



St. Anthony opens, page 21

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



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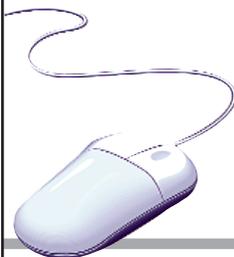
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INSIDE

APRIL 2009



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- ▶ Citizen of the Year
- ▶ KP author
- ▶ Sound Byte Teen dance is back

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Hope during hard times

Peninsula businesses maintain hope and stay open amidst a declining economy

By Sarah Kehoe
Special to the KP News

For Greg Calahan, owner of O'Callahan's Pub and Grill in Key Center, business continues on despite the nation's slumping economy.

"The worst part of the economic crisis is the media blitz we are getting

constantly," said Calahan, who has operated the business for four years. "We should not let it scare us; we should all focus on doing our jobs right and we will be fine."

At a time when television and newspaper headlines warn of business closures and job losses, Peninsula residents need look no further than their community to

find hope. Although smaller, family-owned businesses, such as O'Callahan's, have felt the impact of the economic slump, most are staying afloat, say local business owners and representatives.

"The businesses that were teetering before the crisis are falling but the ones

(See **ECONOMY**, Page 24)

One kid to watch

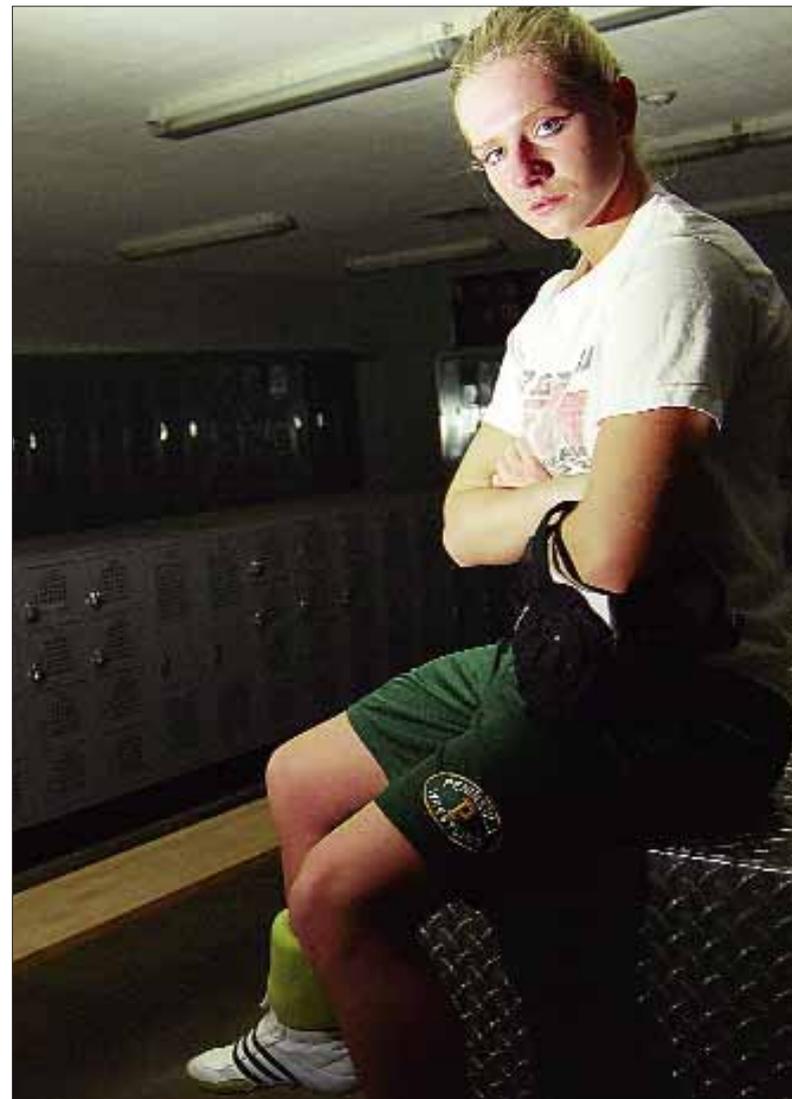
Since the seventh grade Jessica Chapman knew she wanted to be a wrestler. She was the only girl on the wrestling team at Peninsula High School this year, and she doesn't plan on quitting.

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Passion in the face of adversity and opposition is what separates those who think they want to do something from those who know.

Jessica Chapman has known since the seventh grade that she wants to be a wrestler. She was on the team at John Sedgwick Junior High School in Port Orchard then, but found out it wasn't easy being a girl in a boys' world.

"They didn't want to coach a girl,"
(See **WRESTLING**, Page 23)



Jessica Chapman was the only girl on the Peninsula High School wrestling team this year. She plans to continue wrestling throughout her high school years and is already looking at colleges with solid womens' teams.

Photo by Scott Turner, Special to the KP News

Property tax increase leads friends to action

Key Peninsula residents with different views come together to argue against recent increase in property taxes

By Sarah Kehoe
Special to KP News

After years of friendship that has been filled with much political debate, Dan Scott, conservative, and David Mikelson, liberal, have found something they agree on.

Both men are outraged by the increase of property tax.

"Our issue is the increase in tax at a time when so many people are out of work," said Mikelson, a Longbranch resident. "People are going to be kicked out of their homes because they can't afford to pay."

For Key Peninsula homeowners, the levy rate has increased from 9.2 percent in 2008 collections to 9.3 percent for 2009 collections. Assessed values also increased from an average of \$437,972 to \$444,994, resulting in an average tax increase of 2.14 percent, according to Pierce County assessor-treasurer Dale Washam.

"Although I am more of a conservative, we meet head-to-head when it comes to taxes," said Scott, a Vaughn resident. "It is not fair to assess a property that has a high value with a low one."

Always concerned residents, Scott and Mikelson have been discussing their views together since they met 10 years ago.

"I got a call from David and went down to fix his septic system," said Scott, owner of Pacific Tractor and Excavating Inc. "We got to talking and I saw that David had a great mind with lots to say and I appreciated that about him."

Mikelson, retired construction worker,

is outspoken about his views. He protested in early March of this year against the clearing of a parcel off Key Peninsula Highway and across from the Shell gas station. He stood at the construction site with a sign that read, "no more clear cuts" in bright red paint. Scott is also verbal and urges other residents to protest with him against the increased property taxes.

"This is a time for conservatives and liberals to come together and say enough is enough," he said. "We as a people need to state what we want done."

The decrease in the value of homes due to the slumping economy further hurts residents whose property taxes have increased this year. This has caused many hardships for Key Peninsula residents who are struggling to pay their mortgage after job loss or decreases in business sales, Scott and Mikelson said.

"I am going to have a hard time making payments," Mikelson said. "I frankly don't have the money, and I know lots of other people who don't have the money either."

The two friends' property taxes both doubled this year, causing them to be concerned for more than just their well being, but for others in their area as well.

"I am worried about what community we are going to have if this continues," Mikelson said. "This could force families off Key Peninsula."

A solution to this problem could be to follow California's system where property is taxed when the home is purchased. This way the value of the home stays consistent, Scott and Mikelson said.

"Here a property owner doesn't dare skip a year or two of taxes because tax prices are so high that a person could easily create a tax debt that they could not repay," Scott remarked. "There needs to be a point where property tax stays the same."

While both arrived easily at the same solution, they discovered they each have different methods of getting there. There was of course, a debate.

Mikelson believes that income taxes should be raised in order to decrease property taxes.

"I think that all state employees and government workers should take a 10 percent pay cut until we get out of this mess," he said. "Property is more important because it is unreasonable for people to lose their homes. It's extremely essential for families and children to have a place to go home to at night."

Scott does not welcome this proposition.

"At that spot we argued for quite awhile," Scott said. "I am against raising income tax."

The two would like to discuss solutions and hear the opinions of neighbors and others in their area. They believe representatives could be impacted if the Peninsula community becomes proactive.

"If it's just my goofy idea, it doesn't have any merit," Mikelson said. "But if the community comes together there could be a change."

Scott agrees.

"Tax payers on the Key Peninsula should have an opportunity to question their representatives on the issue of ever increasing property taxes," he said.

Mikelson and Scott are planning a

meeting where they will argue these points to Peninsula representatives and elected officials, who are also invited to come speak. Those who attend are also invited to discuss the situation and voice their opinions. The meeting will take place April 20 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. More details will be announced as the event draws nearer.



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OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS!

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Safe Streets: A passion against crime

By Irene Torres, KP News

Andrea Jerabek is a woman whose passions shine through her smile. Her husband, Edward, is a teacher with the Orting School District. He is originally from Chicago, and she is from New York. "We're pizza snobs," she said. "We are definitely choosy about our cheese."



JERABEK

Jerabek said she had been looking a long time when in August 2007, armed with a degree in social work, a geriatric mental health certificate and accompanied by her service dog, Sophie, Jerabek went to work with Safe Streets. She is the Community Mobilization Specialist.

In her first month on the job, publicity about a neighbor's pit bull attack on Sue Gorman, a Wauna resident, introduced Jerabek to the Key Pen community. Because of that incident, Jerabek and

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Email: ajerabek@safest.org
Website: www.safest.org

Safe Streets pushed for legislation to protect against dangerous dogs.

The Safe Streets Campaign was created in 1989 through an agreement with several agencies. At that time, the program was administered through Pierce County. The now-independent, private nonprofit's website states, "People are the heart of the Safe Streets Campaign. Community members of all ages, business leaders, government officials and others who are determined to create and sustain healthy neighbor-

hoods." Jerabek said this begins with local block watches, but she knows the rural nature of the Key Peninsula complicates the block watch concept. The idea behind her job title, Community Mobilization Specialist, is to help neighbors communicate, organize and conduct community programs to make their neighborhoods safe. Jerabek said, "It has taken a year to gain trust and build partnerships in such a way to empower residents to resolve problems."

The Key Pen has several active block watch programs.

"They meet to raise awareness and understanding," Jarabek said. "It is the same process for dealing with crime. Once somebody contacts us about a drug house, for example, we can offer the resources to deal with it. When things get back to normal, if it doesn't affect you, when the problem is not in front of you, the attention dissipates. Then when a problem comes to light, they need to organize again."

Her colleague, Lawrence Stone, active

in an anti-gang task force, said Jerabek inspired him to attend a recent drug and alcohol forum at Peninsula High School, where she staffed a Safe Streets information booth.

Jerabek worked with Spencer Ebersole to produce an audio recording of that event, to play back later on KGHP-FM radio.

She created a public service announcement, also aired on KGHP-FM radio, to raise awareness about underage drinking. "It is a big deal," Jerabek said, noting, "Acceptance is a problem. People don't realize they are legally and financially responsible for injuries from an accident," when they provide alcohol to minors.

The KP Safe Streets is now located in the Windermere Key Realty building, in space provided as a community service. Anyone looking for resources on crime and other neighborhood safety topics may call Jerabek's office. "We are looking for people to step up in their neighborhoods...No one organization can do this alone," she said.

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When the presses stop, we all suffer

As a journalist, listening and watching as one by one the large newspapers close is painful, and I am concerned.

The Key Peninsula News is doing great, we have a strong team in place and we are forging ahead with plans for the future. In fact, the newspapers that are doing well are the smaller newspapers that are focused on community news, just like we are at the Key Peninsula News.

But the big guys are important as well. While many enjoy criticizing the press, it is always good to think about where we would be without it. Newspapers deliver information, and without information we can't address the problems in our society and our own communities such as corruption, poverty, violence and education.

Part of my sorrow is for all of those people like me who had the dream. As a journalism student I dreamed of going to a big paper one day, and I did. I had the privilege of sitting in a newsroom with

Marsha Hart
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



several Pulitzer Prize-winners, feeling the spur to be a better journalist than I ever thought I could be. I feel for all of those kids dreaming my dream today. They will likely have to find a new one.

And I am sad for all of those who have devoted their lives and talents to print journalism and are now trying to regroup and find a new way to use those talents.

But as a journalist I believe the saddest part is for you, the readers. As we lose newspapers, the public suffers. We do many things as journalists. We tell great stories about your neighbors; we find the latest news and keep you informed about what is happening in the community.

But one of our most important jobs is

to keep a watch on the powers that be, so that you, the public, can be certain that your tax dollars, your trust and your well being are not being trampled upon by those who have the power to do it.

Though community newspapers do that to an extent, we do it at the community level. Journalists at the large newspapers are reporters who have journalism school under their belts and usually very good ones. They usually have years of experience by working their way up from small bimonthly or weekly newspapers to small dailies and finally the big daily.

Now more than ever we as a society need to realize the importance of a free press.

In January the King County Journal in Kent, a daily newspaper, closed. In March, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer's presses stopped, and there are layoffs or cutbacks at almost every newspaper in the country from the Tacoma News Tribune to the Roanoke Times in Virginia. Some of them are going to online-only versions,

But as a journalist I believe the saddest part is for you, the readers. As we lose newspapers, the public suffers.

such as the Christian Science Monitor, and the Seattle P-I.

What this means is that publishers, editors and reporters have to get creative. We at the Key Peninsula News realize that although we are on solid footing, the culture of journalism is changing. We are already planning ways to bring you better news coverage in our print edition, and we are taking a serious look at our website as well.

Expect us to continue bringing you the news that is important to the Key Peninsula, and watch for improvements in the near future to both the print edition and our online edition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farmers Market welcomes vendors

The Key Peninsula Farmers Market Board and Manager welcomes farmers and gardeners of all sizes, experience levels. For a small farmer the direct marketing that a farmers market offers has been shown to be the best pathway to success. To join the Key Peninsula Farmers Market you will need a small business license and proof of automobile liability insurance coverage (state law, also). The Key Peninsula Market provides vendors with liability insurance at the market site, all necessary health department permits, and county use permits. For a new vendor the supplies you will need are: a 10x10 canopy, canopy weights, and display tables of your choosing. The vendor fees for our market are \$20 a market day or \$300 for the 18 market day season if paid by May 1. We are offering vendors the option of

signing on for the season and paying three, \$100 payments on May, June and July 1. We would love community participation and support in our new market. Please join our growing future. For more info or question visit our website at www.kpfarmersmarket.org or contact our market manager at 253-884-1088. Happy Spring from the Key Peninsula Farmers.

Market Board and Manager

Keep it real on SR 302 plans

I read with interest, the article on SR 302 Routings in the last issue of the Key Peninsula news, that is until I got the part by John Doucett. Then it became humor for the whole family. Really John, when was the last time a Grey Whale was seen in Henderson Bay, let alone Burley Lagoon? I've only been here since 1978, but I don't recall any whales period anywhere near the Lagoon. Come to think of it, I haven't seen any seals either and I don't recall having seen too many salmon swimming up stream under the Purdy Bridge. Also the oyster farm doesn't seem too concerned about all of this. As for the sliding vehicles and the

massive pile-ups, have you driven up Wauna hill during a snowstorm John? Folks seem to make it OK most of the time without sliding into the bay or crashing into the homes on the curves. Or for that matter, how about the long steep hills on Pine road?

There are several good reasons not to build a bridge at 144th Street. One being that it could put the Westwynd Motel out of business and also the environmental nightmare of tearing out the Chevron gas station. I realize the "Not in my back yard syndrome" is in high gear but something has to be done and it needs to be done soon but at least lets keep it real.

Jim Shirk
Key Center

Spring Fling

Two Waters Arts Alliance enjoyed another successful Spring Fling this year and a huge thank you goes out to the folks who worked so hard this year including, Mark Runions, Reni Moriarity, Phil and Kathy Bauer, Merrilee Kennedy, Lauren Littleton,

Brynn Rydell, Bev Pedersen, Jan and John Buday, Julia Klevens, Erika Arnett, John Eric Sundbom, Bruce and Margo Macdonald, Frank and Carol Garratt, Pat and Ruth Thompson, Britta and Norm Brones, Laurie and Doug Austin and the kids from Peninsula High School who served food and cleaned.

Margo Macdonald, volunteer
TWAA Events Committee

Toxic site article questioned

After reading the article "Toxic Site" (Vol. 37 Issue 3) it's obvious to me that this piece has not addressed many important details. While innocently seeming to re-visit a case that was started in 2006 which has still not been resolved, this piece in our community paper has left out the most important part. Our Community.

Being a 30-year resident of the Key Peninsula, my family, as many other families frequent the small mom and pop restaurants that have been butted up, and right next to the said toxic land.

(See **LETTERS**, Page 5)

The economy — A local view, and a hope

Our economy has tanked. Gross Domestic Product is down. Stocks have crashed. Unemployment, bankruptcies, and foreclosures have skyrocketed. Strip mall vacancies are common. Businesses are folding, taking promised retirement programs with them. Personal investments and savings are depleted. Banks are collapsing. Government funds are being drained at an astronomical rate to cover basic entitlements and insurance obligations. Food bank shelves are emptying. And the people are still in denial of how bad it really is.

Each aspect of the downward spiral feeds on each other, multiplying the severity. In the face of dropping revenues (less economic activity to tax), governments are left with three basic options: (1) increase taxes, which makes the situation worse for the taxpayer; (2) cut services; or (3) stimulate business activity (through business tax cuts), which places a bigger burden on options 1 and 2.

Let's see what our legislators are proposing:

FEDERAL: Our President proposes

RICK SORRELS
THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



R&D for energy alternatives, emphasis on education, and health reform, which are all excellent for the long run, but no help during the next decade. The proposal has money for welfare recipients and tax cuts for those earning less than \$250,000, while increasing the tax burden on the upper 2 percent of our citizens to finance the proposals. Federal legislators applauded, but will probably balk at voting when they realize that their personal pocketbook is on the line. Expect our children and grandchildren to be paying off government bonds held by foreign countries for decades, if not generations, to come.

STATE: Deficit of \$8 billion and rising. Proposed legislation includes an income tax, and allowing municipalities to raise sale taxes without a vote of the citizens.

Federal "stimulus package" supposedly cannot be used for the deficit, and will do little to stimulate growth of business or GDP.

PIERCE COUNTY: Shortfall of another \$10 million. Heroic measures taken to avoid increasing taxes, but at the cost of cutting necessary services. Expect additional cuts in services in all county departments except safety and law enforcement.

SCHOOL DISTRICT: Levy renewal just passed. That is necessary to maintain current budget without an increase.

FD16: Expect at least two levy ballots over the next couple years. First to continue medic and ambulance service, which will terminate if the expiring levy is not restored. Second to lift the lid on the existing fire suppression levy, which has suffered two failed lid lift votes, and a possible third for equipment. Listen to Citizen Advisory Committee, which is studying these requests.

PARKS: Current budget \$850,000 thanks to revenue from recent levy vote by the Commissioners. State wants local parks district to absorb Joemma Park's

operation expenses of \$240,000 per year. Parks District is contracted to purchase additional land for pocket parks. Need funds to develop the "360 parcel" that will be transferred from Department of Natural Resources. Discussing acquisition of a couple million dollars worth of additional land near the "360." Where do they expect all of this extra money will come from?

LOCAL BRIGHT SPOT: A new adult family home, Wauna Shores, has just opened on the KP, providing additional employment, economic stimulus, and a chance for some to "age in place" on scenic KP.

COMMENT: Handing a band-aid to a cancer victim does not cure the cancer. Time will tell whether government actions helped or hurt economic recovery. Welfare and public works projects DO NOT generate any increase in tax revenue. Increased business activities, like Wauna Shores, are the key to needed tax revenue, employment, benefits, and prosperity for all.

The coming years promise to be interesting. Watch developments, and remember to vote your opinion, as your personal wealth and livelihood are on the line, along with that of your progeny.

(From **LETTERS**, Page 4)

In this time of our struggling economy, to land a "Toxic Bomb" on top of the small business in this area, without a mention as to what this means to the owners and patrons of these places seems downright negligible.

With the tumultuous planning of the new 302 corridor, is this just a seed that's being cultivated to make it easier to obtain this piece of land? In the same issue of the KPN News, on the back of the cover page, in the article about the SR 302 routing plans, it plainly cites 94th Ave as a proposed outlet for the new 302. This is the exact corner of the affected property.

It's my opinion that as the KPN Community News Paper, it is your responsibility to dig deeper than face value, and to answer these questions for the sake of our community; its residents as well as its small businesses.

*J.H. McCormick
Lake Minterwood*

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

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Transfer of Development Rights needs members

Applications are being accepted to fill five positions on the newly created Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Committee. Members of the Committee will assist in oversight of the Transfer and Purchase of Development Rights Program in conjunction with the TDR Administrator.

Issues to be addressed by the TDR Committee include, but are not limited to:

- Determining density credits required in Comprehensive Plan amendments when a variance is requested.

- Operational oversight of the Development Rights Bank.

- Developing techniques to determine whether the policy goals of the TDR/PDR program are being achieved.

The five open positions shall serve without compensation. Members shall be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by resolution by a majority of the County Council. The five appointed members shall include

one representative from each of the following in accordance with Pierce County Code 2.101.030: building industry, local land trust, real estate profession, real estate appraiser and the general public.

Applications may be obtained at the Executive's Office at 930 Tacoma Ave. S., Room 737 (253-798-7477) or from the Department of Planning and Land Services, 2401 S. 35th Street (253-798-2785). Applications should be returned to the Pierce County Executive's Office, 930 Tacoma Ave. S., Room 737, Tacoma, WA 98402 no later than 4:30 p.m. on April 17.

The Committee will convene as needed. All meetings will be advertised at least two weeks in advance. Attempts will be made to hold the meetings in the affected communities; otherwise, meetings will be held at the Public Services Building (Annex), 2401 S. 35th Street, Tacoma.

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FD-16 STATS

Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

March 8

Firefighters responded to three aid calls. A chest pain patient and a shortness of breath patient were transported to local emergency rooms. A pediatric seizure patient was evaluated and remained at home in the care of parents.

March 9

Crews responded twice for the report of a chimney fire. Upon arrival it was determined that one of the fires was an actual flue fire and that the creosote in the stove pipe had burnt, causing the components of the system to experience extreme heat. There was no extension of the fire into the ceiling or attic. The other reported chimney fire turned out to be a family burning papers in their stove with the use of lighter fluid.

March 10

A 23-year-old woman from the Home area was seen and transported to a Tacoma Hospital for an undisclosed illness.

March 11

After engaging in an argument that escalated into a physical altercation with her husband, a 52-year-old woman requested EMS to her home for evaluation and treatment of her minor injuries. Her husband had left the scene prior to the arrival of law enforcement and fire department personnel. The woman remained at home.

March 12

Fire Medics responded to a 62-year-old Vaughn woman at her home. The woman fell while feeding her horse. The patient walked to her home about 40 yards away with help from her neighbor. She was examined by medics and went to Urgent care with neighbor.

March 13

A 58-year-old Lakebay man rolled his Mini Cooper just north of Key Center on the KP highway. The man was still seat belted inside the car when Firefighters arrived. He was removed from the vehicle and transported to a Tacoma Hospital.

March 14

A 76-year-old Wauna man fell earlier in the day while shopping at a Tacoma tool store and refused treatment by Tacoma medics. That evening his wife found him responding inappropriately and called 911. He was examined by KP medics and transported to a Tacoma Hospital where he was admitted for a traumatic brain injury.

Submitted by FD 16
Division Chief Chuck West

It's belt-tightening time in Washington

By Irene Torres, KP News

About 50 Key Peninsula residents attended March 14 a Town Hall meeting at the civic center. State Senator Derek Kilmer (D-26) and Representative Larry Seaquist (D-26), at their third such meeting of the day, discussed their legislative work and the proposed state budget cuts and heard community concerns.

Kilmer is working on economic development and education to train and re-train workers and hone job skills. His focus is on small business, which he called "the backbone of the State's economy."

"The State has seen an uptick in small business licenses during this economic decline," he said.

The Senate is working to offer a \$3,000 tax credit for every new job created by a small business.

Also in process is a bill to provide \$450 million in tax relief for small business infrastructure through the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The State has increased unemployment benefits by \$45 a week. Other legislation is designed to increase low and middle income home ownership through the Housing Finance Commission.

In the House of Representatives, Seaquist's focus is on education, health and human services and reducing the cost of government. The two discussed the passage of an early action budget bill, cutting agency overhead, halting new hires, etc., and saving \$750 million; but Kilmer said, "This is just a dent. I wish we could have cut more."

With a reported 500,000 increase in the State's population comes increased demand for services and schools.

"We have a constitutional obligation and an economic imperative to invest in, and fully fund K-12 education...which is currently underfunded," he said.

Seaquist noted the current unemployment rate is actually 12-13 percent, "nearing the rate that occurred in the mid-1930s, during the Depression, before the war." He said economists are predicting a full recovery by 2013, in a Revenue Forecast Council report to be published in mid-March.

Contact information:

Sen. Derek Kilmer
360-786-7650
Kilmer.Derek@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Larry Seaquist
360-786-7802
Seaquist.Larry@leg.wa.gov

Kilmer said he and Seaquist will "work for the best and plan for the worst." He said they will "insist that the parks operate as parks and remain open, preferably under the State's purview."

He said that the Montana model is a late-breaking proposal, allowing those who renew licenses to "opt out rather than opt in" to support parks with a \$5 park fee added to the renewal fee.

"If the state decides to close the parks, we will work to keep them open and offer park districts the information and resources they will need to manage them," Kilmer said.

Seaquist noted that a state income tax is prohibited by the State's constitution, but agreed that the current tax code is regressive, and needs an overhaul.

Jon Forseth, a Home resident, asked for clarification on a law he believes requires 10 percent across-the-board cuts to balance the state budget, followed by another 10 percent cut, if necessary. He also commented on his dissatisfaction with the former assessor's interpretation of the law (Revised Code of Washington RCW 84.40.030) which Forseth claims requires "true and fair" property values, versus "fair market value" as the basis for taxation.

"This is set up to protect the assessor and the system," he said.

One woman expressed concern for those who have ongoing medical conditions requiring maintenance medications, and asked how budget cuts would affect them. Seaquist noted some funding will be provided through the Youth Health Bill, and that the legislature is working to improve reimbursement for primary care physicians. He also said a 'telehealth' program, which will allow remote monitoring of health problems, "will save money and raise health."




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Open forum addresses Key Peninsula concerns

By Rick Sorrels
Special to the KP News

Pierce County Councilmember Terry Lee answered questions during an open forum March 11 at the Key Center Library. The Key Peninsula Community Council sponsored the forum and 30 residents were in attendance.

Proposed cuts to Pierce Transit bus service, the new traffic light and intersection improvements for Key Center, snow removal from roads, a welcome sign for the KP, trails, acquisition of Devil's Head, and the County budget were some of the issues discussed.

Shanice Hrouda voiced her concerns about the loss of Bus Plus and bus service between Key Center and Home.

Lee, who sits on the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners, responded, "Pierce Transit revenues come from sales tax which has declined significantly. Proposals from the staff are being considered which would delete Bus Plus and service to Home, and add service to the new hospital in Purdy.

"The Pierce Transit Commissioners are very resistant to deleting service, but something has to be done to balance the budget. A vote on the various options before us may happen as soon as the April Transit meeting."

Mike Baum was concerned about the new traffic light in Key Center. "The KP Community Plan calls for 'traffic calming' devices to slow traffic", said Baum. "While the objective of the traffic engineers is to speed up traffic flow. A 4-way stop sign might be more appropriate for pedestrian safety."

Lee suggested the community council poll residents and get the results to him in the next month or two because grant money has already been received and spent for engineering and land acquisition for the traffic light.

Claude Gahard was concerned that road crews removed snow from arterials, but not on secondary roads, limiting access to roads for a lot of residents. Gahard proposed a list of local contractors to be called upon to supplement the county road crew at such times.

"We've looked at this in the past," Lee

said. "The problem has been that only one contractor responded to our solicitations, requesting to be placed on such a list. And then he requested to be taken off the list when he discovered the high cost of insurance and bonding required. We will keep looking for a way that this will work."

Tara Froode asked if the county could help with her group's efforts to install a sign near the Purdy Spit welcoming people to the Key Peninsula.

"I'm familiar with the location that you have in mind," said Lee. "I'm not only sure that we can make it happen, but I believe that I can provide funds for the sign."

Chris Fitzgerald asked what could be done to support a system of trails on the KP.

"I am a member of the Board for Forever Green, a foundation primarily concerned with trails throughout Pierce County," Lee said. "I will continue work to support them."

A resident near Devil's Head stated that the current owner of Devil's Head has been harvesting trees and mining gravel, and inquired what could be done to preserve this piece of land and keep it from being destroyed.

"The owner has a timber harvesting permit issued by the state", said Lee. "The county is working with the owner and with a land conservancy foundation to purchase the property. We are close to a deal. We very much want to preserve this land. It's unique."

Another citizen asked what Pierce County plans to do to balance its \$10 million budget shortfall.

"The council is conservative. We are determined NOT to raise taxes", said Lee. After going into great detail about the budget problems and concerns, Lee summarized with "We expect a 3 percent cut from all department budgets except safety and law enforcement. We expect to review the budget again for further cuts in about three months."

The next forum to be hosted by the Community Council will be April 8 at 7p.m. at the Key Center library, featuring elected officials from our local School Board, Fire Department, and Parks District.

Winks Seafood brings fresh catch to local customers

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Over the past two years brightly colored hand printed signs advertising “live crab,” “cooked crab,” “fresh Alaska caught halibut,” and other seafood products have pointed potential customers to the home and seafood outlet of fisherman Steve “Wink” Lodholm. He now sells fresh seafood at his store, Winks Seafood shop in Purdy.

Lodholm, a 1980 graduate of Peninsula High School, began his fishing career on a commercial boat in Alaska after he got out of the military.

“Since I have been fishing and selling to the docks for 28 years, I am able to comfortably go to the docks to sell my fish as a fisherman, or buy fish there as a retailer. Along the way I gained the nickname of ‘Wink.’ The crew said I could negotiate a sale anywhere on any dock just like Wink Martindale (a TV game show host) and the name stuck.”

From Alaska to Mexico, Lodholm has been in the commercial fishing business, and had many adventures. His first job was on a 54-foot commercial longliner

the FV “Daily.”

“Immediately I start the long and tedious job of baiting hooks and stacking gear for an upcoming halibut opening,” said Lodholm. “The captain was a one eyed nearsighted German with a bad accent and Napoleon complex. He was tough and exact. He fired at least one crewmember at the end of each trip.”

Fishing is his life and has taken Lodholm from the Bering Sea in Alaska to south of Baja Mexico and back, with many more exciting stories.

After a few years in Mexico, he said he realized the corruption and payoffs far exceeded the benefits and profit of fishing there, so he went back to Alaska.

“I ran several different boats and worked my way down the coast and worked during the Oregon Dungeness crab season captaining the FV ‘Star Gavin,’ a 58-foot crabber navigating the Garibaldi and Columbia bar hundreds of times.”

The price of fuel spiked and very soon selling product at the dock was not cost effective. Lodholm had to find a way to continue the fishing operation while

maintaining cost-effectiveness. He tried selling cooked crab out of the back of his truck in Portland in areas where there were a lot of tourists. Business was minimal.

“Out of desperation,” he said, “I took 500 pounds of cooked crab from the dock in Oregon to my home on the Key Peninsula area off Highway 302 at 118th Street.”

His A-board signs led customers for five miles to the fresh seafood.

“Sometimes I would come home from the boat and people would be five cars deep in the driveway waiting for the day’s catch,” he said. “We soon realized that many customers wanted to buy live crab, so I began to research and developed a live-tank system, which can house and maintain healthy crab for months at a time.

“Currently I have a system at my home which can hold over eight thousand pounds of live crab,” said Lodholm. “Because this system can hold so much, we can fish it ourselves or we can

(See CRAB, Page 16)

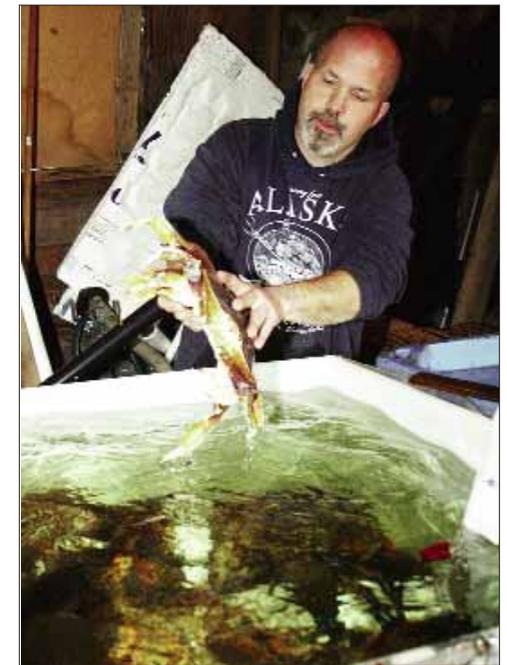


Photo by Hugh McMillan

Fisherman Steve “Winks” Lodholm displays a very large live Dungeness crab lifted from controlled temperature tanks at his home on the Key Peninsula where he markets them as well as at the Winks Seafood shop in Purdy.

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PARKS APPRECIATION DAY

Parks Appreciation Day April 18th from 9-12 pm
bring your gloves, rakes, shovels, loppers and any other tools that would be used for yard maintenance.

- Rocky Creek – State Route 302 & 150th Ave KPN
- Home Park – 8th Ave Key Peninsula Hwy North
- Purdy Spit – Goodrich Drive NW & State Route 302
- Taylor Bay – 17916 76th St KPS Longbranch
- Key Peninsula Civic Center – 17010 South Vaughn Road

Last Call for Co-ed Spring Softball Registrations

Key Pen Parks is now accepting team registrations. Teams will play an 8 game season plus playoffs at the end. Games will be held Thursday nights from April 16th-June 25th. Cost of the league and end of season tournament is \$ 525.00.

Pee Wee T-Ball This program gives youth ages 3 1/2 to 5 the opportunity to learn skills and fundamentals of baseball. Scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all kids. (Participants must be born after May 2004 to September 2005). T-Ball will run six weeks on Wednesday nights starting May 13th ending June 17th at Volunteer Park. Cost is \$ 39 per youth

Pet Easter Treat Hunt April 4 at Volunteer Park

Key Pen Parks & PEICD presents Pet Easter Treat Hunt April 4 at Volunteer Park. Check In will begin at 10:00 am and the hunt will start promptly at 10:30 am. The hunt will last until supplies run out or at 12 pm. First place prize for best dressed pet. Put your pet's nose to work uncovering eggs containing treats or something special, plus one mystery prize to find and claim at the registration table. Come and sniff around at the agility course brought to you by the Gig Harbor Kennel Club. Please bring a collection bag for your treats (DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH).

AREA YOUTH TO COMPETE IN AQUAFINA MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PITCH HIT & RUN COMPETITION, SATURDAY APRIL 11th

Key Pen Parks will host a free Aquafina Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run Competition for area youth. We would like to encourage other Little Leagues and youth organizations to participate.

Date April 11th, 2009 from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm at Volunteer Park located at 5514 Key Peninsula Hwy N. in Lakebay.

Wednesday Walkers for adults 18 and older Free

Enjoy a series of rotating walks around the Key Peninsula with the Staff at Key Pen Parks. Come and enjoy good conversation, make new friends, and get fit one step at a time!!! More information will be on-line regarding dates and times of the first walk. Look for Walks to start in Mid-April. For more information contact Chad at 253-884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com



Key Pen Parks
"The key to your next adventure"



Photo courtesy Marguerite (Curl) Bussard

Hank Curl's garage and service station at Longbranch, 1928.

Early service stations on the Key Peninsula

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The first automobile seen on the peninsula came on a tour from Gig Harbor to Vaughn in 1912. Vaughn Union High School students stood inside the fence to watch the Ford roar by at 15 miles an hour.

More cars arrived by 1919. A freight boat delivered the car, and the owner operated it on the rough tracks used for horses and wagons, or kept it in a garage or pasture for a showpiece.

Hank and Fred Curl's Hi-way garage, store and gas station was built in 1922 in Longbranch. Their former business is now a storage company.

The Dadisman store in Home added a pump and may have been the first one in the area. Chet Dadisman says he was pumping gas at age six.

"You had to grab a pump and work it by hand," he said. "You pushed and pulled and pumped into a glass cylinder marked so you knew how much you were dispensing."

His dad, David Dadisman, bought his first car about 1920, and they had a pump by then.

In Longbranch, Carl Soderquist put in a gas pump at his store near the dock. A few years later, Bill Otto built a new store and included pumps.

Ted Kinzner's now derelict garage stands along the highway south of Lakebay.

The Albert Sorenson store near the dock sprouted pumps, as did the Upper Sound Grange Co-op warehouse at Vaughn on the bay.

Henry and Emma Dahl bought 80 acres of land on what's now the Victor Cut-off Road, cleared a small stand of alder and built a service station and home in 1926. They built it to be the station and planned to live there only a short time, then build another home, but the Depression arrived. They added a second story and stayed right there.

At Minter, James Collins built a store/garage/gas station in 1930. He sold gas by hand, carrying it to the cars, before his pumps were installed.

Hank Peterson operated the first garage and gas station in Purdy.

About that time, Ted Gabrielson set up a garage and pumps at soon-to-be-named Key Center. That building is now the Smoke Shop. After the 1970 fire, Del Stutz moved the station across the street, now occupied by Remax Red Door.

John Wolneiwicz had an early garage at Kingsbury's Sunshine Beach at Vaughn before he moved to the crossroads in Vaughn where the previous post office was.

The store and post office were added later under Robert Stratford's ownership.

Later garages and gas stations included Wally Tillman's at Home, where the current station is, and Lennart Lonning's at Wauna, the home of Northwest Auto Clinic.

Over a dozen stations operated on the peninsula 60 years ago. Automobiles go farther on a gallon of gas now, and five KP stations compete for the drivers' dollars today.

Key Pen celebrates art at Spring Fling

By Danna Webster, KPNews

The music of Jazz Musette serenaded guests as they strolled under soft lights through displays of 31 artists, six new to Spring Fling this year. About 175 tickets were sold for the 2009 Spring Fling event, March 7. Volunteer servers carried trays of delicious hors d'oeuvres among the guests and the non-stop martini shakers declared the favorite drink of the night at the cash bar. Art sales and proceed sales were up from the event last year, according to TWAA Events Committee volunteer Margo Macdonald.

"Two Waters recognizes that Spring Fling is an important community event, one of the few so well attended on the KP, and we want to make each year's event outstanding and memorable," Macdonald wrote in an email to KPNews.

The student art show almost tripled in size from last year, which featured Key Peninsula Middle School photography students from Mike Hunziker's class. This year, there were more than 50 pieces

of work by students from Peninsula High School and KPMS including charcoal drawings, batiks, photography, block prints and acrylic paintings. Two Waters volunteer, Merrilee Kennedy, worked with art teachers from the two schools to create the show. "Mr. Bronstad and Mr. Hunziker from KPMS were, as usual, ecstatic to be a part of this. Mr. Bronstad has an After 'Ours drawing class that started working away and he also worked with us to find creative ways to display the work. They both came to the event and helped set up. Ms. Peck from PHS worked with me in getting several pieces that included block prints and batik," Kennedy stated in her email.

Two student artists received awards presented by Key Peninsula artist, Robin Pedersen. The achievement awards were given to Alyssa Edwards (PHS) and Ellie Combs (KPMS). The student art show also included the batik work of PHS junior, Katie Lund. Recently her work was shown in a Tacoma coffee house. Lund said she has worked to develop her

art for several years.

"Technically I started in middle school with Mr. Bronstad and Mr. Hunziker. But I really started pursuing it when I was a freshman, three years ago," she said. Lund and fellow art student Mykala Rodgers were volunteer servers during Spring Fling.

The student art show is a proud achievement for Two Waters. TWAA has dedicated much of its effort to supporting the young artists on the Key Peninsula with such programs as Artists in Schools and summer art classes. Kennedy, who supervised the show, is a loyal advocate for the many artistic talents of KP kids. "I'm just a parent that sees amazing kids on the KP — amazing talent. All they need is a little material. That's why Two Waters started," Kennedy said at the show.

The Spring Fling is an opportunity for artists to share new work, network with each other and meet the community. For TWAA, it is an opportunity to attract new and renewing members and to get the word out about their upcoming classes,



Photo by Hugh McMillan

TWAA artist Tweed Meyer, center, who frequently does landscapes, describes to Karen Wilkerson and Donna Daily just what lured her into devoting much of her talent to movingly depicting jazz musicians actively performing.

continuing programs and public events such as next summer's international art and music festival Beyond the Borders.

Macdonald was responsible for the art display at Spring Fling. "(W)e see it as an opportunity for the community to celebrate the arts and enjoy an evening of good company, food and music (and the bar's not bad either)," she wrote to KPNews.

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A special thank you to **Tomaso Salazar** for being our Volunteer of the Month.

COMMUNITY WORKS

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

Now - Pee Wee coaches needed

Volunteer coaches for Pee Wee T-ball are needed for Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. at Volunteer Park. The season is May 13-June 17. Contact Chad at 253-884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com if you can help our youngsters.

April 2 - Fuchsia club meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society holds its next meeting at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Sharon, 884-2536

April 3 - Register for coed softball

Key Pen Parks is now accepting team registrations for Co-Ed Spring Softball. Teams play 8 games plus playoffs. Games will be held Thursday nights from April 16-June 25. Cost of the league and play-offs is \$525/team, which includes umpires and softballs. Maximum of 8 teams will play. 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

April 4-Pets hunt for treats

Key Pen Parks and PetCo sponsor a Pet Pre-Easter Treat Hunt at Volunteer Park. Check-in will begin at 10 a.m. and the hunt will start promptly at 10:30 a.m. The best-dressed pet will win a prize. Pets will search for eggs plus one mystery prize to find and claim at the registration table. The agility course is provided courtesy of the Gig Harbor Kennel Club. Please bring a collection bag for the treats. All dogs MUST be on a leash. 884-9240

April 6-Tennis lessons offered

Key Pen Parks, Fox Island Community Tennis Association and USTA present Spring Tennis in the Parks held at the tennis courts at the KP Civic Center. Men's tennis is on Monday evenings - April 6, 13, 20, and 27- from 6-7:30 p.m. Women's tennis is on Wednesday

evenings- April 8, 15, 22, and 29- from 6-7:30 p.m. Tennis will include drills and play on one court. Adults should bring their own racquets.

Quick Start Tennis for youths aged 4-10 will be held from 11 a.m.-noon on Saturdays- April 11, 18, 15, and May 2. Kids will learn to play tennis using specialized equipment, short courts, and modified scoring.

Cost for all lessons is \$40 for 4 sessions. Minimum of 4 and maximum of 12 allowed.

Register for lessons at 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

Mondays – Bloodmobile at Albertson's

The bloodmobile will be at Albertson's, 11330 – 51st Avenue NW, from 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. on April 6, 13, 20, and 27. See online calendar for locations and times.

April 8 – KPCC special forum

The KP Community Council invites the public to an evening with elected officials from the school, parks and fire commission boards. The KPCC business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with open discussion starting at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Danna Webster, danna004@centurytel.net, 884-6455.

April 9 – Free lecture at library

The Friends of the Key Center Library present a free lecture by Northwestern bird expert, Lyanda Lynn Haupt, author of "Pilgrim on the Great Bird Continent: The Importance of Everything and Other Lessons from Darwin's Lost Notebooks," at 7 p. m. at the Key Center Library. Donations for the Key Peninsula Food Bank encouraged. 884-2242

April 11- Egg hunt

Boy Scout Troup #220 and Key Peninsula Civic Center host the annual Easter Egg Hunt beginning promptly at

noon at 17010 S. Vaughn Rd. KPN. Children ages 12 and under are invited to search for Easter eggs stuffed with candy and prizes and visit the Easter Bunny. The troop is looking for donations of plastic Easter eggs and baskets and funds to purchase candy. Scoutmaster John O'Dell at odellcher@aol.com

April 11 – Pitch, hit, & run

Key Pen Parks hosts a free Aquafina Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run Competition for area youth from 10 a.m. - noon at Volunteer Park. The four age divisions for competitors are 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 with both boys and girls having the chance to advance through the four levels of competition. Individual champions plus the all-around champion will be awarded and advance to the sectional competition in May. All participants must complete a registration/waiver form prior to the start of competition. 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

April 11 & 25 – Youth events at Civic Center

The KP Civic Center holds a Skate Night Benefit for Brian Rutz, a young man battling leukemia, on April 11 from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature DJ Kip with a variety of music and food for sale. Admission is \$5; all ages are welcome.

On April 25 the Civic Center will host Sound Byte 6, a teen-only dance from 7 p.m. - midnight. DJs Kip, Dr. Derek and Speedjay will spin hardstyle, trance, techno, R&B, and more. Admission is \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door. 884-3456

Mid-April-Wednesday walkers

Enjoy a series of free rotating walks, for adults 18 and older, around the Key Peninsula with the staff at Key Pen Parks. Enjoy good conservation, make new friends, and get fit one step at a time! More information will be on-line regarding dates and times of the first walk. Look for walks to start in mid-April. Chad - 884-9240 or

chad@keypenparks.com

April 16- Community forum

The Mustard Seed Project's Community Forum focuses on reverse mortgages as a "Housing Option for Aging in Place" from 10 a.m. - noon at the Key Center Library. Jim Sullivan of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, a member of the Senior Resource Alliance of Tacoma/Pierce County, will speak. The government describes reverse mortgages as "a special type of home loan that lets a homeowner convert the equity in his/her home into cash." All are welcome to learn about this little-understood option. 884-9814

April 18- Big garage sale

Vaughn Elementary hosts a garage sale from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Commons at 17521 Hall Road KPN, Vaughn. The sales will benefit the programs supported by the PTA. At the end of the day, all unsold items will be donated to Angel Guild and other locally based organizations. To make gently used contributions, contact Cheryl at 884-3855 or 253-225-0848

April 18-Appreciate a park

Drop by a park to help cleanup or otherwise help the park on National Park Appreciation Day. Check out 'Volunteer Opportunities' at www.keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

April 25-Artist's Reception

The Friends of the Key Center Library artist's reception for Chris Bronstad in the Brones' Room 2 - 4 p.m.

April 25-Spring at Penrose Point

A walk to find and eat spring-flowering and wild edible plants at Penrose Point State Park will begin at 2 p.m. Meet at the smaller parking lot. The first 15 people to register will be taken. Dan, 884-2514

April 25 -26- Sportsmen's events

The two-day annual yard sale, sponsored by the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club, is from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and 7:30 a.m. -1 p.m. on Sunday. This event funds local youth to attend summer camp, participate in Little League, and provide other services to our community.

The annual Fishermen's Breakfast at the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club is from 7:30 a.m.-noon on Sunday, April 26. The 'all you can eat' breakfast includes pancakes, ham & eggs, fruit juice and great coffee for \$5. Children six and under are free. Raffle tickets will be on sale during the breakfast with a chance to win many wonderful prizes. Both events will be held at the Club located on Jackson Lake Road in Lakebay Ruth, 857-5184

May 9- Livable Community Fair

The Key Peninsula Civic Center hosts the 8th Annual Livable Community Fair on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 17010 S. Vaughn Road KPN. This annual event began as an open house for non-profits on the Key Peninsula and has expanded to include the Lakebay Fuchsia Society plant sale, kid's craft activities, a Reptile Round-Up and more; new this year is Touch-a-Truck.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to local organizations that are interested in promoting their business through event website links, posters, counter cards, advertisements and more. Exhibitor space is also available to non-profit organizations and other community resources on the Key Peninsula. To download the sponsorship package or exhibitor application form, visit www.kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456

May 16-PTA event at Vaughn

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

Volunteers are needed and folks are asked to contribute by donating goods or services to the auction. Cash donations are needed to help underwrite the costs of the event. All donations are tax deductible. To volunteer, or for more information on how to donate to the auction, contact Cheryl Ozborn, 884-3855 or rozborn@nwrain.com

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 through end of April. Join in with your child and enjoy fun books, action rhymes, knee bouncers, songs and more. 884-2242

Tuesdays-TOPS #1325

Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets at 9 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Enjoy free child care, fun and support. 884-2554

Wednesdays-Family story times

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

OFF THE KEY

Now-Kopachuck info wanted

A group trying to save Kopachuck State Park is seeking stories and pictures of memories of the park so they can make a video to present to those who hold the future of the park in their hands. Include your own contact information and email your stories to egriffith@hotmail.com Everybody's memory and love for this unique park is what will save it from being lost forever.

April 1 - Welcome Club

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club will have a general meeting at Canterwood Country Club, 12606 54th Ave NW, Gig Harbor, at 11:30 a.m. Jennifer Kilmer of the new Gig Harbor Maritime Museum will speak. Marcia Nolan, 857-5324 for reservations.

April 2 & 8 - Tall Ships

The Tacoma Tall Ships Organization holds a no-host cocktail reception, short presentations and screening of the official 2008 video from 6-8 p.m. at the Galaxy Theatre in Gig Harbor. Tickets are \$20/person and all proceeds go towards returning the Tall Ships in 2011. Copies of the DVD will be sold for \$15. 253-272-5650. www.tallshipstacoma.com

April 4-Youth present show

Encore! Youth Theater announces the opening of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". This performance is the result of a weeklong acting workshop for

children 7 to 18 years old. The show will be performed at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. and all tickets are available at the door prior to the performance for \$7. Festival seating, first come first served. The theater is at 6615 38th Avenue Northwest in Gig Harbor. 858-2282

April 4 - Star Search Audition

The Gig Harbor Kiwanis Star Search is a fundraising event that will feature local talent who will compete for a \$500 first-place prize. Audition April 4 by calling Jeni Mallory at 253-691-7085. The event will take place on April 18, at the Fraternal Order of Eagles 7 p.m. -10 p.m.

April 4 - Floral arrangement help

Peninsula Pierce County Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive NW, hosts award-winning floral designer Mona Margolis, who will present a floral workshop from 10 a.m. - noon. The Friends of the Peninsula Library sponsor this free event and will provide the flowers and supplies. Participants need to bring a sharp paring knife and salal and/or huckleberry greens. Space is limited; register at 851-3793

April 11-Spring at Kopachuck

A walk to check out and identify the spring flowers and plants in the woods at Kopachuck State Park will begin at 2 p.m. The first 15 people to register will be taken on the walk. Matt, 253-265-3606



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APRIL PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Peninsula School District Board, April 23, 6 p.m. regular meeting at district office; 14105 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor
- KP Metro Parks meetings, April 13, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, April 14 & 28, 3 p.m. at Lakebay Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council meeting with commissioners from school, fire and park boards, April 8, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library

Volunteers needed for farmers market

By Marsha Hart, KP News

As spring arrives many will be spending time in the garden, and as those veggies and fruits ripen, Key Peninsula residents and visitors will make their way to the Key Peninsula Farmers Market.

The market opens on May 31 and will offer fresh produce and crafts on Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. through Sept. 27.

As with most community events, the market relies heavily on volunteers, and this year will be no different. There are many opportunities for involvement, and one of the biggest needs is for set up and breakdown, said Holly Hendrick, market manager.

"The more the merrier," she said. "Not everyone is available, so if someone wants to do it once, that is cool."

It's the perfect job for a teenager who needs to complete community service hours, she said, and there are no special skills required.

There is a need for help with parking management. Those duties include reminding vendors to remove their vehicles from the site, helping to keep O'Callahan's parking lot exit lanes clear and track down anyone blocking lot access. Every aspect of the market can use a volunteer, Hendrick said, and she will have training available.

"I'm definitely going to have a sheet of the history of market, and training about the market," she said. "If someone has a question they can't answer I'll be nearby. I

want to make it easy for people to get involved and help the market grow."

New vendors who produce fruit, berries such as raspberries, strawberries and blueberries, as well as vegetable growers who have broccoli, artichokes, or beans are being sought, as well as other vegetables.

Seafood, milk, eggs and meat are also welcome at the market, and products such as chocolates, jerky, cheese and butter. Some products do require more oversight, so Hendrick said it is a good idea to contact her for more information.

"Unfortunately I have recently learned that Pierce County Farmers Markets are not allowed to offer foraged mushrooms (such as chanterelles), per Tacoma Pierce County Health Department guidelines," she said. "However, if a vendor has cultivated mushrooms, they would be allowed at the Farmers Market."

The next vendor meeting is at 4 p.m. April 5 at the Key Center Library. The KPFM will be at the KP Livable Community Fair May 9 at the civic center, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For details, contact Hendrick at 884-1088.

(From CRAB, Page 10)

purchase product straight from other fishermen, often hours after the product is caught, which cuts out middlemen. Since we buy straight from the fishermen, I am there to personally hand pick the very best jumbo crab out of a 30-40,000 pound load to sell directly to our customers."

Due to the demand for such large volumes of fish and crab Winks started building a store. He dug out his old farm flatbed trailer, he said, and over the course of two and a half years, converted it into a mobile seafood store. He feels it now possesses the aesthetic characteristics of an Alaskan fishing dock. Upon moving it to the location in Purdy, he installed a live tank system and built a refrigerated trailer on location.

"We named it 'Winks' as over the years the name meant quality fish every time I landed product on the docks. We wanted to continue it into the retail side, taking advantage of our network of boats, personal contacts, and years of fishing."

"To our knowledge," he said, "the only place close to this concept is in Pikes Place Market in Seattle.

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'Return to Home' shot on location in Home



Photo courtesy of Don Porter

In this scene from the short film "Return to Home," Jake Stone, P.I., played by Dave Wiltfong meets with his assistant Marylou played by Carolyn Yeager to talk about the murder case.

By Rick Sorrels
Special to the KP News

There was a murder at Lulu's Home Port Restaurant and Lounge in March. It was a scene for the movie "Return to Home," a short film that was shot on location near and around the restaurant in Home.

Don Porter of DP Productions is producing the movie and developed the idea and script outline through bar talk with customers at the restaurant where he is a bartender.

Paul Clark, a customer, had film and multimedia background. The film's 36 actors are all locals and bar customers.

"Return to Home," is considered a "short" because it will be between 30 and 45 minutes in length. The plot involves a Van Gogh painting stolen from the Nazis in WWII. The opening scenes show the current-day owner (played by John Glennon) being murdered at the Home Port with a following investigation by a Private Investigator. The ending remains a secret.

Porter, who has been a professional photographer since the 1970s, explained, "Three years ago, I created a film noir poster with a stylized look. The poster developed into a movie story line about 18 months ago. Things really took off when Paul (Clark) wrote the screenplay last October."

Clark's family has lived in Longbranch since 1928. "My grandfather purchased 8mm wind-up Keystone movie camera in 1936," said Clark. "That's what got me started."

Clark majored in drama at Green River Community College and at Brigham Young University.

"I had scholarships at Carnegie and Goodman, but gave them up when relatives said that I should 'get a real job,'" Clark said. "I went into electronics and then the multimedia field with Microsoft. I wrote some plays, did a lot of stuff for PBS, and played Tom in the PBS adaptation of "Diary of Anne Frank."

"I'm not so much a film industry person as I am a multimedia professional," he said. "Multimedia includes the technical manipulation of computer graphics, still photography, film, and animation. All it takes these days to make a film is \$1,200 worth of multi-

"Dave was a bar customer, a retired Tacoma Police Officer, and he had the look, build, and voice that we needed."

— Don Porter

media equipment and \$1-million worth of training and experience."

Nobody is going to make a fortune on this project. Everybody is donating his or her time for the benefit of the community. The actors receive the greatest compensation at \$1 each.

Glennon can be used as an example of the community spirit of all those involved. Glennon plays Santa Claus every year, helps individuals in need, and is actively involved with the Food Bank, Longbranch Improvement Club, Key Peninsula Community Center, and the Marine Corps Toys for Tots.

The primary actor is Dave Wiltfong who plays Jake Stone P.I. in the vast majority of the scenes.

"Dave was a bar customer, a retired Tacoma Police Officer, and he had the look, build, and voice that we needed," Porter said.

Wiltfong said that his only qualifying experience was narrating and acting in lots of police department training films.

"It has been lots of fun", said Wiltfong. "I would describe it as a low budget indie film without the overhead, and compare it to the Blair Witch Project which was also done in 8mm."

Carolyn Yeager, a waitress at Home Port, plays Jake Stone's assistant.

"I did some little theater at Fort Lewis in my school years, but this was a lot tougher than little theater," said Yeager. "It's been a lot of fun."

Juanita Stackhouse plays Betty, a wannabe girlfriend of Jake Stone. "I loved it," said Stackhouse shortly after filming her three lines on the first take.

Filming is done. Editing will take about two more months. The finished DVD will be available for purchase about June. The completed film will be submitted to the Bremerton Film Festival this summer, and then to the Seattle Film Festival later this year.

A DVD of "Return to Home" can be ordered from dphomewa@yahoo.com for \$20.



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Camp Seymour provides taste of NW

Key Peninsula's YMCA Camp Seymour was host to more than 50 students from 30 countries who came from an International School in Nigeria in February. The students participated in Outdoor Environmental Education classes and the outback challenge course and were given the opportunity to see what makes the Pacific Northwest a great place to live and play. Teachers from Geiger Elementary School in Tacoma are spending the second of five years teaching at the international school in Nigeria, and in exchange, about 30 seventh grade students from Truman Middle School in Tacoma will be visiting the school this year.

— Staff Report; Photo by Karrina Whitmarsh

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KP students not worried about WASL

By PJ Kezele, KP News

One week after taking office as the new Superintendent of Public Instruction, Randy Dorn unveiled his plan to scrap the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) by spring 2010 in favor of the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program (WCAP). "Not so fast," was the state legislature's response, which passed Senate Bill 5414 on March 4. The bill, introduced by Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe, chair of Senate Committee on Early Learning and K-12 Education, implements the WASL legislative work group's recommendations — changes she says share "common ground" with Dorn's proposal. The bill is now moving through the house.

Despite some criticism from the legislature, Dorn has contended from the beginning that he has the power to replace the WASL unilaterally, and still contends that the legislation will not impact his efforts. "We are moving forward with our proposed changes to the assessment system," Chris Barron, Dorn spokesperson said. "Because the Legislature's legislation is so closely aligned with what we are already working on, it won't affect our work." While the RCW does provide for the SPI to redesign the assessment, it also stipulates that the education committees of the house and senate have the option to review the assessment and proposed modifications before any changes are adopted.

The legislature would also have to approve any funding for a new test, including helping ensure all school districts had an adequate number of computer workstations and connections to the Internet to administer the test. While OSPI estimates computerized testing would eliminate printing 1.7 million test booklets in 2009, according to the Washington Association of School Administrators, 40 percent of 150 school chiefs at a recent meeting said their schools were not prepared to give state exams online, and they would need fiscal help. However, according to Dorn, "Our data shows that more than 70 percent of the school buildings in the state report having a computer lab of 20 or more computers."

Concerns about replacing the WASL

with a computerized WCAP test to assess writing skills have also surfaced. "I think it would be difficult for a computer to score writing," Shannon Fairbanks, Key Peninsula Middle School literacy teacher, said. "Writing should be very personal and show a person's ability to think critically about a topic. Other than setting up the program to score based on 'buzzwords' in a student's writing, how would it be able to be scored, unless it was a basic conventions, parts of speech multiple-choice type test?"

Scrapping the WASL is fully supported by the Washington Education Association (WEA), who represent teachers, and parent groups, such as Mothers Against WASL. While the new testing may resolve some of the objections about the time testing takes away from teaching to administer the tests and the complexity of the tests, some of the objections will remain. One frequently cited objection is the "high stakes" of the 10th grade test that requires proficiency in order to graduate.

However, local students don't seem concerned. Mackenzie Johnson, a junior at Peninsula High School said she isn't worried about taking the WASL.

"You can take segmented math if needed and you can retake it each year until you pass," she said. "I took it all my sophomore year and passed. I cared more about having to go to school for a week when everyone else got to sleep in."

Ryan Deegan is a sophomore at PHS and he agreed.

"I am a bit anxious about any math test,

so the math portion makes me a little nervous. Overall, the math portion makes me worry but the fact that it is a WASL test doesn't worry me at all," he said.

Most students seem to believe that with the option to retake the test they can pass.

"I can retake it if I need to," said 15-year-old David Larson, a sophomore. "I don't worry because I've heard it's not that hard. The science portion does worry me. Everyone says it's hard and a lot of people fail it."

The proficiency requirement is not likely to go away, at least under the current No Child Left Behind Act. Even if the act is rescinded or reformed by President Obama, Gov. Christine Gregoire and Dorn are strong proponents of the requirement. "I strongly believe in high standards and in using the reading and writing tests as part of our graduation requirements," Dorn said. Gregoire has also spoken out about maintaining high standards. "The WASL is tougher for some students than others and can be a bump on the road

to graduation," Gregoire said. "Different students learn at a different pace — and we must acknowledge that — but we must maintain a high standard of learning for all our students."

Critics say the standards are beyond what the average student can be expected to achieve, particularly in math and science. However, longstanding proponents of assessment testing are likely to oppose any changes that might make the WASL "less rigorous." According to Dorn's timeline, the WCAP would replace the WASL in spring 2010. Computerized testing would begin as an option in 2010, with the goal of it becoming a statewide requirement by 2012. The feasibility of computerized scoring of the writing test would be investigated in 2010, with hopes of being online in 2011. The Measurements of Student Progress for grades 3-8 would be given twice a year in spring and fall in order to track growth, while the High School Proficiency Exams for grade 10 would be given once in the spring to measure proficiency.

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Evergreen Elementary

Each year, 5th graders participate in an ecology trip to Camp Seymour to learn how they can help keep our system Earth running smoothly. The LIC proudly provides support for this great program.

Key Peninsula Middle School

Can you believe it? Cool, swinging music from the biggest jazz band on the Peninsula. The LIC proudly provides support for this great program and will feature a performance in May.

Peninsula High School

Go Hawks! The LIC underwrites college scholarship for two graduating seniors from the south end of the Peninsula.

Save these dates

May 23 - Memorial Day dance with lots of big-brass favorite *Peaceable Lane*
July 11 - Celebrate 60 Years Affoot at the Longbranch Marina
Aug 1 - Beyond the Borders

253 884-6022 for LIC information
253 884-9157 for event info or tickets
LIC Clubhouse at 4012 Key Pen Hwy S,
5 miles south of the Home Bridge
www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

EASTER ON THE PENINSULA

The Key Peninsula Ministerial Association invites you the following events:

April 1st & 8th

Free Soup Supper, 6pm followed by Lenten Service at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church

April 10th - Maundy Thursday

7pm at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church - *"The Living Last Supper; a Portrayal of the Passover Meal with Jesus and His Disciples"*

Agape Meal and Worship, 5:30pm at Longbranch Community Church

Remembrance Service with the Lord's Supper 6:30pm at Lakeway Community Church

April 11th

Good Friday Vigil, noon - 6pm for quiet meditation, reflection and prayer at Longbranch Community Church

Good Friday Worship Service, 7pm at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12TH

Sunrise Service - 7am Penrose Point or Herron Island by Lakebay CC

WayPoint Church - 10am

Lakebay Community Church 10:30 am

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church - 11am

Longbranch Community Church - 11am

CHRIST IS RISEN!



Photo by Scott Turner

Fire District 16 transported a patient from Longbranch on opening day. Firefighter Zach Johnson and paramedic Mike Reigle responded to the call.

St. Anthony Hospital opens

Staff Reports

St. Anthony Hospital officially opened doors for patients March 17. It includes an emergency department, making emergency care much closer for those who live on the Key Peninsula.

The hospital is licensed for 80 beds and offers 24-hour emergency services. The Gene and Mary Ann Walters Center for Emergency Services has 19 rooms, and making care for life-threatening illnesses

and injuries much closer to home.

St. Anthony also offers comprehensive inpatient and outpatient medical care with medical, surgical and critical care units. Advanced diagnostic imaging services, outpatient radiation, chemotherapy and complementary cancer therapies as well as speech and occupational therapies are some of the services offered at the new hospital.

St. Anthony Hospital has created nearly 500 new jobs.

OBITUARY

Elmer Skahan

A memorial service for **Elmer Skahan** of Minter will be held April 4 at 2 p.m. at

Burley Bible Church chapel. Skahan was a volunteer fireman, fire chief and commissioner with Fire District 16.

Fire District 16 has set up a Memorial Fund in honor of Skahan. He was a volunteer fireman, fire chief, and fire commissioner with that group for many years.

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Shiela Hunt,
Fire Commissioner

Brief Report To The People

Sometimes it takes the passing of a friend and community member to remind us we are truly a community family. In March, the KP saw the passing of Ernest Sloban, former Fire Chief of the Key Peninsula Fire Department. We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation for his work with the fire department to his friends and family, and we would like to remind the community that we are all connected. He was a part of our past and a part of our community. We will treasure his memory.

Family is important: our immediate family; our work family; and our community family. Here is the latest information from your Fire Department family.

Who We Are

The Key Peninsula Fire Department consists of five Fire Commissioners, 21 paid career firefighters, 34 volunteer firefighters, and four administrative personnel.

What We Stand For

Mission Statement

Key Peninsula Fire Department is a team of professionals working proactively to meet present needs and future challenges with pride, integrity and enthusiasm.

We serve the health, welfare and safety needs of our community by providing fire and injury prevention, fire suppression, rescue, community education and emergency medical aid.

We pledge to be strong financial managers and responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us by the community.

Values Statement

We will serve our community with professionalism by promoting individual responsibility, a continuous learning environment, and the practice of respect for ourselves and others. We are committed to timely and efficient communication, comprehensive and progressive training, and innovative risk taking.

Where We Are

The Key Peninsula Fire Department has six stations: Wana, Vaughan (Wright-Bliss), Key Center (administrative station), Home, Longbranch, and Haddon Island. Two stations are staffed 24/7; Wana and Home. The Key Center station is open during the day.

What we do:

Alarm Activity	2008	2007
Advanced Life support	736	526
Basic Life support	489	617
Car Crashes	144	161
Other	119	117
Transport to Hospital	1003	868
Total Medical	1498	1421
Residential FIRE	10	31
Commercial FIRE	3	2
Car Fire	9	9
Chimney Fire	9	12
Automatic Fire Alarm	111	105
Burn Complaint	122	146
Other	156	138
Total Fire	420	443

In 2008, the Key Peninsula realized an overall increase in alarm activity. More remarkably, we had 140 additional medical transports over 2007. This increase was due to the commitment of the Fire Department to have two fully operational paramedic response ambulances available at all times.

What We Have Accomplished

The Key Peninsula Fire Department has achieved the following accomplishments:

- Initiation of a Fitness program which requires on-duty staff to work out one hour everyday they are on shift and receive yearly medical evaluations.
- The remodel of the Key Center station to include a fitness area and meeting room.
- Hiring of 2 paramedic/firefighters and one EMT/firefighter
- Increased the Fire Commissioner Board to five members.
- Held an Open House to the community
- Passed our fifth regular bi-annual audit with stellar comments from the State Auditor.
- Invited the community to participate in a Citizen's Advisory Committee to review the fire department activities and make recommendations for the level of service and how to afford the service requested.

What Our Challenges Are In The Future

Key Peninsula Fire Department's current personnel are dedicated to delivery of quality customer service. Unfortunately, due to the performance of former personnel, the fire department's reputation has suffered. (Though otherwise reported, the fire department has a MANDATORY for cause drug-testing policy). As a result, the fire department has seen a failure of its past two fire levies. Funding the current level of service for 2010 is uncertain. The Citizen's Advisory Committee will soon be reporting to the fire department their recommendations for a level of service and how to fund it.

Come and meet your Fire Department family. Get involved. Talk to the Citizen's Advisory Committee members. This is your community family.

(From **WRESTLING**, Page 1)

she said.

Instead of practicing, she was rolling mats and when the rest of the team was meeting, she said they met in the boys' locker room and she had to sit outside.

"We had parents that didn't approve of it and didn't want their boys wrestling a girl so it turned out to be a bad experience," said her mother Stephanie. "I totally understand the feelings of both (Jessica and those opposed to it), because I have a son," she said.

So Chapman didn't wrestle and instead played softball, and she was good at it. She made the varsity team in eighth grade and lettered that year, and she made the drill team that year as well. Drill team was something Stephanie said she never expected her daughter to do, but she was good at that too.

"She does well at everything she does, she's just an athlete," she said.

The family moved to the Key Peninsula and as a freshman at Peninsula High School, Chapman played on three softball teams, made varsity as a freshman and lettered that year, too. But deep inside, Chapman's heart still burned for wrestling.

She said she never went a day without thinking about it, longing to be involved in the sport.

"You should never give up on anything you can't go a day without thinking about," she said.

At first it was difficult to watch as her little girl entered the sport, but Stephanie said she knew her daughter wanted it.

"I decided I should get behind her in whatever she wanted to do," she said.

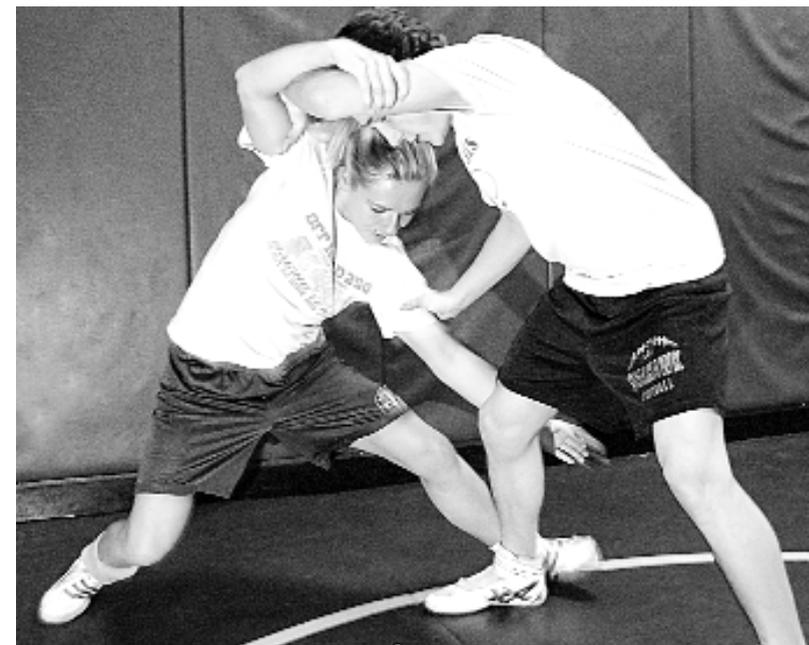
When Chapman heard about an informational meeting for the wrestling team at the beginning of the school year, she decided to check it out. She talked to the coach, Ron Cameron, and asked how he felt about coaching a girl.

"He was all for it," Chapman said.

This was Cameron's first year as head wrestling coach at PHS, and though he wasn't sure how the program had been in the past, he knew he wanted girls on the team. Chapman was the only one.

"It's good for the program and good for the sport and important for them in a world view philosophy," he said.

Chapman was getting discouraged about a week into practice. Cameron saw it, and said he could tell she was thinking about quitting.



Jessica Chapman and Stephen Lachaney demonstrate a move called wrapping up during a wrestling practice at Peninsula High School.

Photo by Scott Turner, Special to the KP News

"I said, 'I know it's hard being the only girl in this room, but when you get out in the world you will find yourself in the same situation. If you have the experience of being in this wrestling room for two or three years, it's not going to bother you when you get out there.'"

He knew she felt alone, but also knew what to do to support her and yet let her fend for herself.

"I said, 'I could step in the middle of this but it's not going to help you. I want you to show up for practice and go in that room and at any moment you can look over your shoulder and know I'm here for you.'"

Once Chapman knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that her head coach wanted girls on the team, and was there to support her, Cameron said he saw her let her guard down.

"She started showing up and was just herself," he said. "She wasn't trying to be a guy and she wasn't trying to be a girl trying to fit in with guys."

He said some of the guys were neutral,

some thought she was cool, and others didn't want to wrestle her, but that is true of the guys as well.

"For the most part guys accepted her, but all of them don't accept each other either, it's part of the world and part of high school," he said. "To some degree I think they will follow the head coach."

There were around 50 boys and Chapman at that initial meeting, and by the time competitions began the team consisted of 11 boys and Chapman.

The workouts and practices were grueling, she said, but her determination and love for the sport kept her coming back.

Although she will wrestle on a girls' team in college, Chapman said she enjoys wrestling on a boys' team.

"You get better, because they don't go easy on you," she said.

Wrestling is becoming popular for girls, she said, and at the state level girls can't wrestle boys. There is an All Girls Mat Classic with enough girls participating to fill the 16 slots in all of the 11 weight classes.

"I think girls should fight for what they want and not let anyone tell them what they can do if you really want to do it," she said.

Cameron said everyone expected her to place at state this year, but in reality it wasn't fair to set that level of expectation.

"This was her first year wrestling," he said. "She was a state competitor, and I would like to see her be a state placer next year. I could see her competing for the 1 or 2 spot in state her senior year. She has the determination and the character traits that lead to a state placer in the wrestling world."

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(From **ECONOMY**, Page 1)

that were doing OK have felt the impact; but not enough to go out of business," executive director of the Peninsula area and Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce Warren Zimmerman said.

Around seven new businesses have opened in the Peninsula area, with only two businesses that were forced to close around the last six months, according to Zimmerman.

"In our immediate area I have seen more new businesses opening than I've seen businesses failing," he said. "But this has been true for quite some time. Our history has been that businesses come and go, with success more dependent on service and product than the current economy."

Calahan also urges residents to look beyond the negative reports of foreclosures. Having experienced economic downturns before, Calahan, a Peninsula resident for 29 years, has learned the value of hard work and perseverance.

"The problem is that people are sitting here at my pub instead of going out there and finding jobs to do," he said.

History has shown that it is the entre-



Peninsula Home Improvement recently rebuilt a deck for a Lakebay resident. John Graves said Peninsula Home Improvement is doing OK during these tough economic times, but it takes hard work. *Photo by Karina Whitmarsh*

preneurs, risk-takers, and those who refuse to give up on their businesses that are able to maintain hope despite their struggles.

"In the last economic downturn, it was the small business sector that made the turn around first," Sen. Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor, said.

Realtors at ReMax Red Door and landscapers at Peninsula Home Improvement, also stress how hard work has kept them in business.

"We've been doing okay," said Peninsula Home Improvement landscaper John Graves. "We just keep building on our clientele and things keep coming along."

The six realtors who work at ReMax Red Door said they also continue to serve their clients.

"We are like any other business; just struggling together right now," realtor Jessica Smith said. "Our office gets together and helps each other."

Customer, business relations

Peninsula businesses have not only noticed a loss of customers and a shortage of funds, they have also seen changes in what customers need and how they conduct business, they said.

"We aren't seeing many buyers now that property values have dropped because it's much harder for people to get mortgage loans," Smith said. "Now we are starting to have a new trend of customers who need to sell their homes because they've lost their jobs."

Peninsula Home Improvement clients also come with different needs.

"We have switched from re-modeling requests to water damage and repair requests," Graves said. "Several customers have said they are going to downsize in projects or hold off altogether for a while."

Peninsula residents are not any different than those in other cities and states who have been forced to cut back on expenditures, said Kilmer.

"No one has been immune to economic challenges," he said. "The exception is not having to face these challenges."

Even the prosperous O'Callahan's Pub and Grill has noticed a change in customer behavior as faithful customers have had to make adjustments.

"There's been a big change in the pattern of how people are spending money and in their weekly routines," Calahan said. "People use more credit



Jessica Smith is a real estate agent with ReMax Red Door in Key Center. The real estate market has suffered during the slumping economy, and the Key Peninsula has felt the pinch. *Photo by Karina Whitmarsh*

cards than cash now and those who used to eat breakfast and lunches here on weekdays have switched to only eating their meals here on the weekends."

Businesses have also had to cut back on luxuries, saving their money for only essentials. Some businesses have moved to smaller locations while others have suffered through cutting back on office resources. For restaurants this means buying cheaper food and for nurseries, choosing cheaper flowers.

"Last year was one of the coldest years on record, yet businesses were forced to try to lower their heating bills," Jud Morris, president of Key Peninsula Business Association said. "As a result, people were getting really sick."

The Key Peninsula Business Association is a non-profit organization of leading Key Peninsula businesses, organizations and individuals. They come together to discuss the business climate in the area and to implement strategies for improvements if need be.

What is being done

It is expected to take about one year or more before businesses are back to their normal services and funding, owners said. Peninsula political leaders like Kilmer agree, admitting the economy could get worse before it gets better.

"The amounts of analysis we've done in Olympia suggest it isn't going away

anytime soon," Kilmer remarked.

But there is hope.

"The main thing we are trying to do is to encourage people to volunteer their time and donate to local food banks," Kilmer said. "At a challenging time like this it becomes altogether more important to help each other however we can."

Morris and the rest of the Key Peninsula Business Association have been working to encourage local businesses and residents to work together.

"We are developing a campaign called 'local is the key,' where we encourage residents to shop, give, play and support local," Morris said. "We also encourage businesses to come together as a group in order to be most effective to their customers."

Businesses are also working hard to shop for their products locally and help out their customers who are also suffering.

"I try to buy from local lumber yards when I can," Graves said. "I have always preferred to support folks who live here."

ReMax has become a resource for customers to get advice and information. They are working to create classes for clients in the midst of financial crisis in order to teach them about their options.

"Our goal as a business is for people to know that the door is always open," Smith said. "Even if our clients can't buy a house we want to provide them with knowledge and resources."

And there is always the opportunity to forget troubles at O'Callahan's Pub and Grill.

"We are going to have more hot rod shows, barbecues, music and more," Calahan said. "I am going to fix up my building and continue on with what I told everyone I was going to do when I got here at the beginning."

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District Offers Programs for Highly-Capable Students

In Bruce Clarke's fourth- and fifth-grade classroom at Minter Creek Elementary, activities like environmental science investigations, chess puzzles and geology studies are part of everyday learning. Clarke teaches one of Peninsula School District's three (the third being Kirtland) self-contained programs for



Minter Creek Elementary teacher Bruce Clarke observes students working on a chess puzzle.

highly-capable students—which allows him to go deeper into the curriculum after covering all the standards.

"Our job is to develop intellectual curiosity, creativity and divergent thinking," he says. "I try to tap into their high level of intelligence and bring out

their full potential, and provide a challenging educational environment."

Students qualify for the program based on test scores and other criteria. The district provides transportation, at no cost to families, to the two sites for PSD students who are outside of the specific school's geographic area.

Joy Giovanini, who teaches the self-contained highly-capable program at Voyager Elementary in fifth grade, says she uses many of the same teaching strategies as in a regular classroom. But she can move faster through the curriculum because most of her students do not need much repetition and they are able to grasp a greater depth of concepts.

"These students have very high cognitive abilities and they need a different kind of instruction," says Voyager Principal Patty McClelland. "They need to be in an environment where there are more complexities, and where they can interact with peers with similar cognitive skills."

Clarke says fun and learning are not mutually exclusive, which is



Voyager Elementary teacher Joy Giovanini works with her classroom on the newly revised InterAction, which uses 21st-century technology and integrates with the Standards.

why he seeks out activities that help students explore the world around them. He says highly capable children have their own set of challenges.

The program also teaches the students organizational and social skills unique to their challenges. "Highly-gifted students are also at risk because they may not learn as much in a regular program," McClelland says. "I appreciate the fact that the school district has a program that's responsive to the needs of these kids."

Dear Community Members

Thank you for your support and help in passing the recent replacement levy. We extend a huge expression of gratitude to the community for their show of confidence in the Peninsula School District.

As we stated in our recent levy presentations, the 2009-2010 budget year will be a very challenging one. We anticipate that the state will significantly reduce the amount of funding to schools. Because state funding of basic education remains our primary source of revenue, these reductions will have a serious impact on how we manage our schools on a day-to-day basis.

Over the next few months, we will

be asking for your input. We will have survey opportunities for staff, parents and the community. There will also be community forums and, finally, a public hearing. We encourage you to attend one of the scheduled meetings so your voice is heard. Your opinions will be vital in preparing this budget.

In these challenging times, we need to continue to work together to make the best out of a difficult situation. We thank you for your continued involvement and support.

Sincerely,
Terry Nelson Bouch,
Superintendent
253-530-1001

Stop For the School Bus...

Whenever you see the alternating flashing red lights if you are on a two



lane roadway (one lane in each direction) or you are on a multiple lane roadway (three or more lanes) and you are traveling in the same direction as the bus. On roadways with three or more lanes (including a one- or two-way left turn lane), you must stop when traveling in the same direction. You need not stop if traveling in the opposite direction on roadways with three or more lanes

April Events

- 1-3 No school—spring break
- 7 High School Math Materials Open House 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. in the PHS Library
- 9 High School Math Materials Open House 7:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. in the GHHS Library
- 13-30 Elementary and middle school WASL testing
- 13-14 High School WASL testing—math
- 20-21 High School WASL testing—science
- 23 School Board Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at District Office

High School Math Pilot Materials Open House

- April 7 PHS Library 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- April 9 GHHS Library 7:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Math materials on display: Algebra I & II, Holt—Key Curriculum Press and Geometry, Holt—Glencoe

All staff, parents and community members are welcome! This is your opportunity to view the materials that are being piloted in our schools.

Board Members and Contact Information

Matt Wilkinson District 1	253-884-1128
Wendy Wojtanowicz District 2	253-858-6969
Jill Guernsey District 3	253-851-6402
Jill Uddenberg District 4	253-265-1545
Jill Johnson District 5	253-858-6933

To view the districts go to www.psd401.net and select the School Board scroll down menu then Board Boundary Map. If you have any questions, call Marilyn Wilson: 253-530-1002.

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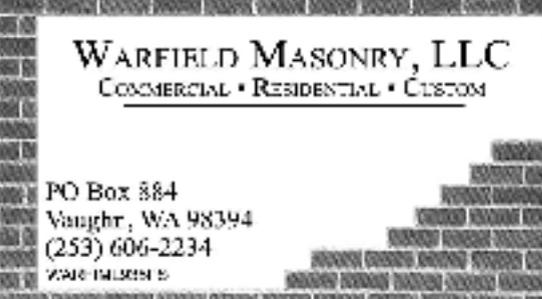


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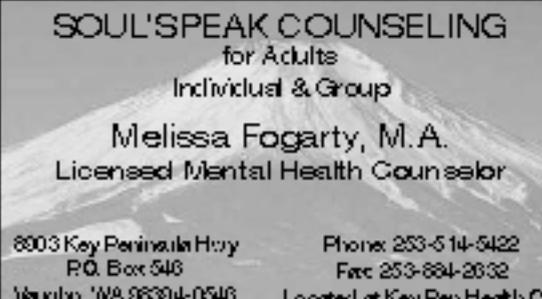
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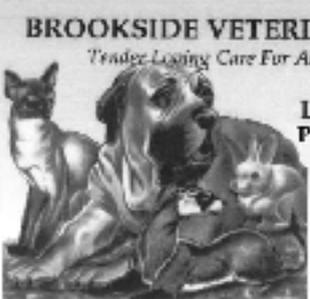


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Out & About

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Whistlin' Oysters provided a taste of Ireland with fine Irish music during the St. Patrick's Day celebration at O'Callahan's March 17. *Photo by Danna Webster, KP News*

Just when we thought winter was on the way out, the skies poured an unexpected drifting of the white stuff all over Von Geldern Cove and its environs March 15. Beautiful but impossible to move in.

Photo by Hugh McMillan



City of Gig Harbor police officer Chet Dennis and trained narcotics canine Maher (a one-year old German Shepherd) demonstrated to the crowd a drug search wherein Maher searches and finds marijuana hidden under a folded chair. Maher is a new addition to the Gig Harbor police force.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Madelyn Bjorn, age 5, is bundled up and ready to sled in the snow. March had several days of snow, but it didn't stick around for too long with the higher afternoon temperatures March 15.

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Key Peninsula Fire Chief Chuck West wanted to know how to deposit a really big check. He took it to Sound Credit Union in Key Center. Barb Heard and Caren Halvorsen assured him it could be done. The check for \$825.42 was a contribution from E&F Recovery Trust Account toward emergency recovery service provided by the Key Peninsula fire department.

Photo courtesy of Danna Webster