Wauna had his tax statement with him. He is a strong advocate of bringing the state representatives to the next forum and organizing a



Photo by Danna Webster

With Key Peninsula residents David Mikelsen to his right, and Dan Scott to his left, Councilman Terry Lee addresses Key Peninsula crowd on the subject of their tax audits. The April 20 forum was organized by Mikelsen and Scott.

committee to make some recommendations for change.

"I can't pay those taxes and, damn it, I own that house," he said.

Another resident, Jon Forseth, presented the argument that establishing property taxes by market value was not the intent of state constitutional language, which calls for taxes on the true and fair value of the property.

"We need to go back to square one — the state constitution. We got off track a long time ago," he said.

Mikelsen asked Lee what he considered a fair way to determine taxes. Lee responded that one alternative is "make more, pay more" concept but that he prefers property tax incentive programs that might benefit the entire community.

For example, offering a tax consideration to farmers who fence livestock away from access to streams.

Chuck West, chair of the Key Peninsula Land Use committee, expressed his concern that property tax monies from Key Peninsula residents do not return to serve the peninsula needs. "We haven't seen a Public Works project since the Home Bridge in 1995," he said.

Lee explained that the taxes go into a general fund.

"Pierce County believes a rising tide floats all boats. They put money into a county-wide general fund and it is spent by the executive departments — where and when as they choose," he said.

Throughout the meeting Mikelsen said he was thinking about the three

people he knows who are going to lose their homes because they cannot pay their taxes. One friend has worked hard to pay her \$1,560 mortgage each month but with this year's appraisal of \$400,000 on her property, she can't pay the taxes.

"I have a real problem with the government taking her house because she can't pay her property taxes," he said. Mikelsen is in favor of phasing out property taxes and phasing in progressive income tax — the option Lee referred to as a "make more, pay more" concept.

Mikelsen and Scott intend to take Lee's advice and arrange another forum on the property tax subject. They will build this forum around elected state representatives. They hope to offer that forum in July.

## Key Center traffic signal focus of forum

Staff Report

Key Peninsula residents have a chance to voice concerns about the proposed traffic signal at a forum May 13 at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Fire Department headquarters in Key Center.

At the April Key Peninsula Community Council (KPCC) meeting, Councilman Terry Lee led an open discussion of Key

Peninsula issues. Perhaps the most contentious topic of that evening was the current plan to install a traffic signal at the intersection in Key Center. Several citizens expressed concerns that the proposed signal not only violated the stated intent of the Key Peninsula Community Development Plan, but might also result in decreased traffic safety in Key Center due to the natural inclination of drivers to

speed up to try and "make the light."

As a result of these discussions, and at Councilman Lee's urging, the KPCC will host the forum, and Pierce county official representatives will be available for this discussion including County Engineer, Brian Stacy, Councilman Terry Lee, and Legislative Analyst Mike Kruger.

For details, contact Danna Webster danna004@centurytel.net, or 884-6455.

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Photo courtesy Joyce Niemann

VUHS football team poses in front of the school. A WPA sign noting completion of the gym hangs on the wall. Identified players include, right to left, Dick Nordquist, Roy Niemann, Chuck Niemann, Dan Stoican and Russell Stock.

## Vaughn Union High School reunion set

By Joyce Niemann  
Special to the KP News

The Vaughn High Alumni committee has set Saturday, June 6, as the date for former students of our old high school to meet at the old school, now the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

We are inviting anyone who attended it as a high school from 1903 - 1947. We are all known as Old Timers now.

It has been three years since our last reunion. This year we will start at 1 p.m. with a catered dinner at 2 p.m. and have lots of time to visit.

Times have changed since we used to start at 5 p.m. and dance until midnight.

The cheerleaders will be trying to jump

as they lead the alumni in our old Vaughn Eagles and Orange and Black yells.

We are looking forward to visiting with our "We're Loyal to You, Vaughn High" alumni.

Reunion committee members are Don Lind, Russell Stock, Don and Shirl Olson, Hazel Kingsbury, Jane Van Slyke, Marge Radonich and Joyce Niemann.

If you did not receive an invitation and want to attend, please call 884-3702 or 884-9123. Reservations must be in by May 18. Tickets are \$15 per person.

The Historical Museum will be open for you to see the school pictures and old Tattlers.

The current display is the history of baseball on the Key Peninsula.

## Fire trucks, food, and fun at Key Peninsula Livable Fair

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The 8th annual Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair is a chance to see the variety of non-profit resources available on the Key Peninsula. This year's fair will be May 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road KPN.

More than 45 non-profit and community resource booths will be showcased, along with a variety of kids' activities, including crafts, as well as food and beverages for sale.

"The fair began in 2002 as an open house for nonprofits," Tim Kezele, event chair, said. "Over the years, it has become one of the best attended, family-friendly free events on the peninsula. Each year we try to add something new to keep the crowds coming back. We hope this year's 'Touch-a-Truck' will bring in more families with kids to explore the trucks and learn about community resources on the Peninsula."

Kids can climb on the vehicles, toot horns and operate certain parts of them under supervision.

"Trucks will include fire department vehicles, a tow truck, and the county "sewer video" truck," said Chad Harvell, recreation coordinator of Key Peninsula Parks. "It looks like a box on wheels, but inside, it's really high tech. The park tractor will also be there to climb on."

Key Pen Parks and the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association will have bright blue Touch-a-Truck T-shirts for sale.

Live entertainment includes two groups of students directed by Minter Elementary music teacher Paula DeMoss. The choir, about 40 voices strong, is a weekly after school activity. Some choir members have participated since September, while others recently joined the Spring choir. Singing at the fair will be their big event, as not all will be involved in the Peninsula High School concert later in the month, says DeMoss.

Their program includes a medley of pops, as well as Old Dan Tucker.

The Minter Marimbas, 4th and 5th graders from all four Key Peninsula elementary schools, are selected by their interest in the xylophone. They audition for inclusion in the group. Twelve of the 18 students are new this year. Their selections feature African and European music.

### 14th annual Fuchsia Society plant sale

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society holds their annual plant sale on the lawn at the KP Civic Center on May 9, the day of the Livable Community Fair.

The sale opens at 9 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. or until the plants are gone. Fuchsias are the main draw with an eye-boggling array of choices. Hardy and non-hardy, uprights and trailers, from starts to full blooming baskets in an extensive assortment of colors cover tables and a special display area for hanging baskets. Some annuals and perennials will also be available, including hardy penstemons and hostas.

Master Gardeners will have a nearby booth to answer gardening questions.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society maintains a display garden at the civic center with hardy fuchsias and companion plants. Two tall evergreens were removed from that area recently, letting in more light.

The Society's monthly meetings are on the first Thursday of each month at the Key Peninsula Library in Key Center. For more information, call 884-9744.

Matthew Hulse will perform folk music, and the Rhythm-n-Shoes Cloggers will also strut their stuff on stage.

Councilman Terry Lee and District Fire Chief Chuck West will be on hand at 11 a.m. to discuss bringing resources to the KP in a time of economic difficulty.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity," Chuck West said. "Somehow we need to get the services to our citizens in this community."

Councilman Terry Lee agreed. "It's the ideas that I expect to come from the public at the Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair that will give me my marching orders for the remainder of my term in office," Lee said.

Legislative updates by Senator Derek Kilmer and Representatives Larry Seaquist and Rep. Jan Angel will be at 1 p.m.

For more information, or to volunteer for the Fair, call 253-884-3456, or email: kpciviccenter@centurytel.net.



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INDEPENDENCE

# New dining option for Key Center

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Roadhouse on the Hill restaurant hopes to open before the end of May. The new owner, Scott Wille, and the manager, Laura Johnson, are waiting on licenses and permits to be approved and then the doors will open.

"It's a family business with a little sports bar and inexpensive prices," Johnson said. "I'm really looking forward to it."

Johnson has been in the restaurant business for 23 years. She is leaving her managerial job in Port Orchard at Gino's to build her own business in Key Center. Formerly, she was the manager at Tweten's Lighthouse in Port Orchard.

Owner Scott Wille says the Roadhouse on the Hill is a place where mom and the kids will feel welcome. "It is more of a family style restaurant. We're not pushing the lounge. Everybody can come, have fun, sit down, have a good meal and leave with a smile on their face," he said.

Wille is from Texas but moved to Port Orchard about two years ago to be near his

wife's family. This is his first restaurant experience though he has always had an interest in owning and operating one. "I'm new to the restaurant business, but I love food," Wille said.

The restaurant will offer a full service lounge with new televisions to pick up lots of sports show options. The lounge hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and until midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are all available in the lounge as well in the main dining room.

There will be seasonal seafood specials, many choices of sandwiches and hamburgers, salads and prime rib and meatloaf dinners. The restaurant hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Once the permits and licenses are in place, the restaurant will do a soft opening, hopefully in May, and plan a grand opening sometime in June.

The menu for the Roadhouse on the Hill is online at [www.roadhouseonthe-hill.com](http://www.roadhouseonthe-hill.com) and the phone number is 253-884-1300.



Photo by Danna Webster

The Roadhouse on the Hill is getting ready to feature family dining to the Key Peninsula. A grand opening is planned for June.

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**Key Peninsula**  
**Livable Community Fair**  
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10:00AM-3:00PM  
Key Peninsula Civic Center  
17010 S. Vaughn Rd. KPN in Vaughn

Over 45 booths • Live entertainment  
Fuchsia & plant sale • KP History Museum  
Kids' crafts • NEW! Touch-a-Truck

## Historical Museum Open House set May 9

The museum of the Key Peninsula Historical Society will hold an open house May 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The new historical display demonstrates the history of baseball on the Key Peninsula, with photographs and memorabilia of award-winning teams.

The Historical Society has teamed up with the Key Peninsula Parks to have a duplicate display of some of the photos and information at Volunteer Park.

Did you know that baseball was played as early as 1901 on the Key Peninsula?

Several young men from the area played some professional baseball, including four Rickerts from Longbranch.

New Key Peninsula Historical Society T-shirts in several colors are for sale, as well as a variety of local history books that make good gifts. An hourly raffle will also be held.

Regular museum hours are Thursday and Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. or by special appointment. Call 884-3702 or visit [www.keypeninsulamuseum.org](http://www.keypeninsulamuseum.org) for more information.

## Longbranch Improvement Club

### Longbranch is Ready for Summer

**KPMS Jazz Band Concert**  
An encore performance from the Key Peninsula Middle School jazz band is the feature of our May general meeting. The general public is invited. 7pm Wednesday May 20.

**Memorial Weekend Dance**  
Celebrate the long weekend with a Saturday night out, dancing to Peaceable Love. They're a fine rock band with a big brass sound guaranteed to get you up and moving. \$12 at the door, 8pm to 11, Saturday May 23

**Save the date:**  
June 17 - 11th Member's BBQ  
July 11 - Celebrate 99 Years Afloat at the Longbranch Marina  
Aug 1 - Beyond the Borders

252 884-8022 for LIC information  
252 884-9157 for event info or tickets  
LIC Clubhouse at 4312 Key Pen Hwy S,  
5 miles south of the Home Bridge  
[www.longbranchimprovementclub.org](http://www.longbranchimprovementclub.org)

# COMMUNITY WORKS

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

## Now- Wednesday Walkers

Key Peninsula Parks sponsors Wednesday Walkers every week from 10-11:30 a.m. at different spots on a rotating schedule. Adults 18 and over (dogs must be on a leash) are welcome to meet at Penrose State Park for an easy/moderate walk on May 6.

The next walk, an easy/moderate one, is at Rocky Creek (SR 302/150th Ave) on May 13. The walk on May 20 is at Maple Hollow (48th St/Van Beek Rd in Lakebay) and is rated at a difficult level. May 27 is an easy walk at Volunteer Park.

The schedule continues to rotate on the above schedule. Chad, 884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com)

## May 2-Garage sale

The Compassionate Travel Foundation sponsors a fund-raising garage sale from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. 884-5241 or [www.compassionate-travelfoundation.org](http://www.compassionate-travelfoundation.org)

## May 4, 11, 18 & 26- Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. It will be at Peninsula Light Company, 2nd floor, 13315 Goodnough Drive NW, on Tuesday, May 12, from 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. See online calendar for other dates, places and times.

## May 7-Fuchsia club meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. Please note the different location. Myvanwy, 884-2283

## May 7-Friends meeting

The Friends of the Key Center Library host the annual potluck dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the general membership meeting at 7 p.m. All are welcome. The friends need more donated books for their book sale, so, please bring any extra books. 884-2242

## May 9- Plant sale

The Bayshore Garden Club holds its annual plant sale from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Charboneau's Excavating, Highway 302 near 118th. In addition to plants, painted Mason bee blocks and other Mother's Day gifts are available. Proceeds benefit Blue Star Marker project, which honors veterans, maintenance of the gardens at the Longbranch Fire Station and donations to the local food bank. 884-3744

## May 9-Stories at library

Time for Tales, a free family program for children 5 and up, is at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Master storyteller Pat Peterson will tell old and new tales. 884-2242

## May 13- T-ball begins

Key Pen Parks begins Wednesday T-ball for preschoolers. See ad in this issue for details. 884-9240

## May 14- Opera speaker at library

Norm Hollinghead presents an "OPERA 101" lecture at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Norm explores the ways opera can excite music-lovers of all kinds from beginners to veteran opera-goers.

The free lecture is sponsored by Friends of the Key Center Library who encourage donations to the KP Food Bank. 884-2242.

## May 16-Vaughn PTA event

The Vaughn Elementary School PTA hosts "Come Sail Away with Us" at the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 6 p.m. The event will feature a fundraising dinner, dance and auctions.

Volunteers are needed and folks are asked to contribute by donating goods, cash or services to the auction. All donations are tax deductible. Cheryl Ozbirn, 884-3855 or [rozbirn@nwrain.com](mailto:rozbirn@nwrain.com)

## May 18-School board forum

The Peninsula School Board welcomes public input at their 2009-2010 Budget Forum from 7-8 p.m. at Key Peninsula Middle School.

## May 18- Dutcher Cove meeting

Key Pen Parks, the Trust for Public Land and Washington's Departments of Natural Resources and Ecology invite the public to discuss the purchase and protection of 26 acres in Dutcher Cove from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

More information: Key Pen Parks, 884-9240; DNR 360-902-1124; Ecology, 360-407-7258

## May 20-Tennis training

A Quick Start Training Workshop for children 5-10 held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the KP Civic Center tennis courts. See Key Pen Parks ad in this issue for more tennis lessons. 884-9240

## May 21-Library facility meeting

An open house to present the proposals for the Pierce County Library Facilities Plan held at 6:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. All users of the library are welcome. 884-2242

## May 24-Veterans honored

The KP Veterans Institute hosts a Memorial Day Remembrance beginning at 1 p.m. at Vaughn Bay Cemetery. Over 275 flags will be flown in the cemetery from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. at the annual "Aisle of Honor. All are welcome at this patriotic celebration. Contact KPVI President Mike Coffin, 884-9852

## May 30-Hay & irrigation workshop

A free workshop on local hay production and irrigation options held from 1-4

p.m. at Kaukiki Farm in Longbranch. This is a field workshop which will tour a working farm. Contact the Pierce Conservation District for reservations, 884-9474

## May 30, June 1- Garage sale

Lakebay Community Church hosts the annual garage sale from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Monday. A silent auction will be on Saturday for higher end items. Donations are welcome; call Linda, 884-2102 or Lakebay Community Church, 884-3899

## May 31 - Farmers market

The Key Peninsula Farmers Market launches its second season in O'Callahan's parking lot from 12 - 4 p.m. Support local farmers, stop by the Master Gardeners booth with questions, and check out neighbors' wares. [www.kpfarmersmarket.org](http://www.kpfarmersmarket.org)

## June 6-Car care offered

A free oil change is offered by Lakebay Christian Assembly of Home for single mothers living on the Key Peninsula. Make the required appointment with Sharron Dean, 884-9948, no later than June 4.

## June 6-Ashes sale

The Ashes (KP Firefighters Auxiliary) hold their annual rummage sale from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. Donations may be dropped off at the Key Center station anytime the office is open by June 5. 884-5430 or 884-3771

The KP Firefighters offer their famous Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 - 11 a.m.

## Now-Turkey season open

The general spring turkey hunt is open for all ages until May 31. See WDFW's Washington Wild Turkey Spring Season pamphlet for details at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/water/turkey/index.htm>

## MAY PUBLIC MEETINGS

- KP Metro Parks, May 11, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, May 12 & 26, 3 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, May 13, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library
- Peninsula School District Board, May 14, regular meeting, 6 p.m. at Voyager Elementary;
- May 28, 6 p.m. study session at district office; 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Honors student gives back to KP community, school

By Donna Smeall, KP News

Recently the Students of Distinction recipients were announced and one of them is Vaughn resident and Peninsula High School student Hannah Gilman.



GILMAN

Gilman is just one of 36 Students of Distinction recognized in this region and said of her award, "To know that I am one of 36 individuals who were chosen is a very big honor and a blessing to have reached such a high standard."

Gilman is president of the National Honor Society. The National Honor Society acknowledges the students'

achievements and encourages them to give back to their community by doing community service.

National Honor Society members take on almost any service opportunity that comes up in the community, insuring that the community's needs are met.

Projects selected by the Peninsula High School's National Honor Society included the Special Olympics, Peninsula High School's annual Winterfest, the S.A.V.E. Thrift Store's program, and Angel Guild. Gilman has participated with programs such as making decorations for the Peninsula High School Autumn Auction, holding levy support signs on the street corners of her community, and knitting baby hats for the CareNet program.

Gilman said she loves to volunteer. "I want to give back to the community; I love the feeling of helping others and making a difference," she said. "I don't expect any type of reward for doing this, I do it because I care."

Gilman moved from Tacoma to the Key Peninsula with her family in 1998. Her love for sports put her in the driver's seat as a volunteer Student Athletic Trainer for the PHS football team.

On nice days, she said she enjoys kayaking on the bay and this is her "most favorite" sport, she said.

Rainy days will find her occasionally watching sports games to stay in the know.

Gilman will attend Olympic College's Nursing program in the fall.

## Key Singers to present concert

The Key Singers present their annual spring concert May 16 at 3 p.m. at McColley Hall, KP Lutheran Church, junction of KP Highway and Lackey Road.

"With the wars... the ugly economy...unemployment...negative stock market, etc. we need to have something that will raise our spirits," says Director Marianne McColley, so the theme of "High Hopes" was selected.

A variety of music will be shared, running the gamut from the theme title,

"High Hopes," through patriotic, The Lord's Prayer set to a West Indian folk tune, and a finale medley of Rodgers and Hammerstein on Broadway.

Special soloists and groups include Conchord, guest Caitlyn Alonzo, and a KP Middle School group under the direction of Nancy Shang.

Admission is \$8 for adults, and \$5 for seniors and teens. Contributions for the KP food bank are encouraged. For more information call 884-5615.

## OFF THE KEY

### May 2- Free concert

The Peninsula Community Chorus presents "Spirit of Spring", featuring Haydn, Mendelssohn and Copeland, at 4 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way, Gig Harbor.

### May 2 & 3- Auditions held

The Paradise Theatre holds auditions for summer shows. "Miss Firecracker Contest" needs four females and two males in their 20s or 30s. "Beauty and the Beast" needs 5 principal females, 5 principal males, one principal boy and has many smaller roles for teens, adults and children. The theatre seeks singers who can move well and dancers.

Call for an appointment at 253-7529. More information, www.paradisetheatre.org

### Now-May 10- "42nd Street"

"42nd Street" presented on weekends

at Paradise Theatre, 9911 Burnham Dr NW, Gig Harbor. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday shows are at 3 p.m. Purchase tickets online at www.paradisetheatre.org or call 851-7529.

### May 21-PYO open house

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra holds an Open House from 4-6 p.m. for students in grades 3-12 (9-19 years old). Some scholarships and instrument rentals are available. Early registrations and auditions for the 2009/2010 season will be held on June 4. www.harborpyo.org or 253-534-5384

### May 31-Spring Concert

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra performs at 3 p.m. at the Harbor Covenant Church, 5601 Gustafson Drive, Gig Harbor. Four orchestras (beginners-advanced) will perform; the public is invited. Paula, 253-534-5384, info@harborpyo.org or www.harborpyo.org

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Unbelievable views of Case Inlet, Olympic Mountains and north to Rocky Beach and beyond! This updated home is an escape from the ordinary! Sit on your new deck and gaze at the blue waters of Case Inlet. This home comes with buoy and beach right! Dallas Amickon & Janette Weister 253-857-3304 #28 180284



**HEPFRON ISLAND \$177,000**  
This A Frame has Storybook Charm. Located on a dead end road. 2 lots are included, both with water view! Hepron Island, Jewel of South Sound, private island get-a-way close to most major cities in the Puget Sound area. Gravity septic system, wt on property & par in street Dallas Amickon & Janette Weister 253-857-3304 #28 180091



**GIG HARBOR \$189,000**  
Wake up and end your day in blissful serenity. Designed to relax the most stressed-out of people. Custom building, skylights, woodstove and jetted tub in master are a few of the many features. Sunny garden space, just in time for spring! Take advantage of this opportunity. Janette Weister 253-857-3304 #28 187244



**LAKEBAY \$199,000**  
Get back to nature! This serene & quiet 3 bdrm, 2 bath home is surrounded by tall pines. With Spring & Summer on the way it's a perfect time to spend in your 1.39 acre yard. Large cement patio for outdoor entertaining, private backyard with play area & dog run. Dallas Amickon & Janette Weister 253-857-3304 #28 174896



**HEPFRON ISLAND \$350,000**  
Potential is what this home has. 2 bdrm, 1 bath on a waterfront lot. Amazing views will make up for any cosmetic fixes. Western views of the Olympic Mtns & Case Inlet & surrounding islands. Nice medium bank beach. What a great place to call home. Dallas Amickon & Janette Weister 253-857-3304 #28 172460



**GIG HARBOR \$379,000**  
Nested on over a peaceful acre this gorgeous home shows its beauty as you walk through the front door & are greeted by the wonderful hardwood floors and a grand entry. A large living area w/open floor plan has gas fireplace & spectacular custom built-ins. Cindy Balchin 253-857-3304 #29 042296



**ROCKY BAY \$645,000**  
Rocky bay Waterfront Home on 5.41 acres! 614 ft of low bank/ho bank waterfront just in time for summer enjoyment. Large level garden area. New picture windows, sliders and new siding. With a few finishing touches, this could be the perfect home! Susan Hoover 253-857-3304 #29 043544



**PALMER LAKE \$49,999**  
Surrounded by trees this property is located in the private lake community of Palmer Lake. The lake is stocked with trout, so you can enjoy fishing; perfect for paddle boarding or canoeing. 2 state parks near by where you can launch your boat & enjoy saltwater activities. Dottie Mazza 253-857-3304 #28 143765



**LONGERANCH \$129,000**  
Enjoy watching the wildlife on this peaceful, shy 10 Acres, with 2 separate tax parcels in a level, private setting. Well & septic installed; former dwelling destroyed by fire. Foundations are visible and could possibly be used. Well is 213 Ft deep. State parks and boat launch nearby. Dottie Mazza 253-857-3304 #29 025693



**LONGERANCH \$129,000**  
75 feet of waterfront property with gorgeous views of Case Inlet and Misqually Pass. You will fall in love with the tranquil southwestern sunsets. Come and see what the Key Peninsula has waiting for you. Bank owned property. Cindy Balchin 253-857-3304 #29 049617



**HOME \$235,000**  
Historic town of Home. Own a piece of history in this charming district. 2 bdrm + den, island & wood floor in kitchen, 1-story on two large lots. 2nd parcel has RV parking w/separate septic system, water faucet & separate power meter. 2 car detached garage + carport. AL Million 253-857-3304 #29 053078



Dallas Amickon  
253-605-0972



Cindy Balchin  
253-854-1754



Liz Gefre  
253-241-1797



Susan Hoover  
800-925-3117



Dottie Mazza  
253-225-0530



A.J. Willson  
253-884-9537



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# KEY PEN PARKS

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answers@keypenparks.com

**THANK YOU TO PARKS APPRECIATION DAY VOLUNTEERS**

Key Pen Parks would like to thank all the individuals and businesses who participated in Parks Appreciation Day. The volunteers provided support by performing a variety of tasks. This year Key Pen Parks had over 150 volunteers at the following locations: Purdy Sand Spill, Rocky Creek Conservation Area, Taylor Bay, Fome Park, Maple Hollow and Key Peninsula Civic Center. The volunteers accomplished a tremendous amount of work in a very short period of time. Some of the tasks the volunteers did were trail trimming, brush cutting, spreading of bark and gravel, trash pickup, beach cleanup and many other tasks. **THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS and BUSINESSES FOR THEIR SUPPORT!!!!**

**Outdoor Teen Dance at Volunteer Park--** Calling all you TEENS! Key Pen Parks is gearing up to host the first outdoor dance at the Skate Park. On the Way Concessions will be open to fill your appetites. Get ready to Boogie!! June 26th, 8:00 pm-11:00 pm. \$10.00 This is a secure and safe environment. Staff and volunteers will be supervising.

**CLEARWATER CASINO & RESORT** is a naturally breathtaking casino and hotel nestled among the pines and cedars of the scenic Kitsap Peninsula. This expansive, luxurious resort offers four-diamond amenities and a wide array of indoor and outdoor pleasures including a full-service spa, zero entry pool and of course, the endless excitement of video slots, blackjack, poker, craps, keno and roulette. Wednesday June 3, \$ 10, Depart Imm Volunteer Park at 10:00 am & return around 6:00 pm. (Registrations will be accepted until Friday, May 29) Min 23 Max 24

**Key Pen Parks & the Livable Community Fair presents Touch-A-Truck** Come join us on May 9th from 10-3 for the Livable Community Fair. New this year is the Touch-A-Truck Event. Parents and kids of all ages will have a chance to climb, run around, sit in and even honk horns of the trucks present that day. Truck drivers will be on hand to show off their trucks. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Prepare for the weather because this event will take place rain or shine.

**Quick Start Tennis Training May 30th from 11-2 at KPCC Tennis Courts** 3 hour interactive on-court workshop which provides an overview of the Quick Start Tennis format and the Quick Start Tennis Recreational Practice Plans. This workshop is about helping children learn and develop the skills necessary to play tennis. This is for Parents, volunteer coaches, tennis teachers, recreational coaches, and anyone working with age 10 & under youth in junior team tennis, summer camps or after school programming.

**SUMMER SPORT CAMPS**

CAMP	AGES	TIME	DAYS	DATE	LOCATION	LT
Cheer	5-6	12-1 pm	Mon-Fri	July 6-10	Volunteer Park	\$ 35
Cheer	7-12	10-11:30am	Mon-Fri	July 6-10	Volunteer Park	\$ 40
Skate	4-12	10am-12 pm	Mon-Fri	July 27-31	Vol. Pk. Skate Pak	\$ 75
Skate	10-15	12:30-2:30pm	Mon-Fri	July 27-31	Vol. Pk. Skate Pak	\$ 75
Brit. Soccer	3-4	9-10 am	Mon-Fri	Aug 3-7	Volunteer Park	\$ 60
Brit. Soccer	4-5	10:30-12am	Mon-Fri	Aug 3-7	Volunteer Park	\$ 60
Brit. Soccer	6-15	1-3 pm	Mon-Fri	Aug 3-7	Volunteer Park	\$ 100

Camp participants will receive t-shirt, camp specific ball or pompoms, and great instruction.

**Co-ed Summer Softball** Summer is fast approaching and it is time for Co-ed Softball. Key Pen Parks will start accepting team registrations for weeknight co-ed softball. Call for more information. 253-884-9240 or e-mail [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com).

**Upcoming Programs:** TBall and Wednesday Walkers



(From SR302, Page 1)

years. The delay in re-building was because of the large amount of funding needed, said Sen. Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor.

"The reason these improvements have been so long in coming is because these are critical improvements," he said. "I've made it a high priority to see improvements made to State Route 302 and I'm pleased we are going to see some progress."

Many accidents have occurred over the years on the dark, winding roads, and the route has heavy traffic.

"This corridor meets the threshold for a 'high accident corridor' in our most recent compilation of statistics. A high accident corridor has an above average rate of accidents occurrence as compared to a statewide analysis of similar highways," said project manager for WSDOT John Donahue. "Locations like this are of particular interest to WSDOT - to investigate and understand what the causes for a higher rate of accidents may be, and ultimately to address these causes."

Lake Kathryn Village sits at the top of the curves, and Purdy Cost Less Pharmacy is one of the businesses there. Don Zimmerman, owner of the pharmacy, said improvements are needed on the stretch of road.

"There is an overload of traffic and the worst part is on 94th," Zimmerman said. "I'm in favor of any kind of reconstructing."

The exact time for short-term improve-

ments of the area are unknown until the budget officially passes at the end of April, but they are set to take place in the 2009-11 biennium, said Kilmer. Improvements include widening the road on 302 near 118th and between Goodnough and the 302 Spur, U-turn and signal modification at State Route 302 Spur and 144th and minor widening on roads northbound south of Purdy on State Route 302, according to the WSDOT.

"We will be focusing on trying to make it easier for drivers to enter and exit the highway more safely and making traffic flow smoothly," said project manager for WSDOT, John Donahue. "We are currently doing a study of this corridor to look at long-term improvements."

The long-term goal is to build a new corridor on to the Key Peninsula. When this construction occurs, the safety and convenience of businesses around the area will be considered, said Kilmer.

"I want to see a proposal that solves our transportation problems while respecting the needs and interests of the people who live and have businesses in the area that may be impacted by this project," he said.

Business owners are willing to put up with minor inconveniences during reconstruction.

"I will support anything they do because conditions are so hazardous," said David Ahrens, owner of Coast to Coast Hardware in Lake Kathryn Village.

Lovstrom agrees.

"I am just encouraged to hear that something will be done," he said. "I hope it will happen soon."

(From WINNER, Page 1)

Bruce Willis, and has appeared in many commercials and on billboards. Dallas Dixon has a background in dance as a

choreographer and artistic director, and Paul Schultz studied musical conducting at the International Bachacademie in Stuttgart, Germany.

The top three acts were chosen by the judges, each performed a second time, and the audience voted by ballot for the winner.

Higgins made it to the final three with Curry and The Glory Girls, a six-woman singing group from Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, and was ultimately chosen by the audience as the winner.

Higgins could barely contain her excitement as she talked about her win and her plans for the \$500 prize.

"I did not expect it," she said. "Everyone was so talented and I got to know all of them back stage. I wasn't really thinking about the money at all, but I will spend it either on more voice lessons or dance lessons. I need that for my theater background."

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# High fences make good neighbors

Longbranch couple moves fencing company closer to home and provide discount to KP customers

By Irene Torres, KP News

For the past few months, drivers along the Key Peninsula highway have watched inventory steadily build behind a strong, new fence. Recently, a temporary sign on that fence identified the new tenants, Kiwi Fencing Company, Inc.

Relocating from Port Orchard after three years, owners Warwick and Janice Bryant say they are pleased to re-open their business closer to their Longbranch home, Kaukiki Farm, and their two boys, 6-year-old Jackson and Mac who is 4.

To ease their transition into Pierce County, the Bryants enlisted the services of Residential Source, a Gig Harbor Company, to work through the county's complicated permitting process.

The Bryants have a three-year lease on the 1.2-acre property, owned by Tony Williams of Nanton LLC, and will explore a longer-term agreement. They offer free bids and install fencing all over Western Washington from Winlock to Forks to Arlington, and into Oregon.

KFC, as Warwick calls his company, is a full service company for equine, livestock, and residential fencing. Warwick estimates his current inventory at \$200,000, but intends to whittle that down to meet the current economy. At the time of the move to the Key Peninsula, KFC downsized from 24 to 12 employees, all of whom are trained and experienced. Both Bryants agreed, "That (layoff) was the hardest thing we've ever had to do. They are like family. We'd like to hire them back."



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Steve Boardman of Kiwi Fencing installs a fence at a new home on the Key Peninsula.

KFC has been in business since 1989, and Warwick holds degrees in grasslands management, animal science and agricultural economics. The company is a member of the American Fencing Association and the Washington State Farm Bureau, and has enjoyed a 12-year partnership with the Western Washington Conservation Districts, State Agencies, and Tribes. The Bryants also own a pasture and agricultural renovation business, Kiwi Custom Farming.

The Bryants believe it is "very important to support local (businesses), where we live."

Warwick said of the current economy, "It's tough. I expect a further downturn."

Planning for that, Janice recently

returned to work at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, where she is a nuclear engineer.

Their new business model for KFC is "all about overhead," Warwick said. "Each of our three estimators is a 'jack of all trades' and all of them work on installations as well as bidding the jobs."

Chain link fencing comprises about 15 percent of the business, and agricultural fencing — mesh and barbed wire — makes up the remaining 85 percent. Their installations include fencing for black bear, elk, llama, and ostrich. Janice said, "We do everything that a feed store doesn't. We carry a full line of feeders, waterers, grass seed, irrigation, even portable 12 by 12 horse shelters."

In this economy it is important for any

business to stand out from the competition.

"We ask ourselves, 'What are we doing differently?'" Janice answered her own question with "To be the best, to offer the best customer service, to become more efficient and less expensive" than the competition.

Warwick noted that KFC has "done plenty of clean-up behind the 'one-man-band' fencing operations, the lone guy in a truck. We have done tens of thousands of dollars in repairs to substandard installation" by companies that lack the license, insurance and bonding that KFC carries. Warwick said, "When getting bids, customers need to compare apples to apples. But it is a free market, and we wouldn't want it any other way."

The company offers special deals to local customers.

"We will do retail sales. We have the 'Peninsula Good Deal' where local customers can get a price break. We recommend they call ahead, go over their needs on the phone, and we will have their fencing package ready to pick up at the yard." Janice added, "We love the sense of community here. We're stupidly happy."

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# Park appreciation on the KP

Photos by Hugh McMillan



Above, L to r: Among some 25 volunteers for the Key Peninsula Metro Parks Appreciation Day cleaning up the property at the Purdy Spit are Michael Simmons, Larry Norton, and Chad Harvell bagging up some of the trash accumulated during the exercise.



Top right, Peninsula High 10th graders, Taylor Lindbon and Kelli Davidson, in the foreground, joined some 20 other volunteers to spruce up the swing area in Home Park during Key Peninsula Metro Parks' Appreciation Day. Bottom right, In Home Park, right to left, Evergreen Elementary second grader Cameron Kreis with his dad Jake and friend Vic Corey rough up the chips base at the park's swing area.



Daryl Gainey of Vaughn pressure washes and his son Isaac Mort, a freshman at Peninsula High School removes grass and weeds from the sidewalks at the Key Peninsula Civic Center where they joined some 40 volunteers on the KP Metro Parks Appreciation Day cleanups.



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## State Audit Report is Outstanding

In January, the Washington State Auditor completed the District's 2006-2007 Accountability and Financial Statement Audit. Some of the areas examined were Accounting/Financial Reporting, Cash receipting, Open Public Meetings/Records Laws, Payroll/Personnel and Commissioner Compensation. The State Auditor reported that "the District complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas examined. Internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets." The Auditor also reported that this is the fifth consecutive audit in which no findings were reported for the District. Ruth Bramhall, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners, stated the Board is proud of the accomplishments of the entire staff; further stating that the staff's commitment to the District's Mission Statement is reflected in this Audit. Copies of the Audit Report may be obtained online at [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov). Copies may also be obtained at the Key Center Fire Station.

## We Listen to You

A citizens Advisory Committee made up of community members has just finished a review of the department operations, budget and future plan. We are reviewing the recommendations and looking forward to making a few changes that could better serve your needs.

We would like to thank Trisha Egelston, Linda Wicks, Joe Barrow, Don Zimmerman, Hugh McMillar, John Partyka, Ronn Mayer, Don Mills and Cy Young. Each of these people volunteered their time to help us help you more efficiently.

## Key Center Classroom is Open

Key Center has a new public meeting room and is now ready for scheduling. Many thanks to the district and community volunteers who made it happen.



A piece of our history is back in good health thanks to Gig Harbor Auto Body. Steve and the guys donated a lot of time to restoration and painting of our 1919 American LaFrance. This fire engine served the community of Home prior to the formation of our fire district. Thanks for helping us.

## Calendar of Events

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

CPR/1st Aid	May 2nd
Touch a truck at Civic Center	May 9th
Commissioner's Mtgs @ 3 pm	May 12th & 26th

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Hal Wolverton

Hal first joined us in 1990 as a volunteer firefighter. He was hired as a career firefighter in April 1992 and worked his way up the ladder and now serves as the Battalion Chief on "C" Shift. He is a member of the Rope Rescue team and the program leader for the district's Water Rescue team. Hal continues to lead by example, earning him several district awards over recent years.



## HELP US HELP YOU

Often times our patients are unable to communicate with us and we have to search for answers. If you have a medical condition please help us by writing down your medical history along with your current list of medications and carry it with you. In your home post it on the refrigerator. If you have a cell phone store the phone number of a friend or relative that knows your medical information under ICE (In Case of Emergency). These simple measures could save us time that could save your life.



SPARKY SAYS:

Have a home fire drill with your family, teach safety.

# Jukebox provides nostalgia, raises money

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

The sound of the 1950s rocks when one enters the doors of the Yankee Clipper barbershop in Key Center.

Customers can enjoy a piece of Americana while contributing to a good cause by slipping a coin in the slot and choosing a favorite oldie tune. All money goes the food bank.

Dave Wilson, of Lakebay, has been collecting and restoring jukeboxes that date to 1946. The jukebox in Nita Garnier's barbershop is a 1955 Rock-Ola that Wilson restored and placed there to raise money for the food bank.

Customers can choose from Elvis Presley, Ricky Valens, Buddy Holly, Jim Reeves, The Beach Boys and Glenn Miller. There are 120 selections, and each song is a dime, or the jukebox will play three choices for a quarter.

Wilson works at Boeing, but restores the jukeboxes as a hobby. He currently has more than 20 jukes in various stages of restoration with most of them in

storage.

"People worldwide love 'jukes' especially American made," Wilson said. "My goal is to preserve some of the American past and to eventually see more businesses take them on with the proceeds going to charity."

His first jukebox was a United that he bought from eBay, but when he had difficulty with it, he bought the Rock-Ola a couple of months later. Wilson said he has gone as far south as Los Angeles and as far east as Spokane to support his hobby and acquire jukeboxes. Some others among his collection include Wurlitzers, a 1947 Seeburg and a 1946 Aireon.

Jukeboxes were popular in the 1940s and 50s, and most of them played 45 rpms, but Wilson said he has four that play 78 rpms.

By having the jukebox in her barbershop, Garnier said it has been lucrative and fun, especially with kids and she said she maintains a request list for songs and more honky tonk.



Photo by Sharon Hicks

David Wilson and Nita Garnier play an oldie on the jukebox in her barbershop. The proceeds from the jukebox go the food bank.

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## School District Values Public Input for 2009-2010 Budget

Peninsula School District is in the process of creating the budget for the 2009-2010 school year, and invites the public to participate. The district is anticipating a significant drop in revenue, and has been collecting input from the school district community and the public at large on funding priorities.

"The process is very extensive and we're trying to get as many people's input as possible," says Deputy Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetta. "It's a very challenging budget and we are getting ideas on which areas should remain intact."

The multi-phase budget development has included meetings with building principals, union presidents, parent-teacher groups, and other stakeholders. An online survey solicited answers to questions related to funding priorities, and more than 1,000 responses have been received—including nearly 600 responses with

written comments.

"We have pages and pages of input from the meetings and the surveys," Cuzzetta says. The information will be processed and made available to the Board of Directors along with recommendations.

The next opportunity for public comments will be at two public forums, scheduled for 7 p.m. on May 18 at Key Peninsula Middle School and May 20 at Henderson Bay High School. The input will be incorporated into the final budget draft.

About 72 percent of the PSD budget is funded by the state of Washington, which is facing a multi-billion dollar deficit. The cuts the



Superintendent Terry Borch and Deputy Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetta make a presentation on the budget for the Family Elementary PTA, one of many stakeholder groups from which input was collected.

district is facing now in addition to the \$4 million budget reduction made two years ago.

"Everything is on the table, and we will gather input on all the programs," Cuzzetta says, adding that the school district will be smaller next year due to enrollment declines as well as cuts in the state budget.

### May Events

- 14 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. at Voyager Elementary School
- 18 Budget 2009-2010 Forum 7-8 p.m. at Key Peninsula Middle School
- 20 Budget 2009-2010 Forum 7-8 p.m. at Henderson Bay High School
- Your input is important to us!**
- 25 Memorial Day—no school
- 28 School Board Study Session 6 p.m. at the District Office

### Graduation 2009

#### Gig Harbor High School

Sunday June 14, 2009  
Tacoma Dome 3 p.m.

#### Henderson Bay High School

Friday June 12, 2009  
Chapel Hill  
Presbyterian Church 7 p.m.

#### Peninsula High School

Sunday June 14, 2009  
Tacoma Dome 12 noon

## Did You Know...

In 2000, the State Board of Education approved four new statewide graduation requirements that took effect with the graduating Class of 2008. Together, the requirements are designed to ensure that every public high school student graduates with the following fundamental skills:

1. Read with comprehension, write with skill, and communicate effectively and responsibly in a variety of ways and settings.
2. Know and apply the core concepts and principles of mathematics; social, physical and life sciences; civics and history; geography; the arts; and health and fitness.
3. Think analytically, logically and creatively, and integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems.
4. Understand the importance of work and how performance, effort and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities.



May 3-9

Teacher

Appreciation Week

*Please join us in  
expressing heartfelt  
appreciation for  
our teachers at  
all times!*

Kindergarten Registration for the 2009-2010 school year continues during regular school days between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at all PSD elementary schools. Please allow for approximately 30 minutes to complete the paperwork.

### Safe Schools LifeLine

The Safe Schools LifeLine is a completely anonymous, toll-free tip line anyone can access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year about any potential incident such as school violence, vandalism or theft, drug and alcohol issues, gang activity, suicide, fights or discrimination. 1-800-LIVE-TIP is toll-free; callers will be asked to enter the district code: 162. Do your part to keep our schools safe. Report any dangerous or threatening activity.

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# OBITUARIES

## James Patrick Walls

James Patrick Walls (Jim) was born November 27, 1938, in Seattle, Wash. He graduated in 1957 from Tahoma High School in Maple Valley, Wash.

Jim is survived by his wife, Sharon; three sons: Bill (Cathy), James Timothy and Daniel (Melissa), two daughters: Colleen and Victoria, nine grandchildren: Sierra, Kyle, Kelly, Christopher, Matthew, Zachary, Levi, Ashlyn and Hailey, his mother, Marguerite and sister Diane.

As a young man he served in the Army. He was a working longshoreman for almost 30 years. Jim held the office of business agent for local 23 of the I.L.W.U. He retired from longshoring in 2003.

After retiring, Jim and his son James started their own business, Advance Cash. He has fished commercially, for salmon, in Cordova, Alaska since 1983. Before that, he fished the Columbia River and Willapa Bay and Puget Sound areas. He was a member of the Elks Club in Valdez, Alaska.

Jim had many loves: his family, hunting and fishing, his business, and lately, his writing group, in Key Center. Jim was a very talented man, who loved life and was much loved. He always said he was never happier than when he had the wheels of his truck under him, heading out on another adventure. He's done it again....heading out on another great adventure, this time with wings. Memorial services to celebrate Jim's life were held March 28, in the Mountain View Valley Chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made

to the Cardiology Program at Tacoma General Hospital, P.O. Box 5296, Tacoma, WA 98415. Arrangements by Mountain View Funeral Home. 584-0252. Please sign online guestbook at [www.mountainviewtacoma.com](http://www.mountainviewtacoma.com).

## Muriel E. Kupka

Age 80 of Lakebay, Wash., passed away Sunday, March 8, 2009 after a short time at Manor Care Health Services in Gig Harbor. She was a fighter to the end—even after a 10-year prolonged battle with multiple illnesses.

Muriel was born Aug. 19, 1928 in Elma, Wash. to John and Agnes Schultz. A few years later the family moved to Longbranch, where she was raised.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Elmer Kupka (they were married at the Vaughn Church Nov. 23, 1946), her three children, Larry of Lakebay, Don of Fife, Wash. and Diane of Bremerton, Wash.; grandchildren Scott, Shawn and Misty;

and three great-grandchildren. She also leaves one brother John Schultz, Jr. (Barbara) of Elma, Wash.

Muriel worked many years as a checker in grocery stores. She had many talents and will always be remembered for her gift to crochet. She also loved to cook. We will all miss her wonderful food.

One of Muriel's favorite things she enjoyed was to play Bingo, and she and Elmer loved to play at B.J.'s in Fife.

Muriel also loved to go to their lot at Ocean Shores, Wash. She liked the ocean beach—many times digging her limit of clams before anyone else. She enjoyed walking on the beach looking for driftwood, shells and glass balls.

After retirement she and Elmer enjoyed many years in the summer time going to Omak, Wash. to pick baby's breath. Muriel colored it and made beautiful bouquets.

The family would like to thank everyone from the Hospice Franciscan Medical team for their constant help and support of her care.

Arrangements were by Haven of Rest Funeral Home. At her request no formal services were held.



KUPKA



*Service Book July 18th*

### Longbranch Community Church

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# Brothers band together for MS fundraiser

The parking lot at O'Callahan's was full of motorcycles on March 21. The Band of Brothers rode in on 160 bikes to begin their annual multiple sclerosis benefit fundraiser. According to event organizer, Phil Snyder, the event raised \$2650 doing a Poker Run that took them from Key Center, to stops in Allyn, Union, Belfair, and Port Orchard.

The Band of Brothers combined the Poker Run with the Tacoma MS walk. Their team captain, Carla Snyder, has MS. She is the wife of Phil Snyder and this year put together 84 walkers, which was the largest team to participate in the walk. Combining the two events the Band of Brothers raised \$6,700, which placed them seventh highest of all groups participating in the Tacoma area MS walks.

They have raised over \$100,000 since they began in 2000.



Band of Brothers arrive at O'Callahan's on the first stop of their ride to benefit MS research and treatment.

Photo courtesy of Greg Calahan.

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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!



*Photo courtesy of Shirley Crane*

The rain let up just as the children were set to scamper across the civic center lawn for the annual Easter Egg Hunt April 11. The egg hunt was set up by Boy Scout Troop 220.



*Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News*

A collection of small sailboats just before they launched from the Purdy spit for what Andrew Nelson of Tacoma, the race organizer and coach, said would be the "Dead Man's Island 360 race." He hopes to make this an annual event, adding that the sailors are from Gig Harbor and nearby.



## KP Little League's opening day a success

By Hugh McMillan

Conscious, but contemptuous, of forecasts of impending torrential rains, the Key Peninsula Little League once again forged ahead in its infectious determination to give our kids the joy of baseball and held its annual Opening Day celebration Saturday, April 11, at the KP Middle School with a fundraising breakfast.

The KPLL kids, coaches, managers and sponsors spent the day enthusiastically cheering on their teams – even though there were no scores tallied and it was all an exhibition of things to come.

Left: At KP's Volunteer Park, KPLL sponsor Don Zimmerman, owner Purdy Cost Less Drugs, threw out the ceremonial first pitch of the season to Brittney Surrat of the SB Custom Woodcrafts senior softball team, coached by Otto Jensen.



*Photos courtesy of Ed Johnson*

On the opening day of the Key Peninsula Little League's season Saturday, April 11, KP Lions' Minor Prep catcher Mason Hyde tags out Taylor "Tater Tot" Youk of the Classic Interiors team. The KP Lions' team is coached by Jim Hyde and Classic Interiors is coached by Don Matison.