

# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula

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## Key Pen's airports are hidden treasures



Pilot John Mercer stands with his helicopter named "Evinrude" for the character in the Disney movie "Rescuers" (the dragonfly serves as a motor for a leaf-boat carrying the two mice characters, Bianca and Bernard). Photo by Mindi LaRose

By Rick Sorrels  
Special to KP News

Local airports are among the Key Peninsula's best-kept secrets. These are real airports for takeoffs and landings, with real airplanes, helicopters, and, of course, pilots.

Clifford Howell, who retired after 30

years with Northwest Airlines as a 747 captain, has his own private airport alongside his residence in Lakebay. Howell has been flying for 43 years. He's owned the secluded Lakebay property since 1976, and developed the grass runway in 1979. He flies his

(See AIRPORT, Page 19)

## Animal control laws reviewed

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The recent mauling of a Key Peninsula woman by dogs that broke loose from their kennel brought regional media attention to a long-existing local concern about animal control. Some local residents say they cannot even walk out to their mailboxes or take a stroll down the block for fear

of being attacked by roaming neighborhood dogs.

Pierce County Auditor's Office is hoping to change that, proposing revisions to the county code that will have more enforcement teeth, so to speak.

"As we've assumed control of the animal control division in our office, we

(See DOGS, Page 18)

## Permanent burn ban discussed

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is proposing a rule change to current regulations that would ban all land-clearing burning and, later, any residential burning of yard waste. The rule, which will affect Pierce, King and Snohomish counties, would be in effect on July 1, 2008, for land-clearing and July 1, 2010, for residential yard waste.

According to Dic Gribbon, an inspector for the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA), state law requires banning of land-clearing and residential burning in "any area where reasonable alternatives to burning are available — alternatives like curb-side pick up, grinding, chipping and composting."

Gribbon directed his staff to send a broadcast email to Pierce County Fire Chief Association members in January. It reads, in part, "In recent months, Clean Air Agency staff met with solid waste officials and fire marshals in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties to research the availability of alternatives. Based on this research, we have determined that alternatives are reasonably available throughout these three counties. There is also widespread support for this burn boundary expansion within the health and fire service communities." The ban would not affect agricultural, forestry management, recreational, or fire-training burning, nor burning for emergency cleanup of storm or flood debris.

On Jan. 15, newly elected Fire District 16 Chairman James Bosch sent a letter to the PSCAA challenging Gribbons' claim of support. "Recently the Board of Fire Commissioners of the (KPF) have chosen to not support your agency's

(See BAN, Page 20)



BIGGS



BISCHOFF



BRAMHALL



HUNT



JONES



LAMAR



TJOSSEM

# Appointees may be a tough choice

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Fire District 16 is in the process of filling the two new commissioner seats created as a result of a voter-approved move to change the board to five commissioners instead of three. Jim Bosch, who in January became the board's chairman, said he was pleasantly surprised by the public response to the call for applicants. Looking at the response the Gig Harbor fire district received when it went to a five-person board, Bosch had expected three or four applicants. "We have a hard choice," he said. "These are all good, solid candidates. We will be looking at what they can bring to the board in terms of new ideas and a positive direction."

A major stumbling point for the three-commissioner board has been that two members speaking together create a quorum. Since meetings must be in a public format, they have been unable to discuss district matters "off the record" over lunch, on the phone, etc. As soon as the two new commissioners are seated, this challenge will cease to exist, at least when two members wish to meet.

Seven applicants were accepted for consideration; many of them have previous experience either as fire commissioners in the district or as fire district volunteers. The KP News acquired candidate letters of interest, excerpts of which are provided here.

**John Biggs**, attorney in service to school boards and volunteer for several local organizations: "The laws that apply to school boards and fire district boards are substantially the same... This application is motivated by concerns about the working relationship within the current Board of Commissioners. I foresee a need to transition effectively to a collegial working relationship within an expanded board."

**Ross Bischoff**, metro parks commissioner, retired Peninsula High School teacher, and longtime fire district volunteer firefighter and EMT: "Fire Dept. 16 serves a variety of roles and therefore we

must provide a network of professionals to the many different people, be they residential or commercial... Serving together needs planning together."

**Ruth Bramhall**, former FD 16 fire commissioner, active volunteer in the KP Firefighters Association and many other local groups, and an Associated Pierce County Commissioner: "Over the years the committees that I have served on are many (including Future Planning and testing committee for new fire fighters)... I should be a good candidate to step in and... function without too much orientation."

**Sheila Hunt**, FD 16 volunteer for seven years, registered nurse, first responder and EMT: "My intentions are to assist the fire commissioner board with current and future issues facing FD 16, changing the public view of the (KPFDF), planning for future growth, ... assisting in development and growth of (the district)."

**Claudia Hope Jones**, volunteer EMT and volunteer association member for six years: "My ideas are to validate the personnel needs, bring back the 'team effort' spirit, and move the department forward in conjunction with the community needs to make this department a more desirable place for new recruits."

**Melvin Lamar**, who has been an FD-16 volunteer for 15 years: "Working in the fire service I feel I could be a(n) asset to the team of commissioners with a

working knowledge of fire service and its needs."

**Donald Tjossem**, former EMT with Bellingham Mountain Rescue, KPFDF volunteer firefighter, FD 16 fire commissioner from 1991 to '97: "I believe my combination of emergency services work and banking background would serve our community well and our fire department continues to grow in size and expand its services."

Candidates participated in individual 20-minute formal interviews by the board at a special public meeting on Jan. 29, moderated by Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee. Commissioners will make their selections during an executive session at their Feb. 5 meeting, after which time the two new commissioners will be sworn in and seated at the meeting.

"We are looking forward to a progressive, prosperous 2008," Bosch said, "and bringing some decorum back to the board."

At the first fire commissioner meeting of the new year, Bosch was elected by vote of himself and commissioner Rick Stout to Stout's vacated position as chairman of the board. Historically, according to Chief Tom Lique, this position has been filled by the commissioner with the most seniority; Bosch is the one commissioner among the three who has two years left to serve. Allen Yanity's term expires in 2010, and Stout was just

reelected to a new term. A petition to recall Yanity is currently circulating, and has been mailed to KP voters by Key Peninsula Fire Fighters Local 3152. At that meeting, a majority commissioner vote also approved the firefighters' union contract. Under the new contract, the three existing captains, Robert Bosch, Mike Riegle, and Hal Wolverton, became battalion chiefs, and the rank of captain was eliminated.

One battalion chief will be on duty during each of three district work shifts; still qualified firefighter/paramedics, each one's primary responsibility is to run his assigned shift. Asked by the KP News if the district wasn't a little "chief-heavy," Lique said with a laugh, "We have so many levels of compliance within the fire service — federal, state, county, our own commissioners, and sometimes even what I want to see happen as chief — even we get confused at times." According to the complicated firefighter contract, captains are entitled to overtime pay, and battalion chiefs are not. Lique said the change was a cost-saving measure that eliminated about \$8,000 annually in overtime pay, while at the same time giving each new chief a small raise (about \$75 per month). The district also just hired three new paramedics, two of whom are women, and has a total of 18 firefighter/paramedics, in addition to the chiefs.

## KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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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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# Powerline Road neighbors try to fix road problem

By Danna Webster, KP News

The recent washout of a section of 144th Street (known as Powerline Road) caused Tacoma Power officials to request a meeting with residents near the washout in the 16800 block of 144th St NW. (Residents refer to the area as the canyon.) As the result of the road problem and the estimated \$150,000 repair cost, Tacoma Power wants to develop an alternate access for maintenance of its power lines and equipment.

"We are in the process of determining the best long-term solution for gaining access to our power poles and lines since our right-of-way is currently not usable," Chris Gleason, community and media services manager, wrote in a letter to residents. "You currently hold an easement or own property that could potentially provide the alternate access we are seeking. We are interested in discussing with you and your neighbors our options for sharing this easement and road."

Powerline Road has long been a point of contention between the power company (owned by the city of Tacoma) and some

local residents (not affected by the washout proposal) who use the road as their only access to their properties. One group of residents has been in a lawsuit with the utility regarding the road access. Powerline is a utility road owned by Tacoma Power, which says the residents have been using the road illegally and without permission. The utility has asked Pierce County to place a moratorium on any new building permits for any property that cannot show legal access.

On Jan. 15, nearly every neighbor concerned about the access proposal attended a meeting at the Wright-Bliss Fire Station. Gleason told the audience that a 100 percent agreement of the 17 owners directly affected by the proposal was necessary in order to allow the power company to use the existing access. If one neighbor is not in agreement, the proposal would be withdrawn.

Accompanying Gleason was the transmission and distribution supervisor Tom Anderson and Tacoma Assistant City Attorney Bill Fosbre. Anderson described the proposal objectives: pay for the square footage of property required, develop a



Neighbors listen to the Tacoma Power proposal at a meeting with company officials at the Wright-Bliss Fire Station in January.

Photo by  
Danna Webster

maintenance fund and provide an ongoing continual maintenance arrangement. He explained his offer to property owners was based on property tax appraisals. "We're trying to avoid a lawsuit. All lawsuits do is cost people money and nobody wins in the end," Anderson said.

Property owners discussed their complaints, problems with the original developer, questions, and objections. They asked Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, who attended the meeting, why the county provided building permits to them without access (prior to the moratorium). "They are concerned about the building, not how you get there," Lee said. "Tacoma Power asked us not to issue permits anymore unless you can show legal access except (Powerline) Road," he said. Later in the meeting, Lee said the county looked into developing 134th Street, west of Wright-Bliss, and found the cost of tens of millions of dollars prohibitive.

The neighbors took the proposal under advisement and set a meeting for the following Saturday at the Zach and Debra Blake residence. Again, the majority of neighbors attended and they began the task of formalizing a response

to Tacoma Power. They are asking for a 30-day extension with the hope they can draft a proposal that is all-inclusive of their community, the 17 property owners addressed by Tacoma Power and nine other neighbors with bordering properties.

With regard to the request for an extension of time to negotiate, Tacoma Power replied positively. "Tacoma Power is actively participating in ongoing negotiations with the home owners' and is currently unaware of any deadlines," Anderson wrote in an email to KP News.

"We as the people are trying to work it out," Debra Blake said. "The government isn't working for anyone but themselves." She wants an agreement that is legal and final, so that people can drive out to work and not worry that they will be locked out of their home when they try to return.

"I want to fix the problem for all of the people — make sure people are taken care of. I don't want this to happen again," she said. Some neighbors are working on the language of a formal proposal and more meetings are scheduled.

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# EDITORIAL

## Celebrating a milestone

This February issue marks the fifth anniversary of the rebirth of the Key Peninsula News. A little over five years ago, the newspaper was relaunched with a small handful of volunteers with the goal to bring important news relevant to the local readers. It took only 10 days to publish that first edition — and we've been going strong ever since.

We share our success with the entire community. The KP News is like many other nonprofit organizations on the Key Peninsula: It is built on a solid foundation of volunteers passionate about giving back and a vision to make our community better. Their diverse backgrounds from all walks of life help us promote the diversity of the Key Peninsula through the stories we cover, and without their countless hours the KP News could not thrive.

Our small paid crew who share their talents and energy, our publishing board members who keep the organization on solid ground, our advertisers who contribute the majority of our funding — everyone has an important role in making every monthly publication possible. We are honored to have the support of so many incredible people, and we promise to honor your trust in us by continuously looking for ways to improve and grow. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be your trusted source of local news!

# KP Community Council: Potential or failure?

Will the Key Peninsula Community Council ever attain its great potential? Or is it destined to remain merely a “flash in the pan”? (“Flash in the pan” refers to old muzzleloader rifles where a “misfire” would result in a brilliant flash of powder without actually firing the gun.)

After a two-year incubation, the council was born on March 5, 2004, with the filing of its Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State. The council is a nonprofit corporation, formed for the specific purpose of “maintaining and improving the quality of life on the Key Peninsula.” The stated means of accomplishing this “purpose” is by “advising, influencing, and working with government officials, private enterprises, and others.”

The organizing committee that created the council was surprisingly large (35 to 50 at each meeting), was driven by a sincere desire to obtain a unified voice for the Key Peninsula, and particularly adamant about what they did not want the fledgling council to become. They wanted the council to remain completely independent from any governmental influence or control. They did not want directors acting on their personal desires instead of the desires of the entire membership (the community).

Governing documents were created with provisions ensuring the council would act (lobby) only after obtaining a

## RICK SORRELS THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



clear consensus from its members (now 600 strong). Other provisions ensured any community member could speak upon every issue before the Board of Directors, and any other topic at any meeting.

I believe the council has lost its focus. It's now funded predominantly by the Pierce County Council. At the annual membership meetings, the members have not given guidance or direction to the Board of Directors (a mandatory requirement under the bylaws). The directors have not conducted assessments of community needs as cited in the bylaws. Motions are passed at board meetings without allowing members to comment.

The council has done some definite good. It has held public forums to inform the public on specific topics of interest. But this is not the declared purpose for its existence.

The only actions taken by the board approaching its purpose for existence, i.e. “lobbying,” have been a letter to Fire District 16 requesting the resignation of two commissioners, and a letter to the county council taking a position on

geoduck legislation. Members were not polled before issuing these letters. The council was never designed to be involved in controversial issues, only those that would benefit the entire community. The council is fulfilling the worst fears of the organizing committee.

Interest in the council has seriously waned over the years. I'm often the only member in the audience at board meetings. If committee meetings are even held, there may be only one or two persons present besides the chair. The annual membership meetings are so poorly attended that a quorum (about 20 members) has not been present so that business could be conducted.

The Key Peninsula Community Council still has tremendous potential to do good for this community, but up to this point in time it is only a “potential.” It could be so very much more.

If the council is to survive, it needs to improve relations with its members. It would take fewer than 20 disenchanting members to vote the council out of existence at the next membership meeting.

*Rick Sorrels was one of the founding members of the Community Council. He wrote the Articles of Incorporation and the bylaws, served as one of the initial directors, and has attended nearly every meeting since. Opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the KP News or its parent organization.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### More geoduck questions

In response to the interview with Bill Taylor in the January KP News, I would like to say that it's nice to finally hear an industry spokesman state that geoduck production is being done “to make money.”

However, since Mr. Taylor says his business is committed to a clean environment, I'd like to raise a couple points:

A geoduck lot consists of sinking more than 43,000 4-inch-wide PVC tubes in the beach for every acre of the lot. For two years, tens of thousands of tubes stick out of the sand 6 to 12 inches and are covered with nets often held with iron rebar. Five years after planting, the entire

beach area of the lot is “liquified” up to 5 feet deep to remove the geoducks.

Studies on the East Coast and in Europe in 2006 show considerably more dissolved phosphorus and increased ammonia from huge shellfish lots caused by the additional waste produced. The high waste rates may lead to dead zones. One acre of tideland with 43,000 3-pound geoducks would cause an estimated 752 pounds of waste in Puget Sound every day. A Taylor spokesman stated on the Dirtiest Jobs TV show they hoped to plant an additional 710,000 tubes with 2.10 million geoducks in Case Inlet during one year. That would cover nearly 14 football fields of shoreline area and add 36,700 pounds of unnatural waste to Puget Sound each day. On top of that, the Department of Natural Resources wants to lease 15 acres per year to geoduck feedlots.

Taylor derides the industrial havoc that

threatened Puget Sound in the 1920s. Apparently the family worked to clean up the water last century. I question why the family business would want to re-industrialize the Puget Sound today.

I support many aquaculture programs, but geoduck feedlots are not your father's oyster beds. The move by both the shellfish growers and the DNR to drastically modify Puget Sound seems to stem only from the money they hope to gain at the expense of our environment.

*Jerry Libstaff, Vaughn*

### Explanation about Lions

I don't live, work or own property on the Key Peninsula and never have, but am a member of the KP Lions Club so can't qualify to be a citizen of the year. However, virtually all my community service is rendered on the Key Peninsula through the Lions Club.

I don't miss meetings, whether regular or board. I don't recall ever seeing or hearing from Jud Morris (Editor's note: Morris' guest column about the Lions Club was published in the January issue). I invite him to join the Lions Club and help us be better in serving and recognizing the community.

Our Lions Club is among the smallest but stands out especially in recognizing community volunteers and the Lions International Youth Exchange Program. This Lions Club hosts more youth from overseas and sends more youth overseas than any other club in the district. Although the Citizens of the Year Banquet is not intended as a fundraiser, in 2007 there was a profit. The funds were used to provide eye examinations, eye glasses and hearing aids. Two members regularly work on the eyeglass

(See **LETTERS**, Page 5)

# A quest for solar power on the Key Pen

After reading the last KP News, I had to break out my dictionary and look up the word “oxymoron,” which wasn’t easy because I have multiple dictionaries spanning 70 years, and had to pick one. Confidently selecting a \$2 Webster’s Collegiate version, I found the word wedged between “oxyhydrogen” and “oxyphenbutazone.” Here, I learned that oxymoron means “pointedly foolish; moronic;” and a combination of contradictory or incongruous words, as in “cruel kindness.”

Armed with the definition, I applied it to oil consultant Rich Hildahl’s opinion that solar power is an “oxymoron” whose prices “will only continue to rise.” I hear this in the national energy debate as well. One thing I’m trying to do is minimize my fossil-fuel energy consumption without giving up, as the saying goes, hot showers and cold beers (or giving up anything, really). Since 2000, I’ve driven a hybrid car that saves \$2,000-\$3,000 on gas annually, and I’m happy with that, so I wanted to check out solar power for my KP home. But I

**KEVIN REED**  
HERE’S SOMETHING



keep hearing fossil-fuel folks say it’s no good.

I decided to apply skeptical thinking to the problem and find out for myself. The sun is 99.8 percent of the mass of our solar system, and puts out 386 billion-billion megawatts of power per second. Now, I’m no electrician, but that sounds like a lot. Granted, it shoots off in all directions, but still, anyone can see the sun produces enough energy to cleanly power the whole planet for free, as it did for millennia before humans even got here. Now I just needed to find out if I could power my house with it in the cloudy Pacific Northwest.

My quest led me to the highly visible “SolaRichard,” whose sun-tracking, 110 square-foot solar array provides all of his Tacoma home’s electric power all year. In warmer months, when the solar panels yield 10,500 watt-hours a day, he

powers his home while he racks up utility company credits. When winter comes and production drops to 150 WH, he uses some solar but pulls most power off the grid on the “solar credit” he earned over the summer. His net profit for the year comes to around \$350 (the utility sends him a check), and he pays no electric bill all year. He also didn’t dump seven metric tons of CO2 into the atmosphere annually like the rest of the country’s typical homes (though impact still depends on how your utility generates power).

And he is not the only one, just one of the easiest to find. Others on the KP and in Gig Harbor are successfully using solar power, and the number of homes is growing. The state Capitol building in Olympia is just one of the professional buildings using solar in Washington.

So I found out that it’s possible to power a home with solar power right here on the KP. Germany uses the most solar and sits further north than Vancouver. Costs associated with solar power are steadily decreasing, though for a residence you do need to buy the

equipment and set up the system (more on that at another time). We know fossil-fuel supplies are limited, that China and India are already competing against us for them, that they harm the environment when burned, and that they cost billions more in the hidden costs of state-sponsored and private security — and human lives — to protect supplies. Sunlight falls on the planet for free, and can be used to create hydrogen, another clean fuel that will soon compete with oil to power our cars.

This is a complicated topic, but I respectfully submit that maybe — just maybe — the oxymoron is long-term “sustainable fossil-fuel” and not “solar power,” and that technology will make both types of fuel better in the years ahead.

Kevin Reed is interested in all things sustainable, and welcomes your ideas. Email [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com). Opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the KP News or parent organization Key Peninsula Civic Center.



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**What is Really Happening in OUR Market?**  
Pierce County continues to buck the national trend and posts a 4.58% increase in the average home price in 2007, according to NWMLS reports. Inventory is up over 13% from '06 and the Fed continues to lower interest rates. Still many Buyers remain reluctant due to the National media coverage. Numbers don't deceive. Now is a great time to consider selling or buying a home or investment property. Feel free to call me with questions or additional market information. I'd be happy to help.

**December HOME SALES**  
Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula

	Sold Dec 2006	Sold Dec 2007	For Sale as of 01/2007
	79 Homes	38 Homes	766 for Sale
Highest	\$1,150,000	\$850,000	\$4,800,000
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(From LETTERS, Page 4)

recycling program. All overhead and the expense of working on our projects is paid by the members themselves.

*George Robison, Purdy*

**New shop unwarranted**

Regarding the article “KP county shop plans move forward” in the January KP News: After reading what Mr. Rickman had to say about a new maintenance shop planned for the peninsulas, I wrote him a

letter Jan. 4 inquiring what the “needs” were in his quote, “in need of substantial remodeling and retrofitting to meet current road maintenance needs.” In other words, what “needs” cannot be done now without a remodel and retrofit?

As of today (Jan. 21), I have not received an answer. Interesting. Why?

Mr. Rickman and Pierce County are getting ready to squander millions of our taxpayer money on a new shop in a new location, neither of which is needed, or warranted.

I worked for Pierce County Public Works for 22 years in 1962-'85. One year of that time was spent working in the two peninsulas as a traffic sign technician in 1982. What was very obvious to me was that the workload for the road district crew was handled in a timely manner and all the “needs” were met. What is the difference now from then? No. 1, the Purdy shop operations have quadrupled: management, personnel and equipment. No. 2, the “current road maintenance needs” Mr. Rickman adheres to that cannot be met without “substantial remodeling and retrofitting” in a new shop at a new location are whims of his imagination. Millions of dollars spent without just reason. I say enough is enough.

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# Environmental coalition discusses priorities

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Marianne Seifert began the January meeting of the Pierce County Coalition for Environmental Health Priorities by asking the room full of KP citizens, "What do nonhealth department people think we need, as we (the health department) are regulation-oriented?"

The 20 or so men and women seated at the makeshift roundtable in the KP library meeting room responded with a variety of thoughtful answers. Ona Reinke, whose family has had a geoduck farm application stalled in ongoing hearings, said she was "so concerned about water quality" and asked, "What more can we do to help?" Liz Lathrop, who lives in Rosedale and participates in watershed meetings, wanted to "give the community a say in our future." Robert Shore, a Gig Harbor physician, had "an interest in alternative medicine (as a health measure)." Other suggestions from participants ranged from requests for better notice for meetings affecting the peninsula, to pleas to "keep the peninsula safe and clean."

The coalition, which was created more than a year ago with the purpose of examining environmental issues, represents both the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor, and alternates meetings between the two venues. The coalition is comprised of citizens, and it has examined topics ranging from groundwater health to community food systems.

Seifert asked participants if they viewed themselves as part of a coalition yet. Lathrop replied, "I don't think we are yet, although we have people from both peninsulas present, which is a difficult thing to do."

For more information about the Pierce County Coalition for Environmental Health Priorities, visit [www.tpchd.org/ehpriorities](http://www.tpchd.org/ehpriorities).

The coalition is funded by an EPA grant; deadline for the next level of the grant is in March. Without continued funding, Seifert's position would cease at the end of 2008. Part of the meeting was spent in discussion of toxic risk ranking, a requirement of the EPA grant. The topic of standing water, whether natural wetlands or county-mandated, and its potential for air-borne environmental harm to populations, was broadly explored. Shore listened intently to several conversations on the subject, and then offered a holistic approach to the topic. "You are better off to improve (your body's) resistance... That is more important than toxicity of the environment. We are always looking for what's 'out there' that will get us, but it's what's 'in here' (in the body) that will save us," he said.

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# Key Peninsula shelters ready for disaster emergencies

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Key Peninsula has already dodged the bullet twice this winter season as far as needing emergency assistance, according to local shelter coordinator Dave Jorgenson. The wind storm and flooding that devastated areas around the area went easy on the Peninsula by comparison. Last year was a different story. The winter storms of 2006 kept Jorgenson and teams of volunteers working full time to provide emergency assistance.

Jorgenson and his wife, Karen, began the emergency assistance training process on the Key Peninsula. "KP people are self-sufficient — they have a generator and a wood stove. But some people cannot afford generators and we wanted to help them prepare for a response," Jorgenson says.

Jorgenson's emergency training experience was with the Red Cross but during the storm emergency last year, the county was the agency to bring assistance and aid. As a result, he works with the county's Emergency Management

Department to train local neighborhood teams and to develop McColley Hall at the Lutheran Church as an emergency shelter.

McColley Hall has become a first-rate shelter. With the financial support of the Geneva Foundation, two generators were purchased, one for the hall and one for the well; and the kitchen was upgraded to commercial grade. Training for food handling, first aid and first responders has been given to volunteers. Jorgenson's emergency assistance program has also qualified for financial support from the Cheney Foundation and Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, which helps to buy food.

"Peninsula people are really doing a good job out here," says Lakebay resident Mike Maroney, who has 30 years of experience as a first responder. "The NET shelters are probably the best prepared in all of Pierce County."

PC-NET (Pierce County-Neighborhood Emergency Teams) trains community volunteers for emergency preparedness. The volunteers at the church annually update their

training and participate in practice drills. The training for the shelter volunteers has moved past the introductory training levels. Beyond the training, volunteers are well-prepared because they practice serving food to large numbers of people on a regular basis. That is a factor behind the breakfasts served on the first and third Saturdays and dinners on the fourth Saturday of the month. "First-class meals are served," Maroney says. "That's how they practice for all over Pen."

Key Peninsula Community Services provides a backup shelter, according to Maroney. "At the Community House, all the board took first aid training," he says. Both shelters are prepared for dietary special needs and at a recent training, 65 food handler cards were earned. "We do not run short of volunteers," Maroney says.

The McColley Hall shelter is running well. At a county surprise drill, shelter staffers were ready and in place in 10 minutes' time. During the big storm last year, they served 2,200 meals and logged 1,800 hours of volunteer time.

## More information

The Pierce County Emergency Management Department may be contacted at 798-6565.

For help preparing neighborhoods for disaster, contact Dauci Willson, 798-2751 or [dwillso@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:dwillso@co.pierce.wa.us).

"People would come to the shelter to be sheltered and then volunteer as well," Jorgenson says. "We did house about 54 people overnight." The shelter has even set up emergency assistance for pet care with a local kennel.

The next goals for the shelter are to extend assistance to people who are not mobile. Jorgenson is working with The Mustard Seed Project to develop van transportation for KP residents who need this assistance.

Jorgenson and Maroney want emergency training to extend beyond the Lutheran Church and Home neighborhoods. They say local neighborhoods need to start their own training plans. Both men highly praise the county's Emergency Management Department and the PC-NET program.

In the meantime, individuals can prepare themselves, according to Maroney. He gives the following advice: Plan ahead. Arrange a good place of shelter in your own home. Have a single-burner stovetop device. Everybody should have a backup supply of water. Contact a family member or neighbor to arrange a place to go, if necessary. Remember the local fire department is the leading agency for rescue. During an emergency, take care of yourself first, then a neighbor, then consider the community and volunteer for people who can't help themselves.



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February Calendar

Bands and Events

No Cover

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Feb. 1st	Mark Dufrene, Rock&Roll, 8pm
Feb. 9th	Open/Mc with Billy Farmer, 7pm
Feb. 16th	Loose Graves, Rockin Blues, 8pm
Feb. 23rd	Open/Mc with Billy Farmer, 7pm
Feb. 30th	Cayusa Jazz Quartet 8pm and Valentines Dinner
Feb. 6th	Billy Farmer & The Ramblers, Rock&Roll, 8pm
Feb. 13th	Open/Mc with Billy Farmer, 7pm
Feb. 20th	Odehumb's Razz, Celtic, 8pm
Feb. 27th	Open/Mc with Billy Farmer, 7pm
Feb. 29th	Mark Riley, Rock&Roll, 8pm

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Friday - Prime Rib	\$10.99	

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# Civic Center entryway celebrated with ceremony

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association held a special dedication ceremony in January to celebrate the completion of its front entrance, and those whose contributions made it possible. President Ben Thompson welcomed Key Peninsula residents and supporting patrons, saying, "This is an exciting day for the community. We are happy to have this new front edifice."

Past President Phil Bauer provided the impetus that prompted the project. "It was time to quit talking and get something done," Thompson said, quoting Bauer at previous meetings, to the amusement of the crowd.

Dave Freeman, a Gig Harbor-based architect, designed the entryway and gifted the majority of his expertise to the organization. Civic Center president twice himself over the last 15 years, Freeman said, "You just can't escape this place (the KP) — and you don't want to. I just love it here; it's a very special place. I am glad to have had the opportunity (to participate)." Freeman has designed structures for Camp Seymour, Fire District 16 fire stations, and the civic center master plan presented in December 2007. Freeman said there is a real need for the proposed additional 4,500-square-foot building, and indicated fund-raising would begin in spring.

General contractor Tim Parish, lifelong Gig Harbor resident and owner of Parish Construction, built the structure and contributed resources to its completion, "patiently working through several redesigns," according to Thompson.

"I appreciate being able to build it; when you get the bid — then the work begins," Parish said. "(I am) proud to be here." Parish said he was involved in the civic center roof replacement that occurred several years ago, and would bid future projects.

The Ben B. Cheney Foundation, which funded the project in large part, was represented at the ceremony by president and Executive Director Brad Cheney (the son of Ben Cheney). A community token of thanks, an engraved plaque displayed at the new entryway, dedicates the project.

"We're pleased to be here," Cheney said. "It was a very worthwhile project — and begins with people who have the vision to create it. Congratulations to this whole community; we think highly of the area."

In an interview with the KP News, Cheney said the foundation looks at indi-

**“It was a very worthwhile project — and begins with people who have the vision to create it. Congratulations to this whole community; we think highly of the area.”**

— Brad Cheney

vidual projects in terms of their total budgets, and also as a partnership. "If we do our part, can the recipient do their part?" he said is one of the questions considered. Their prior experience in working with KP volunteers and civic center board on the roof replacement impressed the foundation leaders. "Volunteers make the projects happen. Without them and good leadership, (nothing gets done)... We are proud to be able to be part of this; the building resonates with us," he said.

The foundation prefers to see two or three years between grant requests for ongoing projects such as the civic center, and spends about 50 percent of its grant budget in the Tacoma/Pierce County area. It is particularly interested in participating in grants benefiting seniors. "These are more compelling," Cheney said, noting that they are also among the least-received requests for funding.

Kathleen Degginger, a Civic Center board member for three years and weekend resident of the KP, authored the project's grant proposal, with assistance from Sylvia Haase. This was Degginger's first grant-writing experience. "It was fun doing this; a real learning process for me," she said, adding that they applied only to the Cheney foundation. With one success under her belt, Degginger has other grant applications in the works for gutters and repainting.

Citizens present at the dedication included Don and Shirley Olson, who were among the original contributors 51 years ago when local residents purchased the building and grounds from the school district. "I walked down those steps when I graduated from high school," said Shirley, gesturing to the new entryway. Since then, through the largely volunteer efforts of many dedicated citizens and supporters, the civic center continues to be, as Cheney says, "unique, providing service for the entire community."



Photo by Mindi LaRose

Celebrating the dedication of the front entrance in January are (l-r): front row, Don and Shirley Olson with great-granddaughter Kaitlyn, Ed Taylor, David Freeman of Snodgrass Freeman Associates, grant writer Kathleen Degginger, Loyd Miller; second row, Mark Roberts, Brad Cheney of the Ben B. Cheney Foundation, KPCC President Ben Thompson, Phil Bauer; back row, Jud Morris, Marty Marcus, construction contractor Tim Parish, Dale Loy and Dave Stratford. Taylor, Freeman, Marcus, Loy, Stratford and Bauer are past presidents of the Civic Center.

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# BRIEFS

news

## Metro Park updates

The Key Peninsula Metro Parks board held annual officer elections on Jan. 14. Elmer Anderson was elected president, Greg Anglemeyer vice president, and Kip Clinton was reelected as clerk. Bruce Nicholson and Ross Bischoff are members-at-large.

The board established a committee to design a playground at Home Park, the first such public-access facility on the peninsula, with plans to develop others in the future. The Home Park playground committee will meet Thursday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Home fire station. KPMPD, together with Trust for Public Land (TPL), have successfully acquired the 39-acre Taylor Bay property at the head of Taylor Bay for a new shoreline park. The property is one of the last large undeveloped pockets of land on the water in Pierce County.

The board continues to work to acquire Maple Hollow, Horseshoe Lake, and other properties for the development of future parks.

Peninsula Light Co. and Birch Electric helped complete the lighting phase of the Zech & Adi West Memorial Skate Park at Volunteer Park in December. The completed project illuminates the parking lot for safety and security of all users.

## Lee remains chairman

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee, who represents District 7 that includes the Key Peninsula, was reelected on Jan. 15 as council chairman. Councilman Calvin Goings, who is running for the county executive seat, was elected as vice chairman.

## February caucus locations

Citizens registered to vote can participate in Washington state's primary elections in February. Voters can only participate in one party's caucus, and must sign an affidavit declaring their affiliations to that party for this election. The precinct caucuses are Feb. 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. All Key Peninsula Democratic Party precincts meet at Key Peninsula Middle School located at 5510 KP Highway. The Republican caucus will be held at Purdy Elementary School located at 13815 62nd Avenue NW, Gig Harbor.

## Outstanding student nominations accepted

The Students of Distinction program is accepting nominations of outstanding high school seniors, who will compete for college scholarships. Anyone — students, parents, teachers — can nominate a student for the award until Feb. 15. Application forms are available at all Peninsula School District high schools. Students are recognized in seven categories: academics, science and technology, athletics, arts, business and entrepreneurship, community service and overcoming adversity. Finalists are selected by panels of community leaders.

## Nominations deadline

Nominations for Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year must be received by the sponsoring Key Peninsula Lions Club not later than Monday, Feb. 4, to enable the Lions to pursue the annual routine of reading all nominations at a club meeting and voting at the next meeting by secret ballot. Nominees may be of any age, should be residents of, work on, or own property on the Key Peninsula; no member of the Lions Club may be nomi-

nated. Persons nominated should be considered for having rendered volunteer service on behalf of the Key Peninsula community either for a single outstanding contribution or for sustained contributions over many years. Send nominees' names, telephone numbers, and mailing addresses to KP Lions, PO Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email HMcMNP1000@centurytel.net. The 24th annual Awards dinner, to be held in March, will feature keynote speaker Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg. Tickets available from any KP Lion or at Sunny Crest Nursery in Key Center are \$25 if purchased before March 1, or \$30 thereafter. For information, call 253-884-3319 or 253-884-6417.

## Sheriff's deputy attacked

A deputy sheriff was assaulted as he was clearing the roadway along Lackey Road KPN on Jan. 23. A suspect or suspects allegedly threw a rock at the deputy as he was making a call to another deputy while outside his patrol car.

The suspect(s) fled into the wooded area. A K-9 unit failed to locate anyone after a search of the area. According to officials, at least six other road signs were later discovered removed.

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Charlene Haglund (right), Lenore Jameson (in hat) and Sharon Rikansrud, who wear red to represent the "Cootiets," munch on chips and salsa, and say, "We'll drop in and see them again."

Photo by  
Karina Whitmarsh

## A visit to El Sombrero

**Karina Whitmarsh**  
KP NEWS



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he is a native of Mexico and came north to pursue the American Dream with selfless ambition, hard work, and a desire to help others. His story is one of determination leading to success, while his demeanor is one of humility and kindness.

De la Cruz started his career at Azteca restaurant in Burien as a dishwasher and worked his way up. "I paid attention to every detail, and saw the results of how they made food, how they treated their customers. I said to myself, 'If they can do it, I can do it,'" he says.

Attention to detail paid off when he opened his first El Sombrero in Port Orchard. It's a family business, with the menu based on recipes passed down from his mother. His father, wife, and children all help in running the business.

As to those recipes — As Pablo spoke about selections like "Chili Colorado and Chili Verde" (rolling off Pablo's tongue like the sounds of a hummingbird's wings) — my own hunger called out to be filled. So I thanked Pablo and Cathy for their time, and joined my family. As we dined, we noted the authentic Mexican décor, and good treatment by the staff.

Earlier, I had asked Pablo and Cathy what they would recommend. Pablo replied "Arroz con pollo, Carne Asada, and Camarones al Jamón." Cathy recommended the tortilla soup, which is exactly what my husband ordered, and enjoyed. In the end, it was a difficult choice, because all the options looked so appetizing. However, when all was said and done, we all agreed the experience was wonderful, and the food was delicious.

When I don't feel like cooking on cold rainy nights, El Sombrero is definitely a choice where my family can get good food at a reasonable price.

If I'm asked where I go for Mexican food, I usually answer "my house." It's not that I'm a food snob, but I do prefer healthy, home-cooked meals over the beans floating on pools of grease that your typical Mexican restaurant serves. From the time I was 4, I was taught to handle a knife and make tortillas, rice and beans by my mother and my aunts. My childhood memories are of kitchens filled with the scent of roasting jalapenos, steaming tamales and carne asada on the grill. I learned to take pride in my Mexican heritage, and the many foods associated with it. I was taught that true Mexican food includes the colors of the Mexican flag — green, white, and red. Think jalapenos, onions, tomatoes. And, of course, I learned there is no Mexican food like the food Mama makes.

However, when I heard about El Sombrero, the new Mexican restaurant opening up in Key Center, I knew I had to introduce myself and find out what this new place was all about. So, on a cold, rainy Monday night, with a sick husband and two daughters in tow, I ventured into the world of El Sombrero.

Pablo de la Cruz, the restaurant's owner, greeted me with a soft hand-shake and a quick smile. No sooner had we exchanged greetings than the phone rang and he politely excused himself to answer it. It was obvious that business was booming.

Pablo's wife, Cathy, came and led us to a booth. It felt comfortable, like home. While we waited, my senses were brimming with the wonderful aromas of Mexican cuisine, causing me to feel like I was back in my grandmother's kitchen.

Finally, de la Cruz returned. He told me

# Two Waters

## ARTS ALLIANCE

### Event Calendar

Tears of Joy "Little One-Inch"  
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Feb 2nd 04 PM  
KPGC

6th Annual Spring Fling - A gala event celebrating the arts of the Key Peninsula. Members \$10. Non-members \$15.

Mar 15th 07-10 PM  
KPGC

2nd Annual Beyond Borders - An afternoon of international food and music

Aug 2nd  
LIC

### Spring Fling

Wow, how time flies! Our 6th annual Spring Fling is just around the corner with visions of tulips and budding trees. I'm sure you're all looking forward to our signature event just as much as we are!

Come spend an evening admiring the artwork of many local TWAA artists while listening to the bluesy music of Jazz Musee.

This year's Spring Fling poster and invitations will showcase Beverly Pedersen's "Spring Floral" tulip painting on silk. Be sure to enter our event drawing to WIN a signed and ready to hang piece of Beverly Pedersen's "Spring Floral" painting (\$100 value). Tickets available for purchase at the event.

### Call to Artists for Spring Fling Artwork

TWAA announces a call to artists for Spring Fling artwork. Any artist may submit up to 2 pieces of art for inclusion in show. Inclusion in the show depends on number of entries, quality of work and space availability. Call Margo Macdonald for more details 884 2055.

### Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for a few good volunteers! Want to donate a few hours and be part of the community? Give us a call. We are recruiting for event set up crews and committee volunteers. Interested? Give Denise a call 884 9498.

Two Waters Arts Alliance P.O. Box 868 Duwamish, WA 98394 [www.twowaters.org](http://www.twowaters.org)

# EASTER ON THE PENINSULA

*The Key Peninsula Ministerial Association  
invites you to the following community events*

**Feb 5th** Feast or Famine Hunger Banquet, 6:30pm at Longbranch Improvement Club, \$25 to benefit the KPCS Food Bank (sponsored by Longbranch Improvement Club, Key Peninsula Community Services, Key Peninsula Family Resource Center and Longbranch Community Church)

**Feb 6th** Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church

**February 7th** Lenten Bible Study and Prayer Gathering, 6pm every Thursday through March 13th at Longbranch Community Church

**Feb 13 thru March 12th** Free Soup Supper, 6pm followed by Lenten Service at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church

**March 20th** Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church - A Living Enactment of the Last Supper

**March 21st** Good Friday Prayer Vigils open noon until 6pm at Lakebay Community Church and Longbranch Community Church

**March 21st** Good Friday Service, 7pm at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church

**March 23rd** Easter Sunrise Service, 7am at Penrose State Park and Herron Island led by Lakebay Community Church, 7:30am at Vaughn Bay Cemetery led by Historical Vaughn Bay Church

Worship Celebrations at all Key Peninsula Churches

**CHRIST IS RISEN....  
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## BRIEF business

### New plans in the works for Peninsula Market

Cleanup and landscaping work behind the Key Center Peninsula Market (formerly known as Walt's) last November prompted the rumor mills to get into gear. According to owner Don Stolz, any changes are a long way out but a site improvement project is in the works. "Yes. We are pursuing some activity out there,"

Stolz said. "Probably a year or two before you see anything. Just because of the process you have to go through." He is referring to county permits, licensing, septic analysis and financing for openers. No proposal has been initiated to Pierce County but Stolz hopes to begin that process in March or April of this year.

Meanwhile, Lake Kathryn Properties Manager Joe Rhea reported to the Key Peninsula Business Association (KPBA) at the Jan. 19 meeting that plans for new development of the shopping center are forming. "Redesign" projects and "plans for more new stores" are being considered, he said.

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# Ministerial Association invites everyone

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Key Peninsula Ministerial Association (KPMA), a group of local pastors meeting together for about a year, invites the community to ecumenical Lenten and Easter events.

The KPMA, with the Rev. Dan Whitmarsh as coordinator, meets monthly for informal fellowship, with occasional local speakers, including presentations by Safe Streets and The Mustard Seed Project. They wish to send a message to the Key Peninsula community that local churches are not in competition with one another, are working for common goals, and each brings something unique to the area.

The needs on the Key Peninsula are great and more than one church can handle with multiple outreach programs. In working with one another, more local needs can be met. The organization supports Safe Streets, the Mustard Seed Project, Red Barn Youth Center, and the Pioneer Clubs, among other groups.

The pastors and their congregations are working together for Lenten and Easter

services, open to the whole community regardless of denomination.

Shrove Tuesday begins the Lenten season. Often called Fat Tuesday, it was traditionally the day householders used up or got rid of rich foods, such as meats, eggs, butter, and milk, prohibited during Lent by some churches. Pancakes are a traditional food for this day.

The Hunger Banquet at the Longbranch Improvement Club is the Lenten kick-off event on Feb. 5 (see story on page 15).

An Ash Wednesday service, encouraging penitence and willingness to change one's ways, will be held at the KP Lutheran Church on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

The following Wednesdays until Easter, Feb. 13 - March 12, Lenten services will be held at the KP Lutheran Church. These will include a free soup supper at 6 p.m. in McColley Hall and a short service.

The Living Enactment of the Last Supper will again be presented at the KP Lutheran Church on Maundy Thursday, March 20, beginning at 7 p.m.

On March 21, Lakebay and Longbranch Community churches will be open from

noon to 6 p.m. for Good Friday prayer vigils. A common meditation guide will be available at each church, and copies can be obtained in advance from the church offices for those unable to attend.

Sunrise services will be held at three locations on the peninsula: 7 a.m. at Herron Island and Penrose State Park, and 7:30 a.m. at Vaughn Bay Cemetery.

Easter Sunday worship services will be held at all of the peninsula churches.

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## Crab Feed!

Saturday, February 16

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# Lakebay couple take over Gig Harbor Gift Mall

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

When Susan Campbell of Lakebay decided she wanted something to retire to, she wasn't thinking about a home. Last November she and her husband, Michael, took over the lease on the Gig Harbor Gift Mall after seeing it on Craig's List online.

Susan's life wasn't off to an easy start after a divorce many years ago, leaving her with three young children to raise and little money for food. She had a job at a pizza restaurant and would eat what would have normally been thrown out at day's end. Eventually she became a police officer in Tacoma for seven years, and also worked as a security manager at the Tacoma Mall. She is currently a security officer for Boeing, where she works 12-hour days. Her dream has always been



to have her own place to retire where she could still be active and involved in something.

The Campbells took ownership Nov. 18 when business was just picking up for the holidays. Susan says, "I'm a chaotic person but I love all my staff of three ... This place has ambience and the people are very family-oriented and friendly." She foresees new experiences and growth but not without more attention, public awareness and newer signs. There are plans for enhancing the entrance and stairway, which will be done with a little "family" work. The chamber of commerce tells her that if she joins, they will provide a new Gig Harbor Gift Shop sign with a red ribbon grand reopening ceremony in a month or so.

Michael commutes to Everett for work every day so is not around except weekends; his focus is on maintenance.

The building is owned by John Gilich, whose father, Anton, built it as a hotel in 1924. The top floor consisted of 14 guest rooms while the ground floor held a pool room, barber shop and



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Susan and Michael Campbell at their gift mall.

drugstore. It was one of the first main buildings in Gig Harbor. Anton Gilich and his brother, Andrew, jointly owned the property with Mr. Richardson, a well-known businessman at the time. The property was divided in approximately 1927, with the area of the Roxy Theater (where Wild Birds Unlimited now is) going to Mr. Richardson and the Gilich brothers keeping the hotel property. John Gilich took over ownership after his father died.

The building was relinquished as a hotel about 20 years ago and became an interior design studio, but now houses the gift mall upstairs and Spiro's Restaurant on the ground level.

Campbell subleases the 14 rooms on a month-to-month basis to entrepreneurs who have antiques, collectibles and new

items to sell. There is a children's room, one has handmade quilts, another contains Northwest food items and another has alpaca wools from a local alpaca farm. Each room is unique and together they form about a three-quarter circle. In the middle is what used to be the registration and parlor.

The gift mall is operated on a co-op basis, having a central purchase station so sellers don't have to be there all the time, as merchandise is marked with their personal number. Turnover varies, and some renters have been there since it opened while others as little as a few months. Campbell loves being hands-on, and will continue that when her Boeing retirement starts and she and Michael focus all their time on the Gig Harbor Gift Mall.

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# COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) • Deadline 17th of the month

## Feb. 1, 8, 14, 22 – Mustard Seed Project meetings

It's not too late to return your Transportation Survey. Take it to the meeting on Feb. 8, or call the Key Senior Information Center at 884-9814.

The Mustard Seed Project meetings are at the Key Center Library and will follow this schedule:

Key Senior Information Center Volunteer Meeting - Friday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.

Transportation and Mobility for Elders Community Task Group - Friday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m.

Elder Health and Wellness Services Community Task Group - Thursday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m.

Housing Options for Aging in Place Community Task Group - Friday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m.

884-9814, or [ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org](mailto:ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org)

## Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 – Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at the Albertson's, 11330 51st Ave NW on Mondays from 12:30-7 p.m. in February. It will also be at Peninsula High School, 14105 Purdy Dr NW, on Thursday, Feb. 28, from 2 – 7 p.m.

## Feb. 7 – American Roots Music

The Friends of the Key Center Library present "American Roots Music: A Sonic Adventure of Continental Proportions," a free lecture by ethnomusicologist Brian Pertl. He will demonstrate how important early styles and forms of music nurtured and shaped contemporary music like modern blues and rock.

Brian Pertl has been a teacher at the University of Washington and lecturer for Humanities Washington's Inquiring Mind series for many years, covering topics including American popular music, African American music, Anglo-American music as well as aboriginal music of Australia and sacred music of Tibet.

Thursday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m. Key Center Library, free; 884-2242

## Feb. 9 - Spring at Penrose

Come find the first signs of spring in the woods at Penrose Point State Park. See what is already flowering, find early plants coming up, and identify the plants. Also find out which local birds are starting to get going. The first 15 people who register will be accepted.

Saturday, Feb. 9, 1-3 p.m., Penrose Point State Park, registration required, free; Dan Christian, 884-2514

## Feb. 15 – Key Pen Parks logo deadline

Key Pen Parks is having a contest to design a logo for the park district. The contest is open to all residents of the Key Peninsula except family members of Key Pen Parks board and staff.

Entries must be received by Feb. 15. Key Pen Parks will award prizes in the amounts of \$200 for first and \$100 for second. Enter as many times as you wish, but each entry requires an accompanying, signed entry form (there is no fee). All entries become the property of Key Pen Parks, which will retain all rights to usage. Design must be an original concept and must be the work of the artist submitting the entry. For an entry form and submission requirements, call 884-9240 or see [www.keypeninsula-parks.com](http://www.keypeninsula-parks.com).

## Feb. 15- Peacemakers' speaker to discuss Iran

Dr. Bradford Dillman, associate professor of international political economy at the University of Puget Sound, will survey the historical relations between Iran and the U.S., examine how the two countries have interacted since 9/11, and how they might accommodate each other's interest and concerns in a peaceful manner.

Dillman has written extensively on the Middle East, Algeria, and the illicit global economy. He has lived and taught in Turkey, Egypt, and Algeria.

Friday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m. Key Center Library; Dory, 884-9299.

## Feb. 16 – Crab feed

The Key Peninsula Civic Center will hold a crab feed to raise funds for the

operation and maintenance of the center. Dinner will include spaghetti, Caesar salad, garlic bread and beverages, in addition to the crab. Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$20 adults, \$10 children 6-12; free for children under 5. Tickets at Sunnycrest Nursery, Key Fitness and Civic Center.

Saturday, Feb. 16, 4-7 p.m. KP Civic Center, Vaughn; 884-3456

## Feb. 16 – Artist at library

As part of the Friends of the Key Center Library's Meet the Artist series, Gig Harbor's Patti Horning will share insights into her art. Horning started her passion for photography at the age of 10 with an Argus camera and today uses a digital Nikon D80 SLR to bring one dramatically closer to her memorable interpretations of natural scenes. Denmark and the Olympic Peninsula are frequent subjects for her work, but many of the best close-ups are from her own garden. Her photographer's eye demonstrates an affinity for the interplay of light and shadow, the contrasts of line and texture, and depths of layers possible within a scene.

Her work is available for viewing and purchasing during the months of February and March at the Key Center Library.

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m. Key Center Library, free. Cookies and tea provided; 884-2242

## Feb. 20 – Livable Key2020 meeting

The Livable Key2020 meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Contact Tara, [tarafroode@centurytel.net](mailto:tarafroode@centurytel.net)

## Feb. 20 – Sheriff's community academy

Pierce County Sheriff's Department has several more spots available for its Community Academy, a 13-week program designed to provide interested citizens of Pierce County an opportunity to learn first-hand about the Sheriff's Department. The academy includes meetings at the Key Center fire station every Wednesday evening from Feb. 20 to

May 14, as well as field trips to places such as the county jail and the crime labs. For an application, contact Susan McDougal, 798-6646.

## Feb. 21 – Conversation about food

The Friends of the Key Center Library invite the community to an informative and entertaining evening with Judith Weinstock, cookbook author, restaurateur and culinary arts/ethics teacher. She will discuss "Food We Eat" and how our choices shape the world.

After running a succession of restaurants, including the well-known Kingston Hotel Café, for 34 years, Weinstock has spent the last 10 years developing a curriculum which she calls Humanities Through Food, a course that integrates nutrition and food politics with history, culture, agriculture and economics through the lens of food and the art of cooking. Her hope is, that through education, the growing, procuring and preparing of food is done in a more healthful way — healthy for the environment, the community and for the individual.

Thursday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m. Key Center Library, free; 884-2242

## Feb. 23 – Eat stinging nettles

Stick Stinging Nettles in your mouth at Penrose Point! Stinging Nettles will be collected, cooked, and eaten, with participants enjoying one of the most nutritious early spring wild edible plants. Look at other early plants coming up and find out what is edible and what is not. Enjoy identifying some of the early spring life. The first 15 to register will be taken.

Saturday, Feb. 23, 1-3 p.m. Penrose Point State Park, registration required, free; Dan, 884-2514

## Ongoing – TOPS meetings in Vaughn

TOPS #WA 1019, Vaughn, meets at fire station 5 on Mondays from 6-8 p.m. TOPS' goal is to get to a healthy weight with support from other people in the

(See **EVENTS**, Page 15)

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Sandy Maroney

Three organizations have one common factor: Sandy Maroney. She is a nurse who engages in holistic healing in tandem with her full-time work at the St. Joseph's Medical Center in Tacoma since 1991, plus volunteers regularly.

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, The Salvation Army and Pierce County's Citizens Corps Medical Reserves are organizations Maroney serves through her volunteer work. She began serving community meals at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church two years ago. She also does hospice work, and teaches CPR, first aid and defibrillator use to the public via the free programs of The Salvation Army. When asked how she manages all this, she said, "I do not know; sometimes it is beyond my understanding how it is all done in one 24-hour day. God is my redeeming quality; I can do nothing



MARONEY

without his help."

She and her husband, Mike, married 30 years, reside in Palmer Lake. They raised four children and have eight grandchildren. Six years ago, the Maroneys moved to the KP from Missoula, Mont., to be closer to their families in Washington.

Albeit there are only 24 hours in a day, Maroney manages to care for her family, volunteer with these three organizations, reaching out to the public, embrace her faith, and has hobbies of sewing, needlecraft and beading. Plus she enjoys walking on the beach and visiting the ocean. Her greatest joy is to spend time with family, friends and her church family.

"We get so wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of influencing people and materialism that we have forgotten about each other. All of the status in the world, all of the possessions in the world can be wiped away in a heartbeat," she says, regarding her perspective on the need for an individual to volunteer.

— Donna Smeal

(From EVENTS, Page 14)

same boat. Membership is \$24 to join. No weigh-in fee or special food to buy. 884-4102

## Ongoing – K-2 basketball clinics

Key Pen Parks is offering Youth Basketball Skills Clinics Jan. 26-March 1 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The co-ed clinics are on Saturdays as follows: second grade, 9-9:50 a.m.; first grade, 10-10:50 a.m.; kindergarten, 11-11:50 a.m.; pre-kindergarten, 12-12:50 a.m. The program focus is on basketball skills development: dribbling, passing,

and shooting. Adult involvement is required during the clinics. Scaled down equipment and specialized drills and games will be used. Cost is \$39 and includes a basketball and shirt. There is a minimum of 10/grade and a maximum of 30/grade. Register: Scott, 884-9240 or [www.keypeninsulaparks.com](http://www.keypeninsulaparks.com)

## Thursdays – Lakebay writers meet

Writers, poets, and "wanna be writers" meet Thursdays between 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. A writer-friendly atmosphere welcomes all. [www.sleepyhollowretreat.com](http://www.sleepyhollowretreat.com) (click on Lakebay writers); Carl, 884-9671

# Banquet focused on hunger awareness

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Feast or Famine, a Fat Tuesday Hunger Banquet to benefit the local food bank at Key Peninsula Community Services, will be held at the Longbranch Improvement Club, 4213 Key Peninsula Highway South, on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

This event is presented in partnership with Longbranch Improvement Club, Longbranch Community Church, Key Peninsula Community Services, and Key Peninsula Family Resource Center.

The goal of a hunger banquet is to demonstrate worldwide food distribution. Worldwide, 10 percent of the population has access to multicourse meals — appetizer through dessert — while 20 percent has access to adequate, but unex-

citing fare and 70 percent of the population exists at subsistence level.

Those numbers will reflect food distribution at the hunger banquet: Some will leave hungry. Participants buy full-price tickets, but will not know the kind of meal they will be served until it is placed before them. Ten percent of participants will have a three-course meal, 20 percent will have a plain, but adequate meal, and 70 will receive a bowl of rice.

Chair Vicki Biggs notes featured event speaker David Ottey, of Pierce County Emergency Food Network, will provide information regarding our region and hunger on the Key Peninsula. Penny Gazabat, new director of KP Community Services, will be there to meet participants, too.

FINE Mud Hens, Fox Island North End potters Karen Craven and Ginger Kryger are creating a few special pots that will contain homemade soup mix for sale. They have previously done projects with the Emergency Food Network.

For greatest personal impact, consider a day of fasting. It will make that bowl of rice taste even better.

Tickets are \$25, tax deductible, and were on sale until Jan. 31. Tickets are available at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, or contact Penny Gazabat, Key Peninsula Community Services, at 884-4440, or Carolyn Wiley, Longbranch Improvement Club, at 884-9157.

# OFF THE KEY

## Feb. 6 – Welcome Club meets

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club will have a General Meeting at Harbor Place at Cottesmore at 11 a.m. There will be a buffet lunch at Harbor Place and a tour of the Cottesmore adult assisted facility.

Marcia, 857-5324

## Feb. 16 – 2008 roses

Terri Hiatt, award winning rosarian and creator of Terosa fertilizer, will teach a free class about the new and exciting beautiful new 2008 rose varieties at 11 a.m.

Peninsula Gardens, 851-8115 or [www.peninsulagardens.com](http://www.peninsulagardens.com)

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# New skate night manager focused on safety, programming

By Danna Webster, KP News

Skate Night at the Civic Center has been around for about 35 years but the program saw some major changes beginning last October, when Troy Milles became the first paid skate night manager. For one thing, "It's making lots of money," says Pam Libstaff, Civic Center bookkeeper.

On Friday nights, Milles arrives for work about two hours before skate time. "I get here early. I like to have a big bumper of time to get ready," he says. This particular night he is getting ready for a '70s Disco Theme Night (and is dressed appropriately). He was expecting the disc jockey, Kip Miller, to be styling with a full Afro wig. Theme nights happen once a month and skaters dressed for the theme receive a ticket stub. Tickets are drawn all through the night for prizes. Prize tickets are also given for wearing school colors on School Spirit nights, which happen the last Friday of every month.

Milles lives near Volunteer Park with his wife, Maree, but grew up on the east side of Tacoma. In 1993, he went to work for Campfire U.S.A and worked for almost 10 years in its nonprofit youth development programs. He brings his professionalism

from this experience to the skate night manager job. His main focus for change to the skate program is on security and safety.

"We don't want to take anything away from programming but we are going to insist on safety and security for kids," he says. Changes have been made to the physical layout of the skate floor as well as walking and skating traffic patterns. "Walkie-talkie" communications have been added, along with referees complete with striped shirts and whistles. "I know there have been some concerns in the past (about safety)," he says. "If we've lost some parents to whatever was going on in the past, we need to let them know there is some good stuff going on here now."

It is a big job to keep 120 to 150 kids happy and safe for three hours every Friday night. Milles has help, including two committees that advise management. The Staff Committee sets policy and evaluates image and risk management. The Volunteer Committee needs more members and will consist of parents, youth, and reps from the Civic Center board and schools.

Jennifer Miller is the kitchen manager, where pizza slices and popcorn have been added. The prices are kept low and cover

Troy Milles, wearing an ear piece from his walkie-talkie, with one of the Skate Night referees, Michael "Mic" Law.

Referees and the communication radios are new safety additions Milles implemented since he took the helm of the program. More photos at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

enough to pay expenses. The Whitmore Room becomes a game room on Fridays, offering games like foosball, air hockey, Guitar Hero and Dance Revolution. Skate Night opens at 6 on Friday nights for all elementary and middle school students. The first hour of skating is reserved for elementary students only. Milles says this allows room for parents to walk around with their beginner skaters. Professional standards are set, as skaters walk through the beautiful new Civic Center entrance and are met by the skate manager wearing slacks, shirt and tie (except for theme

nights, of course).

The committee teamwork, volunteers and staff are all responsible for the program's increased success, according to Milles. A goal has been set to average 150 kids for 40 weeks. Milles says, "I'm grateful for the (Civic Center) board, which has been extremely, extremely supportive."

He plans to make promotional visits to Key Pen organizations and businesses to let them know about the success of skate night and encourage their participation and sponsorship. "I'm big on partnering," Milles says.



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## Childcare center helps teen parents be successful students

High school students who become teen parents often feel they need to put their education on the back burner. A long-time program at Henderson Bay High School helps them continue their education instead, so they can successfully graduate from high school.

The program, in collaboration with Cottesmore Child Development Center and Early Head Start, includes a childcare facility onsite, as well as parenting classes. The Early Head Start Program is a federally funded program that allows the center to keep low teacher to child ratios and provides resources for early intervention.

In addition to providing resources and education for young parents, the program allows students interested in early childhood education to gain work experience, receive mentoring from qualified teachers, and earn money.

"We really encourage teen parents to catch up with school. This program helps them continue their education and helps their children prepare for preschool," says Marilyn Boyle, Henderson Bay High core teacher.

The childcare center is open 12 hours a day and can accommodate up to 24 children between the ages of 4 weeks to 5 years old. Seven highly trained teachers work at the center as part of the 15-member staff. Students and former students can work as aides after undergoing a special 90-hour class that includes topics such as discipline and guidance, safety, early childhood development, and safe food handling.



*Logan Appelgate, a 2007 Henderson Bay High School graduate, works with one of the age groups at the center.*

"They're able to work and have their children here while working—so they get experience and parenting skills at the same time," says program Director Margaret Loe. "So many teens who have graduated from the program are now working in our community."

Professional educators, along with parents, assess each child and develop an individualized learning plan. The program has a low teacher-child ratio (1-4) to allow for one-on-one attention. Cottesmore and Early Head Start advocate using "emergent curriculum."

"We are constantly observing what children are doing, and as their ideas emerge, we focus the activities on those interests and ideas," Loe says.



*Teacher Marie Wenman leads toddlers in "circle time," which includes singing and other activities.*

### Photo of the month



*Photo by Olivia Poelvoorde, 8th grader, KPMS*

The photography students at Key Peninsula Middle School are at it again. There are 12 new photos on display in the MultiCare Gig Harbor Medical Park on Point Fosdick. In addition, 27 photos are on display in the Fireside Gallery at the Steilacoom Community Center. Future exhibitions are planned in March at the Tacoma Art Museum and in May a return to Steilacoom.

### Did you know...

#### Safe School Preparedness Presentations

are planned on February 7 and 28, 2008.

Lynn Mock, GHPD will be on hand to educate the community about violence and natural disasters – the program is appropriate for ADULTS only.

If you have any questions, contact Caroline Antholt PSD Safety 530-1005.

### FEBRUARY 2008

- 7** Safe School Preparedness Community Forum-Safe School Preparedness 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Key Peninsula Middle School. This program is appropriate for ADULTS only.
- 12** PSD Choral Festival 7:00 p.m. at Chapel Hill
- 13** School Board Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Kopachuck Middle School
- 18-22** President's Day Winter Break-no school
- 28** Safe School Preparedness Community Forum-Safe School Preparedness 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Gig Harbor High School Drama Pod. This program is appropriate for ADULTS only.

### Kindergarten Registration Coming Soon March 1, 2008!

We are excited to announce the Peninsula School District's Kick-off for Kindergarten registration is Saturday, March 1st, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. – noon at all Elementary School locations. Kindergarten registration will continue the following week at all Elementary Schools during regular school hours 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. To view registration information online go to [www.psd401.net/education/kinder.asp](http://www.psd401.net/education/kinder.asp) or contact Katy Ellis via e-mail: [ellisk@psd401.net](mailto:ellisk@psd401.net) or telephone 253-530-1009.

### At a glance...

The Peninsula School District attempts to relay information, to our staff, students and their families, about the variety of local services and activities available, under the following guidelines: When an agency requests permission to distribute, they must submit a copy of the flyer and a completed Request to Distribute Materials form. Contact is made with the office of Assistant Superintendent for P-12 Education Programs, by fax: (253) 530-1010; or email- Katy Ellis: [ellisk@psd401.net](mailto:ellisk@psd401.net)

(From **DOGS**, Page 1)

have come to the conclusion that some things aren't working and we need to make some adjustments," says county Auditor Pat McCarthy, whose office was tasked with animal control and licensing early last year. The functions were formerly performed by Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society under contract with the county.

"The problem is not with the dog, it's with the owners — their lack of responsibility and training," said Lisa Drury, manager of recording, licensing and animal control, during a presentation on the issue at a Key Peninsula Community Council meeting in January. To help address that problem, the department is proposing stricter laws for dogs deemed dangerous and potentially dangerous, as well as for animal cruelty cases. The proposed changes include implementing or increasing existing fees for situations ranging from inspections to hearing examiner appeals, adding a variety of definitions, and adding infractions for instances such as bites, property damage and abandonment.

County code currently doesn't address dangerous dogs, so officers have to use state law. The proposed laws would in



Photo by Hugh McMillan

KP Community Council Director David Figuracion talks about dangerous dog issues during the auditor's office presentation. Also in the photo is Director Tara Froode (right) and (in the back) Lisa Drury, manager with the auditor's office.

some cases be more restrictive at county levels: For example, state law requires a \$250,000 liability insurance/surety bond for dangerous animals, while the auditor's office is proposing increasing that to \$500,000.

The county has four animal control offi-

## Proposed regulations

To find out more about the proposed regulations call 798-3189.

cers, who cover an area of about 17,000 square miles (minus municipalities like Tacoma that have their own enforcement) — a number many residents believe is far too low for effective response. McCarthy, who was also present at the KP forum, told the audience: "There are competing interests for budget money at county level... I don't think we'll ever have a big system where we'll be completely satisfied but we do need more officers."

The KP presentation was part of a series of public meetings conducted throughout the county at the request of Pierce County Council, which will review the proposals. McCarthy says she hopes the county will adopt them very quickly, and said this is the most critical issue in the department. "What we have to do is make reasonable, rational laws that will not infringe on your rights," she said.

McCarthy told the KP News the changes will help provide better public safety, but citizens need to keep in mind the laws apply to everyone equally — and would affect their pets, too, not just the neighbors'.

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The Rocky Bay runway is in the center of the photo, with Mercer's house visible on the left.

Photo by  
Mindi LaRose

(From **AIRPORT**, Page 1)

souped-up four-place Cessna 182 into and out of "Howell Field" at least twice each week during the summer. One can tell when friends are visiting by the sight of four or five airplanes parked together.

"I've never had an accident or incident involving an airplane in my whole life," Howell said. "Modern airplanes are so quiet that my neighbors' chainsaws and lawnmowers are a hundred times more offensive. The most exciting thing that ever happened here was when a C-130 military cargo plane swooped down one day for a practice approach."

Another private airport was built along the shores of Rocky Bay about 30 years ago by Bob Hoyt, who owned a car dealership in Auburn. Three adjoining property owners have rights to use the 1,200-foot asphalt runway that has a unique 74-foot rise from one end to the other, which makes landings somewhat "interesting."

John Mercer purchased one of the three lots in 1999, and recently purchased a second. Mercer owns a Cessna 210 and a Robinson helicopter he uses to commute daily from Rocky Bay to his aeronautical engineering firm in Kent, which manufactures guidance systems, and is currently designing autopilots for helicopters. Mercer holds a rarely obtained doctorate degree in aeronautical engineering.

"I learned to fly while I was still in high school. I've been flying for 48 years," Mercer said. "My wife earned her pilot's license 27 years ago."

Asked about some of the more memorable moments at his airport, he said, "A couple of years ago, a neighbor was 'on approach' to the runway in his Aerocoupe, which developed engine troubles. He had to ditch it in Rocky Bay. Approximately five years ago, a

local man was flying nearby when he lost a piece off the propeller of his Piper Cherokee. He did a forced landing at our airstrip without incident. After getting the prop fixed and inspected, he obtained permission from the FAA to fly it to the nearest repair facility for permanent repairs."

Both Howell and Mercer report good relations with their neighbors. Bob Yurg has lived alongside the Rocky Bay runway for the past 12 years. "I like it. I just wish there was more air traffic. It's a novelty; we get a kick out of it," he said. "With controlled access gates and surrounding trees, very few people know that the runway is here. Noise is not a problem; there are no safety concerns. There have never been any accidents."

Paul Holmquist, director of the Airports District Office for the Federal Aviation Administration region that includes Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, said FAA's primary concern is safety. "Aircraft and airports are tightly regulated. Registration of private airports with the FAA is mandatory," he said. "Registration allows us to annotate aeronautical charts so that pilots are more aware of potential air traffic, and potential landing sites for emergency situations. Registration allows 'med-evac' pilots to find unfamiliar airports quicker when lives are at stake."

Private airports are identified on aeronautical charts with a red "X," with a notation that permission must be obtained from the airport owner before landing, according to Holmquist. "This relieves the airport owner from liability if something should happen during unauthorized use," he said.

Up through the 1960s, Americans held a heartfelt dream to commute to work in "skycars" or "carplanes." The dream is not dead yet. The aeronautical dream is still alive on the KP.

(From BAN, Page 20)

proposed rule change,” he wrote. Bosch cited three primary obstacles: loss of revenue (income of approximately \$12,000 annually for land-clearing burn permits/monitoring), increased service demand, and adverse public relations. Bosch stated that FD-16 would be forced to make a policy change if a permanent ban becomes regulation. (Firefighters currently respond to burn complaints, document the action and send an invoice for reimbursement of callout expense to the PSCAA, which Bosch states will change with a ban.) Bosch writes, “...All nuisance smoke complaints for land clearing burning (would be) forwarded to your office for investigation and enforcement.”

In an interview with the KP News, FD-16 Operations Division Chief Guy Allen voiced the same objections. Referring to firefighters and equipment now being used to “essentially do the work of the PSCAA for them,” he said burn-related complaints currently account for some 200 events annually. If a ban became regulation, he fears firefighters would be caught in the middle, playing policemen to enforce agency regulations on an even greater scale.

Written citizen comment at the open house was minimal, although conversation was lively and nearly all those present opposed the proposed regulation. Below are some excerpts of the comments, provided by PSCAA at the request of the KP News:

Michael Southern, Vaughn: “I take exception to a countywide ban on burning...better idea to regulate burning by fire district... money would be better spent on setting up a whistle blower program to catch the few...burning trash and causing the problem.”

Kip Clinton, Lakebay: “I support restrictions on times [when] burning is allowed (not in summer when it is dry or when an inversion) but it should be allowed at other times. Please do not pass this ridiculous and impossible regulation.”

Joe Rein, Gig Harbor: “Debris which is discarded could be fire danger...this will cause more dumping problem and fire hazards.”

Anonymous: “We do not want any restriction imposed by the Puget Sound Air Pollution Agency. It is an illegal organization because we cannot vote for the leaders of the board. It cannot be cost effective to impose bans. Way too many fires will be exempt, therefore not effective.”

## Don't get burned!

(Information from Puget Sound Clean Air Agency)

Fines for illegal fires typically start at \$2,000 plus the cost to reimburse the fire department for its response efforts; repeat offender fines can top out at \$15,000. Some alternatives to burning:

**Curb it** - Sign up for curbside recycling service for yard waste, or self-haul to a nearby recycling facility.

**Chip it** - Hire a professional chipping service or rent or buy your own chipper to munch larger branches and other woody debris into a great mulch.

**Compost it** - Convert dead leaves and grass clippings into healthy food for your shrubs.

**In addition to local restrictions, state regulations apply to outdoor fires:**

Stay clear of structures. Check with your local fire department regarding setback requirements.

Fuel it right. The following materials may not be burned in any outdoor fire: garbage, dead animals, asphalt, petroleum products, paints, rubber products, plastics, paper (other than what is necessary to start a fire), cardboard, treated wood, construction/demolition debris, metal, or any substance (other than natural vegetation) that releases toxic emissions, dense smoke, or obnoxious odors when burned.

Stand guard and extinguish. A person capable of extinguishing the fire must attend it at all times, and the fire must be extinguished before leaving it.

Mind the ban. Outdoor fires are always prohibited during air-quality burn bans.

Abandon the barrel. The use of burn barrels is illegal throughout the state.

Be a good neighbor. It is always illegal to smoke out your neighbor. If smoke from your fire bothers your neighbors, damages their property or otherwise causes a nuisance, you must immediately put it out.

Contact the local fire district to find out if outdoor fires are allowed and about permit and other local requirements.

Allen anticipates the regulation will pass, however. He said it first was proposed in January 2000, later resurfacing as a proposal at least two other times in the last seven years. Asked what landowners can do if they have land in need of clearing, he said, “Act now. Get it done before July 1. There is no grandfather clause, no grace period, or allowance for recently logged land that has yet to be cleared.”

## Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

The PSCAA is a special-purpose regional agency created in 1967; its sole jurisdiction lies in King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. The agency is governed by a board of directors and an advisory council, which includes representatives from all four counties, Tacoma-Pierce county health and solid waste departments, and Pierce County Planning and Land Services. The member-at-large for the Key Peninsula is Marina Cofer-Wildsmith, who resides on Bainbridge Island and is the former executive director for the Washington chapter of the American Lung Association. PSCAA works in partnership with the federal Environmental Protection Agency and state Department of Ecology. Its mission reads, “We work together to clean the air we breathe and protect our climate through education, incentives and enforcement.”

The agency is mandated to monitor air

pollution by federal and state Clean Air Acts in these four counties that comprise, according to its data, 6,300 square miles, and over half the state's population. The proposed burn ban does not extend to Kitsap County.

## Open house held

On Jan. 8, the PSCAA held one of five regionwide open houses at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, where representatives from Pierce County health and solid waste agencies were also present. Alice Collingwood, communications manager for PSCAA, explained in an interview that representatives from the four counties do an assessment of their jurisdictions every three years. Last summer they “floated the idea” of a permanent burn ban and concluded there were “generally enough” alternative resources available in the counties to preclude burning. Of the four jurisdictions, only Kitsap County was found to fall below the population density calling for burning regulations. That the peninsulas of Pierce County were sparsely populated and rurally-zoned was not considered when applying the county standard. Collingwood said if the board approves the ban, “We will spend the next two years developing more options (for individuals to recycle creatively).” She said the DOE was drafting a report illustrating how other communities had initiated workable alternatives to outdoor burning,

Comments on the proposed rule change can be sent to outdoorburningcomments@psc-cleanair.org or by postal mail. A public hearing on the proposed rule change will be held on Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Seattle Public Library's Microsoft Auditorium, at 9:15 a.m. A copy of the proposed rule and other documents are available at www.pscleanair.org.

and hoped it would soon be available.

Both Bosch and Allen express concerns for citizen response at the polls if the regulation is enacted — increased 911 nuisance calls leave less time for an already-stretched fire district to respond to true emergency events, eat into a tight budget, nibble away at programs already pared down. Bosch wrote in his letter, “What is clear is that the relationship between (KP) citizens and the Fire Department could be damaged when the Fire Department participates in enforcement actions.” Bosch's final statements seem to sum up comments heard at the January open house: “It is difficult to validate this position of banning outdoor burning within the rural setting of the KP while our rural neighbors, Kitsap and Mason counties, do not have similar bans in place.”



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# Local sculptor awarded state arts commission project

By Jerry Libstaff

Key Peninsula's preeminent sculptor, John Jewell, is in the process of creating a new bronze sculpture as part of a program supported by the Washington State Arts Commission. The piece will be placed at the new Mountainside Middle School near Spokane in August, and formally dedicated there in September.



The Genuine  
ARTicle

Prior to exploring the arts professionally, Jewell was an educator for more than 30 years. His career was filled with wonderful experiences. He says, "One of my favorites was being a middle school vice principal. I really enjoyed that age group." Jewell and his wife, Andrea, attended a pottery class in the 1980s where he became deeply inspired while working with clay. He eventually attended sculpture and painting workshops to develop his passion and incorporate an understanding of classical figurative art.



Photo by Jerry Libstaff

John Jewell with his model, Kyle Self, and the statue's iron armature.

In 2001, Jewell took first place at the Western Washington state fair for a life-size bronze of two children titled "Balancing the Books." He donated the sculpture to the Key Center Library, where it graces the

entrance. More of his works can be seen locally: "Sharing" is at the entrance of Cirque Park in University Place, and three monumental sculptures are at the entrance to Fort Lewis. These include Capt. Meriwether Lewis, his dog, Seaman, and Sgt. John Ordway, all part of the 1803 Corps of Discovery. Jewell's sculptures are also found across the United States in several museums and offices of major corporations.

Jewell's current project calls for an exuberant student jumping with joy. He asked his daughter, local teacher Laura Stafki, to suggest someone who would fit the requirement. Stafki suggested Key Peninsula Middle School student Kyle Self, who was hired to model for the larger-than-life bronze sculpture.

Jewell's first step was to take more than 200 photos of Kyle running and jumping. He and Kyle's father then critiqued the photos and chose an appropriate pose. From the photo, Jewell sculpted a "rough draft." The small sculpture, known as a maquette, became the model for the full-sized piece.

The next step was to fashion a full-size armature, something akin to a skeleton,

from iron. John Beaton, a welder at Peninsula Iron Works on Key Peninsula Highway, welded the pieces together and bent the steel to correspond to Kyle's stance. Jewell says, "The armature must be strong to hold weight of the clay. My unique design allows me to remove the arms, hands, or head in the armature to work more easily on them individually."

Currently, Jewell is adding clay to the armature and sculpting details to resemble Kyle's figure. When the clay sculpture is complete, The Bronze Works Foundry in Tacoma will work with Jewell to replicate it into a bronze sculpture using a lost wax process. The foundry process usually takes three or four months.

For his part, Kyle Self seemed to enjoy learning about the sculpting process and devoted an extreme amount of energy in his role as a model.

"Kyle Self has been a significant contributor to this project," Jewell says. "He portrays the perfect representative of a middle school student. He's interested in school and life; he likes sports; he enjoys growing in knowledge and he really cares about his fellow students. He's positive and upbeat."

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# Home residents stood air watch

By Keith Stiles, Special to KP News

## Photos wanted

In order to complete the story and documentation of the civilian air raid watch on the Key Peninsula during World War II, the museum is still searching for a picture of the Longbranch watchtower, which was reportedly located very near to the (then) Longbranch school. The museum staff gratefully appreciates any contributions.

Japanese surrender in September 1945. Local reports indicate it became an eyesore and a hazard, and was subsequently torn down.

History does not provide any clear evidence of enemy planes over the southern Puget Sound area during the war. Air activity of U.S. planes, both Army and Navy, and flights from a training field in South Tacoma did, however, provide sightings of aircraft to be reported.

Early in 1942, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, civilian organizations united to perform air raid lookout functions. They assisted the U.S. Army Air Corps in detection and tracking flights of enemy planes appearing over the country, particularly among the Pacific Coast states.

On the Key Peninsula, air raid watch organizations were formed in three communities: Vaughn, Home, and Longbranch. To provide for the best viewing and shelter to the watchers, tower installations were built by local volunteer labor, usually on a point of somewhat higher ground.

Now, through a gift of Barbara (Heinkle) Brady of Tustin, Calif., the Key Peninsula Museum at the Civic Center has a copy of photo of the tower erected by residents of the Home area. This structure stood near the old Home school and the site of the baseball field not far from the intersection of Ninth and C Streets. (That area, as well as the location of the ball field and associated bleachers, is now heavily overgrown. The old Home School building, however, still stands as a private residence.)

The tower was manned by volunteering men, women, and even some of the younger set, throughout the war years of 1942-45. Volunteers stood their post on 24-hour duty, regardless of weather or difficulty in getting from their homes to the tower and back. It has been reported that the three towers each had a telephone connection, which helped pass the time for some of those on tower duty. Use of the tower in Home came to an end at the

## BACK IN TIME



Photo courtesy KP Historical Society

The Upper Sound Grange float, driven in a parade across the first Tacoma Narrows Bridge ("Galloping Gertie") on opening day, July 1, 1940. The Upper Sound Grange was organized on the Key Peninsula in 1918 and was in existence for 75 years.



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# Postal history on the Key Peninsula

By Colleen Slater, KP News

*Editor's note: This is the second part of a two-part article.*

In the early days, the Key Peninsula was home to several post offices that now only exist in history books.

Meridian's post office, opened in 1890, preceded the town platted by Emma and Fred Seger the following year. Meridian lay between Delano and South Head. Mary A. Leighton, first postmaster, married Joseph E. Floyd in 1894 and moved the post office to McNeil Island to avoid a daily round trip row.

Postmaster Joseph Floyd left mail sacks on a float overnight for the night boat to pick up. One night the sack washed off the float, with some large amounts of money included in the mail. The Cammon Brothers found it in their shrimp nets before too many days passed.

The vacated Meridian townsite, where Carl Lorenz and Frederick Raasch had their brickworks, became West Meridian. A post office called West Meridian existed



Guy Tilton stands at the door of the Glencove post office and store about 1912. *Photo courtesy KP Historical Society*

from March 25, 1915 until Dec. 15, 1915. The Meridian post office closed when the prison expanded and forced residents off the island in 1936.

A post office for Balch, supposedly named for Steilacoom merchant Lafayette Balch, was established in 1891. The name changed to Glencove in late 1896. The store and post office building was at the head of the bay. In 1924, the post office closed and mail was sent to Vaughn.

When Ernest Shellgren asked for a post

office for the Filucy Bay area, the postmaster general required an accepted name for the community. Edward S. Yeazell, a land speculator who owned much of the bay shoreline, suggested Long Branch, in remembrance of the New Jersey resort city. Due to confusion with Long Beach, Wash., the postmaster general changed the name to Longbranch in 1894. Shellgren set up a mail-sorting cabinet on his boat, the "Monte Cristo," for the first Longbranch post office. When Shellgren's daughter, Ellen, retired as postmaster in 1964 after 40 years, Longbranch became a rural delivery of the Lakebay post office.

George B. Blanchard operated a mill in the community where the Blanchard post office was opened in 1894. He had been postmaster in Skagit County at Blanchard for five years, but never held the post here. He was the only person in the state who had two post offices named for him. While Harold W. Campen was postmaster in 1913, the name changed to Herron.

Home post office, established in January 1900, lasted a little over two

years. Controversial publications mailed from Home, reported to be anarchist, obscene, and encouraging freedoms frowned on by the society of the time, caused the closing in April 1902. Writings of two women, Lois Waisbrooker and Mattie Penhallow, encouraged equal sexual rights for women, among other things. Home's mail then went through Lakebay, and the current post office, labeled Lakebay, stands prominently in Home.

Lewis Lake, now Lake Holiday, had a post office in Carl Elliott's home/general store from January 1929, until May 1931. It was considered a Port Orchard rural route, and when discontinued, mail went to Port Orchard. Vandals removed the false front store bit by bit after it was vacated.

From the 13 post offices established on the peninsula, only three still exist, and none in their original buildings or locations. A local joke is that the Lakebay post office is in Home, the Wauna one is in Lake Kathryn, and the Vaughn one is now at Key Center.



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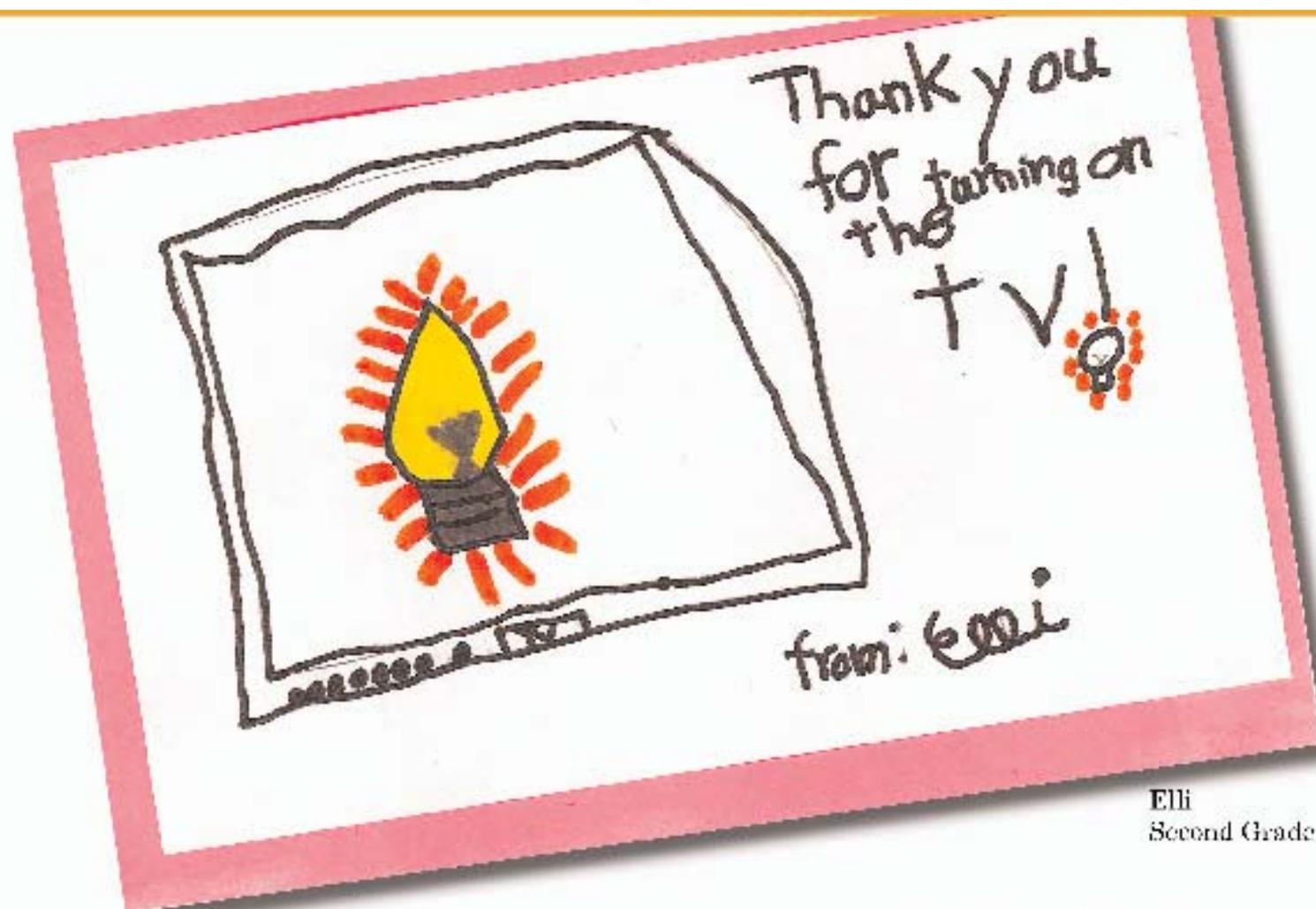
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# Out & About

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!



Debbie Short and her granddaughter, Amber, make a snowflake together during the FunFlakes event at the Key Center Library. Right, Jalesa Ryea, 6, shows off her creation.

*Photos by Karina Whitmarsh*



Construction crews clean the glass on the light at Purdy.

*Photo by Mindi LaRose*



*Photo by Hugh McMillan*

Phil and Tina Bemp of Rocky Bay live it up with a bit of '40s "jitter bugging" at the first-ever joint Longbranch Improvement Club/KP Civic Center New Year's Eve dance. Music was provided by Swing Fever, a 19-piece swing band.



Tevivi Tama Daniel from New Zealand is astride "Joey" for his first-ever horse ride. The horse belongs to Ed and Lori Robison of Key Peninsula who hosted Tevivi under sponsorship of the Key Peninsula Lions Club as part of the Lions' International Youth Exchange Program.

*Photo courtesy Lori Robison*



*Photo by Rodika Tollefson*

Key Peninsula Middle School student Nick Mendenhall is guest-conducting the KPMS Advanced Band during a recent concert at the school that also featured the KPMS Jazz Band and Intermediate Band.