

KPMS continues partnership with NASA, page 21



KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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Blast of winter hits KP

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Roadways were difficult to navigate, but Peninsula School District students got an early Christmas gift this year with an extra three days added to their holiday break when snow piled higher than the Key Peninsula has seen in years.

Snowmobiles, sleds, snow families, and snow forts were part of the landscape as the young and young at heart took time to experience the wintery fun.

Totals for this storm have not been reported yet but in Wauna the snow measured 12 inches

(See WINTER, Page 19)



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh
Janet Shonk, a Park Ranger at Penrose State Park, clears some snow with a tractor.

Students, teachers win award

By Marsha Hart, KP News



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh
Bailey Lalonde reads at a table with a few classmates and teacher Kathy Martin during the reading room time. Each student gets 90 minutes of reading instruction every day at Evergreen Elementary School.

Not so long ago, Evergreen Elementary School was having a problem. The students weren't doing so great in the subject of reading. These days they are doing so great they've been awarded what is called a Title I Distinguished School Award. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction gives this award to one school in the state, said principal Jacque Crisman.

With tears in her eyes, Crisman walked through the reading room that houses thousands of book titles in sets of six, so that children can read and discuss the same book.

"Nine years ago, I wouldn't have envisioned this," she said. "The way the staff

worked together to get to this point is phenomenal."

Crisman gushes with pride, and can't seem to find enough words to express her enthusiasm as she says, "I wish you could feel what I'm feeling inside."

By achieving such a distinction, the school will get a monetary award of \$5,000. This money will be used to implement a program to close the gap in math scores, she said. The teachers and staff hope to replicate what they have done in the reading program.

"We spent a lot of time talking about the latest assessments and a lot of time looking at student data and making good choices based on what we know about

(See EVERGREEN, Page 25)

Crosswalks and more coming to Key Center

By PJ Callahan, KP News

Will Key Center's main thoroughfare become a four-lane highway? That question and more were addressed at an open house hosted by Pierce County Public Works and Utilities on Dec. 8 at Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Some 30 people attended the event, to learn about future road improvements to the intersection at Key Peninsula Highway, Olson Drive and Cramer Road. There are no plans to construct a four-lane highway, but a turn lane will be added, along with some other improvements.

"Construction of sidewalks, paved shoulders, a traffic signal with crosswalks and street lighting at the intersection will benefit local pedestrians and will improve traffic safety," Patrick Baughman, county engineering

(See KEY CENTER, Page 19)

Foul weather stalls fate of fair

By Danna Webster, KP News

Stormy winter weather interrupted the decision making process for the Key Peninsula Fair Board. The weather caused postponement of their Dec. 18 meeting and the rescheduled dates are all weather dependent. The Boards of the three sponsor groups have met and voted on their recommendations. The Fair Board also hosted a public meeting on Dec. 8 and received input from over 40 concerned Key Pen residents. It will be the responsibility of the 2009 Fair Board to consider the recommendations and the input and make a decision about the fate of the fair in 2009.

The sponsoring groups for the KP Fair are the Longbranch Improvement Club, the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, and the Key Peninsula Business Association. The recommendations from KPCCA and KPBA were presented at the Dec. 8 meeting. Speaking for KPCCA was President-elect Bruce Macdonald. "The Civic Center is interested in supporting an activity like the fair for the community," he said. "Once there is a decision, I will do my best to present it and maintain it, but there are no guarantees. It remains up to the individuals of the Board (KPCCA) what level of participation they will have." The KPCCA position presented to the 2009 fair board will be "If things don't change, the civic center was not particularly interested in participating," Macdonald reported.

The KPBA dedicated their Nov. 21 lunch meeting to the topic of the 2009 fair. President Jud Morris reported the recommendations from that meeting. He said the first option considered by KPBA



Photo by Danna Webster

Former KP Fair Board treasurer, Ed Taylor, presented the financial status and history of the Fair at the Dec. 8 public meeting.

was to quit the fair.

"The decision, unanimously, was not to quit the fair," he said. The second option was to continue with the fair as is. "No one was happy (to continue) as it was last year," he said but noted, however, that eight individuals volunteered to work for the fair even if the decision is to keep the fair exactly as it was last year. The third option was to change the fair and this received a unanimous vote in favor. Fifteen members offered to volunteer for a fair with changes and four offered to serve on the 2009 Fair Board. "The KPBA supports the fair — and certainly, the fair with changes," Morris reported.

The Longbranch Improvement Club board met after the Dec. 8 public meeting. "The LIC voted unanimously to not try to have a fair next year but use the year to take a step back and plan," said past fair president and LIC member, Mike Hays. He emphasized that the LIC "is not pulling out" as some rumors suggest but it is their recommendation "to take a year off and spend 2009 organ-

izing resources. It is not the recommendation, but the LIC will support a decision to have a fair, if that is the vote of the Board," he said. Hays also clarified that the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Longbranch Marina is not dependent in any way on the decision about the fair for 2009. The LIC is prepared to support both events should they occur.

Beyond sponsor and public recommendations, leadership and funding are critical considerations for the 2009 Fair Board. Economic health will play a major factor with funding support but supportive individuals have already stepped forward to serve on the new executive board: Jud Morris will chair the sponsorship committee, Jeff Nelson will serve as treasurer, Barb Heard will serve as secretary and two candidates are available for the president's office: Tom Boardman and John Biggs. Biggs, a past-president of the fair, is the more recent candidate. He noted that 800 manhours to produce the fair is the reason that volunteers experience burnout. "I am the candidate of change. The LIC voted to not go ahead with the fair in 2009, if it remains the same," he said.

Boardman volunteered his service at the public meeting. "My hope is to see this fair keep going no matter what," Boardman said. "I've received many emails from churches and other organizations stepping up to support stronger than ever. I want to see it go on this summer and I want to see a lot of positive changes," he said. With the return of fair weather, Key Peninsula residents will learn how the fair will fare. For more information visit the website at www.keyfair.org.

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SR302 STUDY FUNDING RUNS OUT

By Rick Sorrels,
Special to the KP News

The \$1.5 million funding for the study to reroute SR302 has been spent. Money for the engineers under contract runs until February. The public meeting at the Civic Center in Vaughn set for Jan. 12 will be the last chance for public input before this portion of the study is wrapped up.

"We expect more funding to be authorized by the state legislature," said John Donahue, the WSDOT Project Manager. "We expect to start up again in July 2009 with the same committee members we have who represent local interests."

WSDOT working in conjunction with the local committee has narrowed the SR302 routing to six options: (1) A bridge following the power line diagonally across the Burley Lagoon to the existing intersection in Purdy. (2) A bridge across the lagoon at 144th Street to an interchange at SR16. (3) Down Spruce Road with an interchange at SR16. (4) Down Pine Road

with an interchange at SR16. (5) Down Pine Road with a partial interchange at the SR302 spur. (6) Bridge across the lagoon at 154th Street.

The six options were displayed at a public open house at the Burley Community Hall on Dec. 9. Also displayed was a possible new routing that has not been fully studied yet, for the western terminus of the routes under study using a portion of Powerline Road (144th Street).

At the Dec. 9 open house, Donahue was besieged with residents concerned with routings through their properties, and complaining that they had not received notice of the meetings. Donahue's response was "Notices are sent out to residents who receive mail in affected zip codes, including post office boxes. I will add your name to the list."

A group of residents from the north-western side of the Burley Lagoon were so concerned about the newly identified 144th Street option that they distributed opposition fliers at the Dec. 9 meeting. They did not have an identi-

fied spokesperson yet, and would not identify themselves.

At the committee meeting which followed the open house, another option was suggested for study using the existing SR302 right of way across the spit to construct a viaduct (like Seattle's Alaskan Way Viaduct) with flying ramps above the Purdy business area.

"Some individuals have suggested that a preferred routing has already been selected," said Donahue. "I assure you that is not so. It's my job to listen to and include all possible options for consideration and study. The engineers will take a preliminary look at the viaduct option in the next few days. Two additional routings were recently suggested following the December 9th meetings. They will also be developed and studied."

The state legislature will deal with a \$6 billion deficit when it meets in January.

"There is talk of additional funds coming from Washington D.C.," said Donahue, "but that also remains to be decided."

Breathe a sigh of relief

The Citizens Advisory Committee decided to recommend no increase for the Tacoma Narrows bridge tolls. The recommendation will be forwarded to the Transportation Commission, which will have the final say.

The committee is recommending that current rates of \$2.75 for electronic transponders, and \$4 for tollbooth customers be kept until 2010.

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NOVEMBER HOME SALES

Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula

	Sold Nov. 2007	Sold Nov. 2008	For Sale as of 11/17/2008
	46 Homes	40 Homes	865 for Sale
Highest	\$1,095,000	\$1,499,000	\$4,800,000
Lowest	\$145,000	\$62,000	\$57,500
Median	\$350,000	\$280,715	\$498,000



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EDITORIAL

Anyone who has traveled on the Key Peninsula Highway at Key Center or attempted to pull out from the stop sign at Cramer Road, or from Olson Drive, knows that Key Center needs a true traffic light.

For years travelers have made do with a blinking light at that intersection, and more recently the stop signs were installed. The blinking light seems a bit irrelevant now.

With so many cars traveling on that

roadway each day, it is obvious we've outgrown the current blinking light.

Between 6 and 8 a.m. it can be difficult to pull out from Cramer Road or Olson Drive, and the same is true for evening traffic. Getting across Key Peninsula Highway to or from the grocery store or the library is nearly impossible during those times.

There is a blind corner there, creating a traffic hazard. Speed is also a concern, and anyone who has spent some time at

the KC Corral and observed the traffic patterns can attest to the fact that the speed limit is ignored by most. Having the presence of the Pierce County Sheriff's department at O'Callahan's does help, but the fully functioning traffic light will help with traffic flow, and bring an element of safety that is needed at the intersection.

The traffic light project has been in the Key Peninsula Community Plan as a priority, and construction is scheduled to

begin in 2010.

Pierce County Public Works held a meeting at the Key Peninsula Civic Center to discuss the plans. Imagine, concrete curbs, gutters, sidewalks and a crosswalk with push buttons on all four corners of the intersection.

There are no plans for a four-lane highway, but the addition of a northbound and southbound left turn lane on Key Peninsula Highway will make life easier for everyone.

Township could be answer for Key Peninsula

One of my responsibilities with Key Peninsula Fire Department is to manage the injury prevention programs and work toward improved public safety. Since most of our incidents are medical aid, and a large part of our medical calls are associated with our roadways, I feel an obligation on my part to push for improved safety in respect to traffic and pedestrian facilities.

Several years ago a group of business owners looked into the incorporation of Key City and found the growth management act (GMA) wouldn't allow a rural area to incorporate. The area had to be within an urban growth area (UGA). Well nobody here really wanted to be an urban 'city' anyway, they just wanted a

voice, as we do now.

BY
**CHUCK
WEST**

Now you're asking yourself 'does the Key Peninsula need such a thing' or 'Can the Key Peninsula pay for such services?' Yes and Yes.

The population on the Key is estimated at 18,000 tax paying 'customers' of Pierce County. And we have a total assessed evaluation in 2008 of 2.4 billion dollars. If we were incorporated we would be the fifth largest municipality in Pierce County in population and value. So why haven't we been able to get a crosswalk in Key Center?

In property taxes alone just for the line item 'public works' the Key Peninsula will pay \$3.5 million in 2008. And that is just one of their funding sources for public works. For this we regularly receive about

\$1.5 million in road maintenance each year. The last public works project of any significance was the Home bridge replacement 12 years ago. It seems like we're losing about \$1.8 million every year just in public works.

In the county's six-year transportation plan we have just one safety related project funded, the intersection in Key Center. It's estimated at just over 1-million dollars. We pay for a project this size, or bigger, every year along with better maintenance. So, why only one project in six years?

If we incorporate, we get a voice. And more of the money stays here. Fortunately we aren't the only ones asking for changes. GMA needs several changes, so our chances of getting the ability to incorporate a rural area are

good. It would still take a vote of our citizens (customers, as I like to be called) and a thorough assessment of costs and taxes.

How we define a "Township" is open. It could read something like: "a rural area, geographically isolated area, separated from the governing body, with a tax base and population capable of supporting basic services".

This would protect the rural nature of our community while providing an ability to provide basic infrastructure and safety needs to the customers. Wouldn't it be great to utilize the term "customer" in our charter to set the stage for how government treats the taxpayer?

Chuck West is a Key Peninsula Fire Department Chief.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear KP News Editor,

The opinion of the Rick Sorrels' column that KP Community Council made changes to their by-laws that "effectively eliminate oversight to its members" is not correct. The KPCC would like members and Key Pen residents to know our new by-laws assure that members may conduct business at meetings just as they have since the by-laws were first

published in 2003.

As dry as by-laws may be, that assurance is in the language in 3.1.4 section on Meetings which reads: "Any meeting of the Members, for which proper notice has been given and for which a quorum is present, shall be entitled to conduct any business consistent with the agenda provided at the time of the meeting notice." Currently that membership quorum is 22, which is three-percent of the voting membership. With 12 KPCC directors present, any business can be conducted in the presence of 10 more members.

The KPCC is devoted to serving the Key

Peninsula by responding to the concerns and issues of members, residents and local organizations.

*Thank you,
Barbara Schoos, KPCC Secretary*

Editor, KP News

Since October, we have asked audience participants to bring non-perishable food to our events for the local food bank. As of December, these caring people have provided over 12 full grocery bags of food, toiletries and cash donations, a total value of over \$500. I am honored to live among people who

quietly assist without thought of praise. Recently food bank staff shared a need for animal feed, from dog & cat food to hay, chicken feed, straw bedding. We will continue our outreach request for donations of food, because the need has doubled, up this year by 175 families. I extend the hope of the new year to our members and communities of the Key Peninsula. May we keep hunger from our neighbors and the animals in their care. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

*Christine Fitzgerald, President
Friends of the Key Center Library*

Holiday Hangover

Key Peninsula, here's to a New Year filled with health, peace and happiness. The New Year is a great time to set new goals and resolves. Many of you have made resolutions to start managing your debt. Soon, the bills from holiday over-spending will come rolling in... You realize opening that new store account at the register to save 10 percent of your purchase is costing much more than you saved in the first place or that really great buy that you just couldn't pass up is now adding to your previous balance. You realize it may take months or longer to pay it down; ultimately costing so much that you would have passed it up had it been the sticker price. Welcome to the Holiday Hangover, the moment of realization, the moment of "what was I thinking", the moment of understanding how much deeper the debt hole became over the holidays.

If you are truly committed to

ANGELIQUE KNAPP WRITING FOR CHANGE



managing your debt, the best way for you to begin is by doing a household budget. Start by listing and adding up all of your income; paychecks, social security or disability payments, retirement income, child support payment and any other sources of income you may have. This will give you the total amount of money you have to spend each month. Next, list and add the amount of all of your monthly living expenses. This should include; Housing Costs (rent or mortgage, property taxes, insurance, and home maintenance and repairs), Transportation Costs (vehicle payments, insurance, bus fare, parking, tolls, ferry, maintenance and repairs, and fuel),

Food Costs (groceries, school lunch), Utility Expenses (water, sewer, garbage, gas, electricity, home phone, cell phone), Health Expenses (medical costs, dental, optical, prescription drugs, co pays), Personal Expenses (uniforms, clothing, laundry, dry cleaning, hair care, toiletries), Miscellaneous Expenses (child support, child care, education, dues, allowances clothing, union dues), Financial Expenses like credit or loan payments (for credit payments list the minimum payment for now) and Entertainment Costs (cable, satellite, internet, eating out, movie rentals, hobbies, activities, travel, smoking, drinking, gambling, etc). This will give you the total amount of your living expenses.

The moment of truth... subtract your total income from your total expenses. If you come up positive you have room to knock out any credit debt. Prioritize debt payments by highest interest rate to

lowest. Make the minimum payment to all the accounts and pay as much as possible to the highest rate credit account.

Once the account is paid in full include that payment with the next highest rate account and so on. This will accelerate the amount of time to pay off your debt and cost a lot less in interest. When the debt is paid in full start investing in you.

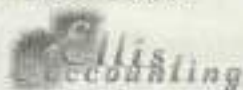
If you come up negative you must either increase your income or decrease your expenses. The best place to start cutting expenses is Entertainment Costs. You can also review your insurance coverage to reduce the amount you have or find more affordable insurance. If you continue to come up negative I recommend seeking a one-on-one financial evaluation with a credit counselor. Money trouble causes a great amount of stress and is the number one cause of separation and divorce. Take back control.

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Zero-Energy Homes on the KP

Over the coming years about 7,000 new buildings will be built on the KP, most of them houses. This growth trend has slowed with the collapsed real estate market, but will most likely continue when the market recovers. Across the country, most communities grow out of control. Developers build as fast as they can and build to the minimum code requirements of area regulations. Conventional construction means a lot of clear-cutting, then whipping up standard houses as cheaply as possible that are not built with efficient energy use in mind. What is ultimately built comes down to two key things: consumer demand and local building codes. Builders simply build to the minimum required codes in most cases. Demand-side, movements throughout the country signal a booming demand for sustainable homes, specifically for "zero-energy" homes. A zero-energy home is simply a home that creates as much electricity as it uses.

Energy costs, pollution, state legislation and federal tax cuts are all pushing progress forward, and now there is a wave of home and business owners that are building zero-energy homes with solar systems. Many new subdivisions are incorporating a zero-energy requirement as a standard feature. Some developers fought the measure, but the competitive ones see the value of it and of marketing their ability to build zero-energy homes. Some builders think the trend is now unstoppable, and that in five or 10 years, zero-energy and solar may well be standard on new construction nationally. Builders like Clarum Homes of Palo Alto, Calif. are on the rise, and builders who want to remain competitive should take notice. Clarum built Vista Montana, currently the nation's largest zero-energy home community. Vista Montana consists of 177 single family homes, 80 townhomes and 132 apartments. The designs that Clarum employs save each homeowner \$1,200 in electricity bills each year.

The number of zero-energy-competitive builders is growing. Customer feedback is positive, and the demand is rising. This is a good time to jump on board as a buyer, builder, or investor. But more importantly for us on the KP, it's a good time to look at our local building codes

KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



and development plans. We are fortunate enough to be able to predict that KP growth is coming. Other areas in Washington are already taking action. King County's first zero-energy community is slated to be finished by 2009, consisting of 10 townhomes in the median price range, located in Issaquah Highlands. Another Washington community is planned in the San Juans, on Lopez Island. Zero-energy homes tie in well with the culture on the KP, a place with a history of independent thinkers and self-sufficiency coupled with environmental awareness.

Zero-energy homes often make efficient — and esthetically appealing — use of fluorescent lighting; enhanced insulation; energy-efficient windows; tankless water heaters; efficient furnaces with programmable thermostats; reflective cooling roofs; tight seals throughout the home; Energy Star-rated appliances; and integrated solar PV systems ranging in size from 1.2 to 2.4 kw. Zero-energy homes are made using as many recycled materials as possible, including insulation from recycled paper, attractive counters from recycled tires, and framing materials recycled from plastic bottles for doors, decks, and window frames. There are more options for homeowners all the time. As this trend gains momentum, options will grow. And to top it off, the houses look great.

Washington state law helps interested communities meet their goals. If homeowners produce more energy than they use, utility companies credit their bills.

This is a requirement under Washington's net-metering law.

Generating solar power for the utility may also entitle people to \$2,000 a year under a recently-passed state law. Many programs and tax incentives tie into the Department of Energy's "Building America" program, which has incorporated efficient energy use building designs in the construction of over 33,000 homes nationally. With Obama in office, this trend will be even further amplified.

KEY PEN PARKS



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answers@keypenparks.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District is dedicated to serve our community and its citizens. We are deeply committed to the enhancement and preservation of our community's quality of life. In partnership with our citizens, we will always strive to provide and promote the highest quality leisure and recreation environment.

2008 Accomplishments

- Developed first neighborhood park in Home
- Successfully prepared applications with Trust for Public Land for Pierce County Conservation Futures (\$ 900,000) and State of Washington Recreation Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Funding Board (\$ 500,000) to purchase 39 acres on Taylor Bay in the amount of \$ 1.4 million
- Successfully prepared application with Key Peninsula Little League for State of Washington Recreation Conservation Office Youth Athletic Facility Grant in the amount of \$75,000 for improvements to Field 1
- Coordinated "Parks Appreciation Day" for Purdy Spit, Rocky Creek, Home Park, Taylor Bay Park, & Key Peninsula Civic Center in which volunteers donated over 200 hours of labor valued at over \$ 4000
- Redeveloped website www.keypenparks.com
- Created new logo
- In the process of purchasing property in the Minter Creek area.

2009 KEY PEN PARKS BUDGET APPROVED

The Board of Commissioners of Key Pen Parks approved resolution 2008-21 adopting a balanced budget for 2009. The budget allows for continued acquisition of additional available property for park development, and for maintenance of current parks and facilities with no increase in taxes for the 2009 tax year.

Basketball Skills Clinics Pre K-2nd at Key Peninsula Civic Center

Program focus is on basketball skill development (dribbling, passing, and shooting). Parent involvement is required. Scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all participants. Saturdays January 17 through February 28 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Registrations now being accepted at the Key Pen Parks office or by mail. Cost is \$ 39 per youth and includes shirt and basketball.



Mid-Winter Break Day Camp at Volunteer Park

Don't miss out on our newest crazy; MAD SCIENCE of the South Sound will be here for an exciting session of CRAZY CHEMISTRY from 9-12 pm. Come as we explore the fun, COLORFUL, CRAZY world of GHEMISTRY! With the help of molecular bonding, you will be able to create chalk, make a slimy concoction, and discover burping baggies-just for fun! You will create chalk and be taking it home!

Chemical reactions have never been so much fun! When: February 18th 9-4 pm; Ages: 6-10; Fee: \$45.00 (All day camp activities included) \$30.00 (Mad Science Session only, 9-12 pm); Space is limited; pre-registration is required prior to camp Registration forms are available at www.keypenparks.com



Changing of the Guard for KP service organizations

Staff Reports

Editor's Note: This information appeared on the Key Peninsula News website, www.keypennews.com in December.

Three Key Peninsula community organizations held elections in November to determine their executive board leadership for 2009: the Key Peninsula Community Council, the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, and the Longbranch Improvement Club elected officers. Executive Board elections for the Key Peninsula Community Services and Food Bank will be held in February. KPNews will report the election results.

KP Civic Center Association

Over two dozen members of the Civic Center association voted at their regularly scheduled second Thursday meeting in November to elect their Executive Board. Their 2009 slate of officers are:

President: Bruce Macdonald
First Vice President: Loyd Miller
Second Vice President: Phil Bauer
Treasurer: Doug Austin
Secretary: Holly Hendrick
At-large Executive, Number 1: Mark Roberts
At-large Executive, Number 2: Pat Medveckus

KP Community Council

After the election of new directors for the KP Community Council (KPCC), the directors elect their Executive officers who will serve for one year. The 2009 KPCC Board of Directors are:

2009 Board of Directors

Area 1: Jonathan Bill, Russ Humbred, and two vacancies

Area 2: Mike Baum, Donna Gates-Smeall, Barbara Trotter, Danna Webster

Area 3: Cinda Baldwin, Lance McMillan, Frank Shirley

Area 4: Christine Fitzgerald, Barbara Schoos, Robert Sprague

The directors elected Danna Webster, president; Mike Baum, vice president; Frank Shirley, treasurer; Barbara Schoos, secretary; and the 2008 president, Russ Humbred will serve as ex-officio for the executive board.

Longbranch Improvement Club

The LIC has a governing body of nine members. The whole regular membership votes to elect the governing board by chair or by office. Half of the Board is elected in November and half is elected in June. When the president serves two years in a row, as is the case this year, one Trustee at Large is elected to fill the nine member board. On Nov. 19, the membership elected two officers: Vice President and Secretary; and two trustees: Events Chair and Dock Chair. The members serving as officers are:

President: Dennis "Stu" Stuhang
Vice President: Pat Muchmore
Treasurer: Tim Heitzman
Secretary: Connie Hildahl

The five Trustees are:

Events Chair: Carolyn Wiley
Dock chair: Harry Faas
Building chair: Michael Hayes
Membership chair: Sue Stuhang
Trustee at large: Dave Wickland



KPCC: Frank Shirley, Russ Humbred, Danna Webster, Barbara Schoos, Mike Baum



KPCCA: Holly Hendrick, Pat Medveckus, Loyd Miller, Doug Austin, Ben Thompson, Bruce Macdonald, Phil Bauer, Mark Roberts



LIC Longbranch Improvement Club Executive Officers and Trustees for 2009. Front row: Carolyn Wiley, Connie Hildahl, Sue Stuhang. Back row: Dennis "Stu" Stuhang, Lynn Carr, Pat Muchmore, Tim Heitzman, Harry Faas. Not in the photo is trustee at large, Dave Wickland.

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Massimo brings Italian dining to Purdy

By Danna Webster, KPNews

After five years in Gig Harbor, the owners of the Terracciano restaurant have moved to the larger beachside location of the former Beach House restaurant in Purdy. Massimo's Bar and Grill opened Dec. 10.

When the couple was shopping for a restaurant location five years ago, the Beach House "was his (Massimo's) most favorite building but it was occupied," said co-owner, Cindy Terracciano. "Now we are right on the water. He is just ecstatic about this. Everybody knows this location. This building — I just love it. I love how it is so comfortable inside, so homey," she said.

Cindy and Massimo Terracciano worked many long weeks to ready the restaurant for opening. According to Cindy, the kitchen was ready before all the permits and furnishings were in place in the dining areas.

"Pierce County was not that bad and the liquor, health department and fire marshal were a breeze. It was very smooth



Chef Massimo Terracciano checks out the all-new kitchen appliances and cookware just before the December opening of Massimo's Bar and Grill in Purdy.

Photo by
Danna Webster

when it came to any of the county permits," she said.

Training sessions for the wait and bar staff were conducted the week prior to opening. Chef Massimo is joined in the kitchen by his son, Salvatore Terracciano, and former executive chef at the Oyster

Bay Inn in Bremerton, Chris Haberstock. "We do everything pretty much from scratch here," Massimo said. "(We use) fresh ingredients, local foods and make our own sausage, meatballs and bread."

Pizza is an option from the menu. Diners may also choose to begin with a

spinach caldi salad made with fresh spinach topped with sautéed prawns, roasted garlic, croutons, lemon juice and fresh parmesan; followed with a Penne Massimo pasta with mushrooms and Italian sausage in rosemary; and, though there are many fish entrees to choose from, some hearty beef appetites might try the Bistecca al Pepe Verde, a char-broiled New York steak in a brandy and green peppercorn sauce.

At the conclusion, there are dessert choices to wrestle with, such as Tiramisu, or Cassata Sicilliana.

Massimo attended culinary school at the Sorrento Culinary School of Naples, Italy. Cindy and Massimo met while Cindy's parents were stationed on military assignment in Naples and, after their marriage they lived in Italy for over a decade. Massimo worked at some of Naples finest restaurants, moved to Germany and worked in his brother's restaurant, and arrived in the Seattle area about nine years ago to be close to the retirement home of Cindy's parents, Ed and Kathy Reed of Olympia.

Directions to the restaurant and a full menu with prices may be seen on line at www.massimobarandgrill.com or phone (253) 514-6237 for information.

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Save Gas, Save Your Car

By Irene Torres, KP News

Jim Guinn, owner Absolute Auto Care on the KP Highway just north of Key Center, offered an interesting and helpful perspective on car care during an economic downturn.

"In these tough times, we're struggling too. We have cars. We understand," Guinn said. He expects that financial problems in the three major automobile manufacturers will be good for the auto repair industry, as fewer people buy new vehicles, and car dealerships close.

Guinn said he was born into the auto repair business. His father owned two service stations, and later purchased an auto parts and electrics store, for commercial and domestic vehicles. His father insisted on being independent from the major chains, and remained totally independent throughout his

career, as Guinn has done. He shares his father's belief about being independent.

"The only thing you have behind you is your good name," he said. "The best thing about that is that you can sleep at night, knowing you're not trying to get an extra \$5 or \$7, or an extra hour of labor out of your customers. It's sometimes a bad thing when you have to go to a shop (for car repair), but it doesn't have to be a bad experience."

Though it may be tempting to put off spending on car maintenance, Guinn said by taking care of the vehicle, customers will save money in the future.

"Most people are a little lost, not knowing what to do in this economy," Guinn said. "I recommend saving \$50 a month in a car repair fund, then you'll be ready. Preventive maintenance will extend the life of the car, and save money in the long run," he said.

He recommends a once-over, to get an

idea of the condition of the car, and working with a certified service technician to make a plan to prioritize the vehicle's needs.

"It's my goal to provide good, honest, and comprehensive auto repair, one-on-one service," Guinn said. "I love my customers. A good relationship with a professional car repair shop is the key — just like it is with your health care provider. In the 1980's Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole said an automotive technician has to know more written text than a physician."

Communication and trust are important when developing a relationship with customers, he said.

"Our customers have the ability to talk directly with the service technician. I've found that spending a little extra time with our customers, to inform them, helps them feel more comfortable. We just remodeled our waiting room and I

ordered posters to show 'blow-up' diagrams of the most critical systems in the car."

He said that helps the customer understand exactly what is wrong with the car, and how it can be remedied.

Service tips he recommends include running a good quality formulated gasoline, like Shell, Texaco, or Chevron.

"Cheaper fuels leave an ugly residue and clog the fuel injection system, reducing fuel efficiency by as much as 5 to 20 cents a gallon." He also suggests keeping the vehicle tuned up, running the proper spark plugs recommended by the manufacturer of the car. This is important because newer vehicles seem to be very, very sensitive to the heat range. "You can see it on the computer," he said.

Another recommendation is to maintain correct tire pressure.

"This is the biggest mileage booster, about 1 mile per gallon," he said.

Regular oil changes using a good quality oil filter are important to extend the life of the car's engine. Guinn recommends changing oil every 3,000 to 4,000 miles or 5,000 miles if synthetic oil is used. Guinn noted that chain auto stores train their employees to find things, anything, to be replaced—known as up-selling — to maximize profits for their owners.

Absolute Auto Care performs service at intervals as recommended by the factory, but they perform an abbreviated version to address the most critical factors, at considerably less cost than a dealership.

Absolute Auto Care is a member of the Automotive Services Association, the largest independent service association for auto repair shops. All their technicians are certified through Automobile Service Excellence (ASE). The shop is a Better Business Bureau member.

2009 BUDGETS APPROVED

By Rick Sorreis, Special to the KP News

It's budget time for the various local governments. Below are their approved 2009 budgets, compiled from budget documents.

	2008	2009	change
City of Tacoma	\$1,304,776,229	\$1,411,918,970	up 1%
Pierce County	863,155,082	854,485,811	down 1%
Peninsula School District	100,623,961	101,933,936	up 1%
City of Gig Harbor	70,003,490	50,161,318	down 28%
Pierce County Library	27,630,796	29,120,826	up 5%
FD5, Gig Harbor	15,680,899	18,886,445	up 20%
FD16, Key Pen	4,464,932	4,774,181	up 7%
Gig Harbor Parks	2,733,733	3,851,878	up 41%
Key Pen Parks	767,136	847,633	up 10%



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Food Bank recovering from multiple robberies

By Sharon Hicks

The Key Peninsula Community Center Food Bank took a hit three times in the past year when gasoline was stolen from their two vans. These are used to make bi-weekly runs to Tacoma to the emergency food network and to Gig Harbor grocery stores for donations to feed the 270 families in need on the peninsula. The two vans are parked behind the building in a compound with barbed wire. The last hit was the middle of October when the two vans happened to be parked outside the compound that night.

When Kevin Canavan, owner of Birch Electric, heard this on King 5 News he decided something had to be done. Birch Electric donated two security cameras and Joe Asher of Stoneway Electric Supply donated a third camera to be used indoors.

Penny Gazabet, director of the Community Center, wants the public to know that something has been done to



Photo by Sharon Hicks

Jeff Olson of Birch Electric, and Penny Gazabet, director of the Community Center prepare for installation of the security cameras.

alleviate this problem. The cameras don't see darkness so 24/7 they will shine a clear-crisp picture of anyone on the property, she said.

Thrift Store needs additional donations of infant clothing

By Marilyn Newton,
Special to the KP News

The Seahawk Academic and Vocational Education Thrift Store, which is operated by the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund, needs donations of infant clothing. Kris Hohensee, the SAVE store manager, reports that the consignment store that supplied baby clothing is no longer filling the shelves, leaving the shop in need of these goods.

The thrift store, founded in 1985, is part of the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund, which is a chapter of Dollars for Scholars.

While profits from the store go toward scholarships and to school activity groups that staff the store, the shop provides opportunities for student volunteers that go beyond revenue.

In addition to helping customers and running the cash register, they

sort and price items, stock shelves, and clean and straighten the store. The students gain valuable community service experience and work skills to add to their resumes, she said.

Activity groups staff the store and earn a percentage of the proceeds to support their activities.

Kris Hohensee describes working with the students as an "incredible experience...they are awesome, amazing."

The store could not operate without volunteers. While there is a core of regulars that help out during school hours more help is always welcome. You do not need to have a student in a group to volunteer. Donations of clothing, especially infant clothing, and small household items are always welcome. And, of course, shoppers are greatly appreciated.

Store hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information, call 253-857-2800, or email savethriftstore@netzero.net.

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Dan says, most everyone has a "box of stuff." Dan had impressed the locals with his talent, restoring these films and slides by putting them onto DVD for folks. And they look great!

It is truly amazing to watch this guy work. He is a very warm person to work with.

Dan has a great way of making an old film look new again. The restoration tools that Dan uses are state of the art, for a fraction of the cost of a commercial lab. Your memories will spring back to life and your family will love the results.

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about Dan Towey? He is a local here, and has a un-canny talent to organize and save your memories.

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Pierce County Reads begins this month

"Three Cups of Tea,"
chosen for this year's Pierce
County Reads program

By Marsha Hart, KP News

All across Pierce County people will have the opportunity to read the same book Jan. 5 through March 28, and participate in a plethora of activities that surround the second annual Pierce County Reads program. The book for this year's event is "Three Cups of Tea," by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

"When we did this in 2008 we had 8,000 checkouts in the Pierce County library system alone," said Mary Getchell, communications director of Pierce County Library system. "This concept was launched by the Seattle public library, and other libraries have taken it on. Our partner is the News Tribune and we have a sponsor for our program, Key Foundation. Of course that is important

to us, that we have the generous donation of a sponsor."

A committee looks at thousands of titles, and chooses a book that will appeal to the most people, she said.

"What comes off the table are genre books," Getchell said. "This book has been on the best seller list since 2007, but a lot haven't read it. Some will select authors who aren't living, but it's important to us that they are living and can speak and appeal to a wide range."

By having the opportunity to see and hear the author, Getchell said readers are more engaged in the program.

The book is about Greg Mortenson's failed expedition in Pakistan. He gets lost, sick, and is brought back to health by the community, and wants to repay them somehow. He sees that with education and literacy they would be able to help themselves. And he was especially endeared by the little girls, and promised to build them a school. He began building schools in early 2000 and now has built more than 85 schools. He created an organization called Central

Asian Institute. He changed his whole lifestyle, and emphasizes how helping these nations become more literate can help society as whole.

"We want the book to be readable and discussable," she said. "This book is huge on volunteerism, and has elements of mountaineering."

The Key Center library will be bringing in henna tattoo artist Krysteen

Lomonaco for a demonstration Feb. 7 at 10 a.m., and a guided discussion on March 26 at 7 p.m. David Oliver Relin will speak at Cloverpark Technical College in the Sharon McGavick Conference Center March 14 at 7 p.m.

For more information visit Pierce County READS @ www.piercecountylibrary.org/reading-books/2009-pierce-county



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Dogs, inmates make great teams

November's Prison Pet Partnership Program graduation ceremonies at the Washington Corrections Center for Women, Kelli Sullivan of Bremerton with her dog Karma, Cheryl Marks of Olympia with her service dog, Alaska, and Kayla Rochelle of Bremerton with Stella, pose happily together.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



by Hugh McMillan, KP News

In November, the Prison Pet Partnership Program at the Washington Corrections Center for Women held another of its graduation ceremonies. This is where and when service dogs trained under the program by qualified inmates working closely with the people who need the assistance of the animals achieve working relationships and "graduate" together.

Cheryl Marks of Olympia, one of the recipients, spoke of the first service dog she got from the PPPP.

"We were together about eight years and we were a very busy team," said Marks. "Not only did we work at my full time job but we did a lot of public appearances and a lot of interviews to let people know about service dogs."

"The week we trained at the prison, a TV news crew from Chile was there and they filmed the training and also asked to come and film me during my daily activities (with the service dog). This was shown on a 20/20 type news show in Chile. We also had gone to local elementary schools to speak about service dogs. We were also interviewed on radio."

Marks proudly stated, "My service dog received an American Red Cross Real Hero Award after the Red Cross read about us in a newspaper article describing how my service dog rescued me from my office building after the earthquake in 2001."

"My reasons for doing appearances or public relations is so that people will know what service dogs can do to allow people to have independent and active lives where normally they wouldn't be able to leave their home as was the case

for me at one time. And also so they will know that there are other working dogs besides guide dogs."

Another graduate, Kelly Sullivan of Bremerton, accepted as her new helpmate, Karma.

Sullivan said her first PPPP-provided service dog was Mocha who retired after serving her for 10 years. Sullivan's dogs pick up items that are dropped, and hand her the ringing telephone among other things, she said.

"I knew what Mocha was thinking," Sullivan said. "The terrier in Mocha made her sometimes difficult to control."

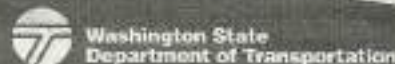
Kayla Rochelle of Bremerton, also a graduate, bonded with "Stella" who serves as a therapeutic friend who helps with Rochelle's anxiety and stress disorder. Rochelle and Stella have been together for three months. "I'm really happy to have her," said Rochelle.

WCCW inmate trainer, Alvinita Stewart, said her first dog training experience with PPPP was with "Stella." "I've been with the program two years," said Stewart, "and I'm learning a lot about dogs." Stewart is now training Ocean.

Teresa Gaethe has been with PPPP as an inmate trainer of service dogs for four and a half years. "I now have a focus in life," she said. "I can do something meaningful even though I'm in here. I'm learning communication skills. I can't say enough about Beth (Rivard, PPPP's Executive Director) who is so wonderful and with us all the way encouraging us to do well, to know that we can succeed."

Over the years, PPPP has been featured on most national TV systems, usually with a presentation lasting at least a half hour.

For more information on the PPPP, call 253-851-9752.



Washington State
Department of Transportation

SR 302 – Corridor Study Scoping Open House

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has issued a "notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement" and "determination of significance" for the State Route (SR) 302 Corridor Study. The official National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) scoping period will begin on Jan. 2, 2009 and end on February 13, 2009. We are particularly interested in comments on the purpose and need for the project and the range of alternatives that will be evaluated.

To be included in the "official" scoping report, your comments must be received between Jan. 2, 2009 and Feb. 13, 2009. You may submit comments via e-mail, by phone, or by fax, or in writing by attending the following scheduled public scoping meeting:

Time: 4-7 p.m.,

Date: Monday, Jan. 12, 2009

Place: Key Peninsula Civic Center
17010 South Vaughn Rd. KPN, Vaughn, WA 98394

Contact Information:

John Donahue, WSDOT Project Manager

Phone: 360-357-2788, E-mail: donahjo@wsdot.wa.gov, Fax: 360-357-2748

For more information, visit:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR302/NewCorridor/

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) information: The meeting site is accessible to persons with disabilities. Accommodations for people with disabilities can be arranged with advance notice by calling Debbie Clemen, WSDOT, (360) 769-3304.

Title VI Statement of Public Involvement: WSDOT ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For questions regarding WSDOT's Title VI Program, you may contact the Department's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7068.



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COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Jan. 5, 12, 19, & 26 – Bloodmobile dates set

The bloodmobile will be at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. It will also be at the Peninsula Light Company Jan. 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See the calendar at www.keypennews.com for other dates and locations.

Jan. 11 & 24 – Farm workshops offered

The Pierce Conservation District will be holding two small farm workshops. The first one on Jan. 11 from 12 to 2 p.m. will allow participants to tour a small Gig Harbor farm which has installed several best management practices to make winter chores easier, including no mud paddocks and an inexpensive composting system. Different fencing for different farm applications will also be discussed.

On Jan. 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. the popular mud, manure and pasture workshop will be held at the fire station in Home. A classroom powerpoint presentation will allow participants to see how the three components come together to improve farm production. A class notebook is provided to each participant to help guide improvements along the way.

Register for these free classes by contacting Erin at 884-9474 or erine@piercecounyted.org.

Jan. 24 – Drama group presents

Longbranch Improvement Club is hosting a performance by the Evergreen Elementary After Hours drama group. Dennis Stuhau, 884-3685 or suestu@centurytel.net.

Jan. 24 – Baseball & Fastpitch sign-ups

Key Peninsula Little League's main registration day for players for the 2009 season is Jan. 24, from 10am to 3 pm at Volunteer Park. Baseball and fastpitch programs are available for players between the age of 5 and 18. Bring three proofs of residency and a birth certificate to be

looked at and returned at registration. For more information call Deanna at 857-4832 or eteanz.com/keypeninsulalittleleague.

Jan. 25 – Farmers Market meeting

An informational meeting about the 2009 season of the Key Peninsula Farmers Market will be held at 4 p.m. in the Key Center Library. Anyone who is interested in participating in the second season of the farmers market is requested to attend. Market Rules and applications will be available for new vendors; all applications are due by May 1. Contact Holly, Manager@kpfarmersmarket.org or 884-1088.

Tuesdays – Baby story times

Baby Explorer Story Time held at 11 a.m. for babies, ages 0-24 months, accompanied by an adult, at the Key Center Library. Join in with your child and enjoy fun books, action rhymes, knee bouncers, songs and more. 884-2242.

Wednesdays – Family story times

Family Story Time held at Key Center Library at 11 a.m. for preschool-aged children accompanied by an adult. Enjoy fun with picture books, songs, finger-plays and movement games at Key Center Library. 884-2242.

Now – Free GED class

A free GED class, for students wanting to get a GED, is offered on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Home Fire Station. Continuous enrollment enables students to enter the class at any time during the quarter. Attendance is mandatory once enrolled. Students must have a valid Washington State picture ID to take the official GED test and students under 19 must get a high school release. Winter quarter is Jan. 6 through March 12 and spring quarter is March 31 through June 4.

Contact Linda Creswell, ABE Program Coordinator, TCC, Gig Harbor; 466-2355

Now – Water aerobics offered

Monday, Wednesday and Friday water aerobic classes are offered from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Easter Seal pool, where the water is 90 degrees. To register call Donna at 884-4473 or donnasdaily@gmail.com. Classes are also available on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:20 to 10:20 a.m. Call Laurie, 884-2722.

Now – Register for youth basketball

Key Pen Parks is offering basketball clinics for pre-K through 2nd grade children to be held on Saturdays from Jan. 17 to Feb. 28 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Second grade is 9 to 9:50 a.m., first grade is 10 to 10:50 a.m., kindergarten is 11 to 11:50 a.m., and pre-kindergarten is noon to 12:50 p.m. Cost is \$39/youth and includes a shirt and basketball. Scholarships are available. A minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 for each age group allowed. To pre-register, call Chad, 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com or find form at www.keypenparks.com.

Jan. & Feb. – Meditation class held

A free meditation class is being offered on Thursdays, Jan. 8 & 15 and Feb. 12 & 26 at the Key Center Library from 7 to 8 p.m. All are welcome to come for an hour of meditation using simple relaxation techniques, contemplation, and guided imagery. Quiet your mind, feel more refreshed and open to life. Facilitator, Melody Long, 857-5462 or durgama@spiritone.com.

Feb. 7 – Get a tattoo

The Friends of the Key Center Library present a Pierce County READS event, Mehndi Madness, at the Key Center Library on from 2 to 5 p. m. Come and learn the fine art of henna painting from

Krysteen Lomonaco and receive a temporary tattoo. Preregistration required. Donations for the Key Peninsula Food Bank encouraged. 425-712-8423 or 884-2242.

Jan. 17 – Teen Dance

Chase away January blues at the Sound Byte Teen Dance. The Key Peninsula Civic Center will host a teen dance Jan. 17 from 7 p.m. to midnight. Dr. Derek and DJ Kip will pump out the techno and R&B tunes, and there will be a glow-sticking contest with prizes. Pre sale \$7, \$10 at the door. For more information visit www.kpciviccenter.org.

Mondays – TOPS meets

TOPS #1019, Vaughn, meets at Fire station #5 at Wright-Blass Rd and Hwy. 302 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone 8 years and up is welcome. All meetings have a program. 884-4102.

Tuesdays – TOPS meets

TOPS # 1325 meets at 9 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church on the corner of Key Peninsula Hwy. and Lackey Rd. Free childcare, fun and support are provided. 884-2554.

Thursdays – Senior Society meets

The Key Peninsula Senior Society, aka Yesterday's Teenagers, meet at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck, fellowship and games at the Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981.

Now – Tickets for Feast or Famine

Ticket are available for the Feast or Famine held Feb. 24, at the Longbranch Improvement Club. This event will benefit the Key Peninsula Food Bank. Look for more details in the February issue of the KP News. For details contact, Vicki Biggs, vicki@keypeninsula.com, Penny Gazabat, kpsdirector@centurytel.net or Carolyn Wiley, c.wiley@mac.com.

Bus driver, some students assist victims of KP accident

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Editor's Note: Names of injured minors have been withheld from this story.

December brought hazardous road conditions, but in the case of the following account of a November accident, not a single snowflake had fallen.

Key Peninsula Fire Department Division Chief Guy Allen wrote, "On Tuesday, Nov. 25, we were dispatched at 06:57 to a vehicle crash into a tree on Key Peninsula Highway North at 102nd Avenue." Allen added that this was also erroneously reported to be at KPHN and Minterwood Drive a couple hundred feet farther down the highway.

"It was a single vehicle with four high school aged occupants," said Allen.

The vehicle left the roadway for an undetermined reason and crashed into a tree. One patient suffered multiple fractures and another had blunt trauma to the chest and stomach area. All four were transported to Tacoma trauma hospitals, two by KPF, one by Gig Harbor FD, and one by Kitsap District 7 (Port Orchard).

Henderson Bay High School student, Will Britten, 16, received his original First Aid CPR card from the KPF while in Boy Scout Troop 222. He said he, "just

renewed my card at West Sound Tech this last summer."

Britten was on the school bus on his way to school when the bus suddenly stopped.

"I saw my driver,

Candy White, quickly get out of her seat. A woman had come running up to the bus door looking frantic.

When the driver opened the door the woman yelled, "The car is on fire and there are kids stuck inside!"

Candy quickly grabbed her fire extinguisher, and three of us, Jeremy Geer from PHS, Patrick Mirenta from HBHS and myself, jumped up and followed her. I saw a girl on the road holding her leg screaming, "I broke my leg!"

White extinguished flames in the engine compartment. The boy who had been in the car wishes to remain anonymous. He said he was trapped but managed to kick out the rear window behind the driver's seat and drag himself out of the vehicle.

"Just then," wrote Britten, "the boy who had been in the car yelled at me for help. I quickly ran to him and found a girl with

her head stuck between the passenger window and door. I asked her if she was injured and she said she was just stuck.

"I looked for a way to break the glass without causing her injury. I pulled on the glass causing it to shatter and freeing the girl's neck. I saw Patrick and Jeremy helping her safely away from the car. Patrick took off his jacket to cushion her head."

Britten said he and Patrick helped her and another girl who was trying to climb out the back window. He acted quickly, not knowing if the fire in the engine compartment may reignite.

"We all worked together to keep the two girls we pulled out of the car awake and warm," said Geer. "I would like to give credit to my Dad for making me the person I am and giving me the confidence and the strength to stay calm and help others when I can."

Geer is enrolled in the delayed entry program for the US Marine Corps and will be headed for boot camp after graduation from PHS.

Chief Allen said, "The guys tell me that the call went really well. Great mutual aid response from Gig Harbor and Kitsap County. The road was only blocked for about 50 to 60 minutes."



BRITTEN



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Candy White, Peninsula School District bus driver, used her bus' fire extinguisher to stop a fire in a vehicle with four persons entrapped at an accident scene on the Key Peninsula

You can see the full version of this story on our website at www.keypennews.com

OFF THE KEY

Jan. 3 - Art walk

The January Gig Harbor Art Walk is held from 1 to 5 p.m. in downtown Gig Harbor. 857-4842

Jan. 21 - Welcome Club social

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club will sponsor a Newcomer Social from 3 to 5 p.m. at Spinnaker Ridge Club House, 6799 Spinnaker Lane, Gig Harbor. Contact Roselyn Knowlden, 853-4999

Jan. 16 to 30 - Theatre production

The Paradise Theatre is presenting "To Kill a Mocking Bird" on Fridays and Saturdays, Jan. 16, 17, 23, 24, and 30 at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, Jan. 18 and 25 at 3 p.m. Contact 851-PLAY for tickets.

Jan. 23, 24, 25 - Women's conference

The Steppin' Up Women's Leadership Conference will be held at the Wesley Inn. The hours on Friday are 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$159 per person. For reservations call Ginger Braaten, 858-9690.

Jan. 25 - PYO concert

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra presents the Winter Concert at 7 p.m. on stage at the Harbor Covenant Church (5601 Gustafson Dr., Gig Harbor).

PYO is accepting mid-season auditions and registrations from experienced string musicians from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15. Contact Paula at the Peninsula Youth Orchestra, 253-534-5384 or info@harborpyo.org www.harborpyo.org

JANUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Peninsula School District Board, Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m. regular meeting at Discovery Elementary, 4905 Rosedale St, Gig Harbor;
- Jan. 22, study session, 6:30 p.m.

at district office, 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor

- KP Metro Parks meetings, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, Jan. 13 and 27, 3 p.m. at Lakebay Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, Jan. 14, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library

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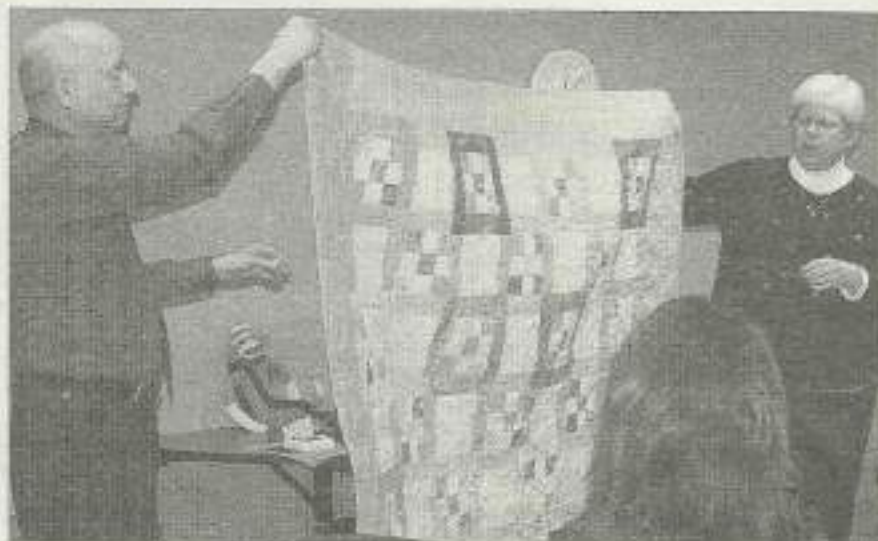
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Deputy Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto and Assistant Superintendent Shannon Wiggs display a handmade quilt during the live auction.



Margaret Ellingson from Accounts Payable and Joe McCrary from the Print Shop check out the items offered for the silent auction.

District Office Campus Helps Others During the Holidays

Peninsula School District staff from the District Office, Transportation Department and Facilities & Maintenance have been enjoying a tradition for many years. Every year during December, staff members hold a fundraising event that benefits the local community.

The recent luncheon auction raised more than \$2,500, which will be equally shared with Gig Harbor's FISH food bank and the Key Peninsula Community Services' food bank.

"This year, our community is hurting more than ever," says Assistant Superintendent Shannon Wiggs. "We try to make the auction fun, and we raise money for a good

cause." The tradition started out as an effort by District Office staff to raise money for families needing help with utilities and other basics. Since then, the annual auction has raised thousands of dollars for various local causes.

District employees donate the items for the silent and live auction, and some of the most sought after items are handmade by them or family members. Among the contributors is Wiggs' 85-year-old father, who for many years has donated his now-infamous peanut and cashew brittle.

This year's offerings included two beautiful quilts, beaded jewelry, goodie baskets, coffee, decorative

gifts and more. In addition to bidding for items, auction participants gave "bids" in forms of donation checks for the food banks. Sodexo, the district's food services contractor, also donated the luncheon ticket money to the cause. The 2008 event collected nearly double the amount of last year.

The auction is among several charitable contributions spearheaded by district staff. Another project during the holiday season collects gifts for children in need that are then distributed by a local nonprofit organization. This year, the nonprofit organization is holding a "Santa store" where registered parents can come in and "shop" for their kids themselves.

Inclement Weather/Emergency Situations

In the event of an emergency situation such as water, power, heat failure or sudden change in weather conditions after the regular school day has begun, emergency bus routes may be used to take students home. During such an emergency, you will receive

instructions from your school Principal or by radio/TV concerning a plan for delivering students home. Each family should have a plan covering what to do when students arrive home in emergency situations; i.e., daycare providers, phone contacts, house

keys, neighbors, etc. ECEAP, Pre-school, and Kindergarten students will be returned to school if not met by a parent or a designated representative at the bus stop. Other elementary students who do not feel comfortable exiting the bus at their emergency stop will also be returned to school. For questions please call your student's school.

January Events

- 1-2 No school - Winter Break.
- 8 School Board Retreat at District Office 4:00 p.m.
- 19 No school - Martin Luther King Day observed
- 22 School Board Study session 6:00 p.m. at District Office

Parent Meetings:

Math Standards and New Resources followed by 2009 Replacement Levy Facts

Evergreen	Jan. 13 @ 6pm
Minter	Jan. 12 @ 6:30pm
Vaughn	Jan. 12 @ 5:30pm
Key Peninsula	Jan. 12 @ 7:30pm
*Henderson	Jan. 14 @ 6pm
Peninsula	Jan. 14 @ 6pm

*Henderson parents to meet at PHS

PSD Facilities

Great schools are great gathering places for the community. This last year, Peninsula School District facilities were open to community groups and volunteer organizations for over 54,000 hours, providing an invaluable resource to our community. Some of the most common uses of school facilities included:

- Youth Sports and Fitness Activities
- Public Meetings and Hearings
- Club Meetings
- Civic and cultural events
- Gatherings and celebrations

For detailed information visit Facilities @ PSD: www.facilities.psd401.net or call Donna Ness 253-857-8105.

General Fund

The General Fund is for the District's annual operations.

Education is provided to over 9,000 students by 600 certificated and 300 classified staff members. General Fund monies come from the following revenues:

Local NonTax	3.8%
Local Levy	17.8%
Federal	4.5%
State	72.9%
Other	1%

Haley Totem Pole

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The totem pole on the Haley property on the west side of the peninsula attracts admiration, curiosity, and some speculative stories.

Ted Haley of Chicago had a good friend in Tacoma who carved totem poles among other things. "Because he liked to carve," says Haley. The late Dinwiddie Fuhrmeister, who worked with the Tacoma News Tribune for many years, was the carver. He carved this particular pole for Haley and his wife, Peggy. He gave it to them in 1970, about two years before Peggy died of cancer. The carving depicts the four Haley children.

"You can see them if you look closely," says Haley.

Peter Haley, son of Ted, further explains the symbolism.

The mother bear near the bottom of the pole holds her four children. Their genders and personalities are quite visible. Farther up the pole are three suns and a crescent moon.

"That represents three sons and a

daughter, too," says the younger Haley.

Below Mother Bear is a frog of fertility, facing down. Above the mother bear's head is a tipi, a pun on the initials of Ted and Peggy. On one side is a staff with a serpent entwined around it. Not only is this a Western symbol of medicine, but a Native American one, too.

"Fuhrmeister liked to use Indian symbolism," says Peter Haley.

The uppermost figure on the pole is the Raven, a masculine symbol that represents wisdom. Tucked in his wings is a dogfish, the symbol of skillful politics or relationships. Ted Haley was a surgeon in Tacoma until sometime in the 1980s, says his son. Then he quit his practice, and traveled around the world, doing medical work. He practiced later at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, where he recently retired as the University of Illinois School of Medicine administrator after 10 years.

"We had a big party when we put (the totem pole) up," he says. They invited many guests to help celebrate the raising of the pole that summer. They invited some Native Americans to give a dance, while the family

and guests dressed in native attire, too.

"Everybody had a lot of fun," the elder Haley recalls.

Son Peter, a photographer for the Tacoma Tribune, says they made the society page in the Tribune. He feels close ties to the peninsula, and designed a masthead for the Key Peninsula News in the 1970s.

Ted Haley recently turned 88, and looks forward to spending his retirement years on the Key Peninsula with his wife Roselle, where he can look out at his totem pole every day, he says.



Photo by Peter Haley, 1976

This totem pole, erected in 1974, looks out from the Haley Beach property over Case Inlet on Puget Sound. It was carved by Dinwiddie Fuhrmeister and tells the story of Ted and Peggy Haley and their four kids.

Help us plan your future

Please join us to review proposed Bus PLUS service changes on the Key Peninsula, including reduced off-route travel distances. Possible changes to Route 100 will also be discussed. Your input is appreciated.



Monday, January 5th
6-7pm
Gig Harbor Civic Center
3510 Grandview Street
Gig Harbor

Wednesday, January 7th
4-5:30pm
Key Center Library
8905 Key Peninsula Hwy N
Lakebay



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If you are unable to attend a public meeting and would like to provide input, please contact Jean Archer, senior planner, at 253.983.3329



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Margo Macdonald

By Jerry Libstaff,
Special to the KP News

Margo Macdonald is one of the Peninsula's most engaged artists and supporter of the arts. She says, "I've been involved in creating art my entire life." She pursued art from grade school throughout high school and after



The Genuine
ARTICLE

graduation attended the Baniff School of Fine Art. From there she went on to major in fine arts at the University of Puget Sound. Her next chapter led to the Rhode Island School of Design where she furthered her studies in painting and drawing.

Though Macdonald is extremely talented, she chose not to pay dues for several years as a "starving artist in a New York loft." She chose, instead, to inspire

others to follow their passions and so returned to the University of Puget Sound where she majored in Elementary Art Education. Macdonald says her motivation comes from people who claim they, "could never do that!" She says, "Everyone has the potential to create. You should never separate yourself from your creative happiness."

When her daughter became a toddler, she had to limit her dye pots on the stove and the oils left out for projects. Weaving became a genre she could start and then break from when she was needed. She says, "It's very conducive to being a parent." She began creating images in her weaving. The work progressed into extremely intricate and beautiful tapestries.

Macdonald says, "Painting and tapestry creation develop very similar results, however, the processes are extremely different. When painting, you have the flexibility to work across the entire canvas and if something doesn't look right, you can go back and change what you've already done."



Photo courtesy of Jerry Libstaff

Margo Macdonald demonstrates the art of weaving in her KP home.

Macdonald likens the tapestry movement to the glass arts of the 1970's. Not everyone is aware of the impact the work has and galleries aren't completely attentive to what is available, however, as people see what can be done, they want to see more. Macdonald encourages everyone to explore their artistic talents. She instructs art to middle and upper school classes at Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma.

Macdonald's work is online at: www.margomacdonald.com and www.pacificintapestries.com. Her work is also on display at Robert Daniel gallery.

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(From KEY CENTER, Page 1)

resources supervisor, said.

The project, which was identified as a "premier priority" in the Key Peninsula Community Plan, includes:

- Adding a single northbound and southbound left turn lane on Key Peninsula Highway.

- Widening the existing roadway to include concrete curbs, gutters, sidewalks and paved shoulders on all legs at the intersection. Crosswalks with pedestrian push buttons and streetlights will also be installed at all four corners of the intersection.

- Improving the existing enclosed storm drain system and adding stormwater treatment facilities.

- Replacing the existing flashing beacon traffic signal system with a new fully actuated traffic signal system that will detect and respond to traffic demand on all present streets and assign the right-of-way, as needed.

"I think it's a great thing for everybody," Greg Cahalan, owner of O'Callahan's said. "People think it's

going to affect me the most — but it's not. I think for Key Center, it is an outstanding thing. What they're going to do is buy a small piece of that corner, so we can revamp the 'Welcome to Key Center' sign. It's going to be a great community project. You're going to come into a little burg that has all this great stuff. I like it, I like it."

The cost of the project is estimated at \$1.86 million to be paid from county funding and a state grant. \$1.33-million of the cost would be allocated for construction, with the remaining \$261,000 and \$260,000 for engineering and right-of-way respectively. Right-of-way acquisition is expected to begin in January 2009. Construction is expected to begin in late spring 2010.

The project design does not preclude future landscaping or streetscape amenities, including accommodating a future gateway sign near the southwest corner. For continued updates on the project design, visit www.piercecountywa.org/crp, or contact Patrick Baughman, P.E., at 253-798-3157 or patrick.baughman@co.pierce.wa.us.

(From WINTER, Page 1)

on Dec. 22.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Johnny Burg, who works at the Seattle weather station, said the record one-day snowfall total was set on Jan. 20, 1943, when Minter Creek reported 14.7 inches. The one-month record total snowfall was 28.5 inches.

"We have spotted reports from across the area, but this is a pretty hefty dump of snow," Burg said. "People need to be aware of basic safety when we have a storm. Only travel if you need to, and don't leave pets outside."

The Key Peninsula got a taste of what was to come when a winter storm descended and had schools on a two-hour delay Dec. 15 and 16, but school was canceled the rest of the week when more snow came in the night of Dec. 16. It only got worse as initial reports called for hurricane force winds the weekend before Christmas, along with possible freezing rain. The Key Pen was spared, and instead saw a deep blanket of snow just in time for the holiday.

Accidents were reported throughout Pierce County, and a car slid off the road on the Purdy sand spit and ended up in

“

The most common calls we're getting now are slips and falls and people breaking bones.

— Guy Allen

”

the bay. The accident was reported at 11:36 a.m. Dec. 18. No injuries were reported, said Brandy Kessler, a Washington State Patrol trooper.

An injury accident on Key Peninsula Highway and 302 on Dec. 17 set the tone. Dec. 18 saw three accidents, including the one on the Purdy spit, and another five minutes later in the Wauna curves, said Guy Allen, division chief for Fire District 16.

"The most common calls we're getting now are slips and falls and people breaking bones," Allen said. "People need to be extra careful, and as the weather changes and it warms a little bit, people will get comfortable with driving and tend to speed up."

Go online to www.keypennews.com for more stories.



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Letter from the Fire Chief

As the 2008 service year comes to a close, the Key Peninsula Fire Department will have answered over 1900 calls for assistance. At the time of this writing our responses activity was at 1887 and climbing. Of these calls 1363 were requests for medical assistance or approximately 72% of our alarms. Over 900 trips have been made to local emergency rooms transporting sick or injured patients off the Key Peninsula.

In addition to the alarm activity the Key Peninsula Fire Department had a new service delivery look in 2008.

This is the first year in the Fire Departments history where two ALS ambulances were in service over 98% of the year. This means the ambulances at the Wauna and the Home Fire Stations had Paramedics working in them almost every day.

A future planning document was created for the Fire Department with a focus on the five to twenty year goals for the organization. A copy of this plan is available for your review at the Key Center Fire Station or from our website at KeyPeninsulaFire.org

Another service change was with the Board of Fire Commissioners transitioning into a five member Board. The Fire Commissioner Board is

filled by members you elect into office. They are not employees of the Fire Department. The addition of these two positions gives you a 66% increase in your opportunity to have your voice heard by your Board of Commissioners. All five Board members are responsible to the voters of the entire Key Peninsula they are not assigned geographical areas to represent. The Board of Fire Commissioners meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Home Fire Station at 3 p.m.

To continue the service you deserve the Key Peninsula Fire Department needs your support. This support can come in many forms, volunteering with our programs, supporting the Fire Department with your ballots or in some cases simple asking those you hear speaking poorly of your Fire Department to substantiate the comments being made.

I hope each of you and your families have a Happy and Safe Holiday season and that 2009 brings you each all the joys you deserve.



Fire Chief Tom Lique

BRIEFS

Sports

Hawks pin another win, take control at 2-0

Staff Reports

The Hawks faced their first dual meet on home turf for the 2008/09 Season against Clover Park on Dec. 10. A number of injuries and illnesses early in the season looked to dampen their ability to control the mat.

"With Josh Lemas (103) out sick, and Cole Delaney (189) and Connor Kuecht (189) both out on injuries, we were a little nervous walking into our second dual meet," said Head Coach Ron Powers. "However, we are deep in our lineup at 189, and Gakop Davies stepped up and handled his opponent with a pin in the first period after 1:06."

Chase Oswalt (152 PHS) lost to Brandon Thomson by pin.

Daniel McPherson (160 PHS) pinned Simon Medrano in 1:06.

Derric Reichert (171 PHS) was pinned

by Theo McLean-Burrell Jr in 4:57.

Gakob Davies (189 PHS) pinned Bobby Daly in 1:06.

John Hamilton (215 PHS) pinned Tyler Erickson in ten seconds.

Emerson Brown (285 PHS) pinned Jordan Hoover in 1:07.

Brandon Vollmer (103 CP) won by forfeit.

Austin Wright (112 PHS) lost 4:9 to Nick Gupta.

Riley Embly (119 PHS) won by forfeit.

Stephen Lacheney (125 PHS) pinned Tristin Whitmanin: 40 seconds.

Jake Boley (130 PHS) won by forfeit.

John Henry (140 PHS) won by forfeit.

Michael Sly (145 PHS) won by forfeit.

"Clover Park was a tough team. Their kids have a level of tenacity that ours did not display. If they came to PHS with a full line-up the final score could have been very different."

The Hawks secured the win with a final score of 54 to 27. They are now two and zero, plus the recent first place after facing eight schools at the Bonney Lake Panther Invitational. The Dec. 17 dual meet against State Champion Enumclaw at Enumclaw was cancelled due to the weather conditions.

KPMS and NASA continue to have great partnership

Dr. Michelle Thaller brought the exploration of space to life at Key Peninsula Middle School during the kick off of its 5th year as a NASA

Explorer School. The entire school participated in the event, which included a presentation by Thaller on the Spitzer Space Telescope, and the new discoveries from NASA. Astronaut and Dr. Yvonne Cagle was also on hand to inspire the students, along with many other members of the NASA Team and military dignitaries.

Astronauts wear a patch that represents each space mission, and the KPMS patch design winner for the "Exploring New Frontiers" mission was 6th grader Garrick Dotson.

KPMS is one of five schools chosen to link up with astronauts at the International Space Station. On Jan. 21, students will have an opportunity to gather at Galaxy theater to communicate and ask questions of the astronauts via a live video feed.

Vaughn Elementary School, Harbor Ridge Middle School and Peninsula High School will also participate in the live feed.



Photo by Rodika Tollefson

Dr. Yvonne Cagle, an astronaut is currently assigned to Johnson Space Center's Space and Life Sciences Directorate. She was on hand as KPMS kicked off its fifth year as a NASA Explorer School.

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Walt Schmidt, a community icon, passes

By Colleen Slater

Walter Schmidt was born Sept. 4, 1919, in Bismarck, North Dakota, died on Nov. 28, 2008, in Gig Harbor. Bertha, his wife of nearly 60 years, preceded him in death. He is survived by two sons, John and Fred, five grandchildren – Christine, Tyler, Jonathon, Hillary, and Bodie, and one great-grandson.

Schmidt moved with his family to Washington as a young man, and graduated from Lincoln High School in Tacoma with Rhys Wood, another well-known KP personality.

He came from a German speaking family in his native Bismarck. After service in the army in World War II, he worked as a translator at a POW camp.

He attended Calvary Baptist Church in Tacoma, where he loved to sing in the choir. The church sponsored some German refugees after the war. One morning one of those refugees entered the church, looked up at the choir, and recognized Schmidt as one of his interrogators in the POW camp. Both men

were surprised to meet again in a different situation. Schmidt immediately befriended him and they remained in touch the rest of their lives.

Schmidt owned a drug store in Tacoma at 23rd & K streets. During the riots of 1971, his store was vandalized. Everything was stolen or damaged, says Schmidt's son, John. In 1972, Schmidt leased the market in Key Center built by Purdy Realty after the disastrous 1970 fire there. The family lived in Vaughn for a year before moving to Home. He bought the market after a few years.

The retail business was Walt's lifeblood. John, who was 12 when they took over the Key Center market, says his dad bought their second store in Alyn around 1978, then became a third partner in the McCleary store. Schmidt had to take over the store there, so kept it only a few years.

He sold the Alyn store, became partners with Don Zimmerman and set up the market at Lake Kathryn. He then sold the McCleary store. He bought the Bridgeway Market in the late '80s or early '90s, says John.

"In all the years of our partnership, we never had an argument," says Zimmerman. "I liked the guy as a person, too."

"One of the things I admired most about him was his soft spot for boys who had been raised in orphanages, as he'd spent time in one," Zimmerman says. "His dream was to put up a boy's orphanage camp on the Quinault River." He purchased property, and worked toward the goal, but gave it up when his wife's health declined.

Schmidt retired from the markets six years ago, but continued to stop by every day for many years, just to say hi to the shoppers or to see how business was going. Even at the age of 80, Walt still drove his truck, to the bank and to take care of other business in the area.

"He was a very generous man to the community," says John, and that view is repeated from nearly all who knew him.

"He sponsored baseball teams, including Little League," says John. "He'd provide shirts or bats, or whatever was needed."

"Your word to him was more valuable

than anything else," says John. And he stood by his own word.

"In his death he leaves behind a legacy of a family who love and miss him, and a community that is grateful for his generosity and kindness to all," noted Pastor Dan Whitmarsh at Schmidt's service.

Please see our website www.keypennews.com for a full version of this story.

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want to be able to continue to provide low cost power to our members but to do that, we have to look forward to sustainable, renewable, green energy," he added.

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This two story 4 bdrm 2.5 bath with private beach access is a bargain! This pristine home is in like new condition and sits on a large corner lot. Features include an open concept plan, master suite, large bedrooms and an attached two-car garage. Liz Gefre 253-857-3304 #28177025


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Enjoy state parks while you can

By Kevin Reed, Special to the KP News

A total of 13 state parks could close as Gov. Christine Gregoire proposes to cut \$40.6 million from the Natural Resources program. Joemma Beach and Kopachuck are on the list.

Anyone who's taken a walk or ride on one of Washington's trails understands the value these places store for us humans. Pierce County alone has over 10 formal, state-supported trails, and the Key Peninsula has seven more. At the top of the Key is 360 acres of land owned by the Department of Natural Resources found off 302 at 144th, with parking at the gate on the right.

The trails here are accessible to walkers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. The main trail is a large, open loop that takes about an hour to walk, and there are smaller trails that cut back and forth in the woods that line the main oval trail. This is a great place to get out for a long walk with or without a dog, or to take a ride without running into too many people. There are no facilities at this trail, so bring water and use the restroom before you head out. Drive west on 302 from the KP Highway split a few miles, then take a right on 150th street and then the first left and you'll find the Rocky Creek Conservation Area.

This 224-acre site has a complex network of trails that basically form three large loops with a central starting point, and a few sub-loops. There are maps of the trails available from Key Peninsula Parks, and signs on the trails providing direction, because it's easy to get lost out there until you learn where to go. The foliage is tight along the trails, making

this a productive bird and bug-watching location. One of the loops has a stream that runs full in the rainy season, with a bench overlooking the water at the end of one trail. Just past Lake Minterwood on the right is a small parking area near a gate that allows access to 480 acres of DNR land similar to the 144th street site as a location with no facilities but trails accessible for walking and riding.

Continue south on the KP Highway a few miles past Key Center, take a left on Van Beek, then park at the gate on the left to access Maple Hollow Trails. This 58-acre site offers an oval trail with mid-point access to a stretch of beach along the Puget Sound. This is a bit of a walk to the water, so this is still more of a hiking trail than a take-baby-to-beach location. Penrose Point State Park has 2.5 miles of hiking/biking trails, and 2.5 miles of saltwater frontage to walk around. Walk the shoreline at lower tides and you can observe water birds, crabs, bald eagles, harbor seals, and other wildlife that will reveal itself more readily if you find a quiet spot and sit for a few minutes.

The eastern shoreline of the park offers a view of Mt. Rainer across the Sound. This park has camping and facilities as well, which makes it a great destination for hikers and families. Joemma Beach is a family gem as well because it has facilities and close beach access, in addition to camping. On a sunny day, try Joemma in the afternoon for full warm sun, even on a cool day. Joemma may be one of the 13 parks closed under the Governor's new budget revealed last month. A new shoreline park in development, Taylor Bay, is located off 76th

street, down near the end of the Peninsula. The Taylor Bay land is 39 acres and is combination of thick forest, meadowland, and shoreline gravel beach.

While there are currently no facilities at Taylor Bay, it is available for trail and shoreline recreation use. All trails mentioned share restrictions on shooting/firearms and unlicensed motor vehicle use, as well as specific regulations that vary by location. All of the trails listed here, except the state parks, allow you to responsibly walk your dog off-leash or ride horses and bikes on trails. These trails are an excellent way to observe native species of the Key Peninsula, from birds to mushrooms to critters, mammals, fish, birds and plants. The trails provide a way to slow down for an hour or so, connect with the land, and further appreciate the benefits these preserved spaces provide for all of us.

And you don't have to go alone. Penrose Point offers classes that get out and explore the native life year-round, from cooking nettles to bird-watching.

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District is looking to start a Key Peninsula trail walking group. Contact KP Metro Parks for more information about this newly forming group.

For those who prefer a more ordered trail, the Cushman Power Line Trail in Gig Harbor is about 2.5 miles of paved trail near Highway 16 that runs along or under a power line. Many people walk, run, or ride bikes along the 16-foot wide path, which is perfect for kids of all ages.



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(From EVERGREEN, Page 1)

our students," Crisman said.

The staff also looked at funding in a different way, she said. They used the Title I and General Education Funds to meet the needs of as many students as possible, and because Evergreen is a Title I school, she said the scope of the efforts could be expanded. Though the teachers and students are the ones who really won the award due to such hard work and dedication to the effort, Crisman said the community is an important part of the school's success.

"There are so many pieces of this whole puzzle," she said. "Communities in Schools, Children's Home Society, the YMCA, they all play a part and Angel Guild, Longbranch Improvement Club, these people have really rallied in order to be able to help us with our funding." Two individuals provided enough money to build a reading and book room, she said. "If not for them, we would not get this award," Crisman said.

Each day the students spend 90 minutes of reading instruction. Four days a week each child gets instruction for 25 minutes at his or her level, she said.

Go online to www.keypennews.com for a full version of this story.

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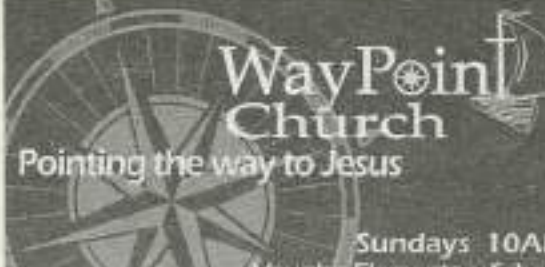
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Worship Service 10:30 am
884-5403
VFW Room
Key Peninsula Civic Center



Claude & Claudia
Gahard—Owners
Winery Hours:
Fri-Sat-Sun—11-6
or by appointment.
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Trillium Creek Winery
for all the wines



WayPoint
Church
Pointing the way to Jesus

Sundays 10AM
Vaughn Elementary School
www.waypoint-church.org 884-2269

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Call 253-884-4699 or email ads@keypennews.com.

Out & About

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

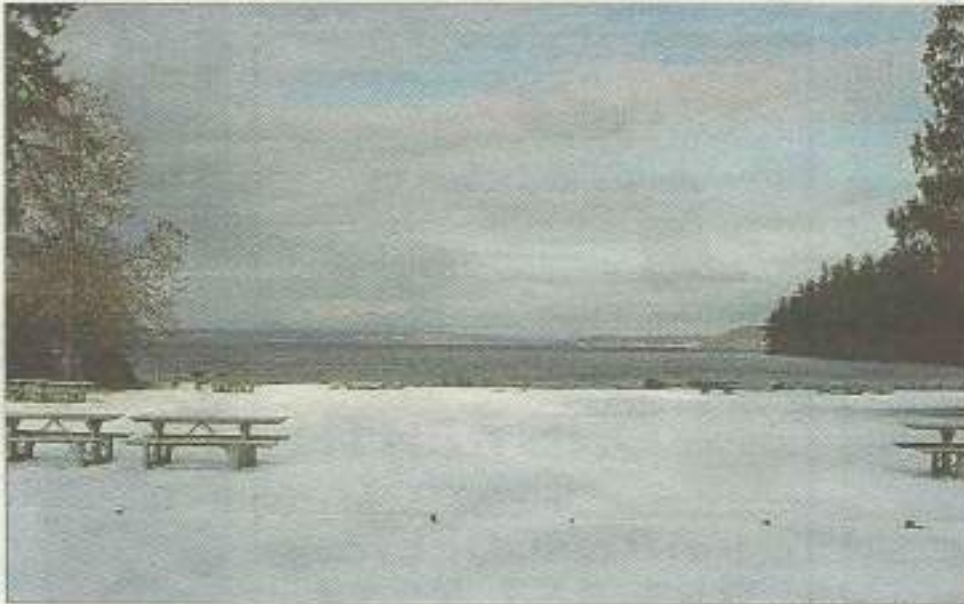


Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Penrose State Park received a beautiful blanket of snow.



Left, Airman 1st Class Tom Gregory from the McChord Air Force Support Squadron posts the state flag at the beginning of a NASA assembly at Key Peninsula Middle School in December. Photo by Rodika Tollefson
Clara Whitmarsh, 3, and Olivia Whitmarsh, 8, enjoyed the treat of a snowy day. Photo by Karina Whitmarsh



Photo courtesy of Narrows Pony Club

Key Peninsula girls from the Narrows Pony Club won first place at the NW Pony Club Regional Show Jump Rally Oct. 3-5 at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. From left, Cadence Michel, Katie Gains, Ellie Combs, Anni Grandia (team coach), Cedar Combs and Evie George. The Narrows Pony Club riders practice at the Grand Farms in Vaughn. Two teams competed and were coached by trainer Anni Grandia. Team 1 took the first place trophy in their division of 10 teams and first place overall (both divisions of 20 teams). Team 2 placed 5th in their division. The girls were judged throughout the weekend on stable management, horse management and riding ability. Each score is factored in to determine the winning team. Adult assistance is not allowed during the competition.



Caitlyn Richardson, only 2 1/2 years old, was not sure about sitting on Santa's lap at PHS' Winterfest; but after some coaxing from her mom, she was brave enough to shake Santa's hand. Photo by Mindi Larson